

# Fifty Years to Restore Louisiana's Coastline

By David Kidd

A leading expert on coastal restoration efforts, Simone Maloz is a director of Restore the Mississippi River Delta, a coalition of five groups whose mission is to defend and restore the disappearing Louisiana coastline. Simone also serves on the Louisiana Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation. She contributed to the most recent version of the state's Coastal Master Plan that seeks to achieve comprehensive coastal restoration.

*Governing* magazine recently spoke with Maloz about the problems facing coastal Louisiana and the long-term efforts underway to reverse the decades of damage caused by the changing climate and misguided human intervention. This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

### Governing: Why is the Coastal Master Plan important to Louisiana?

Simone Maloz: This is really our road map to a sustainable coastal Louisiana, striking a balance

between the economy and the environment. It very clearly lays out our priorities for not just today or tomorrow, but fifty years into the future. We have to play the long game. We know there's not enough time. We know there's not enough resources.

We can't take our foot off the gas, because here we are fifteen years into it, and we're beginning to see the early investments pay off. We need [the time between updates] to analyze what has worked, what we need to change, and what we need to replicate.

Every time we do a plan, we have so much more data to work with. And as a result, we're more and more confident in our projections. The fifty years we projected in 2007 definitely do not look the same as what we predict today, because we know so much more.

There is no status quo in coastal Louisiana. We have to plan for something that's really dynamic. Just three years after the first plan in 2007, we had a devastating oil spill. So that had to be thought of.

And then, of course, we've had several destructive hurricanes. Some back to back.



During Hurricane Ida, the USGS [United States Geological Survey] estimates that coastal Louisiana lost one hundred square miles, most of that in one basin. That is just unbelievable. And that happened in between plans.

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Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, [george.tapia@sba.gov](mailto:george.tapia@sba.gov)  
Fee: Free; registration required

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**8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar**  
Wednesday, August 16, 2023, 9:30 am–10:30 am CDT Online  
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, [illinois.do@sba.gov](mailto:illinois.do@sba.gov)  
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Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8a-orientation-sam-registration-tickets-518989961947>

**Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Program Webinar**  
Thursday, August 17, 2023, 9:00 am–10:00 am CDT Online  
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537>  
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