Freshwater Bayou Wetland Protection (ME-04)

**Project Status**

- **Approved Date:** 1992
- **Project Area:** 14,381 acres
- **Approved Funds:** $6.03 M
- **Total Est. Cost:** $9.87 M
- **Net Benefit After 20 Years:** 1,593 acres
- **Status:** Completed June 1998
- **Project Type:** Hydrologic Restoration and Shoreline Protection
- **PPL #:** 2

**Location**

The project is located on the west bank of the Freshwater Bayou Canal, approximately 8 miles northeast of Pecan Island, Louisiana. It encompasses 36,928 acres of intermediate marsh and open water in Vermilion Parish.

**Problems**

- Boat wake-induced shoreline erosion, which averaged 12.5 feet per year along each bank of Freshwater Bayou Canal, has deteriorated the spoil banks along the canal, creating multiple breaches that allow tidal erosion of the organic soils in the adjacent wetlands.
- Between 1968 and 1990, the bank width of this navigation canal increased threefold (from 172 feet to 583 feet), resulting in the loss of 1,124 acres of coastal wetlands.

**Restoration Strategy**

Approximately 28,000 linear feet of freestanding, continuous rock dike were built along the west bank of Freshwater Bayou Canal. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Louisiana Department of Natural Resources worked with the landowner to develop other preservation features in the area. The landowner installed several other structures that were not funded by CWPPRA but will complement CWPPRA project features.

Project effectiveness is being determined by monitoring vegetation, water quality, and changes in vegetated and non-vegetated areas in the project area with aerial photography taken before and after construction. In addition, shoreline change is being measured by comparing pre-construction and post-construction shoreline surveys.

For more project information, please contact:

- **Federal Sponsor:** Natural Resources Conservation Service
- **Local Sponsor:** Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
  - Alexandria, LA
  - Baton Rouge, LA
- **www.LaCoast.gov**