

## Looking to the Future...Learning from the Past



Valuable resources in the coastal dialogue are the wealth of knowledge in people – both experts and everyday citizens – and the vast collection of research and collaborations conducted over the years. In considering our own project, we hope to reflect and build upon these resources.

Following are excerpts from people and research that address the vital need for a new coastal vision.

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“Rising populations and poorly planned development in coastal areas are increasing the vulnerability of people and property to storms, hurricanes, flooding, shoreline erosion, tornadoes, tsunamis, and earthquakes. In addition, climate change may lead to more frequent storms and sea-level rise, both of which increase coastal susceptibility. Not only can natural hazards have devastating impacts on people and property, but they may also have deleterious effects on the environment, particularly sensitive habitats.”

**U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. *An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century*. Final Report. Washington, DC, 2004. p. 162**

“At its core, the problems of coastal development are about human beings and the demands we place on natural resources and ecosystems. We are currently making more demands on coastal and marine ecosystems than they can reliably meet. To preserve and restore the bountiful coastal environment that we have enjoyed in the past and that we want for our children and grandchildren, we must alter our relationship to the environment. Given the certainty of substantial future population growth in coastal areas, only by changing the way we live and the way our communities grow can we maintain, much less restore, healthy coastal ecosystems.”

**Pew Oceans Commission. 2003. *America’s Living Oceans: Charting a Course for Sea Change*. A Report to the Nation. May 2003. Pew Oceans Commission, Arlington, Virginia. p. 57**

“In Louisiana, the issue is not whether we live on the coast. In a sense, everyone lives on the coast. For hundreds of years, we all have lived and worked on the fingers of rivers and bayous. In between those waterways has been the natural protection of swamp and marsh. The loss of this marsh will incrementally destroy the economy, culture, ecology, and infrastructure of this state and this region.”

**King Milling, President, Whitney National Bank**  
**An excerpt from Mr. Milling’s testimony at the Pew Oceans Commission**  
**Public Hearing, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 15, 2002**

“Human vulnerability, or those circumstances that place people at risk while reducing their means of response, and its links to the physical and natural environment are integral concerns in the development of disaster policies. To be effective, mitigation must address the social and economic factors at the heart of risk and vulnerability. Communities, households, and individuals need to know the range of alternatives available to them and understand fully the implications of their decisions. Further, there must be a collective will to seek more sustainable ways of development and resource utilization.”

**The H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment. *Human Links to Coastal Disasters*. 2002. Washington, DC. p. ix.**

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