



Texas Restoration Area

Oyster Restoration

November 2022



Photo courtesy of Woody Woodrow

ABOUT OYSTER RESTORATION

The *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill severely impacted subtidal and nearshore oyster populations, compromising the sustainability of oyster reef habitat in the Gulf of Mexico bay systems. These projects aim to restore oyster abundance and spawning stock, restore resilience to oyster populations, and restore the diversity of ecological function of oyster reefs such as estuarine-dependent fish species, vegetated shoreline and marsh habitats, and nearshore benthic communities.

MORE INFORMATION IS
AVAILABLE ONLINE



[gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/
restoration-areas/texas](https://gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/texas)





Oyster Restoration Projects

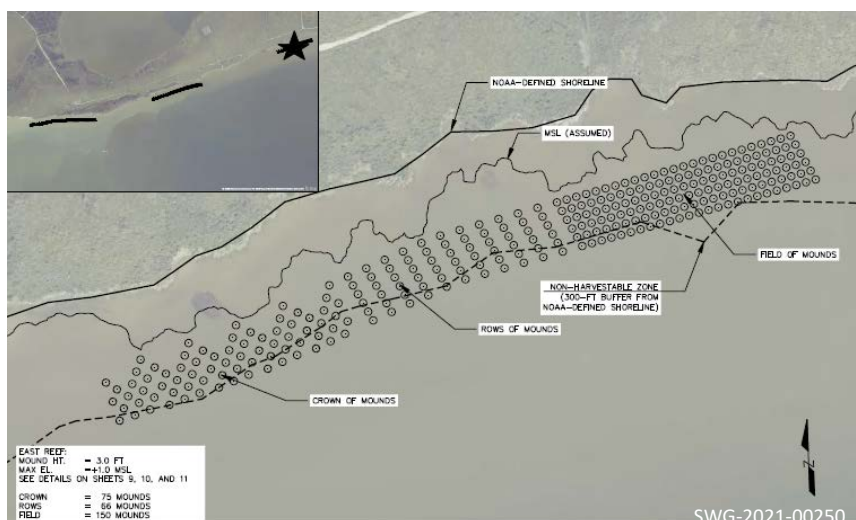
Project Name	Project Budget	Status
Landscape Scale Oyster Restoration in Galveston Bay	\$9.5 M	In Progress
Oyster Restoration Engineering	\$309 k	In Progress



Photo courtesy of TGLO

Oysters are an ecologically important species in Texas bays. Oysters and the reefs they create provide ecosystem services that include water filtration, enhanced nutrient cycling, shoreline stabilization, habitat for reef organisms, and nursery and foraging habitat for recreationally and commercially important fish and crustacean species.

Texas projects consider the integrative ecological factors related to oysters and oyster reefs, with stakeholders and restoration experts consulting to ensure that projects achieve desired goals.



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The Oyster Restoration Engineering project developed a GIS-based habitat suitability algorithm to identify and prioritize oyster reef restoration sites. It also analyzed alternatives for rehabilitating subtidal oyster reefs buried by sediment and building intertidal oyster reefs within the Trinity, Upper Galveston, and East Bays. Two sites were selected from the locations for the creation and restoration of oyster reefs.

The project concluded with the design, permits, and leasing for a 1.422-acre subtidal and 5.99-acre nearshore oyster reef in East Bay. These reefs will help restore buried oyster reef, improve oyster colonization through the bay system, decrease shoreline erosion, increase habitat diversity, and benefit nearby public and private oyster reefs.

