

## BACKGROUND

Hurricane Rita scattered residential, industrial and vegetative debris throughout the Calcasieu Lake estuary system, creating a hazard for recreational and commercial boaters, as well as their vessels and gear. In an attempt to make the waters safer, and to guide future cleanup operations, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Coast Survey, Louisiana Sea Grant, Coastal Conservation Association (CCA), Lake Charles Power Squadron and Louisiana State University Agricultural Center have teamed up to locate and mark as much of this marine debris as possible.

*Volunteers will be provided with maps and markers and will travel in their own boats to assigned areas of the lake to look for debris. They will mark floating debris with buoys, and submerged debris will be marked with PVC pipe. Volunteers will remove any small debris they can safely bring to shore and will be asked to write down the location of all debris they mark.*



The wall of a house poses a navigation hazard in Calcasieu Lake.

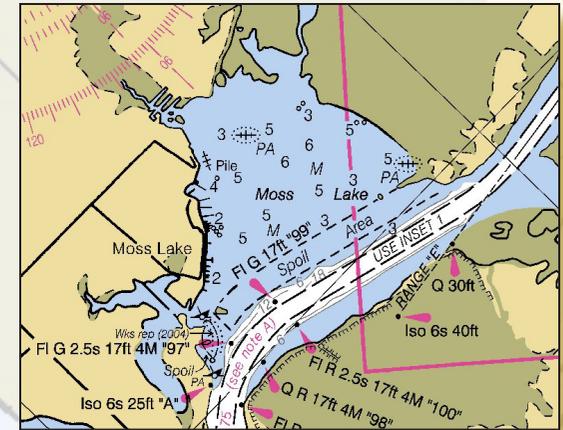
## PROJECT SUMMARY

Chartlets graphics of the three survey sites (Calcasieu Lake, Moss Lake to the north, and West Cove to the south-southwest) were assembled by NOAA, and these locations were divided into transects approximately every 100 meters. Each transect has been assigned an exclusive number to eliminate duplicate effort. GPS coordinates for both the beginning and end of each transect will be provided, and volunteers are asked to follow one complete transect line the day of the survey. Any large marine debris encountered will be described, logged using GPS (LAT/LON), and uniformly marked.

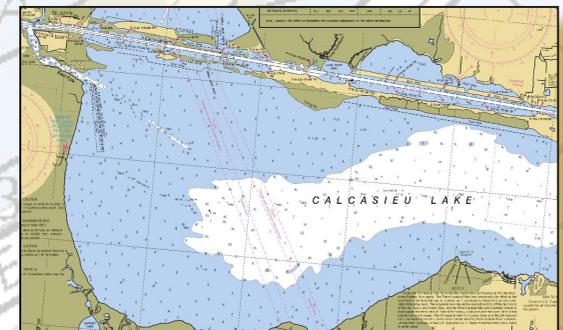
Debris that has the potential to shift, move or sink with the tidal current will be marked with an orange foam bullet float. These floats were carefully selected so as to not interfere with U.S. Coast Guard markers and other navigational aids. Stationary debris will be flagged with two-inch diameter PVC pipe pushed into the soft lake bottom. Note that none of these markers are officially sanctioned aids to navigation.

The location of marine debris hazards reported by volunteers will be combined and mapped by NOAA. Marked positions and research reports on the types of debris found will be posted on the Coast Pilot Disaster Impact Web site, <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/cpgulf/cpgulf.htm>, and on the Louisiana Sea Grant Web site, [www.laseagrant.org/debris](http://www.laseagrant.org/debris).

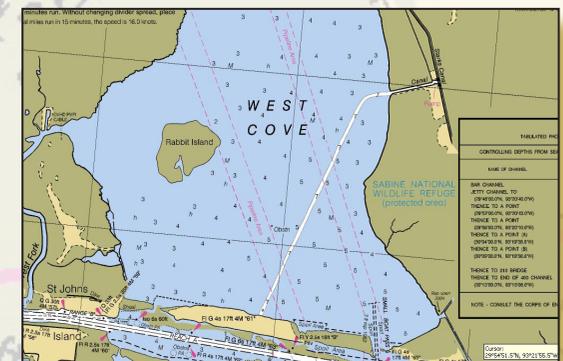
The second phase of this project will use side-scan sonar to assess and map submerged debris that is not visible above the waterline.



Moss Lake



Calcasieu Lake



West Cove



An industrial tank rests in the marsh near the shore.

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

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**CALCASIEU LAKE  
MARINE DEBRIS  
MARKING & MAPPING**

[www.laseagrant.org/debris](http://www.laseagrant.org/debris)

## WHEN

Volunteers should meet at 8 a.m., Saturday, June 24, 2006, at Calcasieu Point Landing, 3955 Henry Pugh Blvd., in Lake Charles to register and pick up supplies. Registered volunteers will be treated to lunch and drinks courtesy of the Lake Charles Pilots.

## OBJECTIVES

The immediate goal of this project is to assist in Louisiana's hurricane recovery by reducing storm-driven navigation hazards and environmental threats. The long-term objective is to facilitate a cleanup of the Calcasieu estuary and to educate people about marine debris.

This project is made possible with the involvement of NOAA's Office of Coast Survey with the funding and support of NOAA's Marine Debris Program, which is part of the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration (National Ocean Service). The NOAA Marine Debris Program works with other NOAA offices and partners to support national, state, local and international efforts to protect and conserve our nation's natural resources and coastal waterways from the impacts of marine debris.



Storm surge from Hurricane Rita flooded Calcasieu Point and left tons of marine debris in its wake.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Volunteers are needed in Calcasieu and Cameron parishes for the Marine Debris Marking and Mapping Project on Calcasieu Lake, Moss Lake and West Cove from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday, June 24. Additionally, boaters and residents are asked to visit [www.laseagrant.org/debris](http://www.laseagrant.org/debris) to report the location of any marine hazards they have encountered in these areas.