A Louisiana Marsh Manager’s Permitting Handbook

Audubon Louisiana is a member of the Rainey Conservation Alliance (RCA), which is a consortium of landowners in Vermilion and Iberia Parishes, Louisiana that collectively manage 185,000 acres of private coastal wetlands. Some of these private lands have been managed for over a century, pioneering techniques that are still used today. Managers have experience pursuing and receiving permits for a wide variety of wetland protection and restoration projects on these properties since the permitting system was established in 1978 that required permission for such activities. In an effort to document and share our experiences working within the permit system, *A Louisiana Marsh Manager’s Permitting Handbook* focuses specifically on permitting for coastal wetlands protection and restoration.
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Introduction

Landowner goals in south Louisiana often focus on maintaining marsh vegetation, maintaining water levels for waterfowl hunting and fishing, preventing saltwater intrusion, and providing stable habitats that support healthy estuarine fish and wildlife population. Luckily, all of these things work naturally together under the appropriate management.

Most successful wetland land managers have decades of experience on their land, and are very familiar with the ecological interconnection between land and water. However, as a whole, landowners are far less familiar with the Louisiana Coastal Use Permit (CUP) application process. Many landowners and land managers find the process frustrating due to the cost in some cases, and the time required to effectively process a permit. As a result, some landowners have delayed or abandoned efforts to restore their lands.

Through our coastal work at Audubon Louisiana, in partnership with the Mississippi River Delta Coalition, the concept of permitting handbook for landowners was borne. A Louisiana Marsh Manager’s Permitting Handbook was developed by Audubon Louisiana staff and partners at the Rainey Conservation Alliance to assist wetland landowners and managers in applying for permits for wetland protection and restoration projects that will meet their individual management program goals.

This handbook leverages Audubon Louisiana’s experiences to help landowners obtain federal, state, and parish permits for habitat protection and restoration within the Louisiana Coastal Zone (Figure 1). Easy access to important permit application information can help to expedite the permit process, reducing time, effort and cost. This guide jump-starts the permit process for the user by noting application elements that can be most problematic, and identifying sections that are sometimes overlooked during the initial application preparation.
Preparation of permit plats or design project drawings are the more critical elements of a permit application. Examples of the various types of coastal wetland restoration projects successfully used by landowners can be a great help when designing your own project. Since examples can be difficult to locate, an appendix has been constructed to share representative examples of permits and their associated plats obtained for projects in the southwestern part of the state, in the vicinity of Audubon’s Paul J Rainey Sanctuary. These examples may be emulated or modified for specific needs.

**Permitting Basics**

In general, multiple permits are needed for any work in the Louisiana Coastal Zone, below 5 feet in elevation, within a wetland, or within ¼ mile of sensitive habitats that involves excavation or placement of material (“discharge”) that could disturb soil or alter water flow, or that involves building a structure. In other words, any alteration to the landscape in the Louisiana Coastal Zone will require permits.

A Joint Permit Application (JPA) is available on the DNR Office of Coastal Management (OCM) website ([www.dnr.louisiana.gov](http://www.dnr.louisiana.gov)) and is one form that fulfills all the required state and federal permits simultaneously. This includes permits from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), and perhaps documents from local parish government and/or local levee board.
Once the Joint Permit Application (JPA) has been completed and submitted, the DNR Office of Coastal Management assigns a Coastal Use Permit (CUP) number that will be used in all future correspondence, and forwards the joint application to the COE and other appropriate local, state and federal agencies. From that point on, DNR will be the primary agency that will review the application and plats (drawings) for completeness, requesting additional information as necessary. Once DNR has certified that the application is complete, a 25-day public notice period will begin and copies of the application will be distributed to other regulatory and commenting agencies. Anyone can comment on a permit. Only after the CUP and other associated permits are issued can the proposed activity begin.

![Artificial oyster-reef in Southwest Pass.](image)

**Overview of Process**

A permit requires a lot of information, but advanced and thorough planning helps.

Conceptualize the project: a problem exists on the landscape and needs to be improved. Keep in mind that even the best plans may need to be adjusted along the way to avoid interfering with neighbors or infrastructure, or to make it more environmentally friendly and thus more likely to be approved with a permit.

**Draw a plan**

Putting ideas to paper will help develop the design details. Accurate measurements of features surrounding the project, such as depth and extent of water bodies, will be necessary later in the process. Sophisticated equipment is not necessary for these measurements to be obtained: a tape measure and measuring stick may be enough to create a few elevation or depth graphs. Free software also exists that calculate measurements of surface features on the computer.

Decide where dredging should occur, where the discharge will be, and what kind of structure(s) may be needed and where they should be placed. Think about how the work will be done and how the necessary equipment will get to the site. Consider what impacts may occur as a result.
of the construction of the project, or even by moving equipment on site—the less that a wetland environment is affected, the easier and less expensive the permitting process will be.

**Determine the project location**
Satellite imagery, available from Google Earth, or topographic maps that can be copied and used for a base map, will be required for permit application. Google Earth provides latitude and longitude information and those coordinates should be noted for the project site. Area calculations are also available on Google Earth and those can be used to further to define the project footprint.

**Describe the project area**
The Coastwide Reference Monitoring System stations (CRMS) is one example of a reference that can be used to further define the landscape for a permit application—CRMS is a series of monitoring stations across the Louisiana coastal area funded through the Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) partnership. CRMS stations can provide general information about the type of marsh, water level fluctuations, and soil type in the project area.

**Contact neighbors**
The permitting process requires that neighbors adjacent to the project to be contacted. It is a good idea to do this ahead of time to make sure any considerations they may have are incorporated into the project planning.

**Don’t hesitate to ask LDNR OCM for help!**
Staff and managers at the state’s permitting office are there to assist; they can answer questions and offer resources to the applicant as necessary. They will guide the applicant to a successful permitting outcome. Online resources are also available: LDNR Sonris site offers permitting options in various areas of the coastal zone that can be used as a model for other applications.
Applying for a Permit, Step by Step

Figure 2 outlines the permitting process and is explained more in depth in the following sections.

A) IDENTIFY THE NEED FOR A PERMIT

1) Is it an Emergency?

Emergencies are considered things that if not corrected immediately would result in hazard to life, loss of property, or damage to the environment. A determination will be made by OCM if an “after-the-fact” permit will be necessary.

If the project is an emergency, proceed with activity, contacting OCM as soon as possible.

2) If the project is NOT an emergency, verify whether a permit is needed.

The easiest way to know if a permit is required for a project is to contact the DNR Office of Coastal Management. Explain the project and location in detail and ask if it will require a permit. There is no cost for their time.

A “Request For Determination” (RFD) from OCM may be submitted to determine when a permit is needed, but this step is optional, and may actually be redundant. It also requires a fee that is equal to the permit processing fee. This step may be skipped—if a Joint Permit Application (JPA) is applied for, a determination will be made anyway. If an
RFD is preferred by the applicant, the JPA procedure is available on the OCM website, but under “Permit Type” in the JPA form, check the “Request for Determination” box. The online RFD application process guides applicants through the appropriate steps. A vicinity map and other project details are required for the JPA.

If OCM indicates no permit is required, proceed with project. If a permit IS required, proceed to Section B.

B) DESIGN THE PROJECT

1) Review the checklist provided on the DNR website
The checklist for filling out a Joint Permit Application shows all information to be furnished in the application form and on the drawings of the proposed project. Although the amount of information required can seem daunting, it is necessary for the permitting agent to understand all aspects of the project and to help applicants avoid potential problems and with minimal environmental impact. It is better to include too much information than not enough, to avoid delaying the permit by repeated requests for additional information requested by the agent.

The application will require contact information for the applicant (and agent if there is one acting for the applicant), including email address; and contact information of adjacent property owners, lessees, right-of-ways, oyster leases, etc. Other information required will include a project name, and a clear description of the activity being proposed. Residential or commercial designation will determine the level of some of the associated fees.

Christian Marsh terraces in Vermillion Parish.
Latitude and Longitude can be obtained from a number of sources. A smart phone with Global Positioning System (GPS) application, a computer with Google Earth or other software, DNR Sonris site, are just a few examples, and all of these can be set to the degrees-minutes-seconds format.

Township and Range are a bit more difficult to find unless a USGS topographic map on hand, but the LDNR Sonris website does provide that information. The interactive map has a Table of Contents panel on the right side of the screen with a series of drop-down menus. Click on the arrow to the left of “Boundaries” to open that menu and then click on all the boxes that say “section” or “township” and make sure there is a check in each. “Section Points” turns on the labels for each section which is a series of letters and numbers starting with “T” for “Township.” “R” begins the designation for the “Range.” Click on the “hand” icon under the Sonris title to grab the map and move it to the desired location. The “+” or “-” tool allow the user to zoom in or out to find the project site. Some sections were not drawn on large private tracts, so these must be inferred by the township and range numbering system.

![Figure 3. Screen shot of the LDNR Sonris Interactive Map showing how to find the Township and Range.](image-url)
2) Prepare detailed maps and drawings

“Plats” refer to all maps and drawings that explain the project, and will be uploaded to the permit application as pdfs. Revisions to plats that are bundled as a single file will require re-submission of the entire bundle. For public notice, they will need to be 8.5” x 11” in size, in a form that is reproducible and understandable without color. The originals can be in color, but important features must be legible in black & white.

Prepare a “Vicinity Map” that shows the exact location of the proposed work with as much information as possible on the page, preferably on a USGS topographic map. This map can be created by adding labels and information to a copy of a topographic or road map by hand or digitally if the appropriate software is available. It must include the exact location of project site, name of all waterbodies and roads, north arrow and scale. An access route with water depths to the work site will need to be indicated on this map or separately. An example from the DNR website is provided below.

Figure 4. This is an example of a “Vicinity Map” that is provided on the DNR website.
“Plan View” maps must be included to show the details, including maximum placement of dredge/fill material, maximum limits of dredging, mean high and low water levels, with a scale and/or dimensions of each map.

Additional plats show plan view and any cross-sections to show such things as nearby completed and proposed work, cubic yards of dredge and/or fill material, location and depth of dredge and/or fill material, distance to shoreline, placement and dimensions of water control structures, or any other details of the site that may help the permitting agent understand the work that is being proposed.

Any previous work must be indicated separately from the proposed work with associated permit number.

Samples of a variety of plats that were used successfully for permit application are included in the online Appendix on the Audubon Louisiana webpage (Audubon.LA.org). They are from actual permits that were approved, and provide a variety of drawings that were adequate for approval, from hand drawn to professionally prepared schematics. These examples are for guidance purposes only. They may be used to help design your own project, and can be modified or emulated for specific needs.

3) Develop the project design within the guidelines

Designing a project within the guidelines of a general permit will streamline the permit application, approval, and reporting processes. General permits are listed in Table 1. This may not be optimal in all cases.

Minimize wetland impacts
Wetland impacts include destroying or converting wetlands to non-wetlands, and temporary impacts associated with construction. Minimizing impacts will decrease mitigation costs and increase the speed and probability of permit issuance. Project design priorities in descending order are:

- **Avoidance** – produce no wetland impacts or design the project to be self-mitigating by creating more wetland than is affected.
- **Minimize** – reduce the footprint of the part of the project on wetland to the smallest area possible without compromising project functionality.
- **Mitigate** – offset wetland impacts through the purchase of credits or creating/enhancing similar wetlands at another location to achieve zero net loss of wetland.

Be prepared for multiple Fees
There are many fees required for a JPA, so it is a good idea to minimize where possible, especially for wetland mitigation since that can be rather expensive and involved.
1) The **Application Fee** or the **Request for Determination Fee** is the same non-refundable amount paid to DNR when the application is submitted - $20 for residential and $100 for all other uses.

2) **Permit Processing Fee.** DNR receives a fee based on the volume of material moved, regardless of ownership. This pays for analyst effort: theoretically larger projects will require more of their time.
   a. $0.04 per cubic yard (cy) for residential use; with no charge for under 125cy to a maximum fee of $2,000 for anything over 50,000cy.
   b. $0.05 per cubic yard for all other uses under 100,000cy; with a minimum charge of $25 for less than 500cy to maximum of $5,000 for excess of 100,000cy.

3) **Water Quality Certification Fee** is paid to DEQ, but all Section 402 permit applications (related to discharge of pollutants) will be exempt from this fee since fees are already assessed as part of the state permit system. – $350 (commercial) or $33 (non-commercial)

4) **LDWF Permit Fee.** LDWF receives fees based on cubic yards of material moved from a state water-bottom to private property ($0.25/cy). If the material is replaced, such as back-filling a pipeline or canal, this fee is not required. The fee is also not required if material is moved from a private canal to private property.

**Wetland Mitigation Costs**

First, avoid or minimize wetland impact if at all possible! The cost of mitigation varies by the type of habitat affected and location. This can easily reach $60,000 - $80,000/acre or more for coastal marshes and $6,000 - $26,000/acre for bottomland hardwood and cypress tupelo habitat. Mitigation costs and requirements are explained in more detail later, but may incur any of the following costs and fees:
   a. Compensatory mitigation processing fee (OCM) is based on acreage and can range from $150 for half an acre to $15,000 for anything over 100 acres.
   b. Creating your own mitigation bank incurs other fees and is relatively uncommon and costly. This includes mitigation bank initial evaluation fee, mitigation bank habitat evaluation fee, mitigation bank establishment fee, mitigation bank periodic review fee.
   c. Advanced mitigation project fees, compensatory mitigation variance request fee.
   d. Permittee can propose a mitigation plan within the same hydrologic unit.

**Complexity of Project**

The more complex a project is, the greater the potential for delays in permit issuance and for design alterations due to regulatory requirements or policy. If possible, the permittee may want to exclude those project components that could potentially cause non-permit issuance if the overall project goals and function can still be achieved.

Contentiousness of components with agencies and commenters can cause permit issuance delays and increase costs as resolutions and compromises are being negotiated.
**Time Factor Considerations**

**Timing around permitting.** The permit processing time by OCM may take several months to a year or more depending on the complexity of the project, the type and number of objections filed against the project, the permit analyst, and agency workloads. After issuance of the Coastal Use Permit (CUP), the applicant has 2 years to commence the project and 5 years to complete the project. It is possible to request permit extensions (see E), however, this will add costs, such as new permit application fees, etc.

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**Seasonal Considerations.** Various outside factors may influence when projects can be constructed.

1) Waterfowl Hunting Season (mid-September – mid-January). Many projects require use of airboats and heavy equipment. Equipment noise may chase off migratory waterfowl and diminish the hunting experience. Landowners will often not allow equipment operations on their property during the waterfowl hunting season. This must be coordinated with the landowner manager prior to construction of the project. Certain activities are often allowed a week or two in advance of the start of a hunting season or when the season is closed during hunting season splits.

2) Hurricane Season (June 1 – November 1). Mobilization and demobilization of equipment in response to hurricane threats can be extremely costly and can cause project construction delays.

3) Bird Nesting Season. Nesting periods for sensitive (e.g., eagle) or colonially nesting (e.g., heron rookeries) bird species of conservation concern (February 15 – Aug 15) can effect placement of project components and effect project construction scheduling. Failure to understand the bird population and the effect of project construction on habitats within or adjacent to the project area can cause construction delays and/or non-issuance of permits.

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*Snow Geese at the Paul J Rainey Wildlife Sanctuary in Vermilion Parish.*
**Endangered Species and Sensitive Habitats.**

If the project could harm or adversely affect endangered species habitat, the project may not be authorized. Again, it is important to know the endangered species that occur in the proposed project area and if there are any sensitive habitats that may be impacted. The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program provides a list of endangered species and sensitive habitats on their web page.

**Adjacent Landowners.**

Consideration of the effect a project might have on adjacent landowners is essential during project design. In some instances, sharing of resources and collaboration with adjoining landowners could help reduce overall project costs. It is especially important to coordinate any project construction activities that may be near or effect State or Federal lands.

**Louisiana State Master Plan 2017 (Master Plan).**

The OCM will coordinate with the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to ensure project consistency with the Master Plan. Inconsistency may result in permit non-issuance.

**4) Set up pre-application meeting.**

This step is not required but is highly recommended for any complex projects as it will allow the permit applicant to address concerns and issues, and seek ideas and suggestions before the permit application has been filed.

- The OCM permit analyst will usually coordinate the meeting with the Corps of Engineers and other relevant state and Federal resource agencies.
- Be sure to include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and LDWF in the pre-application meeting as they can influence whether or not a permit will be issued.
- In rare circumstances, a site visit to determine if there are any issues which may delay and/or prevent permit issuance may occur; this is more likely to occur after the JPA is submitted.
5) Determine Wetland Impacts

Plan to avoid or minimize wetland impacts to the greatest extent possible! Reduction of wetland impacts cannot be stressed enough. In some instances, excessive wetland impacts can result in compensatory mitigation costs so high a planned project becomes cost prohibitive. Make sure to explore and document all of the options possible to avoid or minimize impacts; OCM will assist in recommending options.

- If there are NO wetland impacts, skip this section
- If the project will create more wetlands than it will affect, it may be considered “self-mitigating”
- If there ARE unavoidable wetland impacts, the OCM or COE will determine the highest “in-kind” (same habitat type as impacted) compensatory mitigation requirement. COE will run the Modified Charleston Method (MCM) to calculate compensatory mitigation requirements for a 404 Permit. The MCM generally produces the highest compensatory mitigation requirements between the OCM and COE.

Upon receipt of the compensatory mitigation requirement, the permittee is required to develop a mitigation plan to offset wetland impacts. There are three options to satisfy these requirements, as follows:

**Option 1)** Mitigation in-kind credits can be purchased from an approved (by COE and OCM) Mitigation Bank (MB). COE will always recommend that the permittee buy credits if they are available, rather than allowing self-mitigation. However, the landowner, by law, has first right of refusal and can have mitigation placed on his property before going to a mitigation bank.

a. Marsh mitigation costs can be over $60K/acre (Chef Menteur MB).
b. Bottomland Hardwood & Cypress Tupelo mitigation costs can range from $6K-26K/acre.
c. MB must be within the same USGS hydrologic unit (water.usgs.gov/GIS/huc.html); usually starts with nearest unit, and expands out until closest MB is found.
d. No requirement to maintain the mitigation if purchased; this is done by the MB.

**Option 2)** In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Program (description on the DNR CZM website) – usually for minimal impacts (only for marsh for the COE; will not accept in-lieu payment for forested wetlands or bottomland forests).

**Option 3)** Develop an on-site mitigation plan and submit to OCM & COE for consideration. The COE will likely require a perpetual conservation easement; OCM will require 20-yr maintenance.

a. It has been our experience that OCM & COE will not develop a plan or provide assistance, but only accept or reject the plan submitted by the permittee.

b. Discuss obligation for maintenance of on-site mitigation plans with OCM and COE (there could be 20-year to perpetual obligations for maintaining on-site mitigation areas).

**OCM & COE will make determination if mitigation plan is acceptable.**

If it is accepted, continue with the process and fill out the JPA. If the plan was rejected, go back to the beginning and redesign the project so that the next mitigation plan is accepted or is not necessary.

**6) Fill out the JPA form on the OCM website.**

Follow instructions and complete the JPA, making sure that the information in the application and that on the drawings are the same. Thorough preparation makes filling out the form relatively straightforward, although it will take some time.
C) APPLICATION SUBMITTAL AND PUBLIC NOTICE

1) Submit complete JPA to OCM and pay application fee.

Alternatively, if the parish in which the project is being constructed has an approved coastal management plan, the JPA can be submitted there. Within 2 days, the parish forwards the JPA to OCM for confirmation of state or local jurisdiction. The same processing fees will be required.

- A Letter of No Objection (LNO) from a parish with no approved coastal management plan is required and is usually generated through the JPA. In some cases, a separate request is necessary.
- The Parish in which the project is being constructed has the right to reject a permit application even if the applicant has all other permits necessary to construct his project. The applicant can then attend the OCM meeting to appeal a rejection.

2) OCM receives JPA

- If the application is deemed complete, OCM will forward copies of the JPA to regulators (COE and DEQ). If incomplete, OCM will return it to the applicant with an itemized list of incomplete and/or missing information.
- Applicant will be required to make the necessary corrections until the JPA is deemed complete.

3) Public Notice Period

All apparently complete applications for coastal use permits are put on public notice to allow for comments from anyone with concerns about the activity. Comments received are considered by OCM in its subsequent actions on the permit application.

- OCM – 25 day public notice for receipt of public comments.
- DEQ – 10 day public notice for receipt of public comments.
- COE – 15-(extended to 30 if requested) day public notice for receipt of public comments.

The applicant has 30 days to respond to all comments received and resolve any issues.

- The regulators (OCM, COE, DEQ) typically require that the applicant arbitrate and resolve issues directly with the commenter and/or objector.
- LDWF and State Land Office will usually comment.
• Some fees associated with royalties (e.g., taking dredge material from state-owned water bottoms) or other licensing fees, if applicable, will be requested at this point; LDWF permit fee based on the cubic yards of water bottom material used for private purposes.

D) PERMIT ISSUANCE

1) A draft Coastal Use Permit (CUP) will be issued by the state OCM. As soon as the draft permit is received, it should be carefully reviewed by the applicant. The permittee has 5 days to contest conditions in the permit agreement, after which the permit will be final, upon payment of all remaining fees.

It is important that the applicant fully understand all conditions of the permit, especially any reporting and notification requirements (See Section E). Non-compliance with permit conditions can lead to enforcement action and/or revocation of permit until compliance conditions are met.

Issuance of a CUP by itself does not allow project commencement.

2) A 404 Permit will be issued by U.S. Corps of Engineers (COE)

• The finalized CUP will be forwarded by OCM to COE as required for issuance of a 404 Permit and to DEQ for a Water Quality Certification (WQC).
• **DEQ sends applicant a letter with a WQC number and will request payment of any required fees.** The letter of certification will include any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure compliance with state Water Quality Standards, approved Water Quality Management Plans, or applicable state water laws, rules, or regulations.

Upon payment of any required fees, the WQC will be issued and forwarded by DEQ to COE.

• **Upon receipt of the CUP and WQC by COE, the COE will issue a draft 404 Permit.** Upon acceptance of conditions in permit and payment of permit fee by applicant, the permit will be issued.

• **ONLY after all local, State, and federal permits are received, can the applicant can begin construction of the project!**

The permit duration and extensions are different for the state issued CUP and the federally issued 404 permit.

Construction for a CUP must commence within 2 years of permit issuance, otherwise the permit expires and must be resubmitted. Once construction is started, the CUP is good for 5 years. The permittee can ask for an extension to a non-constructed permit if the request is at least 180 days prior to the expiration date, and can ask for a 3-year extension if the work was not completed within the 5 years.

Construction for a 404 Permit must be started and completed within 5 years, or a new application and permit will be needed.

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Coastal work is often done by barge.
E) PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

ONLY after all local, State, and federal permits are received, can the applicant begin construction of the project!

During Project Operation
• Copies of the CUP and 404 Permit must be present at the construction site during entire project, and all provisions of all permits must be adhered to.

• A construction commencement notification card will be included in the packet sent to the applicant that contains the permits and this must be sent to OCM within 3 working-days of beginning construction (or in accordance with permit specifications).

• A construction completion notification also must be sent to COE within 30 days after construction has ended (or in accordance with permit specifications).

• As-built drawings, or drawings that depict the detailed result(s) after all work is completed, must be sent to OCM within 30 days after construction has ended or in accordance with permit specifications.

Maintenance of the Project
Any maintenance of project that is required will be specified in the permit conditions.

Normal maintenance or repair of an existing, authorized, currently serviceable, active structure does not need a permit as long as maintenance does not change the magnitude or function of the structure and does not involve dredge or fill activities.

Any work outside of the scope of the permit will require a new permit application starting at the beginning of the process.

Special Condition Reporting
In some instances, permit conditions may require annual reporting. Be sure to adhere to all permit conditions because an after-the-fact permit can be even more onerous.
CONCLUSION

Due the complexity of the permitting process, this handbook should not be used only as a guide—it is not intended to be completely comprehensive covering every possible aspect of the permit process. Instead, this document should be viewed by coastal land managers as an introduction to the regulatory coastal permit process and to the permits needed to conduct work within the Louisiana Coastal Zone. In addition, it provides users with an understanding of the steps required for the planning, design, permitting, and construction of coastal restoration projects. It is the intention of Audubon Louisiana to improve this handbook over time by soliciting input from users.

Links:

Louisiana Coastal Zone Map:

DNR OCM Joint Permit Application:

Joint Permit Application Checklist:

LDNR – “A Coastal User’s Guide to the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program;” provides information on how to apply for a coastal use permit:

“Alternatives and Justification Guidelines” – explains what information is required and why for permits in specific situations

General Permits
http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=728

Vicinity map example:
http://dnr.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/coastal/cup/sampleplats/1vicinity_map.pdf

Water Quality Certification – Title 33, Environmental Quality, Part IX. Water Quality:
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Portals/0/planning/regs/title33/33v09-201102.pdf

Natural Heritage Program with information on endangered and threatened animals:
http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program

In-Lieu Fee Program:

USGS Hydrologic Units:
http://water.usgs.gov/GIS/huc.html

FWS publication – “Waterfowl Management Handbook 3.4.8. Options for Water-level Control in Developed Wetlands” provides examples of water control structures:

Ducks Unlimited “Wetland Engineering Manual” provides examples of water control structures:
Table 1. Office of Coastal Management - General Permits

http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=728

General permits are subject to the same application process as other permits, but approval is streamlined. However, if your application does not meet the requirements of a General Permit, it will be processed as a regular joint application.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Permit No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Expiration Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GP-5</td>
<td>Provides for the construction and maintenance of a ring levee and board road for the purpose of oil and gas exploration and production</td>
<td>2/05/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-6</td>
<td>Provides for the installation, replacement, maintenance, and removal of up to 10,000 linear feet of pipeline in vegetated wetlands, spoil banks, and open water areas</td>
<td>2/5/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-7</td>
<td>Provides for dredging to construct a parallel slip adjacent to an existing man-made canal or slip, to deepen an existing slip, and to construct an oil or gas access canal or slip. This general permit also authorizes the removal and replacement of existing plugs in oil and gas canals constructed under the authority of this general permit.</td>
<td>2/5/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-8</td>
<td>Provides for the construction of wave dampening fences in shallow water locations. Christmas trees or other clean suitable brush may be used to fill fence units when design requires</td>
<td>7/16/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-10</td>
<td>Provides for the maintenance of existing channels, canals and slips that are used for access to oil, gas, and salt water disposal wells and production facilities within the Coastal Zone of Louisiana.</td>
<td>7/16/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-11</td>
<td>Provides for the implementation of individual compensatory mitigation projects and mitigation banks to offset unavoidable impacts to vegetated wetlands due to permitted activities.</td>
<td>3/24/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-12</td>
<td>Provides for a one-time mobilization for the maintenance of existing channels, canals and slips that are used for access to oil, gas and salt water disposal wells and production facilities located in fields in which the applicant has a valid Coastal Use Field-Wide Maintenance Dredging Strategy Permit.</td>
<td>7/16/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-14</td>
<td>Provides for a one-time mobilization for the maintenance dredging of existing channels, canals and ditches that are utilized for the management of surface water flow.</td>
<td>7/16/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-14</td>
<td>Provides for a one-time mobilization for the installation, maintenance, removal, and repair of utility lines, wires, cables, conduits, pipes for water pipelines and fiber optic bundles in new or existing corridors within the Louisiana Coastal Zone.</td>
<td>7/16/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-15</td>
<td>Provides for the maintenance dredging of existing channels, canals, ditches and slips that are utilized for commercial purposes or private navigation within the Louisiana Coastal Zone.</td>
<td>7/16/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>GP-16</td>
<td>Provides a one-time mobilization for the construction of new channels and slips that are used for access to oil, gas, and salt water disposal wells and production facilities located in open water, excluding Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurepas.</td>
<td>7/16/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-17</td>
<td>Provides for dredging of waterbottoms in order to restore and stabilize shorelines and subsiding marsh and for the construction and maintenance of crevasses by the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority only.</td>
<td>7/16/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-18</td>
<td>Provides for the limited placement of fill for construction within specified constraints of a driveway, parking area, or storage area; dredging and/or filling of up to 100 cubic yards of material to construct a boat slip with a bulkhead within specified dimensions.</td>
<td>2/05/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-19</td>
<td>Provides for a one-time mobilization for minor oil and gas activities that have adverse impacts to 1.0 acre or less, with no more than 0.1 acre of vegetated wetland impacts, within the Coastal Zone of Louisiana.</td>
<td>7/16/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-20</td>
<td>Provides for oil field restoration activities including the construction and maintenance of ring levees, construction and maintenance of board roads, and dredging and maintenance dredging of access channels within the Coastal Zone of Louisiana.</td>
<td>2/05/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-21</td>
<td>Provides for the placement of up to 10,000 cubic yards of material approved by the Office of Coastal Management, in order to construct drilling and production facility foundation pads with maximum dimensions of 250 feet in length and 225 feet in width.</td>
<td>7/16/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-22</td>
<td>Provides for operations for seismic surveys.</td>
<td>4/15/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-23</td>
<td>Provides for the maintenance of existing trenasses within the coastal zone of Louisiana, but does not authorize the construction of new trenasses or the extension of the linear dimensions of existing trenasses.</td>
<td>7/16/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-24</td>
<td>Provides for the installation, maintenance and/or removal of up to 1,000 linear feet of concrete mats and other hard-structure or engineered alternatives for pipeline protection.</td>
<td>8/16/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-25</td>
<td>Provides for the construction of a minimally-sized ring levee adjacent to an existing board road or ring levee.</td>
<td>2/05/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-26</td>
<td>Provides for dredging to construct a minimally-sized parallel slip adjacent to a man-made canal or slip.</td>
<td>2/05/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-27</td>
<td>Provides for maintenance activities for public port facilities within the Louisiana Coastal Zone.</td>
<td>1/09/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP-28</td>
<td>Provides for the repair of breaches in existing spoil banks located wholly on privately owned lands; and for the repair/replacement of existing water control structures located wholly on privately owned lands.</td>
<td>**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>