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WYES LAUNCHES PODCAST EXPLORING THE ORIGINS AND FUTURE OF LOUISIANA'S COASTAL PRESERVATION

New Orleans, LA— In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, WYES has produced a six-part podcast, **THE LOUISIANA COAST: EARLY WARNINGS**, remembering those who worked to increase awareness of coastal loss, making clear the severity of its impact to the state of Louisiana and the urge of immediate action.

You can listen to **THE LOUISIANA COAST: EARLY WARNINGS** podcast on Apple, Amazon Music, Spotify and iHeart — or watch it on the WYES YouTube channel.

Listen or watch discussions with coastal experts, scientists, policy makers and non-governmental organization leaders about the early warnings and activities aimed at protecting, restoring and rebuilding the Louisiana coast along with assessing how the steps taken to save the coast have worked so far.

Marcia Kavanaugh, WYES Community Projects producer and host of INFORMED SOURCES, is producer and host of **THE LOUISIANA COAST: EARLY WARNINGS**. Steve Mathies is co-producer and host. Mathies is former director of Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) and executive director of the Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration. He is currently a coastal consultant with STANTEC.

The following is the breakdown of all six episodes:

Episode 1: EARLY WARNINGS recognizes the scope and significance of Louisiana coastal loss.

Panelists include:

Don Davis, Coastal researcher, Louisiana Sea Grant scholar and author

Dr. Earl Melancon, Nicholls State University Professor of Biological Sciences

Dr. Robert Thomas, Loyola University New Orleans, Center for Environmental Communication

Episode 2: PEOPLE OF LOUISIANA TAKE ACTION discusses the beginnings of the coastal restoration effort.

Panelists include:

Windell Curole, Retired Director, South Lafourche Levee District

Cathy Norman Penland, Former Land Manager and Attorney, Wisner Land Trust

Dr. Robert Thomas, Loyola University New Orleans, Center for Environmental Communication

Episode 3: RESTORING THE LOUISIANA COAST shares how civic groups and residents organize to combat coastal loss.

Panelists include:

Mark Davis, Former Executive Director, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana; currently Director, Tulane Center for Environmental Law

Carlton Dufrechou, Former Executive Director, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, now the Pontchartrain Conservancy; currently General Manager, The Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission

Steve Cochran, Former Executive Director, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation; state and national coastal advocate

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Episode 4: MEDIA DELIVERS THE MESSAGE includes environmental journalists discussing their role in increasing public awareness about coastal loss.

Panelists include:

Mark Schleifstein, Retired Environment Reporter, The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate

Bob Marshall, Environment Columnist, The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate

Episode 5: COASTAL RESTORATION PRICE TAG discusses the policy, funding and implementation of coastal restoration projects.

Panelists include:

Garret Graves, former U.S. Congressman, LA 6th Congressional District; former Chair, The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)

Steve Cochran, Former Executive Director, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation; state and national coastal advocate

Jerome “Zee” Zeringue, Louisiana State Representative, District 52; former Executive Director, The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)

Episode 6: COASTAL GAINS AND LOSSES looks at coastal restoration accomplishments and what the future holds.

Panelists include:

Bren Haase, Director, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program; Former Executive Director, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

Steve Cochran, Former Executive Director, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation; state and national coastal advocate

Mark Davis, Former Executive Director, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana; currently Director, Tulane Center for Environmental Law

About WYES:

WYES is the storyteller for New Orleans, southeast Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. For 68 years, WYES has earned a reputation for quality PBS programming, award-winning local documentaries and cooking series. Events like this help spread WYES' mission as a vital source of education, information and entertainment — on air and online. For more information, call (504) 486-5511 or visit wyes.org. Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Instagram.

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