Height Modernization Activities

Accurate Heights:

- Allow aircraft to land safely in low-visibility conditions.
- Alert safety planners to storm evacuation routes that are slowly sinking and susceptible to storm surges.
- Provide ships with safe under-keel and overhead clearance to avoid dangerous collisions.
- Identify safe locations in flood-prone areas to guide new construction and reconstruction projects.
- Allow efficient fertilizer and pesticide use and reduce costs to counter pollution from chemical runoff.

NOAA's National Geodetic Survey provides accurate, timely heights through technology such as Continuously Operating Reference Stations and airborne remote sensing.

Originally documented in the National Height Modernization Study Report to Congress in 1998, Height Modernization activities are progressing in California, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Wisconsin. Height Modernization is a growing partnership between the public and private sectors to ensure a safer and more prosperous America.

For more information, contact:

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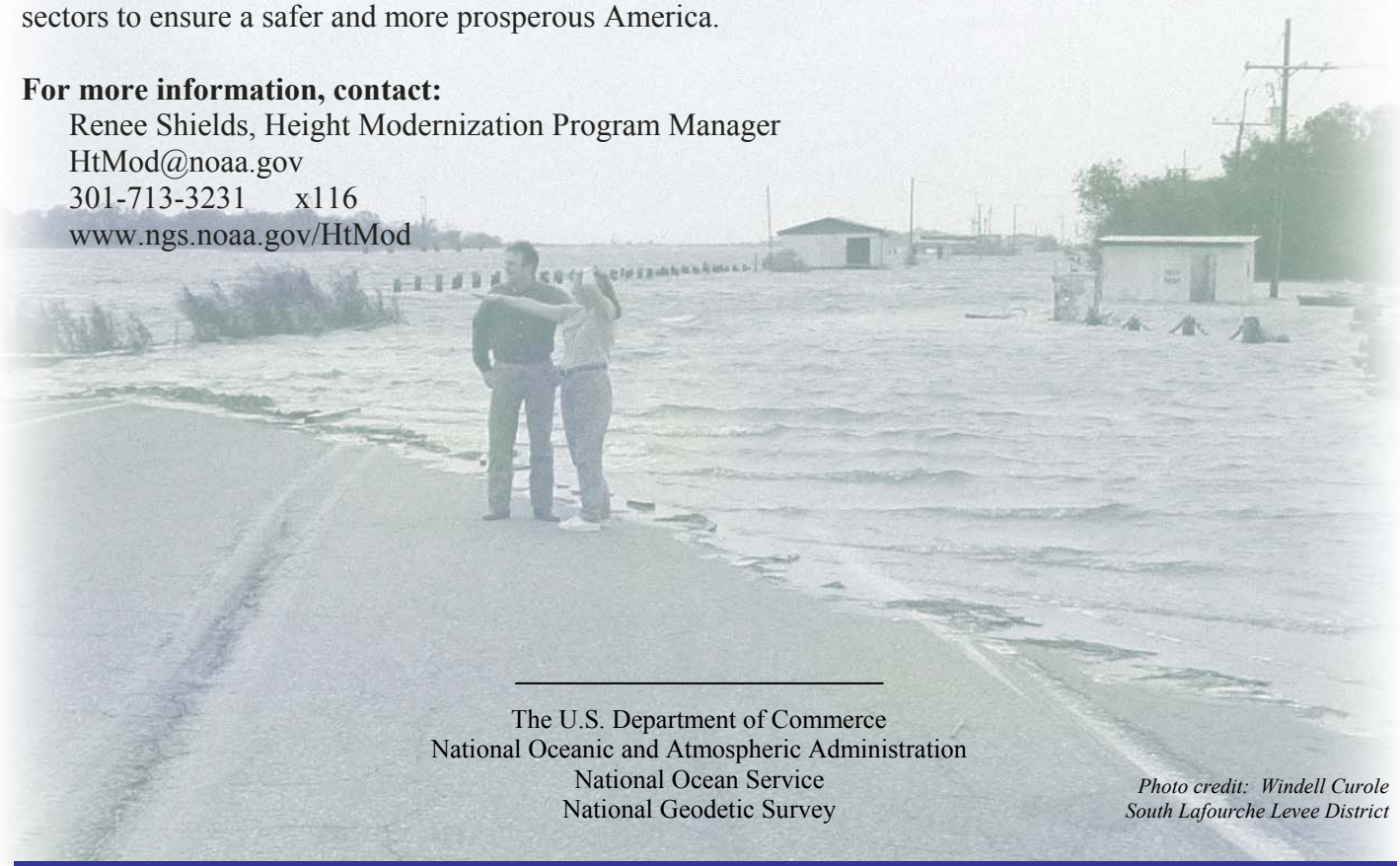

Photo credit: Windell Curole
South Lafourche Levee District

The U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
National Geodetic Survey

The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) defines and manages the National Spatial Reference System, which determines position, height, distance, gravity, and shoreline throughout the United States. Since 1807, NGS and its predecessor agencies have led the world in precise positioning and developed emerging technologies for the public. NGS provides its expertise and a wealth of free information, including direct access to its data base on the World Wide Web at: **www.ngs.noaa.gov**.