

AWRA SPRING CONFERENCE

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

- 1 Louisiana is this nation's most Maritime state and 20 of its 26 ports are south of I-10, including all of its deep draft ports.
- 2, 3, & 4 From the thriving petroleum and grain Port of Lake Charles to the World Class Port of New Orleans to the oil and gas support hub of Port of Fourchon, our coastal port system is very diverse and extremely important to our state and nation.
- 5 Let's look at how important they really are.
- 6 In fact, 4 of the top 10 ports in the country by tonnage are on the Mississippi River. Together they form the largest Port Complex in the world. Moving over 428 million tons valued at approximately \$70 billion. Much of the agricultural and industrial production of the central part of our country is moved through this efficient but threatened waterway system.
- 7 In addition to the Mississippi River, the ICWW traverses coastal Louisiana and is becoming increasingly vulnerable to coastal land loss.
- 8 Over 100 million tons of commodities move annually through this waterway by barge from Appalachia Bay to the Mexican Border, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of that utilizes the Louisiana Coastal Corridor.
- 9 Fuel efficiency
- 10 Environmentally friendly method of transportation.
- 11 Our coastal ports and navigation channels are extremely important as a safe haven from the Gulf of Mexico during storms. It is not uncommon to have in excess of 400 large vessels at Port Fourchon during storm events.