



Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline Stabilization (ME-18)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2001 **Project Area:** 450 acres

Approved Funds: \$34 M **Total Est. Cost:** \$35 M

Net Benefit After 20 Years: 256 acres

Status: Completed

Project Type: Shoreline Protection

PPL #: 10

Location

The project is located along the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Gulf of Mexico shoreline west from Joseph's Harbor in Cameron Parish, LA.

Problems

This project was designed to address Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge gulf shoreline retreat that averages approximately 46 feet/year with a subsequent direct loss of emergent saline marsh. This is equivalent to nearly 23 acres of wetlands lost per year within the four-mile project length.

Restoration Strategy

The project constructed a shoreline protection breakwater along the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge gulf shoreline. A lightweight aggregate core rock breakwater was constructed due to soft soils in the area. The original 3-mile long project was expanded during construction to build an additional 6,000 linear feet of breakwater. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) contributed funding for the expansion. The breakwater consists of encapsulated lightweight aggregate, bedding stone, and large armor stone and has a 65- to 70-foot bottom width and a 18-foot crown width. The project is designed to reduce shoreline retreat, and promote shallowing and natural vegetative colonization of the overwash material landward of the structure. Gaps in the breakwater facilitate movement of organisms and allow sediment-laden water behind the breakwater.



Constructing shoreline protection along the gulf shoreline of Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge.

Progress to Date

The project was approved for Phase 2 construction funding in January 2016. The construction contract was awarded to LeBlanc Marine, LLC. Construction on the project began in July 2018 and was completed in May 2020. A total of 20,352 linear feet of breakwater were installed along the Gulf of Mexico shoreline of Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge. Accretion of sediments and oysters have been observed behind the structure.

This project is listed on Priority Project List 10.



Shoreline protection breakwater constructed along the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge gulf shoreline (LDWF aerial photo).

For more information, please contact:



Federal Sponsor:

National Marine Fisheries Service
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 389-0508

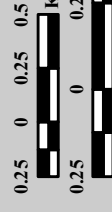
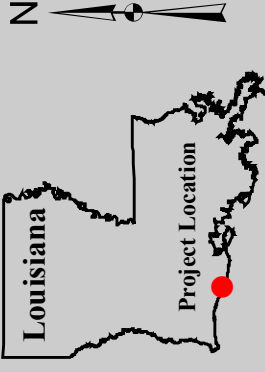


Local Sponsor:

Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-4736

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- Shoreline Protection *
- Project Boundary
- *denotes proposed features



Map Produced by:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
Wetland and Aquatic Research Center
Coastal Restoration Assessment Branch
Baton Rouge, La.

Background Imagery:
2018 DOQQ

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