

NEWS FROM THE DOCKS



ASSOCIATION OF LOUISIANA

Louisiana Ports Deliver

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Message from the PAL Office

PAL's calendar continues to be full of activities planned for the next few weeks. This week we will introduce many of the state's legislators to the ports located in north Louisiana. I am sure they will see much diversity among ports as well as economic development, which has come to specific areas as a result of waterborne commerce.

The AAPA conference is scheduled to take place in New Orleans the week of September 10th. The AAPA has very graciously offered half price registration for non-AAPA member Louisiana ports and for any PAL associate member who is a sponsor of that event. **Please contact the PAL office for registration forms at this special rate.** PAL is still accepting sponsorships. It's not too late for you to take advantage of this offer. This conference is sure to be a landmark event for Louisiana and it will likely be many years before it returns to Louisiana. For more information go to <http://www.portno.com/aapa.htm>. Please make every effort to attend!

Shaw continues to develop PAL's Master Capital Plan. It is anticipated they will present a final draft to PAL's executive committee during the AAPA Conference in New Orleans.

For you who like to plan ahead, mark your calendars. PAL's 24th Annual Conference is being planned for April 24-27, 2007. The ports of South Louisiana and Manchac are to be our hosts. We will keep you posted as our plans develop.

PAL welcomes another new associate member this month. We encourage you to join PAL and help us to keep emphasis on maritime issues.

For additional information about associate membership, please visit our website at www.portsoflouisiana.org or call the PAL office at 225/334-9040.

DOTD NEWS

With the signature of the Governor, the Capital Outlay Bill became law and an appropriation of \$20 million became available to the Port Construction and Development Priority Program. With that funding, DOTD was able to provide continuing funds to 5 projects and new funding for 7 additional projects.

CONTINUING PROJECTS		
Port	Project	Amount
New Orleans 578-36-0014	Alabo St. Terminal	1,356,383
Lake Charles 578-10-0022	City Dock-New Transit Shed	\$3,000,000
St. Bernard 578-44-0010	Arabi Terminal Relocation of LISCO...	499,705
Greater Lafourche 578-29-0017	Northern Expansion Slip B, Phase II	2,263,976
Lake Providence 578-18-0017	Ethanol Plant Support Infrastructure	3,000,000
NEW PROJECTS		
Terrebonne	Dry Dock Facilities	3,000,000
Greater Lafourche	Northern Expansion Slip B, Phase III	736,024
Iberia	Lots 77-82, Second Building with Site Stabilization	1,617,030
Baton Rouge	Grain Dock	2,416,050

	Rehabilitation	
Alexandria	General Cargo Transit Shed Expansion	1,818,685
*Lake Charles	Bulk Terminal #1	0
New Orleans	Purchase of 24" Hydraulic Dredge	224,340
*St. Bernard	Chalmette Slip, Dock 2 – New Transit Shed	0
*South Louisiana	Globalplex Finger Pier	0

- Note: Projects indicated with an * have been approved for funding in future years and may proceed in accordance with Act 18 passed during the 2006 Regular Legislative Session.

Corporate Member News

Port of South Louisiana Hosts 2006 Industry Appreciation Dinner

The Port of South Louisiana, in conjunction with the Economic Development Departments in the parishes of St. Charles, St. John, and St. James, recently hosted area plant managers and representatives at the 13th Annual Industry Appreciation Reception on the grounds of the Globalplex Intermodal Terminal Guest House in Reserve, Louisiana.

More than 80 industry leaders were treated to an afternoon of Cajun cuisine and gifts of appreciation at the event designed to acknowledge their importance to the local economy. Additional distinguished guests included members of the Port of South Louisiana’s Commission as well as several elected officials from the port’s tri-parish district.

St. Charles Parish President Albert Laque, St. John Parish President Nickie Monica, and St. James Parish President Daly Hymel, Jr., attended to express their gratitude on behalf of the three (3) parishes located within the port’s fifty-four (54) mile district on the Lower Mississippi River.

Port of South Louisiana Executive Director Joel T. Chaisson, noted that, “the manufacturing facilities within the port’s tri-parish district

provide significant employment opportunities and this would not be possible without the plant managers who provide the essential leadership required to expand the port’s economic base.”

In 2005, “America’s Largest Tonnage Port”, handled 242,949,636 short tons of cargo at over 60 industries located in the parishes of St. Charles, St. John, and St. James.

NATCO Food Service Merchants
 NATCO Food Service Merchants immediately re-located its operations to Globalplex within weeks after Hurricane Katrina ravaged its entire New Orleans facility. The company is a meat processing and distributor that caters to high-end restaurants. The eighty (80) year old family-owned operation has been business since 1925.

The company arrived in Reserve, Louisiana, with not much more than a laptop computer after losing all of its refrigeration equipment in the flood. However, John Lalla wasn’t about to let the longtime family business drown. He soon devised a plan to operate out of 18-wheel refrigerated trucks, until the 84,000 s.f. building could be properly outfitted for cold storage food commodities.



NATCO has expanded its operations many times over the years and was searching for a larger facility in the metro area even before the storm, according to co-owner John Lalla. “Globalplex offers the space needed and the ideal shipping location required for our business to expand. I cannot say enough good things about the support we received from the port and St. John Parish officials, when we faced a crisis of survival after Hurricane Katrina,” Lalla commented.

Lalla stated that his brother has been involved in real estate and was familiar with St. John, the north shore of Lake Ponchartrain and even in Mississippi. “He knew about some of the

buildings out here in St. John. We looked at all three areas but, the availability to move here and start so quickly, and the support we got from the region was great,” Lalla said.

St. John Parish will provide \$4,000 (four-thousand) a month, for 60 (sixty) months to assist with building expenses. The Louisiana Department of Economic Development will also contribute to the re-location project with a \$528,000 (five-hundred twenty-eight thousand) grant designated for the displaced businesses.

Port of South Louisiana Executive Director Joel T. Chaisson commented that, “this project was a team effort from the port, the state, and St. John Parish officials. We’re just happy we could help this company through a difficult time.”

NATCO arrived at Globalplex with only 20 (twenty) of its original staff and plans to hire more employees from the area soon to reach its goal of 75 (seventy-five) full-time quality jobs at the port. Lalla noted, “We have a very good company to work for that has a great worker retention record of about 90% (ninety-percent).”

NATCO is a U.S.D.A. facility and cuts approximately a half-million pounds of steaks a week for “white table cloth” restaurants. The company processes various types of meat, including beef, poultry, lamb & veal, and sells the products wholesale to restaurants and other corporate customers throughout the southeast Louisiana region.

NATCO is a full-service supplier for several pizza chains that require timely shipments of commodities such as tomato paste and cardboard boxes. Its diverse product line contains condiments for ethnic based eating establishments featuring Greek and Italian cuisine, for example.

The company has also expanded its distribution operations to provide food services to the port and offshore maritime industry. NATCO is currently seeking to hire additional truck drivers and sales personnel to support its rapidly growing client base. Information on current employment opportunities at the new Reserve facility is available @ (985) 479-4200.

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*Port of South Louisiana Commission Supports
Foreign Trade Subzone for M-I SWACO*

The Port of South Louisiana’s Commission, grantee of Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) #124, has unanimously approved a resolution to sponsor an application for a FTZ Sub-zone for M-I Swaco at its facility in Amelia, Louisiana.

M-I Swaco operates a drilling fluid manufacturing facility in St. Mary Parish, adjacent to the Gramercy Customs port of entry in St. James Parish. The designation of the FTZ Sub-zone will enable M-I Swaco to maintain their competitiveness in the global economy.

The FTZ Sub-zone at M-I Swaco will also assist the company’s effort to retain and expand local jobs at the site. The facility currently employs 58 (fifty-eight) full-time workers.

M-I Swaco operates in many countries worldwide and represents a various array of businesses involved in drilling, reservoir drill-in & completion fluids, and associated fluids for the drilling industry. The company is a world leader in the solids control equipment, drilling waste management services, and separation & screening products for the petroleum, municipal, and industrial markets. M-I Production Chemicals supplies customers with a wide range of performance products designed to solve chemical problems associated with the production, processing, and transportation of oil & gas.

The resolution authorizes Port of South Louisiana Executive Director Joel T. Chaisson to undertake any and all actions that may be required by the FTZ Board to complete the company’s application for FTZ Sub-zone status.

The Port of South Louisiana, “America’s Largest Tonnage Port,” operates one of the most active FTZ’s in the United States. Under FTZ procedures, foreign merchandise may be admitted into zones for operations such as storage, exhibition, assembly, manufacturing, and processing, without being subject to formal Customs entry procedures, the payment of Customs duties, or federal excise taxes.

Port of New Orleans

***Dutch Group Opens New Orleans Office
Local Liaison Is First U.S. Presence For
Overseas Company***

In an effort to build reefer, dry cargo and special projects business in the United States, Rotterdam-based van Weelde Chartering recently launched a new company and office in New Orleans. The firm, van Weelde Chartering USA, LLC, is the first U.S. presence for the Dutch firm, a sister company to Orient Shipping Rotterdam, which manages a fleet of 25 bulk carriers with capacities between 10,000 and 65,000 tons.

“Our goal is to get a better foothold in the United States for our dry cargo chartering,” said Robert Frederiks, president of van Weelde Chartering. “This office means better service for our Orient Shipping Fleet, as well. And we hope to have a more direct approach to charters in the United States, both exporters and importers.”



The company’s new office is located at 201 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 2537. The office officially opened July 3 and is run by Covington, La.-native Ben Blanchard, the company’s U.S. chartering and operations manager.

Blanchard worked for the company in Holland for two years and, Frederiks said, suggested the firm base an office in New Orleans to act as a liaison to U.S. customers.

“We wanted an office that concentrates on dry cargo and project cargo in the Gulf of Mexico region and New Orleans seemed like a natural fit – it is the gateway to America and a major U.S. port,” Frederiks said.

The chartering company is no stranger to New Orleans. It has heavy interests in the poultry industry and has worked with New Orleans Cold Storage, a long-time Port of New Orleans tenant, for better than a decade.

Blanchard said he was pleased to return to the New Orleans region.

“We’re happy to do something positive for the city,” Blanchard said. “We hope to build business in the port and throughout the Gulf Coast from our office here in New Orleans.”

Gary LaGrange, president and CEO of the Port of New Orleans, said van Weelde Chartering’s decision shows its commitment to the Port and the region.

“We’re thrilled the firm chose New Orleans to base its overseas operations,” LaGrange said. “We will work closely with van Weelde officials to build business and ensure their success.”

Unique Cargo Sails From Port of New Orleans

SOS Global Express Coordinates 98-Foot Crew Boat’s Voyage To Mid-East

A 98-foot retired crew boat from Morgan City, La., destined for a customer in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, sailed out of New Orleans last week aboard the deck of the *Rickmers Jakarta*.

New Bern, NC-based SOS Global Express Project Shipping coordinated the unique cargo shipment. Coastal Cargo Co. performed the move, which entailed using divers from Harvey, La.-based Epic Companies to attach two straps to the vessel, which sat docked alongside the ship. Two 320-ton onboard cranes lifted the vessel from the Mississippi River and maneuvered it onto a cradle on the deck of the *Rickmers Jakarta* Tuesday morning.



A customer in Dubai acquired the 60-ton aluminum-hull crew boat from a seller in Morgan City, LA. Formerly named *William B. Travis*, the vessel was stripped of its engines and the hull will be refurbished once it reaches its destination.

Logistics planning for heavy-lift project cargo is a very specialized niche in the transportation industry, according to Dieter Trautmann, SOS Global's project manager.

Trautmann said of the move, "The planning for this has taken months and the coordination between Gulf Maritime Trading (Kuwait), SOS Global Express and Rickmers Line has been excellent."

M/S Gulf Maritime General Trading & Contracting Co. W.L.L. (Kuwait) and SOS Global Express (USA) are members of the world's largest group of independent project forwarders – the Worldwide Project Consortium (www.wwpc.info).

"Project cargo is a rapidly expanding niche market within the transportation industry," said Gary LaGrange, president and CEO of the Port of New Orleans. "Our intermodal connectivity – six Class-One rail lines and access to the 14,500-mile inland waterway system – makes the Port of New Orleans uniquely poised to facilitate these moves."

Port Fourchon

Colonel Wagenaar Visits Port

On Tuesday, July 28th the Port Commission discussed a number of issues and provided a tour of Port Fourchon to Colonel Wagenaar, head of the New Orleans District Corps of Engineers.



According to Port Director Ted Falgout, "It was great to have the Colonel take time from his busy schedule to visit the Port and share our views on issues such as future port development, navigation, and coastal protection."

"The hurricanes of 2005 and the rebuilding of New Orleans have consumed much of his time and it was great to have the opportunity to have him most of the day to focus on issues important to Lafourche Parish," continued Falgout.

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Port Fourchon Receives International Environmental Award

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), the organization representing public ports throughout the Western Hemisphere, has selected Port Fourchon to receive an Environmental Improvement award in the category of Environmental Enhancement for the Port's Maritime Forest Ridge and Marsh Restoration project.

The Maritime Forest Ridge project seeks to restore a historic maritime forest ridge that had eroded and subsided below sea level since the 1950s. The project includes depositing over 3 million cubic yards of dredge material, shaping, and vegetating the ridge with woody plant species that will provide excellent habitat for migratory birds. The project will eventually stretch for 12,000 feet and include boardwalks, trails, bird identification stations, and an interpretive center along Louisiana Highway 1.

Port Director, Ted Falgout said, "The Port Commission is excited about the receiving this prestigious award. Once fully constructed, the Maritime Forest Ridge will provide much-needed habitat as well as serve as a storm buffer between the Gulf of Mexico and the interior marshes of the Barataria – Terrebonne Estuaries while creating a respite for migratory birds."

The port has been the cornerstone for much of this project, and has put together a diversified team of stakeholders, participating both financially and physically including Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program, Gulf of Mexico Program, Gulf of Mexico Foundation, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Shell, and the US Natural Resources

Conservation Service's Plant Material Center. The entire project to date has cost over \$2 million. The port has been financially responsible for almost 90% of that cost.

Falgout adds, "This project was conceived in 2000 when the Port was planning its northern expansion. When the birding community expressed concern about loss of habitat as a result of our proposed expansion, we seized the opportunity to create a win-win situation. That is, creating world-class birding habitat while providing additional hurricane protection for our port and community."

Falgout will receive the award on behalf of the Commission at AAPA's 2006 Annual Convention which will be held in September in New Orleans.

Port of Lake Charles

Announces Newly Elected Board Officers

The Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District announced the newly elected board officers effective July 1, 2006: Mark Abraham, President; Leonard Knapp, Vice President; and Davidson Darbone, Secretary and Treasurer. These terms are valid for one year.



Mark Abraham, President

Mr. Abraham, a former board member of the Lake Charles City Council, is a local businessman and has served as a Board Commissioner since 2003. Mark Abraham graduated from Louisiana State University with a BS degree in Accounting. He has served on various civic boards in the community and was past president of the Lake Charles City Council.

Mr. Knapp is a Lake Charles attorney and former District Attorney for the 14th Judicial District who also has been on the Board of Commissioners since 2003. He received his law degree from Louisiana State University and from Tulane University. He is a member of a

number of legal associations and is active in community organizations.

Mr. Darbone, a member of the Board of Commissioners since 2005, is the President of Grand Oaks, Inc. David worked for PPG Industries for 17 years until 1995. He is the Vice President for the local Home Builders Association, board member for the Louisiana Association of Home Builders, member of the Lake Charles Kiwanis North, and ACT.

Legal News



TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIAL

WHAT'S IN STORE

Since the terrorist attacks of 9/11 the federal government has worked diligently to address existing vulnerabilities in our port security system. In May of this year the Department of Homeland Security released proposed rule makings that focus on port worker identification. 49 CFR arts. 1515, 1570 and 1572. If promulgated, this rule would implement the Transportation Worker Identification Credential Program in the maritime sector. Under this program, merchant mariners who hold an active license, document or certificate of registry and workers who require unescorted access to secure areas at maritime facilities or on vessels, must undergo a security threat assessment. If a mariner is found not to pose a security threat, he or she will be required to obtain a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC). Persons without a TWIC will not be granted unescorted access to secure areas in affected maritime facilities or on vessels.

The Transportation Security Administration is also proposing regulations dealing with the enrollment of port workers into the Transportation Worker Identification Credential Program. The TWIC card would be a biometric identification credential that would include a worker's photographic and biometric

information, such as thumb prints or retinal scans.

Enrollment is proposed to begin at the end of 2006, with enrollment completed in eighteen months.

In a separate rule making action, the Coast Guard also proposes consolidating existing merchant mariner licensing and documentation requirements to avoid duplicative credentials and background checks, and to avoid interruption in commerce and to reduce the burden on mariners. The TWIC Program is a DHS initiative with joint participation of the USCG and TSA.

Industry has had a mixed response. The primary concerns of industry associations such as the Offshore Marine Service Association, American Waterways Operators and passenger vessel associations center on the costs that may be incurred in implementing the program.

The consolidated Merchant Mariners Qualification Credentials (MMC) will meld the merchant mariners document, STCW Endorsement and Certificate of Registry into one qualification credential. Copies of the TWIC and MMC proposed rule makings are available at the Department of Homeland Security website, www.dhs.gov.



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America's Wetlands News

The America's WETLAND Campaign has been very active in the last month raising awareness and following key developments in the ongoing effort to save coastal Louisiana.

In late June, the debate over Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) revenue sharing intensified with Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco's pledge to block Gulf Lease Sales and with the passage of the OCS revenue sharing bills by both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. The Campaign brought the issue of the loss of Gulf coastal region to an international audience at the 2006 Energy Council Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia to an audience of the Outdoor Writer's Association of America and to middle America with events in Indianapolis, New York and Chicago.

On August 29, 2006, the one year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's landfall America's WETLAND and its partner Louisiana Public Broadcasting will debut "Washing Away," a one-hour documentary that tells the story of Louisiana's disappearing coastline and how this unfolding crisis affects all of America, told through the eyes of six Louisianans in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

To view more information on the most recent coastal restoration developments, please visit America's WETLAND's website at www.americaswetland.com.

Louisiana Sea Grant Program and NOAA



By Justin Farrell
Research Associate-
*Coastal Ports
Specialist*
**Louisiana Sea Grant
College Program**

In accordance with the Sea Grant Act of 1998 and guidelines set forth by the National Sea Grant Office, NOAA, a board of outside reviewers, called a Program Assessment Team (PAT), will be conducting a review of the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program, September 10-15, 2006. In an effort to assure that all concerned parties have access to the PAT review process, individuals or groups knowledgeable about Louisiana Sea Grant may submit signed, written comments relative to the management and performance of the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program. Signed, written comments should be submitted in advance of the PAT review to:

Dr. John V. Bryne, Chairman
Program Assessment Team
Autzen House
811 SW Jefferson Av.
Corvallis, OR 97333-4506

Comments thought to be material to the review will be provided to the Program Assessment Team for their consideration and for discussion with the Louisiana Sea Grant Program director.

Welcome New Associate Members

PAL would like to welcome the following new associate member:

Iberia Industrial Development Foundation is an economic development agency located in New Iberia. They will be represented by Mr. Mike Tarantino.

In Memoriam

Merlin Dupre, Sr., a charter member and past president of the West St. Mary Parish Port, Harbor and Terminal District, passed away on July 29, 2006 at Franklin Foundation Hospital after a lengthy illness. He was 78 years old. He was a lifelong resident of the Franklin area.

He was elected to the board of LISA and with LISA, was elected by the Executive Committee to chair the Wildlife and Fishery Division. He was a District 5 vice counselor for the National Water Resource Committee, a Commissioner of the Atchafalaya Basin Levee Board, Board of Director of the Louisiana Intracoastal Sea Way Association and a member of the National Waterways Conference.



Merlin Dupre, Sr.

Merlin was a long time farmer and was actively involved in the waterways of Louisiana. He was a sugar cane farmer who received the High Yield Crop Production Award for 10 years, was awarded three times by the State of Louisiana for High Yield Crop Production, held the position of president for St. Mary Parish Farm Bureau for five consecutive years and served on the Advisory Board for the State Farm Bureau Sugar Advisory Committee. He was a Franklin Jaycees' Outstanding Young Farmer and one of three people selected in the United States to serve on a task force for creating guidelines and specifications for Sugar Industry Crop Insurance.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

*August 8-10 – PAL's Legislative Tour of North Louisiana Ports.
September 11, Taste of Louisiana at the AAPA – New Orleans
September 15th – Louisiana Engineering Society sponsored 8-hour seminar on Homeland Security presented by Dan Witliff-contact Brenda Gajan at LES (924-2120) for more information.
September 19th – Millennium Port Authority Meeting*

Louisiana
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