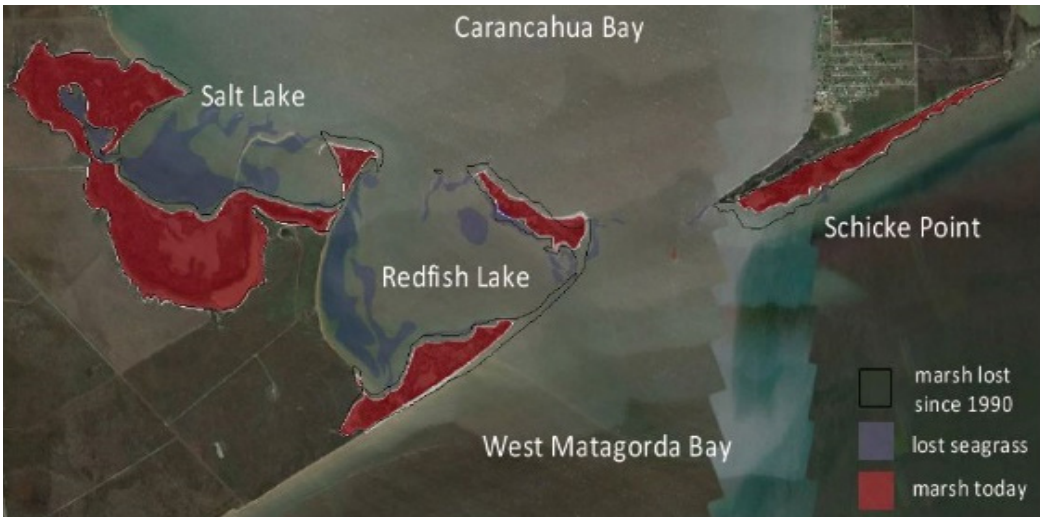
NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

TEXAS

Carancahua Bay Habitat Preservation and Enhancement- Phase I

This project is Phase I of a plan that will restore and protect 2 miles of coastal shoreline and over 1,000 acres of essential coastal habitat in Carancahua Bay, located on the northern side of Matagorda Bay along the central Texas coast. Specifically, funds allowed for the completion of pre-construction data collection, wave and current analysis, biological assessment, engineering design, and environmental permitting to prepare for the future construction of living shorelines along Salt Lake and Redfish Lake, near the mouth of Carancahua Bay. The mouth of the bay has more than doubled in size over the last 20 years, critical habitat has been lost due to wave erosion, and it will soon cease to exist as a distinct circulatory unit from Matagorda Bay. As the mouth widens, the entire bay is increasingly exposed to wave erosion causing altered hydrodynamic, salinity, and biological regimes. Its unique role as a nursery and refuge, off-limits to commercial oystering, fishing and shrimping, was at great risk.



Lost seagrass, highlighted above in purple, is a result of the degrading conditions of Carancahua Bay.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:
Texas General Land Office

FINAL AWARD AMOUNT:
$389,070

PARTNERS:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Texas A&M University

LOCATION:
Calhoun County

AWARD DATE:
November 2017

STATUS:
Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE:
Project closed in August of 2026.



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**