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# JOURNAL OF COASTAL RESEARCH

Special Issue No. 20

## Scientific Assessment of Coastal Wetland Loss, Restoration and Management in Louisiana

by

Donald F. Boesch, Chair  
Michael N. Josselyn, Ashish J. Mehta, James T. Morris, William K. Nuttle,  
Charles A. Simenstad, and Donald J.P. Swift

This special issue summarizes the growing awareness of rapid coastal wetland loss and outlines current efforts to quantify the problem, understand its underlying causes, and assess possible solutions. In the five decades preceeding 1990, the coast of Louisiana lost an estimated 3,950 km<sup>2</sup> of wetlands. Because 40% of U.S. coastal wetlands are found in Louisiana, this loss constitutes about 80% of the total national coastal wetland loss. This report by environmental scientists represents current state-of-the-art methods for sound wetland restoration and management.

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