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Public Fishing Piers and Expanded Boat Launch Now Open on Island Road in Terrebonne Parish

Houma, LA – The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) today announced the completion of the Island Road Fishing Pier project in Terrebonne Parish. The public now has free access to an improved boat launch, five fishing piers, and parking along Island Road. The 2.5 mile stretch of roadway between Highway 665 and Isle de Jean Charles is the southernmost boundary of the Ensminger/Songe marsh management unit on the Terrebonne Parish portion of the Pointe-Aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area.

“This project is funded with a portion of post-BP oil spill dollars specifically allocated to mitigate for recreational opportunities lost as a result of the spill,” said CPRA Chairman Chip Kline. “In this instance, we applied funds to an extremely popular fishing spot in Terrebonne Parish. Island Road is a narrow two-lane road across open water with minimal shoulders to park along, creating a somewhat precarious situation. Now that this project is complete, our fishermen have ample parking, piers to fish from, and a boat launch to increase public access to this incredible resource.”

Terrebonne Parish President Gordy Dove appreciates the added safety and access for the fisherman of Terrebonne Parish.

“We work hard every day to expand the levees and floodgates to protect as many homes and properties as we can, and this year’s storms show why we do it and how effective protection can be,” said Dove. “We need more of that, for sure, but we also need to remember this is the Sportsman’s Paradise. We’re working to preserve and protect a wonderful way of life, our enjoyment of the great outdoors, and the abundance that God has blessed us with.”

Each of the five sites has two piers that are eight feet wide by 56 feet long. Each site has parking for 11 vehicles as well as one accessible parking spot. The boat launch is an expansion of the existing launch area near Highway 665. It includes parking for up to 12 trailers with tow vehicles and one accessible parking spot. The launch is 30 feet wide into water depths of approximately six to seven feet.

The \$3 million project was evaluated and selected by the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (LA TIG) as part of a plan to improve recreational access across the state. LA TIG is comprised of Federal and State entities,

with CPRA serving as the State's lead trustee. CPRA partnered with fellow LA TIG representative, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to accomplish engineering, design, and construction.

"This project highlights how cooperative efforts help move this state forward," said LDWF Secretary Jack Montoucet. "What has been accomplished here is a state-of-the-art location where anglers can fish, mingle, and take advantage of the bounty in our Sportsman's Paradise."

State Senator Mike Fesi said public use projects like these are a tremendous resource for Louisiana's recreational fishermen.

"The addition of fishing piers and an expanded boat launch on Island Road provide increased safety and access to this incredibly popular fishing spot," said Fesi. "With the support of CPRA and the LA-TIG, we are demonstrating our commitment to the sportsmen of Terrebonne Parish. And while storm protection remains a top priority, we are also continually working to improve our people's access to the natural resources that make our state so special."

State Representative Tanner Magee represents the district and knows residents will be excited to have the convenience of the piers and added off-road parking.

"Now our residents can enjoy great fishing and crabbing without fear for their safety," said Magee. "Rec-use projects like these are great for those who want to enjoy all our parish has to offer. And thanks to our partnership with CPRA, LDWF, and the LA-TIG, this project was able to be completed at no taxpayer expense."

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