



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

TEXAS

Oyster Lake Shoreline Protection and Restoration

This project will protect 4,700 feet of fragile shoreline and critical coastal marsh habitat in West Galveston Bay. It is estimated that since 1944, nearly a 1,000 feet of shoreline between the Oyster Lake and West Bay has been lost. The persistent erosion has placed seagrass bed and critical coastal marsh in imminent threat of breach and conversion of Oyster Lake to open bay water. The installation of hard structure breakwaters will reduce wave energy affecting the shoreline, impede the pending breach between the lake and the bay, and allow sediment to accrete behind the breakwaters to facilitate the restoration of fringe marsh habitat.

Overall, applying a structural approach to protect this vulnerable shoreline will protect important coastal and marine habitat in West Galveston Bay. Additionally, the project will protect the calm waters of Oyster Lake within the 44,000 acre Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge Area, which provide essential habitat for sea grass and oyster beds and that are threatened by the potential breach. The Galveston Bay system has lost over 35,000 acres of intertidal wetlands since the 1950s, all critical habitat and feeding grounds for dozens of species of birds, and estuarine-dependent species including shrimp, red drum, and blue crab.



Credit | Galveston Bay Foundation



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This project aims to protect and restore coastal wetlands within Oyster Lake and West Bay by reducing wave energies and restoring marsh.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:
Galveston Bay Foundation

AWARD AMOUNT:
\$1,200,000

PARTNERS:
USFWS, NOAA, Texas General Land Office, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, CCA Texas, Restore America's Estuaries

LOCATION:
West Galveston Bay

AWARD DATE:
November 2014

STATUS:
Active

PROGRESS UPDATE:
Project is preparing for closure.



The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF), administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about GEBF and view a comprehensive project map go to www.nfwf.org/Gulf