

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy
September 29, 2015

[Change in the Weather, Change in the Sea...](#)

From now on there'll be a change in GE? BP? Other corporate names that don't fit the rhyme? A [new report](#) by the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) looks at how businesses perceive and manage climate change risks. The effects of anthropogenic climate change have been evident in parts of the tropics [since the 1940s](#). Exxon [funded some of the earliest extensive studies](#) and knew of the warming effects of carbon dioxide as early 1977...and then [funded efforts](#) to cast doubt on their own conclusions. Now, severe weather, sea level rise, and especially water shortages are forcing many businesses to pay attention. C2ES reports that water dependence "can be so important that it acts as the primary lens through which a company discusses future climate risk." Two companies have even developed a [Water Risk Monetizer](#) to help businesses quantify the value of water in their operations.

Climate change is front and center these days, especially with the [Paris Climate Change Conference](#) coming up at the end of the year. President Obama's landmark [Clean Power Plan](#) seeks to address climate-warming carbon emissions, and the plan's success or failure could determine the environmental [legacy](#) of his administration. Pope Francis released an [encyclical](#) on the moral obligation to be stewards of creation and reiterated that message at the [White House](#), [Congress](#), and the [UN](#). But pontiffs and politicians might not be enough. Building the case for businesses to view global warming as a threat to their [bottom line](#) could be an essential part of addressing the problem.

Malicious but Delicious

A good way to deal with an invasive species is to introduce a predator in its midst. In south Florida, [sterilized grass carp](#) are used to curb the growth of hydrilla. In Louisiana, the [salvinia weevil](#) has had some success paring back the giant salvinia that clogs waterways. But no predator (except maybe [the Predator](#)) is as effective as humans. That's why [NOAA is inviting](#) divers to [go after lionfish](#) in normally-protected National Marine Sanctuaries and encouraging people along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts to eat the invaders. Lionfish are native to the more biodiverse Pacific, where natural predators keep the population in check. In the Atlantic and Caribbean, however, they are disrupting the food web because nothing is eating them. Once their poisonous barbs are removed, [the meat is](#)

The **Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy** is a program of the Tulane University Law School.

The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and stewardship of water.

Coming up:

[8th Annual Anba Dlo Water Symposium and Halloween Festival](#)

October 17, 2015

New Orleans Healing Center
New Orleans, LA

[State of the Coast: Call for Abstracts and Session Proposals](#)

Open until Nov. 30, 2015

[Online Here](#)

Water jobs:

[Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana](#)

Restoration Programs Director, Habitat Restoration Program Coordinator, Science/Technical Director
Baton Rouge, LA

[Virginia Energy Attorney](#)

Southern Environmental Law Center
Charlottesville, VA

[MRD & Natural Infrastructure Economist](#)

(Two Year Postdoc Position)

Environmental Defense Fund

Washington, DC, New York City, or Boston, MA

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[reportedly pretty tasty](#). Females can spawn 2 million eggs in a year, so [eat up!](#)

A River Runs Through It?

Los Angeles' beachfront is an [iconic](#) part of the city, but even native Angelinos may not realize that there is another waterfront, albeit encased in cement. The Los Angeles River is one of the few perennial streams in southern California. The river's course from the Santa Susana Mountains to its mouth near Long Beach largely determined the location of the present day city. After a series of [devastating floods in the 1930s](#), the Corps of Engineers confined the river to its current concrete channel. In the 1950s, it was common to see local teens [racing for pinks](#) in its dry bed. It is also the [last place anyone saw Sandra Dee](#). Over the last three decades, groups like [Friends of the Los Angeles River](#) campaigned to restore the river as a recreational and ecological resource. Longtime L.A. River activists were [less than pleased](#) when it was recently announced that world-renowned architect Frank Gehry was working on plans for the development they've long sought. Mr. Gehry undoubtedly raises the profile of the river revival, but many believe his [landmark design style](#) is inappropriate for a linear outdoor space, and are upset that someone so late to the conversation might get the final say. Gehry, for his part, has [pledged](#) to look at the river primarily in terms of hydrology.

Is There Life on Mars?

In 1971, noted English spaceman [David Robert Jones](#) posed a [question](#) that scientists have been pondering ever since. Yesterday, NASA announced a [major breakthrough](#) in the search for an answer: Mars has running liquid water, evidenced by dark streaks running down craters and canyons on the surface. The presence of liquid water means it is possible Mars has a habitable environment. This is good news for former astronaut Buzz Lightyear Aldrin, who has teamed up with the Florida Institute of Technology to develop a plan to [colonize Mars within 20 years](#). It remains unclear whether the water comes from atmospheric precipitation, subsurface aquifers, or both. We do know the water is likely [briny](#); pure H₂O would either freeze in low temperatures or evaporate due to low atmospheric pressure, so you won't be seeing Coca-Cola's "God of War" line of bottled water any time soon.