

Working Together: Providing Social Context in Support of Natural Resource Management – Two Cooperative Studies

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Abstract

This presentation provides a bird's-eye view of two cooperative agreements – *Digital Curation: Streamlining Access to Research Across Gulf of Mexico Communities*, and *An Exploratory Study of Subsistence in Louisiana* – an ongoing study and a newly completed study, and discusses their beginnings, those involved, associated methods and the usefulness of each study. These two studies provide access to high quality social science data that richly characterizes and illuminates the human-environment interface; one emphasizes efficient data access on coastal and marine issues, and the other conveys 'thick' description to aid users in understanding the complexities of GOMR subsistence. Perhaps just as importantly as the heightened access to high-quality data are the enhanced regional relationships that formed because of these studies and provided the bedrock to appropriately ground data and meet the interests of local, regional, and national stakeholders. While the official partners include BOEM, Nicholls State University and Louisiana State University, it's important to recognize that other individuals and respected entities also partnered in this effort.