Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion

Location

The Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion project is located in St. Charles Parish on the west bank of the Mississippi River, approximately 15 miles upstream of New Orleans.

Project Overview

This project was built to reduce saltwater intrusion in the Barataria Basin by introducing freshwater from the Mississippi River. The structure consists of four 14 foot by 14 foot box culverts, with a maximum discharge capacity of 10,650 cubic feet per second (cfs). River water is diverted through a 2.2 mile channel into the 9,311 acre ponding area. Implementation of this project in 2009 established more favorable consistent conditions in the basin, enhanced vegetative growth for a healthier ecosystem and increased commercial and recreational fish and wildlife productivity. The freshwater and associated nutrients and sediment help preserve approximately 33,000 acres of marsh, and nourish approximately 777,000 acres.

Issues Addressed

Deterioration of the marshes surrounding New Orleans is caused by several factors including subsidence, erosion and saltwater intrusion. Introduction of fresh water, nutrients and sediments from the Mississippi River via the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion structure will serve to reduce this land-loss and ecosystem degeneration trend in the Barataria Basin.

Project Information

Project Type(s):

Hydrologic Restoration

Project ID:

BA-0001

Basin:

Barataria

Funding Program:

WRDA

Project Phase:

Completed

Parish(es):

Jefferson, Lafourche, Plaquemines, St. Charles

Estimated Cost:

$120 million

Project Benefits

Restoration:

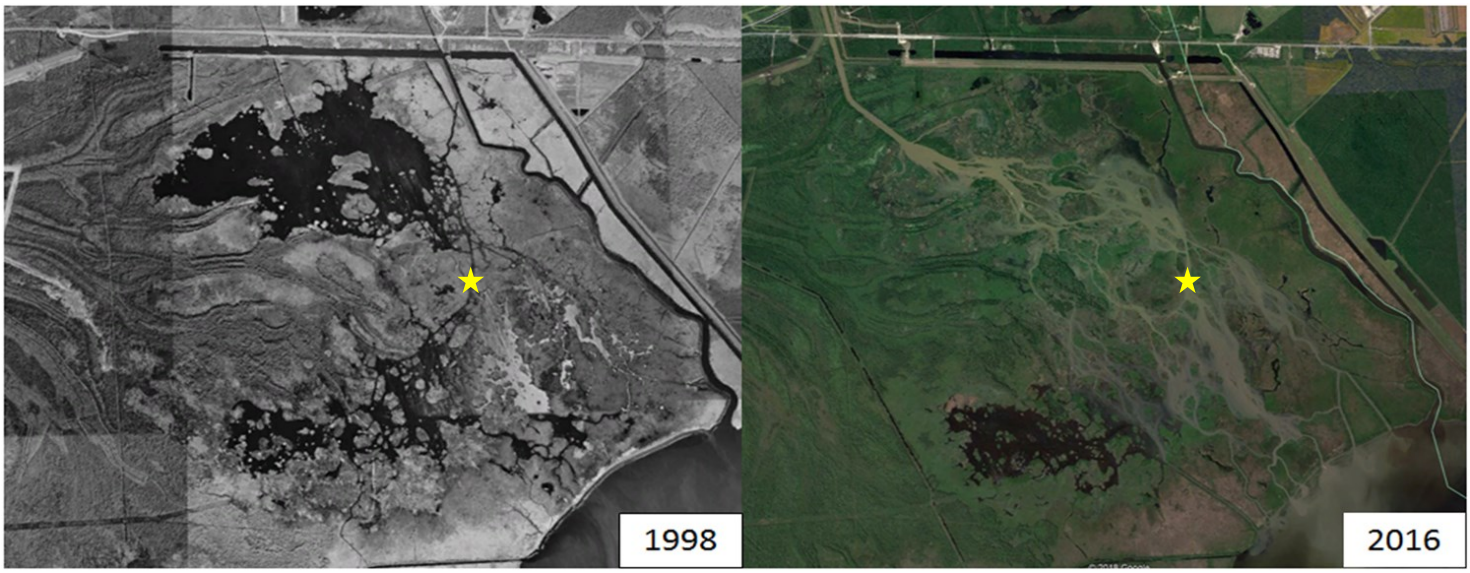
33,000 Acres of Marsh Preserved
777,000 Acres of Marsh Nourished

coastal.la.gov

Project Benefits

The project diverts nutrient and sediment-rich freshwater from the Mississippi River into the Barataria Basin, and combats land loss by reducing saltwater intrusion and establishing more desirable brackish conditions in the outfall area. Protecting existing marsh in this area while growing new land through sediment deposition creates a land buffer, which helps defend the area from storm surge.

Project Photographs



Top: 1998 (Pre-construction) image of the 9,311 acre ponding area, and a 2016 image of the same area following construction and operations. CRMS 3169 location denoted with a yellow star.
Bottom: Coastwide Reference Monitoring System site 3169 (denoted by star in top photos) at time of installation (2008) and approximately 9 years later in 2017

CONNECT WITH US!

SUBSCRIBE

@LouisianaCPRA