



Louisiana Small Business Development Center Greater New Orleans Region

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Serving Assumption, Jefferson, LaFourche, Orleans, Plaquemine, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James,
St. John the Baptist, and Terrebonne Parishes

Samay Son, Commercial Fisherman

Buras, Louisiana



Samay Son, Commercial Fisherman

Economic Impact from LSBDC Assistance

- 2 new jobs created
- Reopened fishing business after Hurricane Katrina
- Purchased a shrimp boat to replace the one totaled in Katrina
- Sales from the shrimping business is being invested in his oyster boat

Samay Son immigrated to the United States 12 years ago in search of the American dream of unlimited opportunity and prosperity. He found work as a deckhand on a fishing boat. Ten years later with hard work and determination, Son owns two fishing boats. Although commercial fishing is a seasonal business, Son manages to work year-round because he can fish for shrimp 8 months out of the year and for oyster the rest of the time.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated the fishing industry in Buras. Son lost almost everything. His home and his shrimp boat were completely destroyed. That's when Son turned to the LSBDC-Greater New Orleans Region. Vietnamese Outreach consultant, Sandy Nguyen was able to help Son apply for loans and grants to reopen his business; something that would have been impossible for him to do on his own because of his limited English.

With assistance from LSBDC-Greater New Orleans Region, Son was approved for a \$60,000 SEEDCO loan and a \$20,000 LRA grant. Son was then able to purchase another shrimp boat to replace the one totaled in Katrina, reopened his fishing business, created 2 new jobs, and began again working toward his American dream.

LSBDC at GNOR Services Given to Client

- Helped client prepare a loan package, which secured a 60,000 SEEDCO loan
- Helped client apply for a 20,000 LRA grant



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