



FOURCHON



THE PORT MESSENGER

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Did You Know?

GREEN MARINE ADDS THE GLPC TO ITS EXCLUSIVE PARTICIPANT LIST

The **Greater Lafourche Port Commission** and Port Fourchon routinely speak about its environmental endeavors in great detail.

These efforts were recently acknowledged by **Green Marine** through a specialized certification program.

"The Green Marine seal carries with it prestige in the Port community as a whole,"

GLPC Executive Director Chett Chiasson said. "We are honored to be able to carry this mark of distinction with us as we move forward. We are and will continue to be a progressive Port in Fourchon, and things like this demonstrate our firm commitment to that."

Other than the GLPC, the only other Port-related entity in Louisiana that is a Green Marine participant is the Port of New Orleans.

To receive certification, participants must benchmark their annual environmental performance through Green Marine environmental program's exhaustive self-evaluation guides.

Additionally, they also need to have their results verified by an accredited external

verifier and agree to publication of their individual results.

According to Chiasson, this process spanned months and during it the GLPC shared information about its many mitigation projects as well as how it has partnered with numerous agencies to pursue beneficial, environmentally friendly projects to make

a difference in enriching and preserving the rich marsh areas surrounding Port Fourchon.

Green Marine's list of participants is specific to the North American marine industry. It is a rigorous, transparent, and inclusive initiative that addresses key environmental issues through performance indicators. Participants are shipowners, port, terminals, Seaway corporations and shipyards based in Canada and the

United States.

The official presentation of GLPCs certification will happen at a conference scheduled for June in Montreal, Canada.

To learn more about Green Marine, visit green-marine.org.



STATE OF THE PORT

UPDATE ON WHERE WE ARE IN 2022

BY CHETT CHIASSON, GLPC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Believe it or not, summer is now upon us. As the calendar continues to change months, the activity at the GLPC and Port Fourchon has been anything but slow.

While I could focus my attention on any number of topics,

I will choose to spend my time here speaking about where our recovery efforts stand, and why we remain hopeful the current administration in Washington, D.C. will begin to engage in a more measured policy approach when it

comes to this nation's energy goals.

First, as we embark on this hurricane season, our Port has rounded into a shape that is certainly much improved from where it was following Ida last August. We are working on several projects internally to make repairs to facilities, including our own administrative building in Cut Off. Port operations are meeting the demands of the industry currently and construction of an Airport Bridge and Connector Road is well underway.

I proudly stand by our tenants and users for the hard work they've done throughout this trying period and would like to remind everyone that without Port Fourchon and the resilient design of the Port, our community and southern Louisiana, including Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes would be in a much different place today.

Imagine for a moment had investments not been made by numerous organizations, including the Port and Louisiana CPRA, to build up surrounding marsh areas and beaches over the years to not only protect the primary energy industry of this country, but the natural environment that coexists seamlessly with industry in our Port?

I can tell you what would've happened, without that stopgap, our levees would've suffered and our communities in southern Lafourche would've been threatened by flood waters. Many of these investments survived what Ida threw at them despite what some may want to tell you. If that makes you feel proud, it should because we remain: **Ready Today, Ready for Tomorrow.**

To that end, eight months ago, in the wake of Hurricane Ida, President Biden and I, along with four other regional leaders including Lafourche Parish President Archie Chaisson, sat down together to talk through the latest recovery effort and discuss what the people of Lafourche Parish needed to rebuild following the storm. We talked about resilience. We talked about opportunity. We talked about building a better future for the families of Lafourche Parish.

But today, continued uncertainty around offshore

leasing has put America's energy industry – and the livelihood of Lafourche Parish families – in jeopardy. America's five-year offshore oil lease program is set to expire at the end of June. If the program lapses, Louisiana's offshore oil production would face significant uncertainty that could result in business closures, job losses, and steeper fuel prices for people in our state and across the nation.

America gets 15-percent of its oil supply from energy production in the Gulf of Mexico with most of it from the Deepwater. Port Fourchon services nearly 100-percent of Deepwater energy production in the United States. To the residents of Lafourche Parish, Port Fourchon – and the offshore energy industry it supports – is vital to daily life. Gulf of Mexico industries, including offshore energy, are central to our community where we live, work, raise families, go to school, and recreate.

Five of the top ten Lafourche Parish employers operate from or utilize Port Fourchon. These businesses provide the tax base for Lafourche Parish to support community services like after school programs, economic development assistance, public works, and emergency preparedness. Offshore activity serves as an economic base for our levee and water districts as well.

Lafourche Parish has the infrastructure, the knowledge, and the skilled workforce to become a hub for innovative technologies that will support the future of energy production for America. When offshore wind and other emerging energy segments, like carbon capture and storage, arrive in the Gulf of Mexico, **Port Fourchon will be their hub.** Offshore companies working from Port Fourchon have already been at the forefront of offshore renewable energy development along the Atlantic coast. Many offshore renewable technologies have been adapted from the offshore oil and gas industry. Without stable domestic energy markets to carry us into the years ahead, these energy solutions are at risk. The Biden administration has an important choice to make.

It is imperative that President Biden demonstrate strong leadership and renew a five-year offshore lease program that will guide the responsible production of offshore energy. The vitality of Lafourche Parish, Louisiana's economy, and future of U.S. energy production hang in the balance.



COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT: CURTIS PIERCE

Born and raised in Galliano, Louisiana, Curtis Pierce is more than familiar with the industry that makes our state thrive. His father was in the shrimp industry his entire life and Pierce worked with a local phone company, Latelco, for almost 42 years where he helped businesses locate in the Fourchon area. He has watched the port grow and was able to familiarize himself with the port throughout his career.

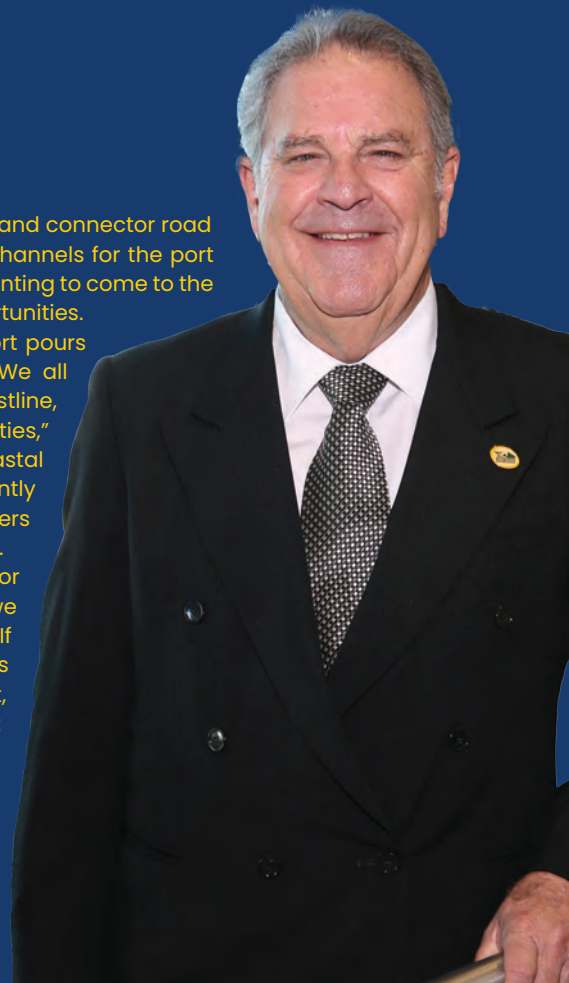
After retirement, he worked as the Warehouse Supervisor for Crosby Tugs and decided he wanted to give back to the community in a way that will help generations to come, including his grandchildren. His love for the community is his reason behind getting involved with the Port Commission. "I had a good life here and a good living so I wanted to give back. I was looking at different options and started getting interested in the port's progression and thought it was a perfect fit," he said.

Despite the issues faced by our administrative team when it comes to leasing and the hit Hurricane Ida caused, the port is recovering and growing, "I love being a port commissioner and working with the other commissioners. I love getting all of the projects started and completed because the port is constantly growing." His vision for the port is future growth. He

hopes that once the airport bridge and connector road is completed, it will open up new channels for the port and he envisions seeing tenants wanting to come to the area which will add more job opportunities.

He is most proud of how the Port pours its support into the community. "We all work together, we build up the coastline, we help build recreation opportunities," he said. As an example, the Coastal Wetlands Park at the port was recently opened where kayakers and canoers can paddle down a one-mile creek.

"I love the port. I love working for them; the staff is amazing and we have a great director," he said, "If something is good for the port, it's good for me. If it's right for the port, it's right for me. If something's not for the port, I'm not going to support it. I'm not going to go along with it just to please someone else. Also, if anything is good for the community, it's good for me. That has always been my saying."



TENANT HIGHLIGHT:



When it comes to supplying essential offshore equipment, **Tiger Offshore Rentals** has a rich history of being a dependable provider of these services.

In fact, **Tiger Offshore Rentals** is a leading international provider of **specialty rental equipment** to the upstream offshore oil and gas market.

With its presence in Port Fourchon and elsewhere, Tiger Offshore Rentals **fluid tanks** and **logistics equipment** solve our clients' daily demands to safely move, transport and store drilling fluids and liquids, while their logistics equipment move key assets such as pipe, dry sack material, groceries and supplies to and from the drilling and production sites.

When combined with our various

equipment solutions such as **mixing/blending units, electric reefer units, in house sling shop** and **vast variety of fluid tanks** that assist in maintenance or support of rig and platform daily operations, it is easy to see why Tiger Offshore Rentals is such a valuable member of the GLPCs tenant family in Port Fourchon.

Whether it's the years of customer excellence or its ISO 9001 Approval, Tiger Offshore Rentals will do what it takes to "Make It Happen."

We thank Tiger Offshore Rentals for being such a valued tenant of Port Fourchon and are appreciative of its many contributions to the Maritime Industry over the years!

To learn more about Tiger Offshore Rentals, **visit tigeroffshorerentals.com**.

IMPORTANT VISITORS:



The GLPC recently welcomed **Leadership Lafourche** to Port Fourchon for a presentation and tour.

The class, which consists of prominent local leaders from the area, were introduced up close to the Port.

During this visit, the GLPC explained to the class how Port Fourchon is a leader in servicing nearly 100-percent of all Deepwater Offshore energy production in the

Gulf of Mexico.

The class also learned about how Hurricane Ida affected the Port's operations, which further demonstrated why the long-awaited completion of the elevated portion of LA 1 is necessary.

This captive audience left Port Fourchon with a better understanding of just how significant the Port is an economic engine for the entirety of Lafourche Parish.

GLPC NAMED THE THIBODAUX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 2021 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



Accepting the award on behalf of the GLPC were from left to right: Board Treasurer T-John Melancon, Board President Chuckie Cheramie, Board Secretary Mike Callais, and Executive Director Chett Chiasson.

The GLPC began the new year with a top-notch honor coming in the form of the Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce's 2021 Business of the Year Award.

Beginning in 2020, the GLPC became a member of the Thibodaux Chamber to better connect with business leaders and residents in the northern portion of Lafourche Parish.

Currently, the GLPC's administrative team participates in the Thibodaux Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee where a designated member of the GLPC team gives a monthly report/briefing to other committee members about Port Fourchon.

"Our engagement with the Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce has been a great one," GLPC Executive Director Chett Chiasson said. "To have

them recognize our work in the southern portion of the Parish with this prestigious honor was humbling to say the least, especially as we were coming off of Ida and recovering from its impacts to the Port and southern Lafourche."

At the award ceremony, the Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce said the following about the GLPC, "The 2021 recipient of the Business of the Year Award is the Greater Lafourche Port Commission. Their focus is economic development and job creation to have an economy for our future. They are constantly thinking of what services to provide, and what businesses to attract into Port Fourchon to allow for the future. Their commitment is to serve our community, our state and our national economy."



AIRPORT BRIDGE AND CONNECTOR ROAD PROJECT CONTINUES TO MAKE PROGRESS

Activity around the South Lafourche Leonard Miller, Jr. Airport has seen an uptick in recent weeks due to the construction of a much-needed access and safety corridor linking the airport to Highway 3235.

The Airport Bridge and Connector Road project being headed up by Sea Level Construction of Thibodaux, and Picciola & Associates of Cut Off, was made possible through the awarding of a \$16.4 million federal BUILD grant as well as state and local dollars.

Currently, the \$30-plus million project is well underway with work on the connector road in full tilt. The bridge component is still many months away from being constructed, but support piles are starting to be driven in Bayou Lafourche.

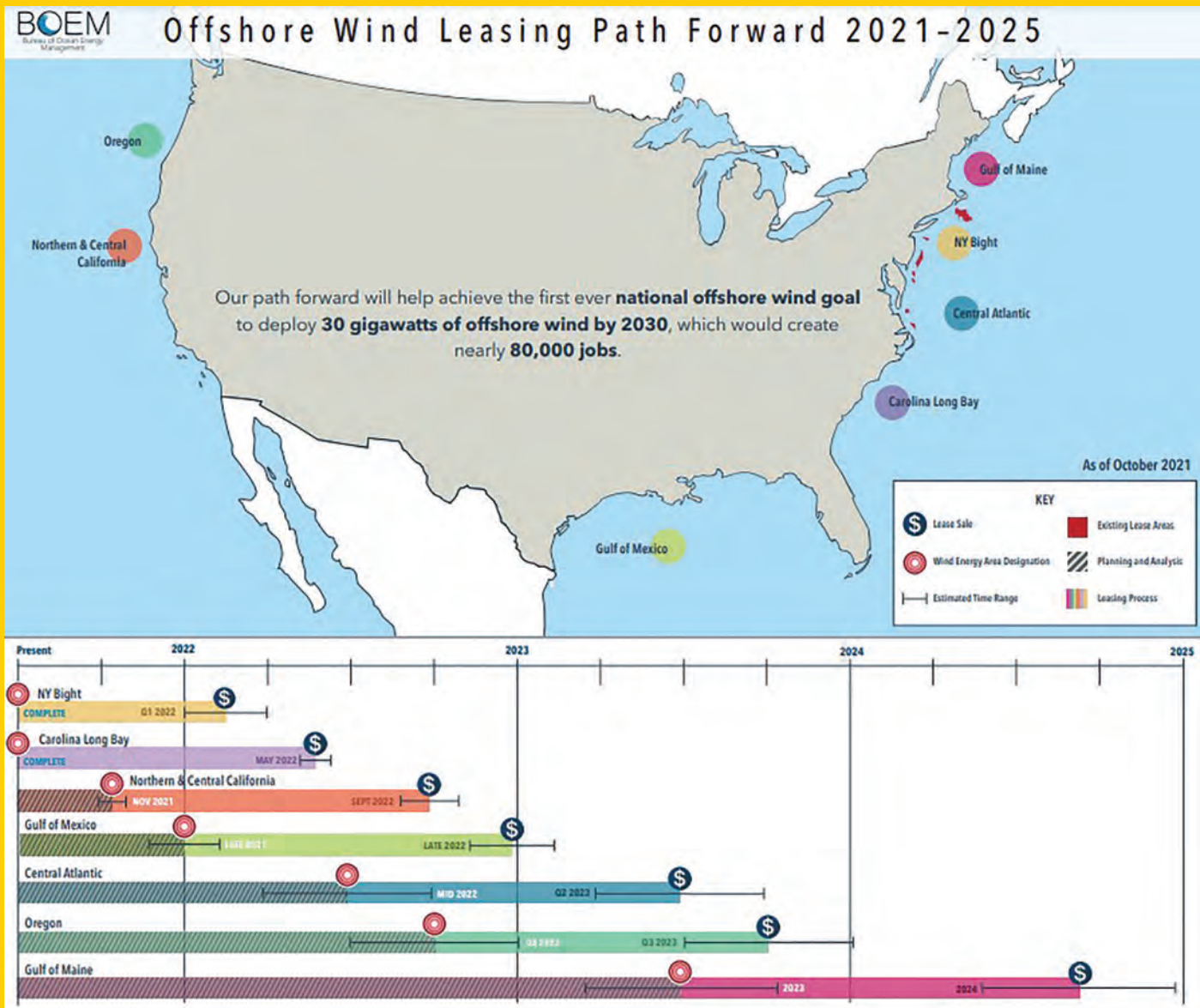
The entire project, which is being done in partnership with Lafourche Parish Government, is expected to be completed in 2024.

"We know this project will bring about tremendous investment in our parish because it will allow for larger

trucks to transport goods and services directly from the airport to Port Fourchon," GLPC Executive Director Chett Chiasson said.

When combined with the construction of a new hanger and other improvements slated for the airport, the project will certainly add to a total economic value tabbed at \$97,628,000 by a state-commissioned study performed in 2019 where the Galliano-based airport ranked fourth out of 61 general aviation hubs.

"Our hope is to not only maintain current business, but attract new business, thus helping diversify our economy for our community's long-term viability," Chiasson said. "In working with Lafourche Parish's Economic Development Director **Kristi Lumpkin** and others, we hope to move projects like the airport in a direction that provides more tangible and meaningful investments in our parish, while also addressing safety concerns by making areas like LA 1 and LA 308 easier to traverse for everyday commuters."



BOEM CONFIRMS THE GULF OF MEXICO IS PRIMED FOR WIND ENERGY EXPANSION

The **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management** recently released reporting that supports the development of offshore wind in the Gulf of Mexico.

Based on data collected after exhaustively examining prevailing winds in the Gulf, it was noted that areas due south of Port Fourchon are sufficient to generate energy capable of powering homes, businesses, and communities.

In pursuing an **"all forms"** of energy approach to meet our country's current and future needs, **GLPC Executive Director Chett Chiasson** said the information being released about the wind potential that exists in the Gulf of Mexico can't be ignored.

"We look at this from the mindset of us being a service-supply Port," he said. "Our tenants and users can service all offshore energy, whether it be oil and gas, wind, or anything else that may emerge. What we

agree on is there's a place for all this energy when it comes to fulfilling the needs of America as we move forward into the 21st century and beyond."

Chiasson has sat on numerous task forces examining the state's future as it relates to offshore wind.

This participation has given Chiasson a unique perspective in learning more about why the state and particularly Port Fourchon are well suited to be a **"hub"** for the development of offshore wind in the Gulf region.

"We know the interest is there," Chiasson said. "Our central location is key for us because when you are developing and constructing the various implements that go on and into the turbine structures it is important to be positioned appropriately to the source region where these potential wind farms will sit. To us, no place better accomplishes this than Port Fourchon."



**THIS MAN-MADE TIDAL CREEK
SUITABLE FOR KAYAKING, PADDLE
BOARDING, RECREATIONAL
FISHING, AND BIRDWATCHING IS
NOW OPEN IN PORT FOURCHON'S
COASTAL WETLANDS PARK.**

FOURCHON



**VISITORS IN PORT
FOURCHON CAN SEE
BROWN PELICANS
THROUGHOUT MOST
OF THE YEAR.**

FOURCHON

**THE E-SLIP, A 500
FOOT-WIDE AND
24 FOOT-DEEP
SLIP, IS SITUATED
ON 400-ACRES OF
ELEVATED LAND IN
THE HEART OF
PORT FOURCHON.**



FOURCHON



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DID YOU KNOW?

Former Louisiana State Senator A.O. Rappelet saw the potential of putting a port at the mouth of Bayou Lafourche to lure the banana trade from New Orleans to Lafourche Parish.

At first, the plan was simple: bring the banana trade to South Lafourche and let everything else build up around it.

While Rappelet missed the boat on bananas both literally and figuratively, his keen insights regarding Fourchon's location eventually helped the infant port that was founded in 1960 become a "Port of the Future" by building infrastructure and clearing channels to support a burgeoning offshore energy industry.

