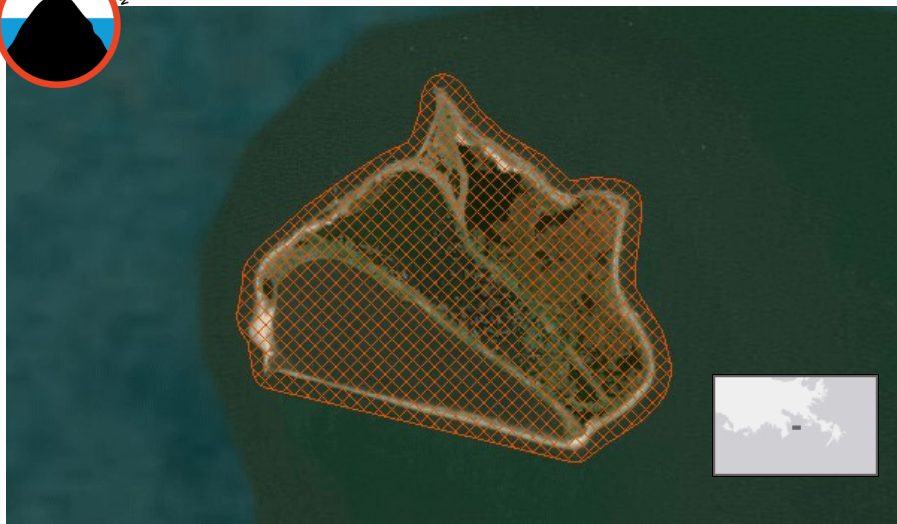


Queen Bess Island Restoration



Location

This project is located in Jefferson Parish approximately 2.5 miles northeast of Grand Isle.

Project Overview

This project, developed in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, is designed to restore suitable colonial waterbird nesting and brood-rearing bird habitat on the island through the placement of dredged material, vegetative plantings, and limestone rip rap and aggregate. The project calls for the enhancement of the existing rock ring, the strategic placement of bird ramps around the island, and the installation of breakwaters. These project features are intended to protect the island and enhance its nesting and brooding habitat.

Issues Addressed

Observations from 2019 indicate that the number of Brown Pelican colonies in Louisiana may have decreased by more than 50% since 2010. Barataria Bay is home to a limited number of bird rookeries. Queen Bess Island is one of the largest and most productive rookeries in Louisiana for a number of colonial nesting bird species, including Brown Pelicans. Natural and manmade forces, including the *Deepwater Horizon (DWH)* oil spill, have contributed to the deterioration of this rookery.



Project Information

Project Type(s):

Barrier Island/Headland Restoration

Project ID:

BA-0202

Basins:

Barataria

Funding Program(s):

NRDA

Project Phase:

Engineering and Design

Parish(es):

Jefferson

Estimated Cost:

\$18.7 million

Project Benefits



Restoration:

- 37 acres benefitted



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Project Benefits

This project is intended to restore and protect bird habitat and populations that were injured by the *DWH* oil spill. Accordingly, the project is designed to create almost 30 acres of Brown Pelican habitat and seven acres of tern and skimmer habitat.

Project Images

The project map below shows the three designed fill cells. In yellow are the bird ramps that provide access to shallow waters, in the purple are breakwaters designed to protect the tidal exchange point in the north and provide calm waters for swimming in the south, and in blue is the rock containment dike meant to contain fill material and further protect the nesting grounds. The berm, shown in orange, adds extra strength to the rock dike at points of potential vulnerability. The limestone covering the sand fill in Cell 3 prevents vegetation growth, addressing an important nesting preference for terns and skimmers. The rest of the island is designed for the nesting preferences of other colonial waterbirds, like Brown Pelicans, herons, and egrets.



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