



Cumulative Community Impacts of Offshore Oil and Gas Activity in Southern Louisiana

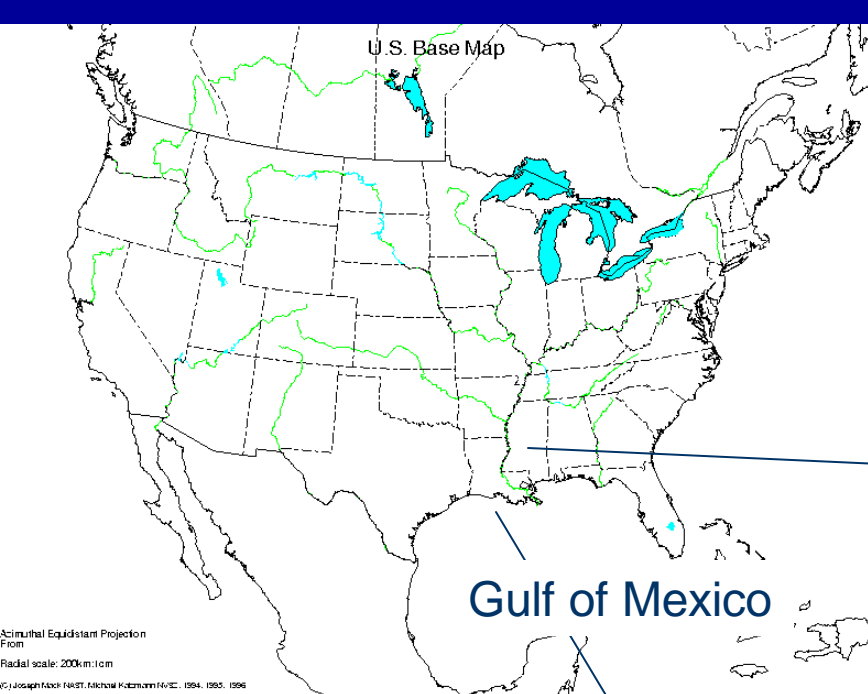
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Cumulative Impacts

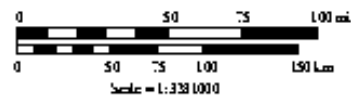
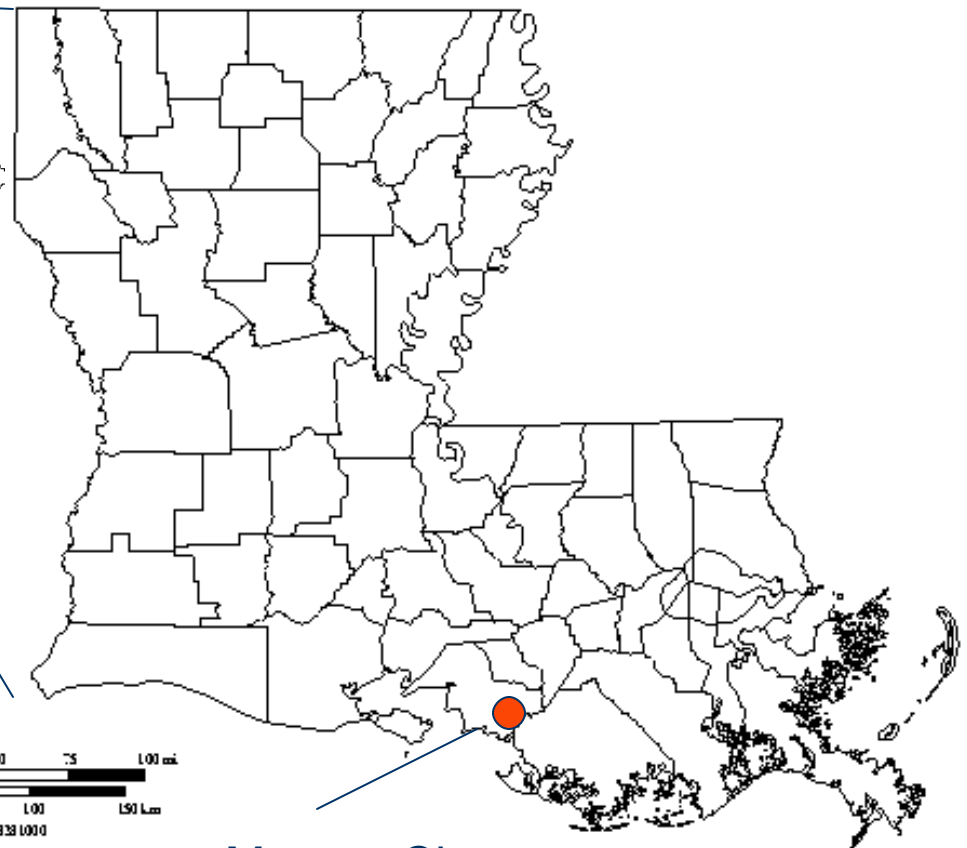
“(T)here are a whole range of questions relating to cumulative impacts that the SIA process raises that it cannot answer... Impacts become important when the number or extent of changes exceeds a certain threshold. This threshold is likely to be unknown and unknowable for any community” (Rabel Burdge and Frank Vanclay 1996).

“Oil is intrusion of many kinds...if we are concerned with the consideration of the influences of oil-related development on a discrete community, we are bound to an intensive view, through comprehensive and detailed ethnography of the holistic interrelations of community and culture” (Anthony Cohen 1980).



Louisiana Counties

Gulf of Mexico



Morgan City

Morgan City, Louisiana

May 1938



September 1958



1977



Timeline of Significant Events

- Early 1900s Lumber (also fishing, furs, and agriculture)
- 1930s Onshore oil and gas development
- 1940s Move offshore
- 1950s Significant offshore development & sector expansion
 - Interaction with shrimpers
 - Transition to steel
 - Tidelands controversy and slowdown
- 1960s Rapid expansion
 - Technological breakthroughs
 - Community efforts to respond
- 1970s Accelerated growth due to energy crisis
- 1980s Drop in prices & major slowdown
- 1990s Industry reorganization
 - Technological breakthroughs

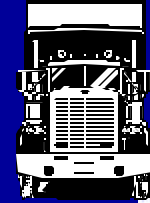




onshore

Fabrication

- engineer
- draftsman
- crane operator
- machinist
- welder
- rigger
- fitter
- tacker/helper



Trucking Company

- dispatcher
- owner/operator
- driver

offshore



Offshore Vessel Company

- port captain
- captain
- mate
- engineer
- deckhand



Rig

- company man
- toolpusher
- driller
- crane operator
- derrickman
- motorman
- rigger
- roughneck
- roustabout
- shaker

Other Rig Positions

- mud engineer
- wireline operator
- fishing tool operator
- snubber
- completion specialist
- galleyhand
- rig mechanic
- medic
- electrician
- linen hand
- welder
- cook



Platform

- foreman/field supervisor
- lead operator
- second level operator
- first level operator
- roustabout

Other Platform Positions

- electrician
- mechanic
- instrumentation technician
- computer technician

Diving/ Underwater Construction Company

- divers
- ROV//AUV technicians
- diver-tenders
- tenders

Ethnography + Oral History

Agency-University-Community-Industry Partnership

- Initial two-year study of current impacts in two communities
- Recorded personal interviews
 - Workers
 - Spouses
 - Community leaders
 - Agency personnel
- Recorded photo interviews
- Collected industry publications
- Reviewed newspaper archives



Organizing Interviews

Last Name
Phone
Signed consent
Tape, CD, Notes

First
Address
Interview Code
Copied?

Interview Date
Location
Picture?
Transcribed?

Last Name	First	Interview Date	Phone	Address	Location	Interviewer Code
Engineer	Robert	10/05/01	504-734-7622	16 Colonial Lane	New Orleans, LA 70123	DA019
Pusher	Richard	07/12/01	985-879-3866	124 N. Van Ave.	Houma, LA 70363	AA010
Roustabout	Caroline	3/15/2002, 9/27/02	985-447-1070	1404 West Camelia Drive	Thibodaux, LA 70301	DA040, DA060, DA096

Ethnographic Preface

James "Peanut" Crochet was born in 1927. He was drafted into the service in 1944 and toured Marseilles and Belgium for 20 months. His first job was at a factory called "Weatherhead," a canning factory in Houma, Louisiana. In 1949 he got a job with Kerr McGee as a flunkie and then moved onto roustabout after a year or so. After Kerr McGee he went to work inshore for Texaco. In the 1970's he worked as foreman for a few years. During the downturn of the early 1980's, he was transferred to work on a clean up barge by the name of Barge Lawrence.

Photo Interviews

Parker Conrad:

“In 1945 I had a shrimp trawler that I put into service with Pure Oil Company doing seismograph work in the Gulf, and they had what they called a shooting shack built on the back of the boat, because they had explosives. And so that was my first venture into the oil business – was renting this particular boat in 1945, and it worked for several years, quite a few years out in the Gulf for this particular oil company.”



“At the time these drydocks were built, they were the only floating drydocks between New Orleans in Texas.”





Organizing Photos

Name	Photo Description	Photo Date	File Name of Ethnographic Preface & Photo Interview	Interview Numbers
Angel, T08	Color photo of diver welding from 600' dive	1967	Angel, Tom 11-11-02, 11-21-02p	DA067, DA078p, UA-0229
Angel, T10	Page #5 of the brochure from Santa Fe Engineering and Construction Co.	1978	Angel, Tom 11-11-02, 11-21-02p	DA067, DA078p, UA-0229
Angel, T13	Cover of program for 4th Annual Diving Safety Symposium, Morgan City, LA	1974	Angel, Tom 11-11-02, 11-21-02p	DA067, DA078p, UA-0229
Angel, T14	Man spot welding pipe on boat	1984	Angel, Tom 11-11-02, 11-21-02p	DA067, DA078p, UA-0229
Babin, E01	1956 diesel truck with mud pump and pipe on back	1956+	Babin, Eddie 1-21-02, 1-28-02p	EB026, EB055p, UA-0144
Babin, E02	Cement truck early '70s	1970's	Babin, Eddie 1-21-02, 1-28-02p	EB026, EB055p, UA-0144
Barrett, H01	A Halliburton super cementer built 1947	1947+	Barrett, Herbert 1-22-02, 1-28-02p	EB028, EB056p, UA-0148
Barrett, H03	New International four wheel truck, bought by Halliburton.	1954	Barrett, Herbert 1-22-02, 1-28-02p	EB028, EB056p, UA-0148
Barrett, H04	Another view of the same International truck used for mud service in drilling.	1954	Barrett, Herbert 1-22-02, 1-28-02p	EB028, EB056p, UA-0148
Barrett, H06	Pipe joints carried on the truck are used to tie into the well.	1954	Barrett, Herbert 1-22-02, 1-28-02p	EB028, EB056p, UA-0148

Cross checking with documents



4TH ANNUAL DIVING SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

Morgan City, Louisiana



SPONSORED BY THE
MARINE TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY
AND THE
ASSOCIATION OF DIVING CONTRACTORS

16 - 17 JANUARY 1974

MORGAN CITY AUDITORIUM
MORGAN CITY, LA.

Social and Cultural Impacts

Changes have occurred over 75 years

Sample issues:

- Labor force – e.g., work ethic
- Household/family structure – e.g., gender roles
- Social institutions – e.g., service to oilfield workers
- Use of land and resources – e.g., differing perceptions of appropriateness

Labor

As the industry moved into the woods and later into the swamps and marshes, trappers and others with intricate knowledge of the terrain were recruited. Many of them simply incorporated oil industry jobs into their seasonal occupational patterns. Accustomed to hard work and long hours, they applied their work ethic to the new circumstances.



Oh Lord, we had to carry our pipe. Pipe was 12-foot joints, about three and a half inches around, but it was light pipe. We carried our dynamite out there on our backs. We carried, well, everything we needed, and we had a little portable engine that we used... but I'll tell you what – that was some hard work. We worked, went to work at seven, left about seven-thirty, eight o'clock. And sometimes it would be dark before we'd come in. Just before dark we'd come out of the woods.
Jake Giroir



Labor Issues

1930s-1940s Strong work ethic, language and education barriers

1950s Integration of offshore petroleum with other livelihood strategies

1960s-1970s Rapid change during expansion; maintenance of men and new opportunities for women and minorities

1980s-early 1990s “Bust” and reorganization broke ties and shattered loyalty myths

1990s-today Labor shortages, frozen wages, low attraction to young people



Family and Household



Work provides not only a place for workers in their communities and society, it also provides needed resources for families and households. Over time the nature of household economies has changed, as has the contribution of various members – influenced by age and gender – to those economies. Expectations about work and family have also changed.

Then we came back to Morgan City and worked a while ... My family was with me. ... I guess we were like gypsies. It was close-knit. It was like one big family. We didn't have TV's in those days, so you got to visit a lot. Santo Rousso

When you go in the oilfield, you're giving up something. You're giving up some family life. You've got kids. You don't get a chance to be around – say if you're working offshore – you don't get a chance to be around them for seven days. They might have a game here, a game there, do the family things. If you're working shift work, you work from 12 to 7 in the mornings. You gotta sleep during the day. Pierre Jackson

Family Issues

1930s Household structure varied with livelihood strategies – seasonal cycles, children with parents, little disposable income

1940s WWII introduced new technologies, forms of work organization, household patterns

1950s-1960s Post-WWII men were employed in the oil and gas industry; women managed households and filled some positions

1970s Expansion brought women into oilfield in greater numbers, some change in household structures, increased disposable income

1980s-1990s Reorganization & downsizing negatively affected families; loss of “good” jobs meant greater reliance on non-oil employment

1990s-today Changing expectations of fathers increased disparity between perceptions of work and realities of oilfield



Summary

- Cumulative effects can be studied
- History matters
- Context matters
- Nature, extent and rate of change matter
- Highlight interrelationships among impacts

