

**APPENDIX 1**

**Terrebonne Parish Oyster Fishery**  
*Interview questionnaire*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am with a team of researchers at \_\_\_\_\_ University leading a social and economic evaluation of the oyster fishery in Terrebonne Parish (TP). In this project, we are hoping to learn about the social and economic connection people have with oysters and the fishery. This includes how each group/industry uses the resource, and when, where, how, and why. As part of this project, we hope to interview as many resource-users such as you to understand how fishers and their businesses may be affected by changes in environmental conditions. The interview will generally only take about 50 minutes. All of your responses would remain confidential and would be collated in an anonymous way with everyone else's, and you would be able to access the report online. Your participation is entirely voluntary and you are free to not answer any questions that you would prefer not to. I will give you my contact details and you can contact me anytime for more information or if you have any concerns. Do you have any questions at this stage? Would you be happy to participate in this survey?

*Let's start...*

1. Please list the first words that come to mind when you think of the oyster fishery here in the TP area? (list as many words as you like) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION A. *In this section I would like to know a little bit about your operation.***

2. Are you a: lease owner + operator  
lease owner but not operator  
operator only  
business owner  
other \_\_\_\_\_

3. How long have you been in the industry? \_\_\_\_\_ yrs

4. What other work have you done in the past 5 yrs?

<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Why stop?</i>	<i>Prefer to current job?</i>

5. About how many days in the previous 12 months were you operating (in the TP area)?  
\_\_\_\_\_ days

6. How far, on average, do you travel from your home? That is: do you typically fish/work very close to your home or do you tend to roam across the area/region?  
\_\_\_ very close to home (i.e. < 5 mi)

- \_\_\_ close to home (i.e. 5-10 mi)  
 \_\_\_ roam quite some distance from home (> 10 mi)
7. Do you use multiple ports/docks? Y / N  
 8. Do you use multiple boats/operators? Y / N

9. Which fisheries do you operate in?  
 \_\_\_ oyster                      \_\_\_ crawfish  
 \_\_\_ shrimp                    \_\_\_ finfish (species: \_\_\_\_\_)  
 \_\_\_ crab                        \_\_\_ other

10. What types of gear do you use for each fishery?  
 oyster = \_\_\_\_\_                      crawfish = \_\_\_\_\_  
 shrimp = \_\_\_\_\_                      finfish = \_\_\_\_\_  
 crab = \_\_\_\_\_                      other = \_\_\_\_\_

11. Which fishery contributes most to your income? Please rank all appropriate fisheries.  
 \_\_\_ oyster                      \_\_\_ crawfish  
 \_\_\_ shrimp                    \_\_\_ finfish (species: \_\_\_\_\_)  
 \_\_\_ crab                        \_\_\_ other

**SECTION B.** *In this section I would like to know a bit more about your relationship with the oyster fishery. When I refer to the oyster fishery, I mean all aspects, from fishing to processing and selling oysters. I also mean all land and water from the bayous, the ponds, the open waters, and of course the oyster leases.*

For the next group of questions, I'll read out a list of statements, and I'd like you to rate your agreement or disagreement with each statement, using a ten-point scale where: 1 = Very Strongly Disagree, and 10 = Very Strongly Agree.

How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements:

*A) Susceptibility*

12. There are many other places that are better than the TP area for oyster fishing  
 13. The TP area and oysters are part of my identity  
 14. I wouldn't want to be anything other than a \_\_\_\_\_ (insert appropriate occupation)  
 15. The fishing industry to me is not just a job – it is my lifestyle  
 16. I plan to still be a \_\_\_\_\_ (insert appropriate occupation) in five years time  
 17. I live in this area because of the fishing/opportunity  
 18. I plan to be resident of this area in the next five years  
 19. I am likely to remain operating in this region if events such as hurricanes and oil spills occur more frequently  
 20. I value oysters because they support a variety of life such as fish, invertebrates  
 21. I value oysters because they support a desirable and active way of life  
 22. I value oysters because we can learn about the environment through them

23. I value oysters because they provide a source of income
24. Oysters are a great asset for the economy of the TP area
25. Oysters in the TP area contribute to my quality of life and well-being
26. The aesthetic beauty of the TP area is outstanding
27. The oyster (reefs) that I (or my boats) fish the most are in great condition
28. I feel optimistic about the future of the oyster reefs in the TP area
29. Oysters in the TP area are or were in their best condition: now / 5 yr ago / 10 yr ago / 25 yr ago / 50 yr ago / don't know
30. What do you think are the THREE most serious threats to oysters in the TP area?
  - a \_\_\_\_\_
  - b \_\_\_\_\_
  - c \_\_\_\_\_
31. I feel confident the oyster fishery is well managed in the TP area
32. I support the current rules and regulations that affect access and use of oyster reefs in the TP area
33. I am optimistic about the future of my business in the TP area
34. My business has not performed this year as well as it did last year
35. I do have fair access to the oyster reefs/leases in the TP area compared to other user groups
36. I would like to do more to help protect and ensure a sustainable future for oysters in the TP area
37. I would be personally affected if the health of the oysters in the TP area declined
38. I regularly get involved in research and/or management decisions for the oyster fishery in the TP area
39. I can make a personal difference in improving the health of the oysters in the TP area
40. I try to encourage other people to reduce their impacts on oysters in the TP area
41. It is my responsibility to protect oysters in the TP area
42. Commercial fishers should take steps to reduce their impacts on oysters in the TP area
43. It is the responsibility of all Louisianans to protect oysters

*B) Adaptive Capacity*

44. I am confident things will turn out well for me regardless of future events such as hurricanes, oil spills, or diversions
45. I am uncertain how to plan for changes in the TP area that may affect me such as hurricanes, oil spills, or diversions
46. I am good at developing scenarios of the future of my business and planning for them
47. I discuss new ways of solving problems associated with my business with others

48. I am more likely to adapt to changes as a result of hurricanes, oil spills, or diversions compared to other coastal residents I know
49. I have planned for my financial security
50. I am interested in learning how to better prepare my business for significant events, such as hurricanes, oil spills, and diversions
53. Do you (Y / N)?
- have fuel efficient engines
  - have green energy, such as solar panels, for any part of your business
  - use alternative fuels such as biodiesel or ethanol
  - participate in a shell recycling program
54. On a scale of 1-10, how much do you trust the information you receive about the oyster fishery in the TP area from the following groups
- friends, family, and colleagues
  - LDWF, gov't officials (e.g. CPRA)
  - academic research institutions (e.g. LSU, LA Sea Grant)
  - industry groups/representatives (e.g. Oyster Task Force)
  - media (e.g. radio, newspapers, tv)
  - other commercial fishers

### *C) Personal Info*

#### Demographics

55. Would you mind telling me...
- What year you were born? 19\_\_
  - What is your current home postcode? \_\_\_\_\_
  - How many years you have lived in the TP area (i.e. Terrebonne Parish)? \_\_\_\_\_ yrs
  - How many years you have operated in the TP area? \_\_\_\_\_ yrs
  - Are you currently married or have a partner? Y / N
  - Do you have any dependent children? Y / N
  - Do you have university/college education (i.e. beyond high school)? Y / N
  - What proportion of your household income came from commercial fishing in the last financial year? \_\_\_ %
  - What proportion of your fishing income was from the TP area? \_\_\_ %

#### Business related information

56. Do you mind telling me your business turnover (entire revenue), for the past 12 months, in broad categories (read out)
- < \$20,000
  - \$20,000 to \$60,000
  - \$60,000 to \$100,000
  - \$100,000 to \$200,000
  - \$200,000 to \$300,000

f. \$300,000 to \$500,000

g. > \$500,000

57. How many employees (full time equivalents) did your business employ over the previous 12 months? \_\_\_\_\_
58. How many of your family members are also in your business/commercial fishers? \_\_\_\_\_
59. Do you have business insurance? Y / N
60. Do you have vessel insurance? Y / N
61. How old, on average, is/are your vessel(s)? \_\_\_\_ yrs
62. Do you have any form of technology for your vessel(s) (e.g. GPS, sonar)? Y / N
63. What proportion of your product do you sell in:
- a. the local region: \_\_\_\_ %
  - b. elsewhere in LA: \_\_\_\_ %
  - c. in the USA: \_\_\_\_ %
  - d. internationally: \_\_\_\_ %
  - e. don't know: \_\_\_\_ %
64. What proportion of your product do you sell directly to different market types such as:
- a. wholesalers: \_\_\_\_ %
  - b. retailers: \_\_\_\_ %
  - c. restaurants: \_\_\_\_ %
  - d. members of the public: \_\_\_\_ %
  - e. other, \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_ %
65. If you are a non-operator, can I contact the person(s) who is operating your vessel/license, so their views can also be included (get contact details if Y)? Y / N
66. Would you mind if I contacted you again for future surveys (get contact details if N)? Y / N
67. Would you like my contact details? Y / N

Thank you for your time!

Notes/contact details: