After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita (2005), Gustav and Ike (2008) Images—Delacroix, Louisiana
(Landsat 5 Thematic Mapper Satellite Imagery)

Hurricane Katrina (Aug. 29, 2005) caused widespread large-scale surge-induced marsh scouring, marsh removal, and marsh compression between Delacroix and the east bank of the Mississippi River. Hurricane Rita’s surge (Sept. 23, 2005) caused some reworking and redeposition of Hurricane Katrina formed wrack. The blue cast of the image is caused by surge-induced salt-burning of the marsh vegetation.

The cumulative surges of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike appear to have removed significant amounts of transitory recovery vegetation occurring within Hurricane Katrina’s surge-impact zone, rather than causing new large-scale marsh removal when compared to the Oct. 9, 2005, image. The blue cast of the image is caused by surge-induced salt-burning of the marsh vegetation.

Image Sources:
Landsat TM and ETM+ satellite imagery is provided by the USGS EROS Data Center. Bands 4 (near-IR), 5 (mid-IR), and 7 (visible red) are displayed.