

An aerial photograph of a port area. In the foreground, a large container ship, the MSC BHAVYA V, is docked at a pier. The ship is black with a red hull and is heavily loaded with yellow and red shipping containers. The name 'MSC' is visible on the side of the ship. In the background, a city skyline is visible across a body of water, with a large bridge spanning the water. The sky is blue with some clouds.

PORTS ASSOCIATION OF LOUISIANA

Louisiana Ports Deliver

Deep draft, coastal and inland ports: who we are,
what we move, and what we're building

Joint Transportation Committee · October 1, 2026

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Four voices, one port system

01

Statewide overview

Matt Gresham, Vice President of Government Affairs · Port of New Orleans

02

Deep draft ports: global trade

Julia Fisher-Cormier, Executive Director · Port of South Louisiana

03

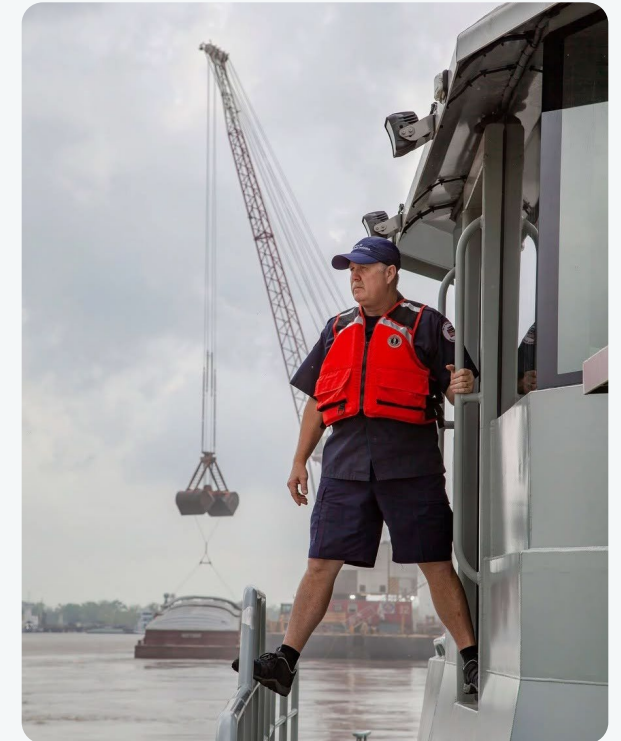
Coastal ports: the energy coast

Chett Chiasson, Executive Director · Port Fourchon

04

Inland ports: local economies

Ben Russo, Executive Director · Central Louisiana Regional Port



LOUISIANA'S PORTS

28 ports serving every region



1 [Central Louisiana Regional](#)

2 [Avoyelles](#)

3 [Baton Rouge](#)

4 [Caddo-Bossier](#)

5 [Fourchon](#)

6 [Grand Isle](#)

7 [Greater Ouachita](#)

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OVERVIEW

Four roles, one connected system

Deep draft

Global trade

- New Orleans
- South Louisiana
- Greater Baton Rouge
- Plaquemines
- St. Bernard
- Lake Charles

Coastal

Energy industry

- Fourchon
- Cameron
- West Calcasieu
- Grand Isle
- Terrebonne
- Morgan City
- Iberia
- Abbeville

Inland

Local economies

- Caddo-Bossier
- Central Louisiana Regional
- Greater Ouachita
- Greater Krotz Springs
- Lake Providence
- Madison
- Manchac
- Mermentau
- Natchitoches
- Red River
- Vidalia

Developing

Growing

- Avoyelles
- Twin Parish
- Vinton

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

The backbone of U.S. water commerce

25%

of U.S. waterborne commerce moves through Louisiana ports

60%

of the nation's grain moves on the Mississippi River Ship Channel

20%

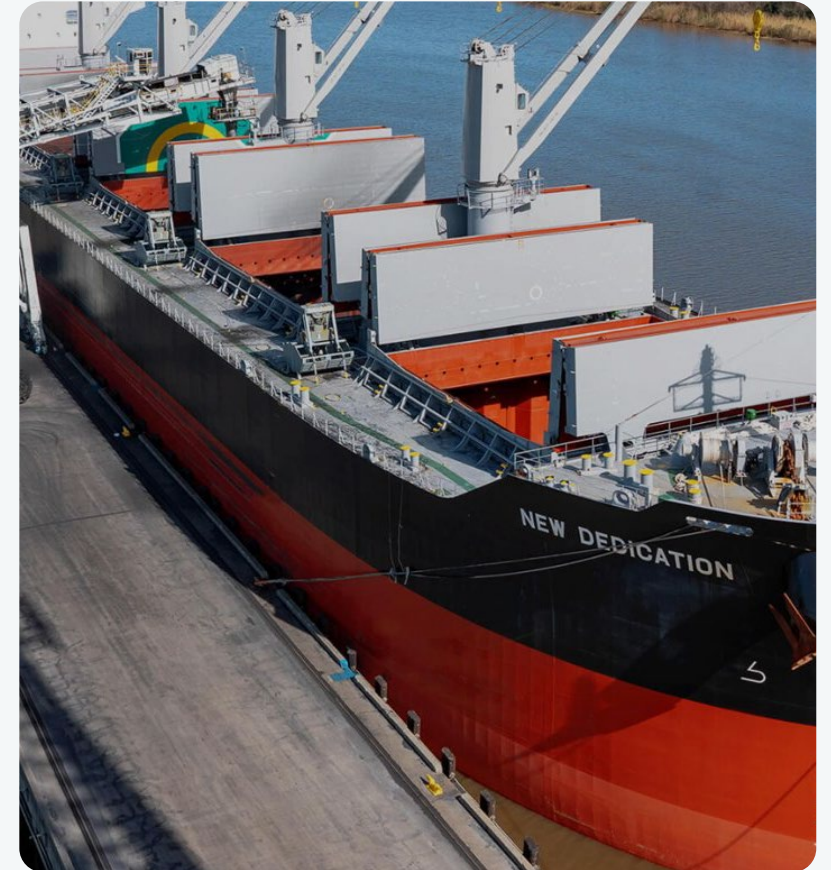
of the nation's coal

14,500 mi

inland waterway system of rivers and intracoastal waterways

Five

Lower Mississippi River ports make up the largest port complex in the world.



ECONOMIC IMPACT

1 in 5 Louisiana jobs rely on ports

525,000

jobs created by Louisiana industries
in national and global trade

77,000

jobs and \$4.1B in earnings from direct
spending by ports, tenants and
businesses

\$533M

in tax collections: \$298M state and
\$235M local

40–45%

more direct jobs than the oil and gas
industry



\$226.5 billion in annual trade impact from
the Mississippi River Ship Channel (Big
River Coalition, 2025)

INVESTING IN PORTS

Port Priority Program, 2025–2026

\$261M

15 continuing projects

\$99M

7 more projects in the
pipeline

\$212M

state share

\$207M

current backlog

\$8

returned in taxes, jobs and benefits for every \$1 the state invests. These projects will create \$2.1 billion in economic benefits and more than 1,800 jobs.

DEEPER CHANNELS

A 50-foot river opens new markets

2014

Congress authorizes deepening from Baton Rouge to the Gulf, 45 ft to 50 ft

2020

Funding allocated ahead of schedule; dredging begins

2022

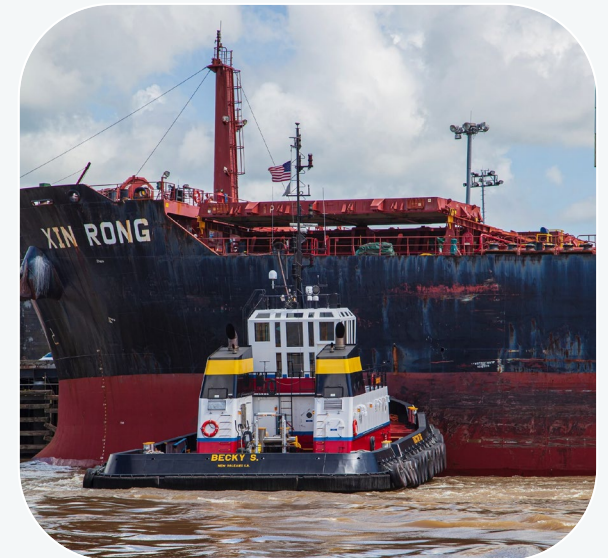
50-ft draft reaches the Port of New Orleans (Mile 106)

Next

Finish the final reach to Baton Rouge, which requires relocating utility pipelines

\$7.20

in benefits for every dollar spent (USACE). Matching the expanded Panama Canal's depth brings post-Panamax ships to Louisiana.



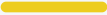
02

Deep draft ports

Supporting global trade

Presented by Julia Fisher-Cormier
Executive Director · Port of South Louisiana





DEEP DRAFT · WHO WE ARE

Six ports on two deepwater rivers

Port of Lake Charles

LNG hub on the Calcasieu Ship Channel; top-10 U.S. port district by tonnage; 100 years old in 2026

Port of Greater Baton Rouge

Head of deep-water navigation; general, breakbulk, liquid and container cargo

Port of South Louisiana

#1 in the Western Hemisphere by tonnage; 300M+ tons a year; #1 Foreign Trade Zone

Port of New Orleans

Louisiana's only international container terminal; container-on-barge; 6th-largest U.S. cruise port; six Class I railroads

St. Bernard Port

Ships 36% of the nation's ferroalloys; bulk and breakbulk; ISO tank cleaning

Plaquemines Parish Port

55M+ tons of grain, petrochemicals and coal; home to Venture Global's Plaquemines LNG, designed for 30M+ tons a year at peak

Port of South Louisiana – A \$5.8B steel mill, served by the river

1,300

direct jobs, averaging
\$95,000 a year

4,100

indirect jobs across the
region

\$43.4M

federal grant for the port's
dock conveyor

- Hyundai Steel's mill in Donaldsonville is its first steel plant in North America, targeting production in 2029.
- The Port of South Louisiana is building the deepwater dock to bring in about 3.6 million tons of iron ore a year.
- Ports working as one: the Port of Greater Baton Rouge signed an agreement letting PortSL develop the dock in its jurisdiction.



DEEP DRAFT • MAJOR WIN

Port of New Orleans – Louisiana International Terminal gets the green light

On **August 17, 2026**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers granted the federal permit for Port NOLA's new container terminal in St. Bernard Parish.

Built downriver of the Crescent City Connection, it removes the bridge height limit.



\$2.6B

public-private investment

18,000+

projected new jobs in Louisiana

\$1 Billion

Projected in new state tax revenues

TiL

PORTS AMERICA
GLOBAL REACH. LOCAL RESULTS.

Momentum up and down the river

Port	Recent wins
Port of Lake Charles	Centennial year; Berths 4–6 rebuild finishing in 2026; two new cranes at Bulk Terminal 1; \$6.8M federal funding for rail and heavy cargo
Port of Greater Baton Rouge	FY25 federal port grant (PIDP); \$800M AtmosClear carbon-removal project under a Microsoft contract
Port of South Louisiana	Globalplex Dock Access Bridge opened (Feb. 2026), a second link to its main dock
Port of New Orleans	NOPB Partnership with UTC Transoceanic to bring AI-powered oversized cargo technology to New Orleans; St. Bernard Transportation Corridor Phase 1 advancing with federal support (March 2026)
St. Bernard Port	Chalmette Slip fully operational for the first time in 40 years, the only slip on the lower Mississippi – backed by \$15M in state Port Priority funds
Louisiana Gateway Port	New Executive Direct; \$467M APM Terminals container terminal planned, construction set for 2027; Plaquemines LNG (30M+ tons a year at peak) targets commercial operation in late 2026 (Phase 1) and mid-2027 (Phase 2)

03

Coastal ports

Enabling the energy industry

Presented by Chett Chiasson
Executive Director · Port Fourchon



Across the coast

Port Fourchon

Serves 100% of deep-water rigs and 50% of shallow-water rigs in the Gulf; tied to 18% of U.S. oil supply

Cameron Parish Port

Both coastal and deepwater: 44 miles of GIWW and 33 miles of deep water; a national leader in LNG export

West Calcasieu Port

anchors the GIWW in SW Louisiana: barge fleet, cleaning and repair, marine fueling and construction

Port of Terrebonne

Oil and gas fabrication and supply; shipbuilding for national defense; support for LNG projects

Port of Morgan City

Oil and gas fabrication and supply; shipbuilding for national defense; support for LNG projects

Abbeville Harbor & Terminal Dist

Oil and gas fabrication and supply; shipbuilding for national defense; support for LNG projects

Port of Iberia

Oil and gas fabrication and supply; shipbuilding for national defense; support for LNG projects

Grand Isle Port

High shallow-water tonnage via two federal channels; major commercial fishing hub; LDWF research facility

COASTAL · MAJOR WIN

Cameron Parish builds the next wave of LNG

\$9.75B

financing closed for Commonwealth
LNG (May 2026)

17.25

million tons a year planned with the new
expansion

2,000

construction jobs; 300 permanent jobs

- Commonwealth LNG broke ground in May 2026, targeting operations in 2030 with 9.5 million tons a year.
- Sept. 2026: a five-train expansion was announced that would nearly double capacity.
- Venture Global's CP2 LNG is under construction next to Calcasieu Pass, at more than 29 million tons a year.

COASTAL · MAJOR WIN

Port Fourchon makes room for LNG

The Greater Lafourche Port Commission acquired a **743-acre tract** from the State of Louisiana, bringing Argent LNG's export site to about 900 acres.

The Northern Expansion, now in its final phase, has more than doubled the port's size, giving Fourchon 1,300+ developed acres.

100%

of Gulf deep-water rigs serviced

~900

acres for Argent LNG

18%

of U.S. oil supply

The service base for Gulf energy

Port	Recent Wins
Port Fourchon	Airport Connector Road and Bridge opened (Aug. 2026); ~900-acre site set for Argent LNG
Cameron Parish Port	Commonwealth LNG broke ground (May 2026); expansion to 17.25M tons a year announced (Sept.)
West Calcasieu Port	Largest expansion in 60+ years: 172 acres for barge fleetling and a new tenant office (\$5.1M)
Port of Terrebonne	Houma Navigation Canal deepening (15 to 20 ft) advancing; earned LED Certified Site status
Port of Morgan City	\$7.5M for channel dredging in FY2027; warehouse fire protection finished under budget
Port of Iberia	Turner Industries nuclear fabrication yard (500 jobs) and Gulf Coast Tactical expansion (137 jobs)
Abbeville Harbor & Terminal District	[post win here]
Grand Isle Port	Record \$2.7M federal grant to rebuild the Oak Lane and Shrimp dock facilities (July 2026)

04

Inland ports

Driving local economies

Presented by Ben Russo
Executive Director • Central Louisiana Regional Port



INLAND · WHO WE ARE

Linking every region to the world

Caddo-Bossier

~5,000-acre industrial park at the head of navigation on the Red River

Central Louisiana Regional

Alexandria's Red River port; first on the Red to handle international cargo

Greater Ouachita

Ouachita River dock and rail spur in West Monroe serving regional manufacturers

Greater Krotz Springs

Atchafalaya River port: 3M+ tons a year of crude oil, grain and bulk cargo

Lake Providence

Mississippi River port with the largest agricultural tonnage of any inland port

Madison

Mississippi River port in Tallulah; ~750,000 tons a year of aggregates, grain and steel

Manchac

Barge, rail and truck port on Pass Manchac between Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas

Mermentau

Mermentau River port moving rice, soybeans, aggregates and fertilizer

Natchitoches

Nearly 700 acres; the only slack water port on the Red River, with 5+ miles of rail

Red River

Red River Parish port with a 75.8-acre certified site and 3,400 ft of rail frontage

Vidalia

Mississippi River port across from Natchez, building a new slack water slip

INLAND • MAJOR WIN

Caddo-Bossier builds shovel-ready sites

~5,000

acres, up from about 4,000

\$20M

waterline serving new sites

FastSite

certified by Louisiana Economic
Development

- Planned rail expansion and a proposed I-69 service road connecting the port to I-49
- New heavy-load, multimodal warehouse, fully leased on opening; 460,000 sq ft of tenant warehouse space
- Head of navigation on the Red River, with barge, rail, highway and pipeline access

INLAND · MAJOR WIN

FastSites expands two Red River ports

CENTRAL LOUISIANA REGIONAL PORT

~\$2M

A 10-acre heavy-load hardstand supporting DisTran Packaged Substations' expansion on a 71.8-acre campus in Alexandria. Due by Nov. 1, 2026.

NATCHITOCHES PARISH PORT

\$2.55M

Expanded warehouse capacity for manufacturing, storage and logistics. Work begins late 2026; completion expected in 2027.

\$200M

LED's FastSites fund, boosted by a new \$50M appropriation. It works as a revolving fund: partners repay the investment so it can be reinvested. The next round opens Oct. 1.

Momentum across inland Louisiana

Port	Recent win
Caddo-Bossier	\$20M waterline, FastSite status and ~1,000 new acres; I-69 service road planned
Central Louisiana Regional	~\$2M FastSites grant for a 10-acre heavy-load hardstand for DisTran (Sept. 2026)
Greater Ouachita	Crane, container storage and access road project completed with state funding
Greater Krotz Springs	General cargo dock Phase II and \$5.1M site stabilization completed
Lake Providence	Strong 2025: \$4.5M net income, \$5M in upgrades and \$10M in bonds for new rail
Madison	Readying infrastructure to support Meta's \$10B Richland Parish data center
Manchac	Barge dock redesign underway; new lease terms approved with Air Products (2026)
Mermentau	Access road improvements completed with Port Priority funding
Natchitoches	\$2.55M FastSites investment to expand warehouse capacity (Sept. 2026)
Red River	75.8-acre port site earned Louisiana Economic Development certification
Vidalia	\$15M in state financing to build a slack water slip, now under construction

ONE SYSTEM. EVERY REGION.

Thank you

Questions for our panel?

www.PortsofLouisiana.org

