



## MONITORING PLAN

### PROJECT NO. ME-09 CAMERON PRAIRIE

**ORIGINAL DATE: July 11, 1994**

**REVISED DATES: July 23, 1998; August 14, 2003, December 12, 2013**

#### Preface

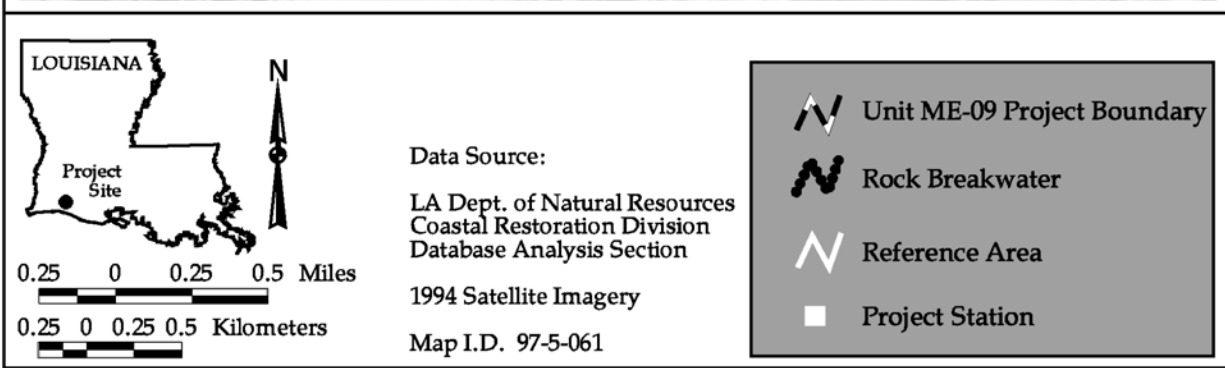
Pursuant to a CWPPRA Task Force decision on April 14, 1998, the original monitoring plan was reduced in scope due to budgetary constraints. Specifically, shoreline markers will be monitored every three years rather than annually, and one post-construction aerial photography has been dropped.

Pursuant to a CWPPRA Task Force decision on August 14, 2003 to adopt the Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS-*Wetlands*) for CWPPRA, updates were made to this Monitoring Plan to merge it with CRMS to provide more useful information for modeling efforts and future project planning while maintaining the monitoring mandates of the Breaux Act. The implementation plan included review of monitoring efforts on currently constructed projects for opportunities to 1) determine if current monitoring stations could be replaced by CRMS stations, 2) determine if monitoring could be reduced to evaluate only the primary objectives of each project and 3) determine whether monitoring should be reduced or stopped because project success had been demonstrated or unresolved issues compromised our ability to actually evaluate project effectiveness. As a result of a joint meeting with DNR, USGS, and the federal sponsor, the recommendations for this Monitoring Plan were to eliminate the 2009 aerial photography and discontinue the shoreline monitoring after 2003. Previous monitoring data indicated that the shoreline was stabilized through 1997, and the 2003 data will determine whether this shoreline remains stable. CRMS satellite imagery will be subset for this project area to track changes in land and water areas over time. These recommendations have been incorporated into the Monitoring Elements section.

#### Project Description

The Cameron Prairie Refuge project includes a 247 ac (100 ha) area located within 1,600 ac (648 ha) of wetlands in the Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, approximately 25 mi (40 km) southeast of Lake Charles in north central Cameron Parish (figure 1). The project area borders the north bank of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW). Since the construction of the GIWW (between 1935 and 1940) wave erosion on the north bank of the channel has accelerated significantly due to increased utilization by navigational vessels. This energy has enabled high river stages from the Mermentau Basin to overtop and erode the existing spoil bank, thus leaving exposed a highly organic freshwater marsh vulnerable to erosion. The construction of a 2 mi (3.2 km) rock breakwater on the north bank of the channel will prevent the erosion of these organic soils and prevent further breaching along the existing spoil bank.

The Cameron Prairie project is considered a "shoreline protection" project within the CWPPRA classification. Additional descriptive information regarding the Cameron Prairie project can be found in documents prepared by the USFWS for CWPPRA, including a project information sheet (Yakupzack, 1991).



**Figure 1.** Cameron Prairie Refuge Protection (ME-09) project boundaries and features.

A similar project that employs the use of a rock breakwater is located at Blind Lake. This project is on the GIWW approximately 5 mi (8 km) west of the Cameron Prairie Project and has been subjected to the same high energy wave erosion as the proposed project. The Blind Lake Project has met its goals and objectives of preventing further erosion of existing spoil bank, and is described in the Intracoastal Waterway Bank Stabilization and Cutgrass Planting Project ( Holbrook 1996).

### Project Objectives

1. Protect the emergent wetlands of the Cameron Prairie NWR adjacent to the GIWW and prevent the loss of approximately 247 ac (100 ha) of marsh.
2. Prevent the widening of the GIWW into the NWR.

### Specific Goals

The following goals will contribute to the evaluation of the above objectives:

1. Decrease the rate of spoil bank erosion along the south boundary of the 247 ac (100 ha) area adjacent to the GIWW within the Cameron Prairie NWR management unit.
2. Restore and maintain approximately 2 mi (3.2 km) of levee along the north bank of the GIWW by constructing a rock dike along the refuge/GIWW boundary.

### Monitoring Elements

The following monitoring elements will provide the information necessary to evaluate the specific goals listed above:

1. **Aerial Photography** To document vegetated and non-vegetated areas, color infrared aerial photography (1:12,000 scale with ground controls) will be obtained. The photography will be georectified by National Wetland Research Center (NWRC) personnel using standard operating procedures described in Steyer et al, (1995), but detailed photointerpretation, mapping and GIS is not currently planned. The photography will be obtained prior to construction in 1993 and in post-construction year 1996.
2. **Shoreline Change** To document shoreline movement, shoreline markers will be placed at 30 points along the vegetated marsh edge adjacent to the rock breakwater, the western refuge boundary, and a reference located one mi (1.6 km) east of the proposed breakwater at a maximum interval of 500 ft (152 m). Position of the shoreline relative to the shoreline markers and the rock break water will be documented initially by a



available in 1995, 1996 and 1997, and a project-specific comprehensive report is available from August 2001. Periodic comprehensive reports on coastal restoration efforts in the Mermentau hydrologic basin will describe the status and effectiveness of the project as well as cumulative effects of restoration projects in the basin.

5. USFW refuge personnel will assist DNR with monitoring responsibilities.
6. Monitoring of the rock breakwater will be conducted to observe settlement and slumping in order to determine maintenance requirements.
7. Erosion rates have been estimated by Cameron Prairie Refuge personnel to be 2.5 feet/year.
8. References:

Holbrook, S. 1996. Blind Lake Shoreline Stabilization Progress Report No. 1. Baton Rouge: Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Restoration Division.

Steyer, G. D., R. C. Raynie, D. L. Steller, D. Fuller and E. Swenson 1995. Quality management plan for Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act monitoring program. Open-file series no. 95-01. Baton Rouge: Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Restoration Division.

Yakupzack, P. 1991. Proposed project information sheet. Cameron Prairie NWR Erosion Protection, Gibbstown, Louisiana: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cameron Prairie NWR. 7 pp.