Location
The project encompasses approximately 13,000 acres of intermediate marsh, brackish marsh, and open water near Lake Chapeau on Point Au Fer Island, some 30 miles south of Morgan City, Louisiana in Terrebonne Parish. It is bounded by Fourleague Bay to the north, Atchafalaya Bay to the West, Locust Bayou's network of canals to the south, and by Wildcat Bayou and a single oilfield canal to the east.

Problems
Existing canal networks that extend into the center of Point Au Fer Island have considerably altered its hydrology. Specifically, excessive tidal water exchange has increased erosion, creating a 30% loss of the island's interior marsh over the past 60-70 years.

Progress to Date
In the spring of 2000, 40,000 plugs of smooth cordgrass (Spartina alterniflora) were planted in the area where the dredged sediments had been placed. Monitoring indicates that the plants are vigorously growing and spreading. Additional monitoring of water flows and salinities is underway. This project is on Priority Project List 3.

For more project information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
National Marine Fisheries Service
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(225) 389-0508

Local Sponsor:
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