

## Louisiana's Coastwide Reference Monitoring System-*Wetlands* (CRMS)

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### Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection and Restoration Act



- CWPPRA
  - Congressionally funded in 1990 to identify, prepare, and fund construction of coastal wetlands restoration projects
  - Partnership involving 5 federal agencies and the State of Louisiana
  - Diverse array of restoration project types
- Two monitoring mandates in the Act
  - Evaluate effectiveness of individual projects
  - Evaluate effectiveness of the restoration program





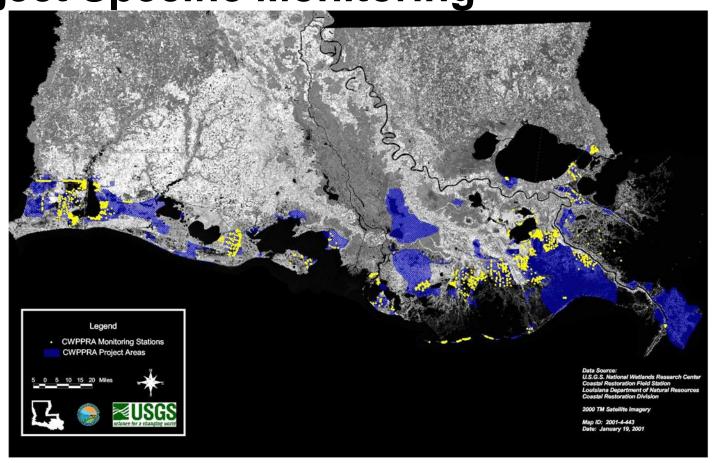






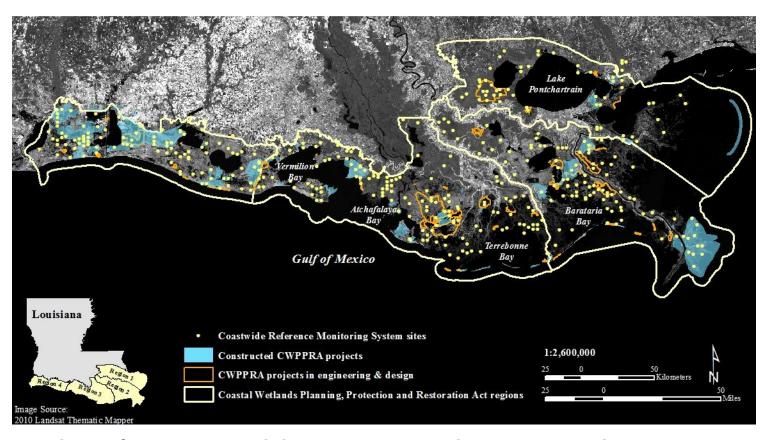


**CWPPRA Restoration Projects Project Specific Monitoring** 



Inconsistent monitoring variables, short term data records, inadequate coverage, unsuitable or no reference areas

#### **CRMS Site Distribution**



390 sites for coastwide coverage in all marsh types Monitoring sites inside and outside of project boundaries Provides baseline for unconstructed projects Evaluate wetlands at multiple scales

### **CRMS Site Design**

CRMS-Wetlands Sampling Area: CRMS-Wetlands Sampling Area: 200m X 200m area for non-spatial 1 km<sup>2</sup> aerial photography area data collection 200 m (656 ft) 1 km (3280 ft) **MARSH** 200 m (656 ft) 1 km (3280 ft) WATER 2m X 2m vegetation station **→** Surface Elevation Table (SET) **◆** Accretion plot Datasonde collecting water level and salinity **Boardwalk** 





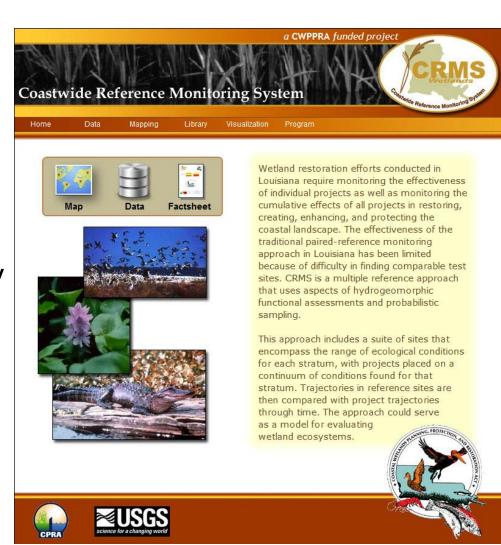
#### **CRMS Milestones**

- 2001-2003 Design development
- 2003 CWPPRA approved funding
- 2003-2005 pre-construction planning, contracting, landrights
- 2005-2007 site installation begins, interrupted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, 390 sites completed in 2007
- 2006-present Data collection, site maintenance, USGS and CPRA develop website to house data



#### **CRMS Public Website**

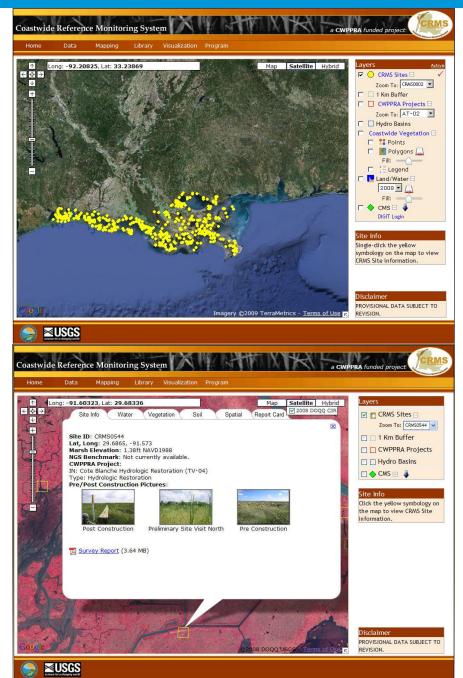
- CRMS Analytical teams are made up of scientists and information technology specialists
- Feedback solicited from CWPPRA partners annually at "roadshows"
- Comments are then incorporated into the website
- Training available to public twice annually



# CRMS Website www.lacoast.gov/crms2

 Mapping Menu bar - select the Basic Map viewer

 Select a site and a bubble pops up with site information and select graphics

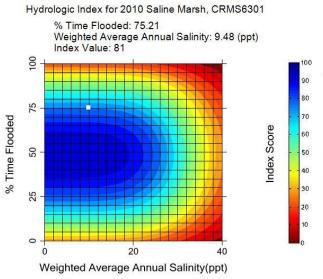


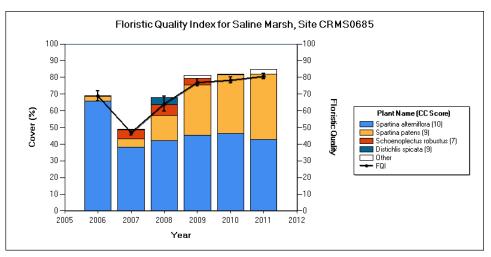
#### **CRMS Indices**

#### Comparison across multiple spatial scales

 Hydrologic – HI suitability of average salinity and % time flooded in maximizing vegetative primary productivity

Floristic Quality - FQI
 Species assigned scores
 based on fidelity to a
 marsh type and whether
 they indicate wetland
 stability or disturbance

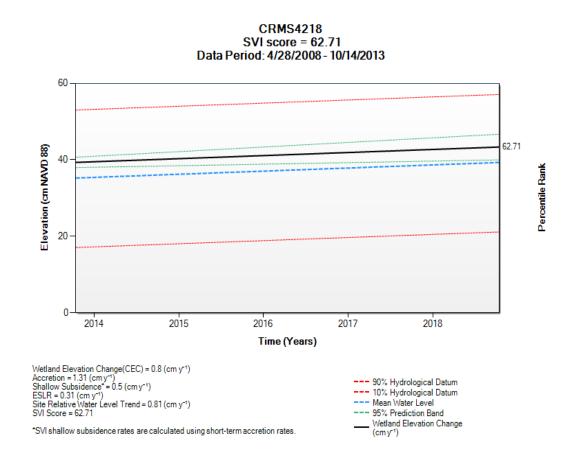




#### **CRMS Indices**

#### Comparison across multiple spatial scales

Submergence Vulnerability Index combines elevation change and shallow subsidence data with known starting elevations and predicted sea level rise rates to predict future marsh elevation relative to water elevation (submergence or emergence)

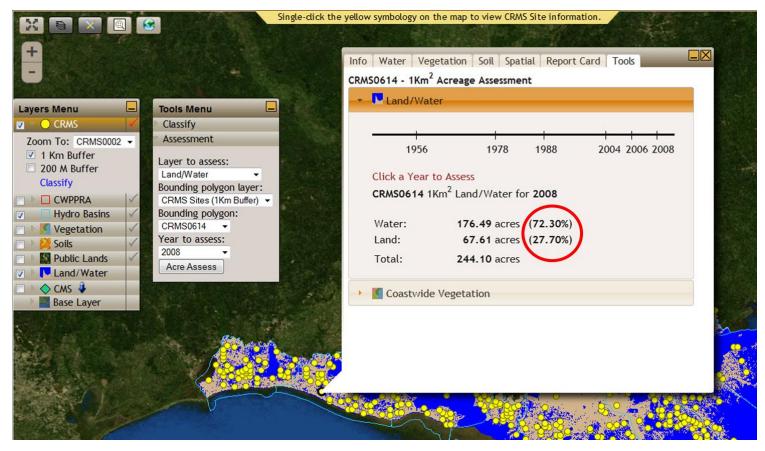


### **CRMS Report Cards**

 Baseline period from 2006-2009 was established to assess existing distribution of index scores of all CRMS sites

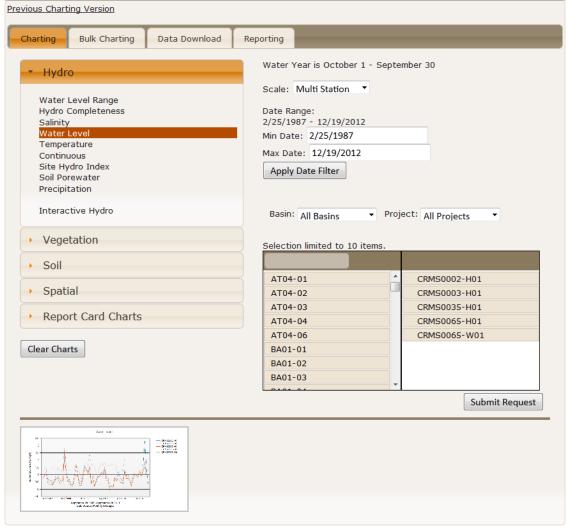


# Data Utilization Identify problem areas



How much land has the area lost over time?

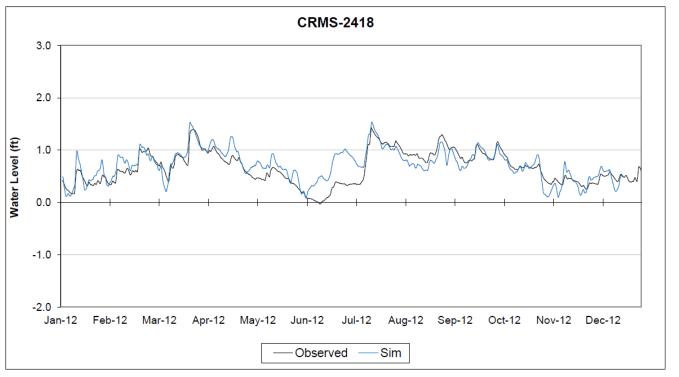
# Data Utilization Develop a new project on the priority list



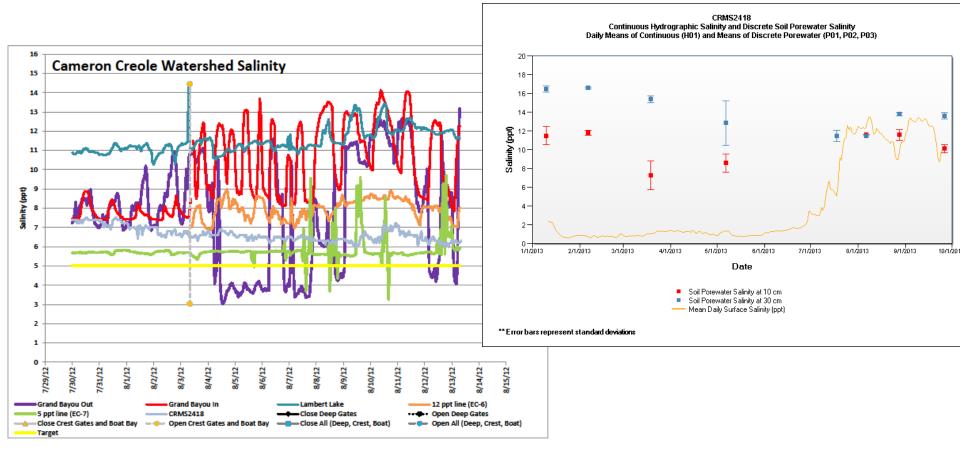
# Data Utilization Model hydrologic data for project planning

CRMS-2418

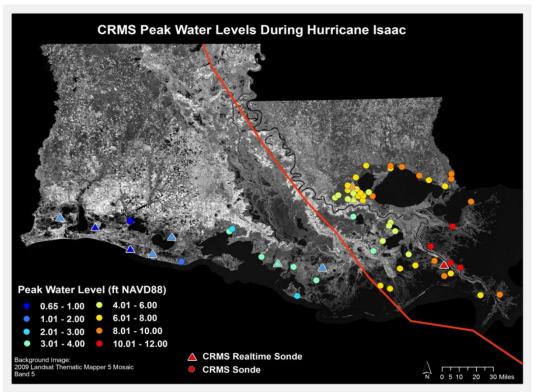




### Data Utilization Evaluate the performance of and adaptively manage constructed projects

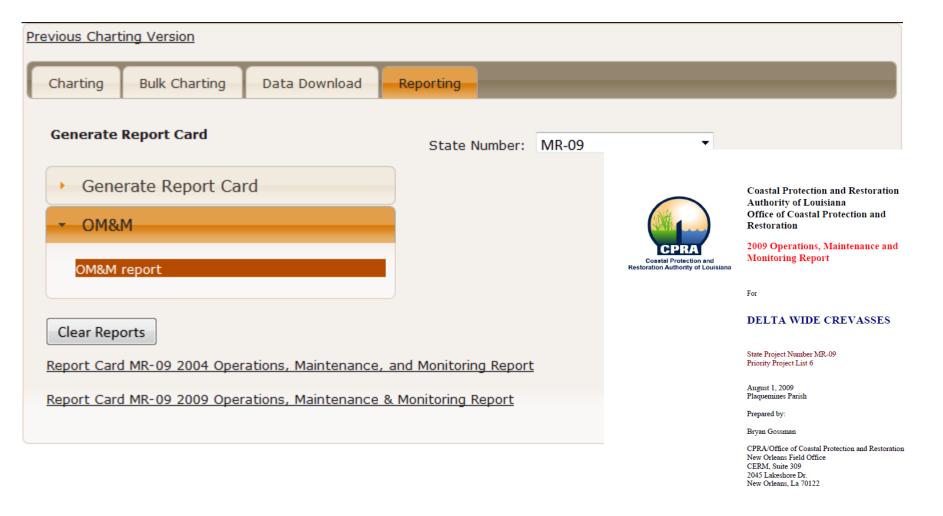


### Data Utilization Identify damages to projects following a major disturbance



Damage assessments underway when sites are accessible

# Data Utilization Recommendation for Project at end of 20 yrs



#### 2014 Activities

- 2013 Vegetation survey performed by Visser/Sasser results available
- Land/Water analysis of 2012 photography available on website this summer
- CRMS annual Roadshows with federal partners scheduled in April
- Public Website Training April 30 in Baton Rouge
- CRMS Website Beginner's Guide
- Elevation Survey of all CRMS sites in 2014

