

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy
July 10, 2013

One Year after RESTORE Act Signed, Problems with CIAP in Mississippi Show Why We Must Keep Paying Attention

One year after the RESTORE Act was signed into law, Rep. Steve Scalise wrote a [nice summary](#) of the importance of coastal restoration efforts and the need to fight to keep restoration funds working for restoration and not unrelated boondoggles (bonus points to Rep. Scalise for doing so without acknowledging sea level rise or climate change).

As if to illustrate Rep. Scalise's point that vigilance and oversight are needed for Gulf restoration funds, an Inspector General [report](#) found that millions of dollars for coastal conservation and restoration were [misspent](#) by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR). The money came from the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) which provides money from offshore leases to states for coastal restoration. Mismanagement issues with MDMR are [nothing new](#), but the Inspector General placed blame on the lack of federal oversight, first by BOEMRE and now by FWS. The report is part of a wider audit on CIAP, so issues in other states could come to light in the future, as well. These are the kinds of problems that need to be avoided with funds resulting from the Deepwater Horizon disaster – be they RESTORE Act, NFWF, NRDA, or otherwise; oversight by state and local governments and by everyone interested in the health of the Gulf must not waiver in the coming years.

Wildlife Tourism in the Gulf Plays Huge Economic Role, Provided the Wildlife is Still Here

When we think of wildlife tourism, we likely think of places like Alaska, the Galapagos Islands, or the Serengeti, but the Gulf of Mexico is a hot spot for [wildlife tourism](#), too. A new study by Datu Research and commissioned by EDF was released yesterday. The [report](#) found that wildlife tourism in the Gulf Coast creates 2.6 million jobs, \$19.4 billion in annual spending, and \$5.3 billion in tax revenues. Unlike African safaris, wildlife tourism activities in the Gulf of Mexico, ranging from charter fishing to bird watching to swamp tours, entirely depend on healthy coastal ecosystems, and in Louisiana they depend on the unique estuarine benefits of the Mississippi River meeting the Gulf.

Living with Water in New Orleans: Everyone Needs to be on the Same Page

Like those in many cities across the country, New Orleans residents and businesses are facing an overdue bill on mounting water infrastructure [costs](#). In New Orleans, we have long prioritized expelling water over living with it – a strategy that has created a litany of problems. Now, a growing coalition is working to reverse this trend – now city hall and the Sewerage and Water Board need to get on board.

The Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy is a program of the Tulane University Law School.

The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and stewardship of water.

Coming up:

[July 10, 2013](#)

Greater New Orleans Foundation

[Urban Water Series](#)

“Creating Local Change: Making a Commitment to Next Steps”

New Orleans BioInnovation Center
New Orleans, LA

[July 30 & 31, 2013](#)

Toledo Bend Hydroelectric Project

[FERC Public Meetings](#) for Draft EIS

Orange, TX & Many, LA

[October 24-26 2013](#)

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

Basics of the Basin 2013

New Orleans, LA

[Call for papers](#)

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