

# LaNERR – Louisiana National Estuarine Research Reserve

CPRA Board

*Milestones in developing three site proposals*

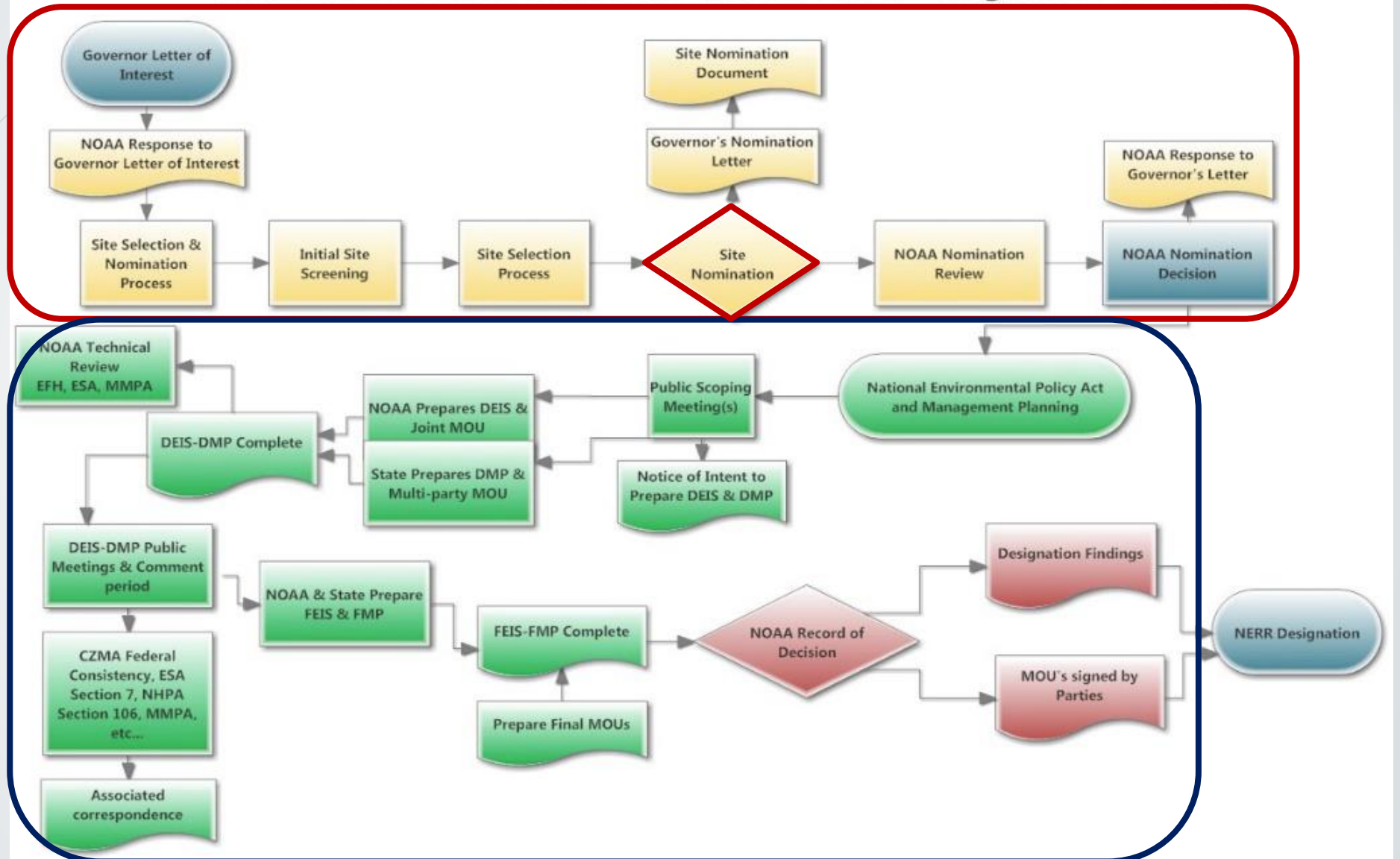
*Final Proposal Screening and Scoring – Site Criteria*

*June 15, 2022*



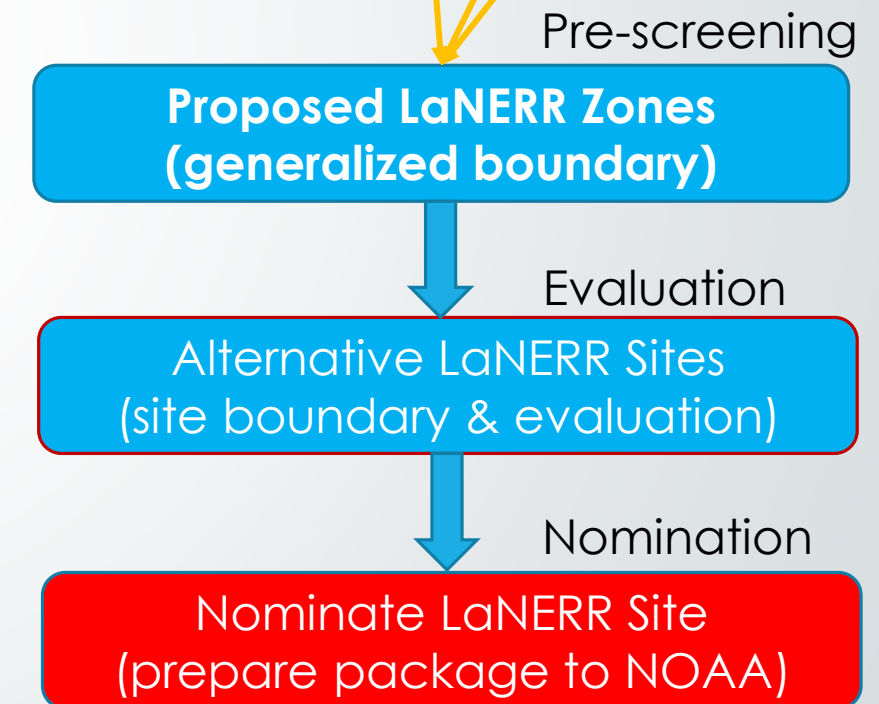
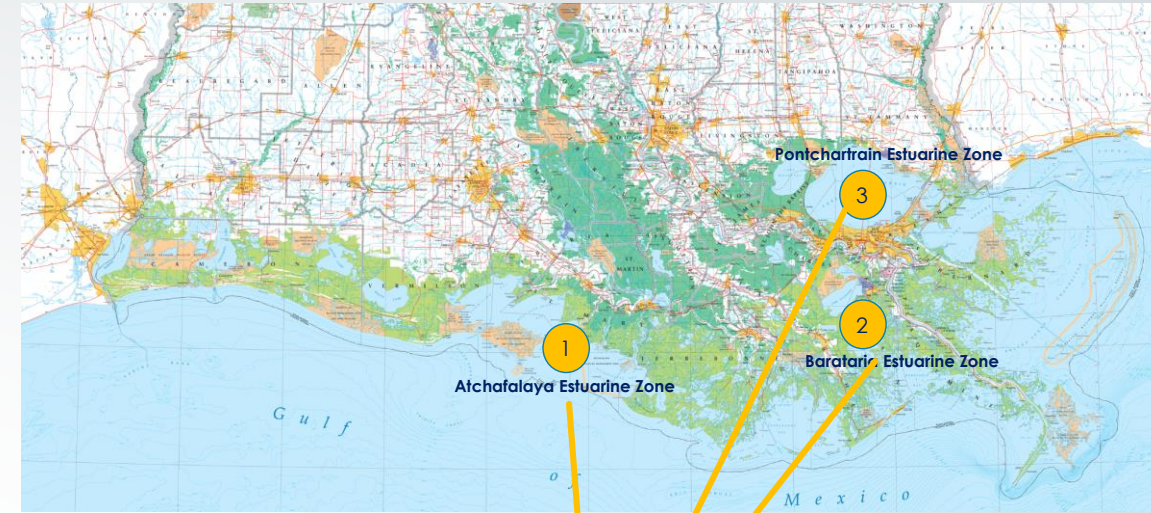
## Pre-designation Process

### National Estuarine Research Reserve Basic Designation Process



# How will Louisiana determine where to establish a LaNERR?

1. Develop pre-screening criteria that reflect LaNERR goals;
2. Establish generalized zones within which to identify candidate sites;
3. Use proposed zones to modify NOAA site criteria to help identify sites for consideration and final nomination;
4. Evaluate proposed LaNERR Zones to select candidate sites that define preferred goals;
5. Generate public support and partnerships for proposed final site to NOAA.

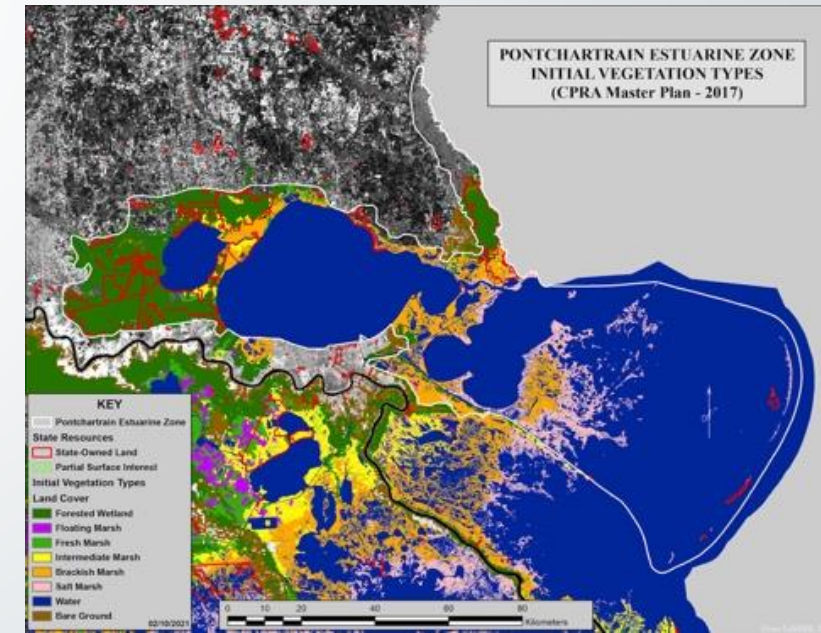
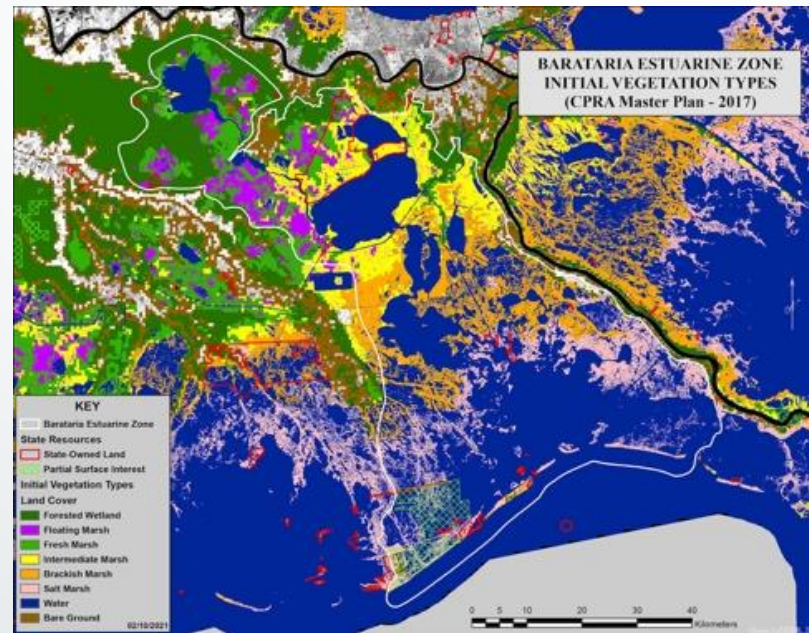
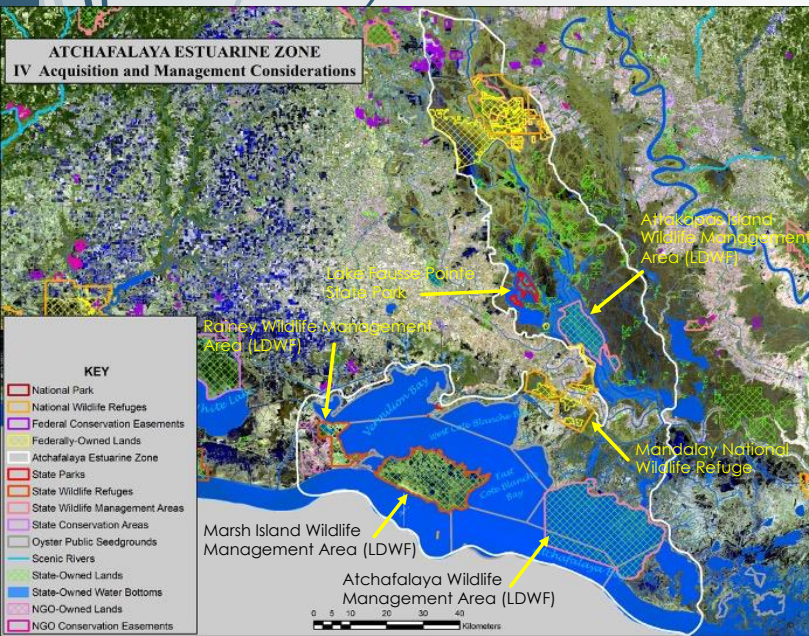






Three alternative site proposals organized with teams leading each effort to define a LaNERR using modified NOAA site criteria applicable to coastal Louisiana landscape and coastal zone management policies:  
**Atchafalaya Basin; Barataria Basin; Pontchartrain Basin.**

Each use a combination of state-owned land and waters to define potential areas to establish a LaNERR.



# Site Proposal Subcommittees

## Atchafalaya

Brian Roberts  
Justin Lemoine  
Quenton Fontenot  
Jimmy Nelson

## Pontchartrain

David Podgorski  
Kristi Trail  
Mark Davis  
Traci Erin Cox  
Martin O'Connell  
Thomas Robert  
Robert Moreau  
Gary Shaffer

## Barataria

John Nyman  
Tracy Quirk  
Julie Whitbeck  
Quenton Fontenot

## Cheston Hill

Pat Arnould

Consultant for any of the teams to help with candidate site proposals  
Consultant for any of the teams to help with candidate site proposals

Mapping support by Hampton Peele and DeWitt Braud



## TOWN HALL SCHEDULE SUMMARY

(Registration will be required when you join the webinar link)

| Atchafalaya Basin     |        |  |
|-----------------------|--------|--|
| Date                  | Time   | Attendance Info  |
| Wednesday, February 2 | 12-2pm | <a href="#">Join this Webinar</a> (virtual only)   |
| Tuesday, February 8   | 6-8pm  | <a href="#">Join this Webinar</a> OR Join in-person at Morgan City Municipal Auditorium – 728 Myrtle St. in Morgan City  |
| Thursday, February 10 | 6-8pm  | <a href="#">Join this Webinar</a> OR Join in-person at Sliman Theatre for the Performing Arts – 129 E. Main St. in New Iberia  |
| Barataria Basin       |        |  |
| Date                  | Time   | Attendance Info  |
| Monday, February 7    | 6-8pm  | <a href="#">Join this Webinar</a> OR Join in-person at Lafitte Barataria Museum & Wetland Trace – 4917 City Park Drive in Lafitte  |
| Wednesday, February 9 | 12-2pm | <a href="#">Join this Webinar</a> (virtual only)   |
| Wednesday, February 9 | 6-8pm  | <a href="#">Join this Webinar</a> (virtual only)   |
| Pontchartrain Basin   |        |  |
| Date                  | Time   | Attendance Info  |
| Tuesday, February 1   | 6-8pm  | <a href="#">Join this Webinar</a> OR Join in-person at Southeastern Student Union Annex - Theater (2nd floor) in Hammond (parking at the corner of Nec McGehee Drive and North Oak Street) |
| Thursday, February 3  | 6-8pm  | <a href="#">Join this Webinar</a> OR Join in-person at SUNO Auditorium of the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences (AHSS) – 6400 Press Drive in New Orleans                                   |
| Friday, February 11   | 12-2pm | <a href="#">Join this Webinar</a> (virtual only)   |

## TOWN HALL MEETINGS



### Town Hall Participation:

#### 1. Atchafalaya Proposal

- 1. In Person: 130
- 2. On Line: 285

#### 2. Barataria Proposal

- 1. In Person: 24
- 2. On Line: 113

#### 3. Pontchartrain Proposal

- 1. In Person: 34
- 2. On Line: 214

#### 4. Total

- 1. In Person: 188
- 2. On Line: 612
- 3. Total: 800





# Criteria from the NOAA guidelines to establish a LaNERR site in the Mississippi River Delta.



## LaNERR Site Criteria (25 August 2021)

LaNERR Site Criteria include six topical areas to evaluate potential NERR candidate sites: (1) Environmental Representativeness, (2) Research, Monitoring & Resource Protection, (3) Education and Interpretation, (4) Acquisition, Management Consideration, (5) Ability to conduct research on resilience and climate change, and (6) LaNERR Partnerships.

These LaNERR criteria are based on modifications to the NOAA Site Selection Criteria Guidelines to better reflect terminology used in coastal Louisiana and Louisiana specific conditions as well as the addition of two new topical areas (#5 and #6 above) provided by NOAA. Changes to the original criteria are based on meetings of the Site Criteria Subcommittee on April 30, May 7, and May 21, 2021. In addition, final comments from the Site Criteria Subcommittee were solicited on changes proposed following recommendations from NOAA. The total value of all criteria is 102 points with equal weight to each criterion.

### 1.0 Environmental Representativeness

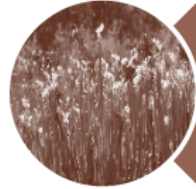
### 2.0. Research, Monitoring & Resource Protection

### 3.0. Education and Interpretation

### 4.0. Acquisition and Management Consideration

### 5.0 Ability to conduct research on resilience and climate change impacts

### 6.0 LaNERR Partnerships:



## I. Environmental Representativeness



## II. Value of the Site for Research, Monitoring, and Resource Protection



## III. Suitability of the Site for Education and Interpretation



## IV. Acquisition and Management Considerations



CLIMATE CHANGE



PARTNERSHIPS

## LaNERR Evaluation Process

- During the evaluation phase a Screening Subcommittee of the Site Development Committee was formed to score each of the three proposals against the LaNERR Site Criteria.
- The Screening Subcommittee was chaired by Seth Blitch of TNC and included seventeen other members.
- Each member completed an evaluation by providing scores using Qualtrics survey for each criterion for each site.
- The final scores were collected by LaNERR Designation Leadership Team and used to formulate this report for the Site Development Committee and LaNERR Executive Committee.





## Screening Subcommittee

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Seth Blitch, Chair | The Nature Conservancy                     |
| Alisha Renfro      | National Wildlife Federation               |
| Scott Hemmerling   | Water Institute of the Gulf                |
| Ron Boustany       | USDA/NRCS                                  |
| Sara Krupa         | LADNR Office of Coastal Management         |
| Rebecca Triche     | LA Wildlife Federation                     |
| Pat Arnould        | Gov Office of Indian Affairs               |
| Mike Carloss       | Ducks Unlimited                            |
| Kenny Ribbeck      | La Dept Wildlife & Fisheries               |
| Glenn Constant     | US Fish & Wildlife Service                 |
| Honora Buras       | Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority |
| Greg Steyer        | USGS                                       |
| Gina Campo         | Office of Community Development            |
| Melissa Baustian   | Water Institute of the Gulf                |
| Sam Bentley        | LSU, Vice President for Research           |
| Mead Allison       | Tulane University                          |
| Shirley Laska      | UNO Emeritus                               |
| Jenneke Visser     | UL Lafayette Emeritus                      |

## Summary

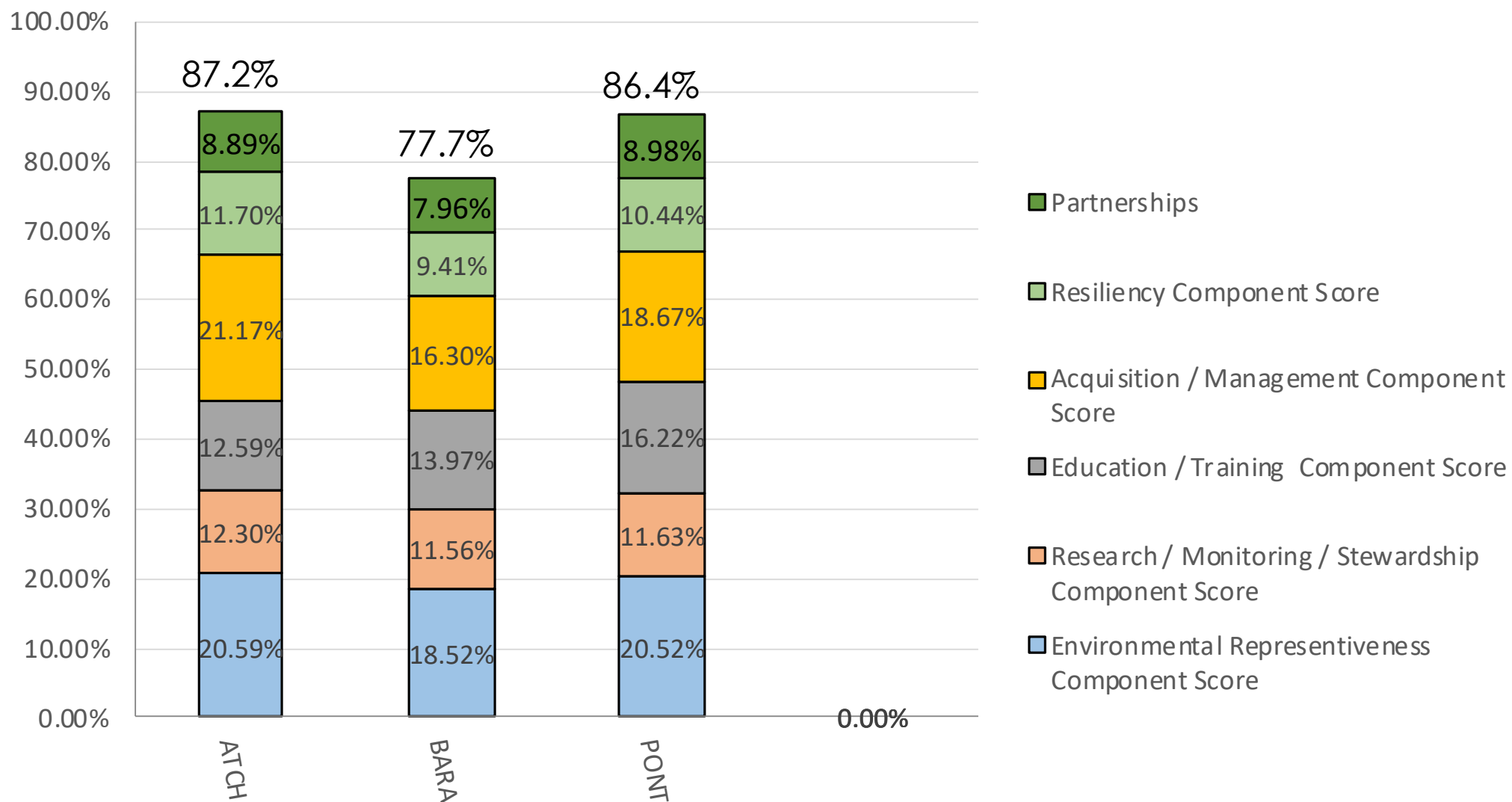
- Atchafalaya Basin received **87.2%** compared to **86.4%** for Pontchartrain and **77.7%** for Barataria Basin.
- Atchafalaya ranked first in 4 of the 6 categories; Pontchartrain in 2 of the 6 categories.
- Atchafalaya ranked first in Environmental Representativeness, Research/Monitoring/Stewardship, Acquisition/Management, and Resiliency. Pontchartrain Basin ranked first in Education/Training and Partnerships.
- Barataria did not have highest score in any of the six topical areas.

## Average Rank Scoring of Criteria Groups

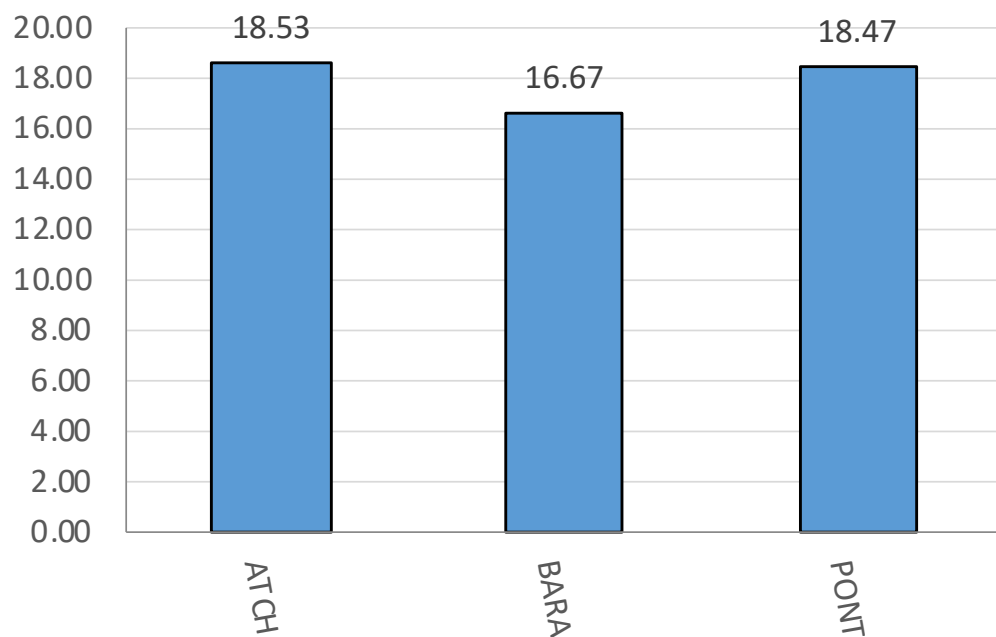
|      | Environmental<br>Representativeness Ave<br>Group Score Rank | Research /<br>Monitoring /<br>Stewardship Ave<br>Group Score<br>Rank | Education /<br>Training Ave<br>group Score<br>Rank | Acquisition /<br>Management Ave<br>Group Score Rank | Resiliency Ave<br>Group Score<br>Rank | Partnerships |
|------|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| ATCH | 1   | 1  | 3  | 1   | 1                                     | 2            |
| BARA | 3   | 3  | 2  | 3   | 3                                     | 3            |
| PONT | 2   | 2  | 1  | 2   | 2                                     | 1            |



## Criteria Component Scoring

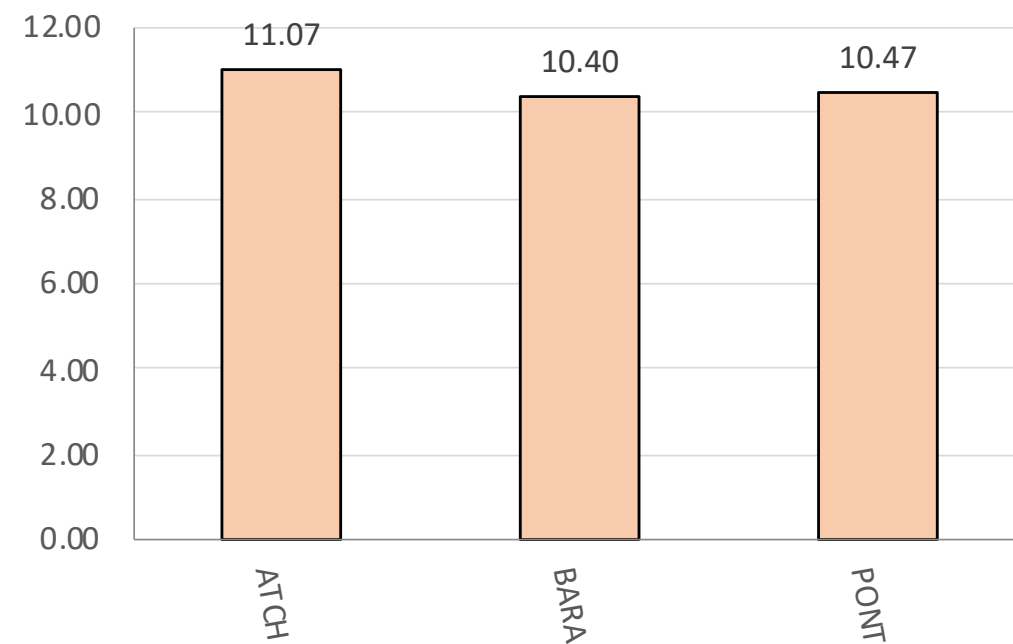


### Environmental Representiveness - Ave Grp Score



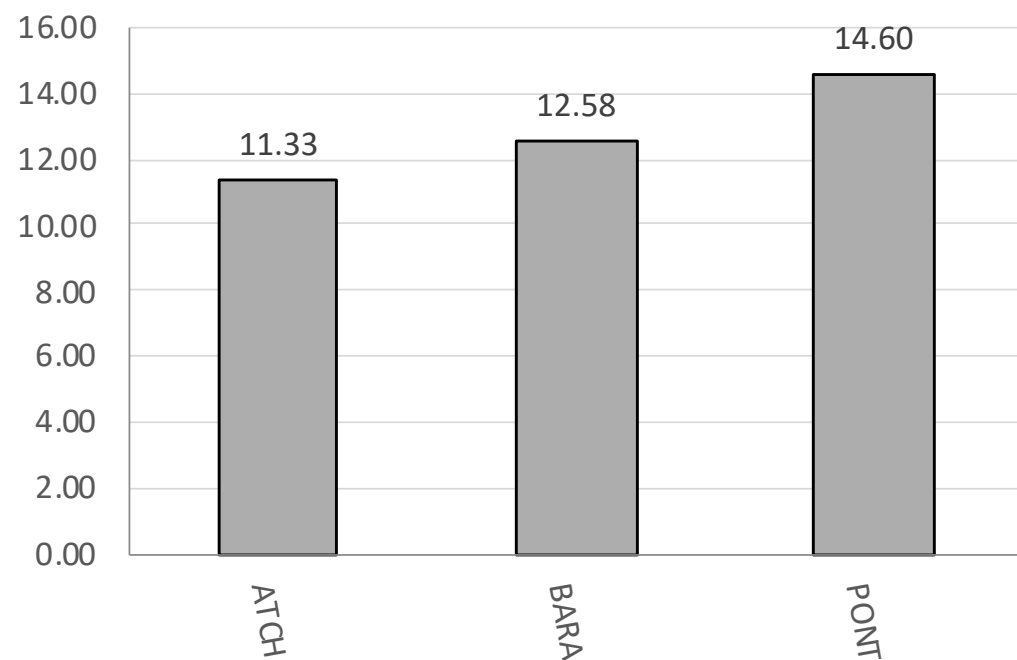
21 Points Possible

### Research Monitoring Stewardship - Ave Grp Score



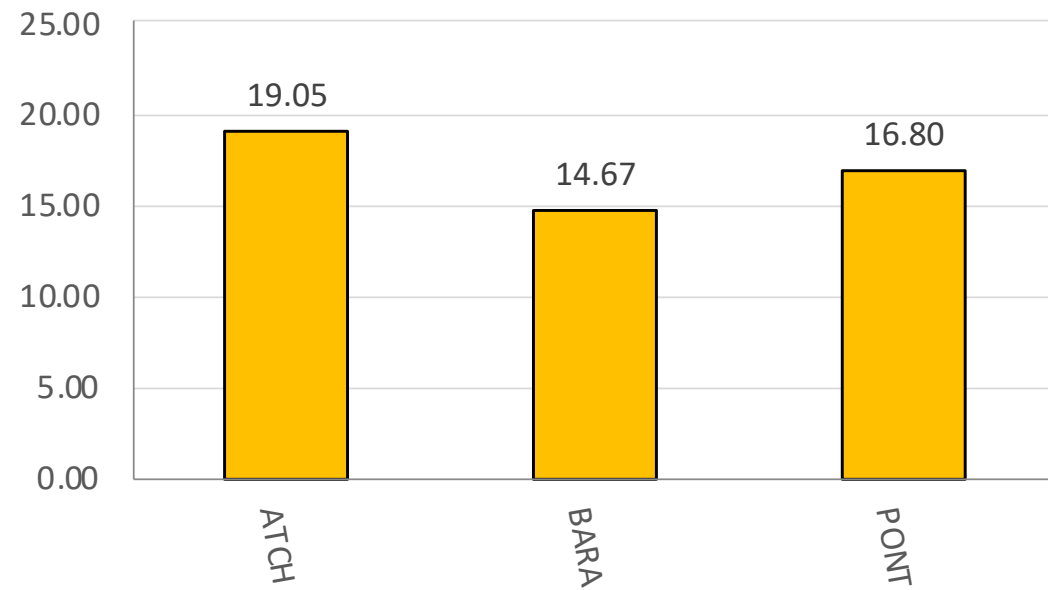
12 Points Possible

Education Training - Ave Grp Score



15 Points Possible

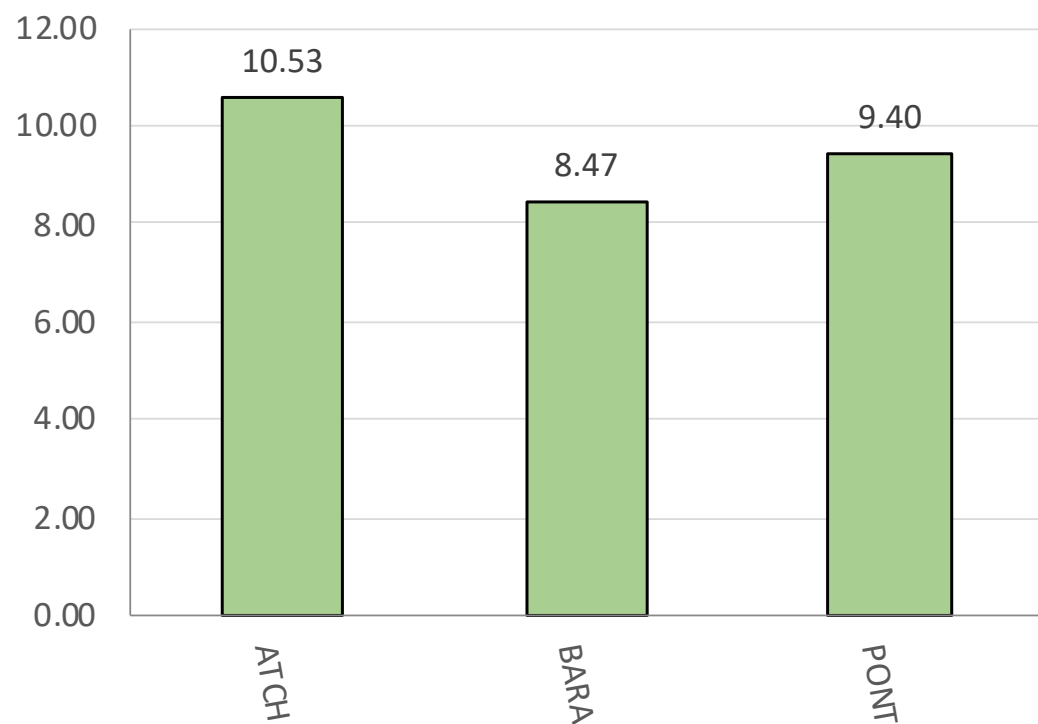
Acquisition / Management - Ave Grp Score



21 Points Possible

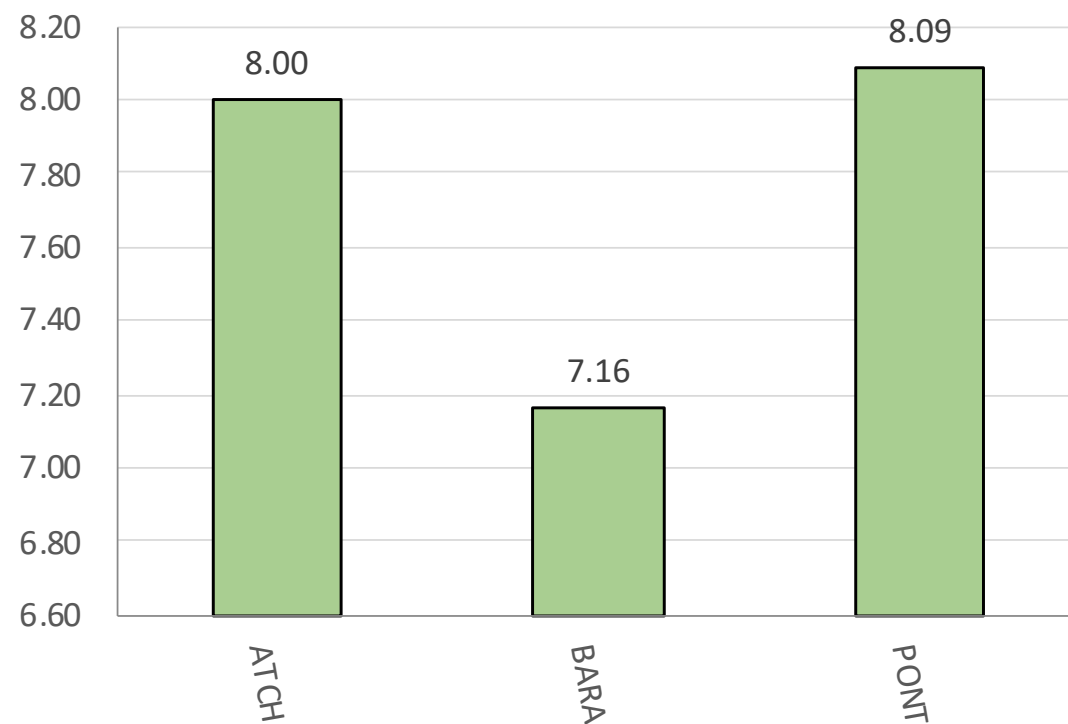


### Resiliency - Ave Grp Score



12 Points Possible

### Partnerships - Ave Grp Score



9 Points Possible

# LaNERR Executive Committee Members

↳ Harry Vorhoff

↳ Governor's office of Coastal Activities

↳ Russell Caffery

↳ Governor's office of Coastal Activities

↳ Gregory Grandy

↳ CPRA

↳ Bren Haase

↳ CPRA

↳ Charles Reulet

↳ DNR

↳ Keith Lovell

↳ DNR

↳ Randy Myers

↳ LDWF

↳ Cole Garrett

↳ LDWF

↳ Patrick Banks

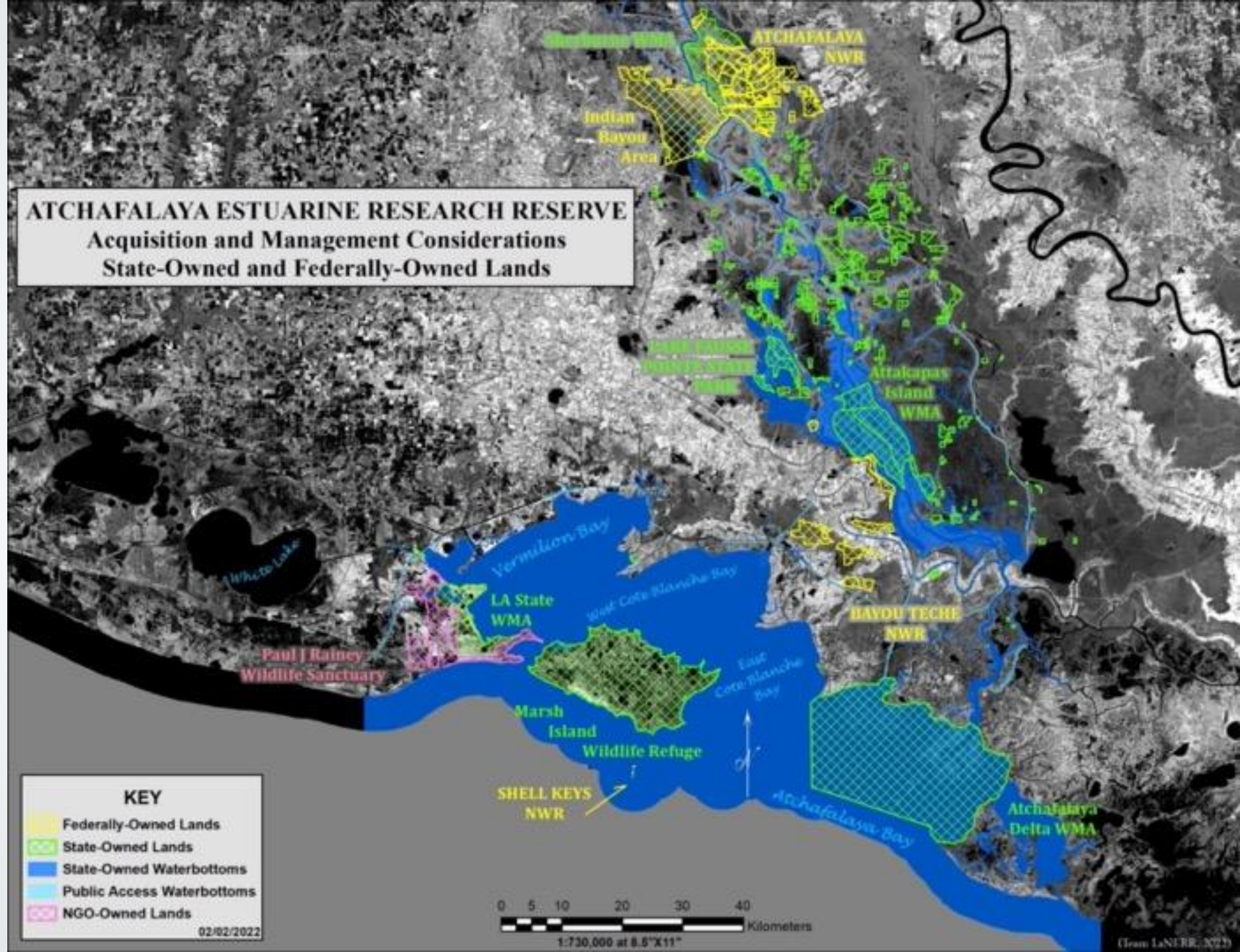
↳ LDWF

- Executive Members have been updated on the process to establish a LaNERR in coastal Louisiana.
- The Executive Committee will review final proposals in May 2022 to select a site to be recommended to Governor Edwards for submission to NOAA as NERR site nominated from Louisiana.





Atchafalaya Coastal  
Basin Nominated to  
represent NERR site in  
Louisiana.







## Reserve System Management Plan Guidelines and Resources

February 2020

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Monthly meetings with NOAA Advisory Group and LaNERR Leadership Team:

- Erica Seidon, Manager, Ecosystems and NERRS Program, NOAA, Silver Spring, MD
- Kristin Ransom, NOAA, Program Officer, New Orleans, LA
- Heidi Stiller, South Regional Director, OCM, NOAA, St. Petersburg, FL
- Matthew Chasse, Federal Program Officer, OCM, NOAA, Silver Spring, MD

# LaNERR

Louisiana

National Estuary Research Reserve

## Questions?

