

The Working Waterfront: A Baseline GIS Inventory

In recent years, the Mobile metropolitan area has experienced a substantial increase in population. Concerns have been raised among owners of waterfront dependent industries in the area relating to the threat of residential and condominium development along the shoreline in south Mobile County. Their argument is that such developments would price industries such as seafood processors and shipbuilding operations out of the market. In addition, businesses depending on the waterfront contend that residential waterfront development would diminish public access to the water. For this project, an inventory of waterfront dependent businesses was taken in south Mobile County and the Mobile Causeway/Battleship Pkwy. The inventory included a survey and mapping analysis in a GIS. Fieldwork was conducted in order to conduct interviews with business owners and plot the coordinates of each business which were used to create building footprints. Aerial photography was used in the GIS analysis to correctly locate and digitize business footprints, industrial waterfronts, and public access points along the water. The inventory, survey, and GIS analysis were conducted in order to better understand the economic and geospatial ramifications of the waterfront dependent industries in the area and to gain knowledge concerning local opinion of waterfront development.

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Project Sources:

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