For more information, please contact:

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Lafayette, LA  
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Local Sponsor:  
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority  
Baton Rouge, LA  
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Terrebonne Bay Shore Protection Demonstration (TE-45)

Project Status
Approved Date: 2001  
Project Area: N/A  
Approved Funds: $2.74 M  
Total Est. Cost: aaaTEC  
Net Benefit After 20 Years: N/A  
Status: Completed  
Project Type: Demonstration: Shoreline Protection  
PPL #: 10

Location
The project is located along the northern shore of Lake Barre in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.

Problems
Erosion of bay shore marshes results in substantial losses of saline marsh allowing higher salinities and increased wave action to intrude northward, ultimately threatening low-salinity habitats at the northern ends of the area’s interdistributary basins.

 Restoration Strategy
Maintenance of shoreline integrity along Terrebonne Bay is a regional strategy in the Coast 2050 plan. Given the great linear distances involved in implementing this strategy, techniques less costly than traditional rip-rap armoring will likely be needed to effectively address this problem. This demonstration project would seek to demonstrate the cost and effectiveness of alternative shore protection methods including artificial oyster reefs. Each protection measure would be installed near or on marsh shorelines to provide wave-protection.

Three techniques have been chosen based on anticipated effectiveness and cost (gabion mats, concrete onshore armor units, and foreshore triangle units). Three replicates of each technique will be installed in random order as per Louisiana Department of Natural Resources monitoring personnel. To better assess the effect of the oyster reef techniques, monitoring will be conducted over an 8-year period, rather than the usual 5 years.

Progress to Date
The Feasibility and Preliminary Design Report was completed in November 2002. Techniques to be tested and final site selections were made at that time and were based on the surveys, geotechnical investigations and preliminary engineering and design presented in that report. Construction approval was granted in August 2003 with a notice to proceed dated August 22, 2007 and an actual start date of September 13, 2007. Completion of this project should be mid November 2007.

This project is on Priority Project List 10.