

# NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

## CASE FILE: Ocean Energy, Inc.—Louisiana

*September 22, 2002, North*

*Pass, Louisiana*—Ocean Energy, Inc. experienced an oil leak into a containment area while an above ground storage tank was being filled, resulting in the discharge of about 800 barrels (33,600 gallons) of crude oil. Approximately 300 barrels (12,600 gallons) escaped the containment area and flowed into the surrounding water injuring approximately 120 acres of marsh habitat and shoreline. Based on observations and information collected immediately following the incident, birds, fish, and their habitat may have been exposed to crude oil.

### Trustees

The federal, state, and tribal agencies responsible for the natural resources impacted by this oil spill are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the State of Louisiana.



*300 barrels of crude oil escaped the containment area and flowed into surrounding marsh in North Pass, LA.*



*Ocean Energy, Inc. restoration site.*

### Settlement

The trustees worked cooperatively with the responsible party in developing the damage assessment, restoration plan, and environmental assessment. Settlement was reached May 3, 2006.

### Restoration

Following a public comment period, the trustees selected a crevasse splay marsh for restoration implementation. This project, which was implemented in August 2006, entailed cutting a channel in the right descending bank of Octave Pass to foster the natural development of freshwater marsh. The project is expected to naturally create more than 10 acres of marsh in Plaquemines Parish, LA.

Restoration is complete and the project will be monitored through 2011 to determine success.



[www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov)

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