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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Delcambre, La.—The Twin Parish Port Commission is pleased to announce that it and its grant partner, Louisiana Sea Grant, are one of thirty recipients to receive funding under the FEMA 2012 Community Resilience Innovation Challenge program. The FEMA program focuses on building local community resilience to man-made and natural disasters, with an emphasis on innovation, collaboration with community stakeholders, sustainability, repeatability and measurable benefits to the community.

The Port will receive \$35,000 under its Safe Harbor Master Plan for Vermillion Bay, Louisiana and will be administered by Louisiana Sea Grant. The award was one of two for Louisiana. The other Louisiana award was the Greater New Orleans Resiliency Resource Guide given to the Greater New Orleans Development Foundation.

“The fishing fleet in south Louisiana has no planned accommodations for safe harbor during storms,” said Port Director, Wendell Verret. “We are very appreciative to work with Sea Grant who has been actively supporting the redevelopment of our area for over six years now.” The Port’s Seafood Program Director and LSU AgCenter marine fisheries agent, Thomas Hymel, said, “the time has come to put together a plan of this kind. It’s all part of rebuilding our fishing industry. If we don’t act to protect it now, we stand to lose it forever and with the storms we’ve seen here, it’s not impossible to imagine.”

The program is being funded by The Rockefeller Foundation and administered by the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation who acted as a third-party intermediary to encourage local communities to engage in creative activities that enhance disaster resilience. Funding levels ranged to a maximum award level of \$35,000, and applications were open to most local, state, and tribal agencies and governments; business entities; associations; organizations and groups.

“We live in a time of unpredictable shocks and chronic stresses, from climate change to natural or manmade disasters, and helping local communities become more resilient to these disruptions is more important than ever. Yet we’ve also seen that potential solutions to meet the needs of a community are often best surfaced by those who live with the stresses, and perhaps see them from a different perspective,” said Dr. Judith Rodin, president of The Rockefeller Foundation. “The Rockefeller Foundation is committed to helping people prepare for, withstand, and emerge stronger from disruptions, and is proud to support this program and the innovative efforts of local residents to build resilience in communities across the United States.”

Over 1,900 applications were received across the country. For Vermilion Bay fishermen to receive a grant to benefit them shows our area’s commitment to supporting community resilience.