Clear Marais
Bank Protection (CS-22)

Project Status
Approved Date: 1992  Project Area: 4,637 acres
Approved Funds: $3.26 M  Total Est. Cost: $3.26 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 1,067 acres
Status: Completed March 1997
Project Type: Shoreline Protection
PPL #: 2

Location
The project is located north of the Gulf Intracoastal
Waterway (GIWW), approximately 10 miles northwest of
Hackberry in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. It encompasses
4,637 acres of fresh marsh and open water.

Problems
Breaches in the GIWW have led to marsh loss in the Clear
Marais area because of its increased exposure to saltwater
intrusion, boat wakes, and tidal scour. As a result, erosion of
the north bank of the GIWW threatens not only the water
management levee to its north, but also the marshes
protected by the levees.

Restoration Strategy
This project plan consisted of placing 6.7 miles of limestone
riprap shoreline protection on the north bank of the GIWW
to reduce erosion and fill the breaches. The project provides
levee protection by placing stone riprap along the waterway
and planting vegetation in the sheltered area between the
riprap and the levee.

Progress to Date
In March 1997, a 35,000-foot limestone breakwater was
completed along the GIWW's norther n bank. It was
designed to prevent the continued erosion of the
management levee and the encroachment of the GIWW into
the project area.

Shoreline gains have occurred at 24 of the 34 sampling sites
established behind the breakwater, but shoreline losses have
occurred at all of the project's unprotected reference sites.
Overall, the project has produced an average land gain of
4.85 feet per year as opposed to the loss of 15.87 feet per
year observed in the reference areas.

The construction phase of the project is complete. The
monitoring plan has been completed and monitoring
initiated. Operation and maintenance is scheduled for the
future.

This project is on Priority Project List 2.

For more project information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
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Local Sponsor:
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
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