East Timbalier Island Sediment Restoration, Phase 2 (TE-30)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1994  Project Area: 9,330 acres
Approved Funds: $7.60 M  Total Est. Cost: $7.60 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 215 acres
Status: Completed Jan. 2000
Project Type: Barrier Island Restoration
PPL #: 4

Location

The project is located in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana on East Timbalier Island. The island is part of a barrier island chain that separates Terrebonne and Timbalier bays from the Gulf of Mexico. Approximately 400 acres of the island are vegetated while the remainder is composed of tidal flats and shallow, submerged aquatic habitat.

Problems

When this project was first proposed in 1994, the remnants of East Timbalier Island were expected to disintegrate within 11 years. Losing an average of 70 feet per year, the island experienced one of the highest gulf coast erosion rates in Louisiana in the last century. As a barrier island, East Timbalier not only protects Louisiana’s coast from hurricanes and storm surges but also lessens the erosive forces of high waves from the Gulf of Mexico as well.

If the island were to be lost, the marshes between Bayou Lafourche and Timbalier Bay would be susceptible to natural forces, and the infrastructure surrounding Port Fourchon would be undermined. In addition, East Timbalier Island supports an abundantly diverse and rich fishery and serves as a prime nesting habitat for many migratory waterfowl.

For more project 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

After dredged sediments were used to create dune and marsh habitats along East Timbalier Island, sand fences and vegetation were placed to stabilize the island’s gulf shorelines.

www.LaCoast.gov