October 2002
Cost figures as of: February 2023

# Vermilion River Cutoff Bank Protection (TV-03)

## Project Status

**Approved Date:** 1991 **Project Area:** 202 acres
**Approved Funds:** $2.02 M **Total Est. Cost:** $2.02 M
**Net Benefit After 20 Years:** 65 acres
**Status:** Completed Feb. 1996
**Project Type:** Shoreline Protection
**PPL #:** 1

## Location

The project is located along the eastern bank of the Vermilion River Cutoff Channel, approximately 3 miles southeast of Intracoastal City, Louisiana, in Vermilion Parish.

## Problems

A large section of the west bank of the Vermilion River Cutoff (VRC) has eroded because of bayside shoreline erosion in Vermilion Bay and boat wake-induced shoreline erosion within the VRC. The historical shoreline erosion rate (1955-85) along the VRC bank has been placed at 23.3 feet per year, and the shoreline has breached in several places. These breaches have exposed the eastern bank of the VRC to wave energy that threatens to breach the land bridge between the VRC and Onion Lake to the east.

## Restoration Strategy

The east bank of the VRC was stabilized by armoring the shoreline with a 6,520-foot rock breakwater to maintain the shoreline position and protect the integrity of several thousand acres of the Onion Lake wetland complex.

Pre-construction, facing east toward Onion Lake.

Post-construction, facing northeast towards Onion Lake.

## Progress to Date

Shoreline position data collected via the Global Positioning System indicate no change in shoreline position between 1995 and 1999. However, direct measurements in February 2000 indicate 2.0 feet and 5.5 feet of shoreline progradation, or seaward land building, at 2 of the 5 stations. There was no measurable change in shoreline position at the remaining 3 stations.

The project was modified by moving the dike from the west to the east bank of the VRC to better protect the wetlands. The need for the sediment retention fence on the west bank is still undetermined.

Condemnation of real estate easements was required because of unclear ownership titles, which could have significantly lengthened the project schedule.

Construction was completed in February 1996, but the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources is continuing to monitor the progress of shoreline progradation with further operation and maintenance scheduled for the future. This project is on Priority Project List 1.

*For more project information, please contact:*

US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans, LA
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CPRA

**Local Sponsor:**
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Baton Rouge, LA
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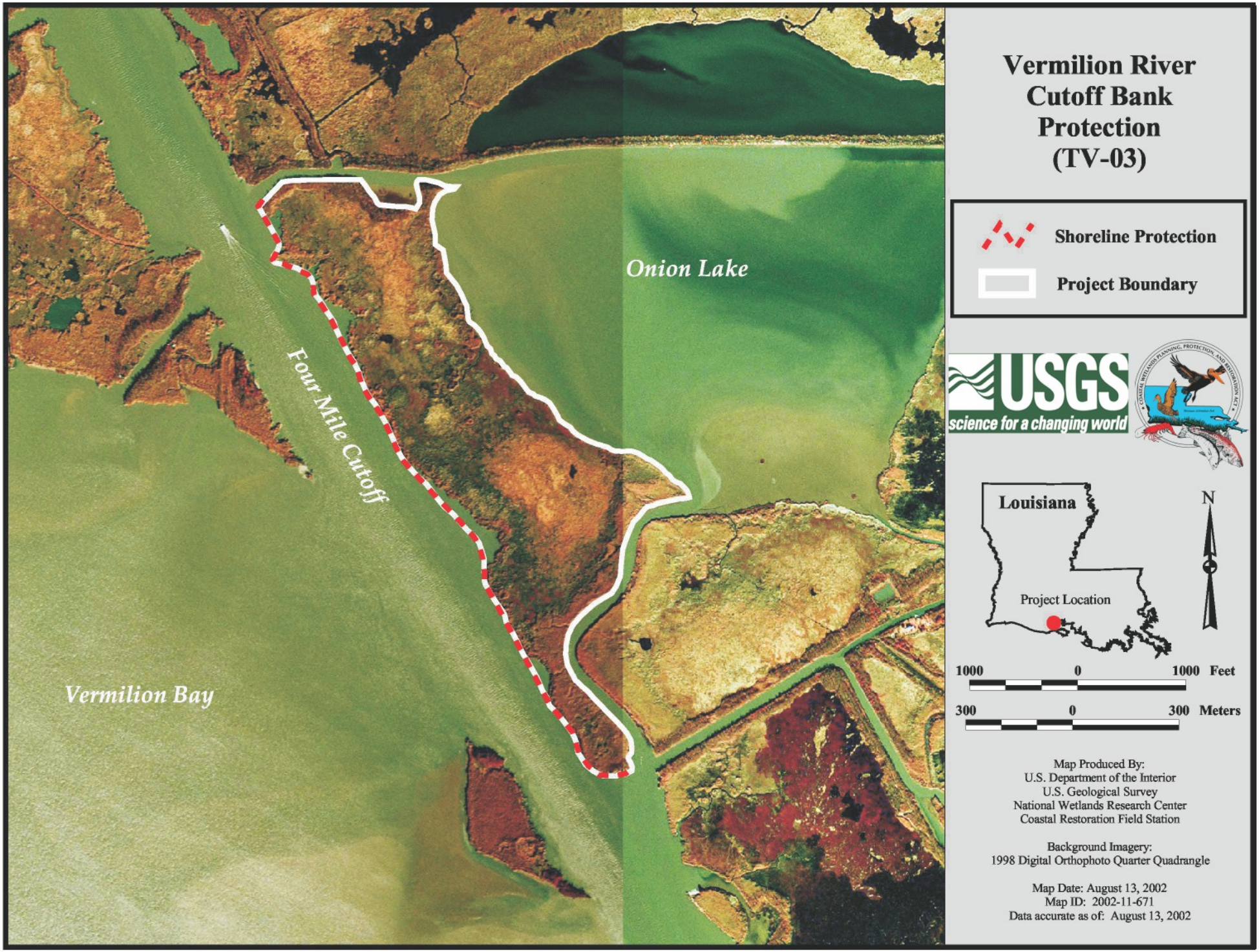


# Vermilion River Cutoff Bank Protection (TV-03)

Shoreline Protection

Project Boundary

USGS science for a changing world

Louisiana

Project Location

N

1000 0 1000 Feet

300 0 300 Meters

Map Produced By:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Field Station

Background Imagery:
1998 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

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