



**LOUISIANA DISASTER  
RECOVERY FOUNDATION**  
*Louisiana's Fund for Louisiana's People*

28 May 2010 – For Immediate Release

Contact: Jessica Kemp

[jkemp@louisianahelp.org](mailto:jkemp@louisianahelp.org)

225/772.0720

**FISHERS RELY ON LOCAL PHILANTHROPY TO STAY AFLOAT  
Needs are Immediate, but Compensation Still at Bay**

While BP struggles to stop the flow of oil into the Gulf of Mexico and federal, state and local government implement an evolving response, local fishermen are already feeling the abrupt loss of their livelihoods. Louisiana's independent fishermen are accustomed to living modest lives, but with no source of income and growing fears about the long-term impact, many are wondering how they will feed their families and keep the lights on.

The Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation (LDRF), along with a number of local charitable organizations, is helping to bridge the gap for independent fishers while they wait for government aid and compensation from BP. LDRF has mobilized its People First Emergency Grant Program, providing small grants ranging from \$2500 -- \$25,000 to help independent fishers and others whose livelihoods depend on the fishing and seafood industry to provide for their families' basic needs and stay current on monthly bills in the short term. Grants totaling \$117,500 to were made to 9 grantee organizations serving coastal communities impacted by the spill.

Flozell Daniels, Jr., President and CEO of LDRF, has stated, "We recognize that our neighbors are suffering now. The fishers who live in our coastal communities have endured more than their share of hardship. However, they are a resilient people who have valuable expertise about how best to recover and preserve our precious coastal resources – we must sustain them so they can return to their work and inform the recovery process. We still have a long road ahead."

LDRF initially deployed its People First grants program in response to hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008. Relying on disaster response expertise honed over the past 5 years and the close working relationships the Foundation has formed with local grassroots organizations, the People First Emergency Grants Program works to maintain human dignity amidst disaster by expediting funds to pre-approved recipients with demonstrated capacity to serve Louisiana's most vulnerable populations in a timely manner.

**The Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation (LDRF) is a private foundation established by a team of national and local experts in philanthropy and community development on Sept. 6, 2005 and the recipient of the \$24.4 million Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund. LDRF's mission is to transform the disaster caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita into an unprecedented opportunity for a new Louisiana -- providing resources for the relief, recovery and betterment of all its people by ensuring access and opportunity in rebuilding their communities and culture.**

###