



# STRATEGIC PLAN FRAMEWORK

LOUISIANA UNIVERSITIES MARINE CONSORTIUM (LUMCON) FISCAL YEAR 2026-2030



## Mission

To promote, facilitate and conduct research and education collaborations among Louisiana’s universities in marine and coastal sciences relevant to the sustainability of coastal and marine environments of the U.S. Gulf Coast.



## Vision

Our coasts and oceans restored and thriving through innovation, collaboration, and community action.



## Core Principles

**CONNECT** ▶ Enhance collaboration by linking the consortium through stronger federal, state, and local partnerships.

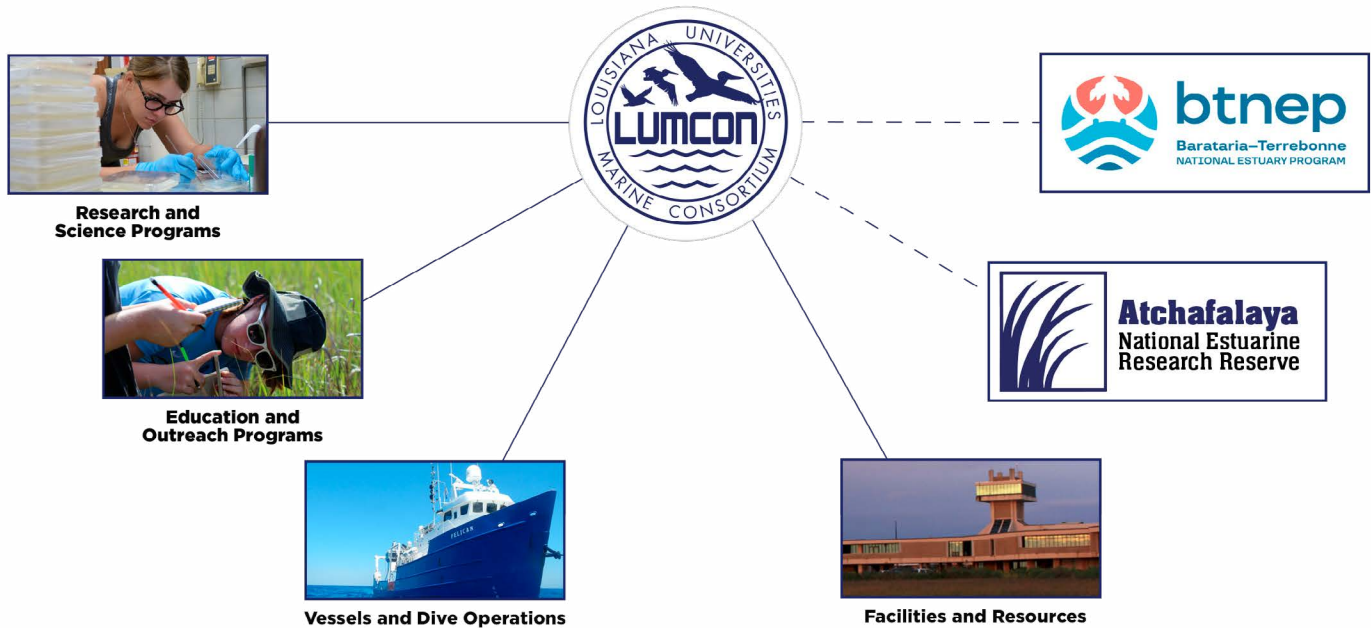
**ENRICH** ▶ Give back to the community through education and outreach initiatives.

**TRANSFORM** ▶ Lead and partner in scientific innovations designed to stabilize and strengthen coastal and marine environments for the state and the nation.

- ▶ **LUMCON** is a program of the Louisiana Board of Regents.
- ▶ **LUMCON** is a consortium of all 32 public postsecondary institutions plus the 10 member institutions of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU).



► **LUMCON is a physical presence and statewide resource** located on the coast that consists of research and science programs, education and outreach, facilities (Marine Center in Cocodrie and Maritime Campus in Houma), and vessels and dive operations. It also serves as the host state agency for two federally supported affiliates (Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and the soon to be designated Atchafalaya National Estuarine Research Reserve). The leaders of these activities, along with the Executive Director/Chief Scientist, constitute LUMCON’s Management Team.



► **LUMCON is a community hub** with the expertise, resources, and capacity to make the state a leader in all aspects of coastal and marine study and life through its convening and collaboration capacity to address our most compelling questions and challenges.



# LUMCON Engagement

LUMCON is unique in the nation in its structure and focus. Its success as a statewide resource requires deep engagement of consortium members, partners, and communities across Louisiana. The consortium's goal is to ensure that Louisiana assumes leadership of coastal and marine science for the nation by leveraging the collective strengths of all of its members and partners to optimize our shared competitiveness at regional, national, and global scales. LUMCON's open and collaborative structure is designed to maximize opportunities for members to engage with each other and LUMCON's core facilities and services.

- ▶ **State of the Consortium Meetings:** Annual in-person summit, plus one alternate semester virtual meeting (two representatives, including one administrator, per institution).
- ▶ **LUMCON Council:** The Council meets twice per year to help set the agenda for State of the Consortium meetings and voice user views. It consists of 13-15 members, representing users of LUMCON: one representative of Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, one representative from each of the four public systems and LAICU, two K-12 representatives, one higher education student, three representatives from state agencies/government/NGOs/industry, and one to three at-large representative reserved for special initiatives/programs). Each member will serve a three-year term (except the student member, who serves a one-year term).
- ▶ **Advisory Committees:** The Research and Science, Education and Outreach, and Vessel and Dive Operations Programs will each convene a five-member advisory committee twice per year prior to the LUMCON Council meetings, to facilitate program-level reports to the Council. Both BTNEP and ANERR will also each have its own advisory council in accordance with guidelines established by federal funding agencies.
- ▶ **Consortium Coordination:** LUMCON's consortium coordinator reports directly to the Associate Director of Education and Outreach and works closely with the Executive Director/Chief Scientist and Associate Director of Science. This position acts as a liaison that interacts directly with consortium institutions to facilitate collaborations among members.



## **Broad, Overarching Goals for Strategic Framework**

- ▶ **GOAL 1**     **Institution:** Position LUMCON as a hub for coastal and marine science research, education, and community engagement at local, state, regional and national levels (Leadership: Executive Director/Chief Scientist)
- ▶ **GOAL 2**     **Consortium:** Expand and strengthen active collaborations among consortium member institutions, faculty, and students (Leadership: ED/CS, AD E&O, AD Science)
- ▶ **GOAL 3**     **Research and Science:** Lead and coordinate the development of new approaches to science to better understand, manage, and protect Louisiana’s fragile coastal and marine habitats (Leadership: AD Science)
- ▶ **GOAL 4**     **Education and Outreach:** Recruit, educate, and mentor the next generation of scientists and learners and engage communities through traditional and non-traditional programs and partnerships (Leadership: AD E&O)
- ▶ **GOAL 5**     **Facilities and Resources:** As Louisiana higher education’s only coastal location, build and maintain an adaptive infrastructure and workforce that provides opportunities, facilities and resources to study shifting coastal and marine environments and the communities that live and work there (Leadership: DD/COO)
- ▶ **GOAL 6**     **Vessels and Dive Operations:** Expand research vessel capacity with the RCRV Gilbert R. Mason and RV Pelican replacement while maintaining the small boat fleet and dive operations that facilitate coastal and marine research and education activities for Louisiana and the U.S. Gulf Coast region (Leadership: Marine Superintendent)
- ▶ **GOAL 7**     **Affiliates: BTNEP and ANERR:** As state partner to federal agencies, administer and support the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (EPA) and the soon-to-be-designated Atchafalaya National Estuarine Research Reserve (NOAA) to meet their missions and goals in the three watersheds encompassing the critical region from the Atchafalaya River to the Mississippi River at the Birdfoot Delta (Leadership: Directors of BTNEP and ANERR)

## **Long-Term (10 Years) Strategic Position**

1. Through its extensive partnerships and innovative, interdisciplinary research and synthesis, LUMCON serves as a leading voice in marine and coastal sciences and their impacts on coastlines, communities, and economies within Louisiana, the U.S. Gulf Coast region, and the world.
2. LUMCON’s place-based, skills-based and inclusive educational and outreach activities ignite interest in coastal and marine sciences and position students and educators for success in the workforce and their communities.
3. Researchers from LUMCON’s member institutions collaborate regularly with a strong sense of partnership and collegiality and leverage their collective expertise and diverse backgrounds to address current and future marine and environmental challenges.
4. The coastal and marine workforce, both in affected communities and at LUMCON and its member institutions, demonstrates superior knowledge in their fields and their positions. LUMCON’s assets—including vessels, laboratories, equipment, and lodging—are state of the art.
5. LUMCON stewards a diversified and growing funding base, combining state funds, private and federal grants, donations, and earned income to address its critical work.



### **LOUISIANA UNIVERSITIES MARINE CONSORTIUM**

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