



COASTAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024

Texas Sites and Coastal Sights

► Hurricane Preparedness: Essential Steps to Protect Your Home and Family

By: Joseph Walter, Texas General Land Office

Every year, natural disasters wreak havoc on homes and families, but with careful preparation, you can mitigate risks and safeguard what matters most. As hurricane season approaches, the GLO urges residents to take proactive steps to ensure their safety and security.

Here are five crucial ways to prepare for potential flooding and hurricanes:

1. Protect Your Personal Documents and Special Items

Secure critical documents such as financial records, medical documents, and legal papers in a waterproof container. Make electronic copies and store them securely. Create a video inventory of your belongings to facilitate insurance claims in the event of damage or loss.

2. Build Your Disaster Evacuation Kit

Assemble an emergency kit for your household, including essential supplies like medical necessities, tools, non-perishable food, water, and supplies for pets. Ensure your family evacuation plan includes arrangements for children, the elderly, individuals with special needs, and pets.

3. Buy Flood Insurance

Many homeowner insurance policies do not cover flood damage, so it's crucial to invest in flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to protect your property. Maintain flood insurance if your home is located in

a floodplain, as required for eligibility for future government assistance programs.

4. Flood Proof Your Home

Take measures to minimize flood damage by shutting off main circuit breakers, keeping gutters and drains clear, installing water alarms and sump pumps, and elevating vulnerable systems and appliances. Stockpile emergency materials like plywood, plastic sheeting, and sandbags, and consider elevating your home in flood-prone areas.

5. Develop a Family Evacuation Plan

Know your flood risk and plan evacuation routes and emergency shelters accordingly. Pack a "go bag" with essential items for each family member and communicate your plans with friends or family outside the affected area. Additionally, safeguard your home by reinforcing doors and windows, securing loose items in your yard, and inspecting your roof for damage or loose shingles.

Remember, preparation is key to minimizing the impact of hurricanes and flooding on your home and family. Stay informed, stay vigilant, and take action now to protect what matters most.

► For more information and resources on hurricane preparedness, visit the Texas GLO [website](#) and follow us on social media (Twitter or X, Instagram, and Facebook) for updates and tips to stay safe this hurricane season.



Texas Beach Watch Field Technician Bert Presas. Bert is responsible for collecting and analyzing all water samples from South Padre Island and Boca Chica for the Texas Beach Watch program at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Coastal Studies Lab.

Texas Beach Watch Box

► It's Beach Season!

By: Lucy Flores, Texas General Land Office

As summer arrives, beach enthusiasts from Texas and beyond head to the Texas coast for summer vacation. Amidst the sun, sand, and surf, the GLO's Texas Beach Watch program plays a crucial role in monitoring water quality at 172 sites along the Texas Coast.

By monitoring the levels of Enterococcus bacteria, which can indicate the presence of harmful pathogens, the program provides valuable data that helps to protect the public

from potential health risks associated with waterborne contaminants. Commonly found in animals with hair, fur, or feathers Enterococcus is a natural part of coastal ecosystems but can also be correlated with stormwater runoff.

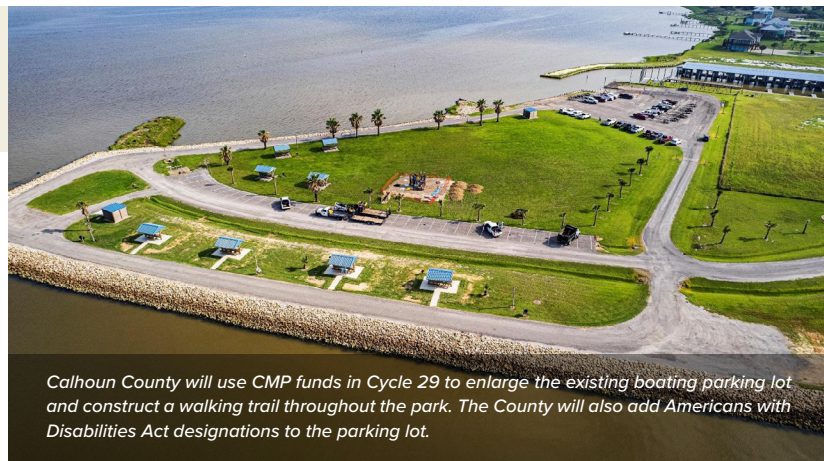
When bacteria levels in the water suggest an increased risk of illness, the GLO issues a water quality advisory. The proactive approach of issuing advisories rather than closing beaches allows for informed decision-making by visitors. The GLO encourages the public to visit www.TexasBeachWatch.com for the latest water quality updates at your favorite beach.

In 2023, Texas Beach Watch collected 7,267 samples. There were 238 beach advisories, representing 3.2% of all samples, posted for the entire Texas coast last year. These numbers highlight the effectiveness of the program, with a relatively low percentage of advisories issued. This suggests that the majority of the time, the coastal waters are clean and safe for the public. This vigilant monitoring is a testament to the commitment of the Texas Beach Watch program to inform the public on the water quality of the state's cherished coastal waters.

Texas Beach Watch encourages all beachgoers to respect our beautiful beaches by picking up after pets, throwing trash into receptacles, and doing your part to keep Texas coasts clean.

Congratulations to our CMP Cycle 29 Award Recipients!

- Addressing NPS Pollution through the Galveston Bay Coalition of Watersheds: *Texas A&M University - AgriLife Extension Service*
- Assessment of Beneficial Uses Restoration as Wetland Bird Habitat: *Texas A&M University – Galveston*
- Developing a Framework for Modeling Texas Coast Waves and Validation: *Texas A&M University - Engineering Experiment Station*
- OSSF Identification using Remote Sensing and GIS: *Texas A&M AgriLife Research*
- Texas High School Coastal Monitoring Program: *University of Texas at Austin*
- Water Quality and Nutrient Dynamics Associated with Freshwater Delivery: *Texas Water Trade*



Calhoun County will use CMP funds in Cycle 29 to enlarge the existing boating parking lot and construct a walking trail throughout the park. The County will also add Americans with Disabilities Act designations to the parking lot.

- ADA Beach Access Amenity Engineering: *City of South Padre Island*
- Chester Island Bird Habitat Management and Protection: *Audubon Texas*
- New Amenities at Bill Sanders County Park: *Calhoun County*
- Surfside Jetty County Park Waterfront Revitalization: *Brazoria County*



Sand art completed by Joaquin Cortez. Joaquin has participated in sand artist competitions all across the country. Check out his website for more amazing sand art! <https://eventsculptures.com/>

The Deeper Dive

► Coastal Roundup 2024: Reuniting Coastal Organizations Across Texas

By: Cara Stewart, Texas General Land Office

The 2024 Coastal Roundup was held on June 1st at Water's Edge Park in Corpus Christi, Texas. The event was a free, one-day education and outreach event geared toward the public that showcased how the GLO, other state and federal agencies, and coastal and environmental organizations work to protect and preserve the ecological integrity of the Texas coast. The overall goal of the event was to raise awareness of coastal issues through outreach and allow the public to get a better understanding of the treasures of the Texas coast and the efforts being made to protect these coastal natural resources.

Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham kicked off the festivities with opening remarks and visited with numerous organizations. Approximately 1,500 people attended and got to interact with the education and outreach materials over 50 different coastal and wildlife organizations had on site. The family friendly event had plenty of fun exhibits for all ages to enjoy. Some of these exhibits included a touch tank from Texas Parks and Wildlife, a tortoise pen from the Texas Sealife Center, a robot dog from the Conrad Blucher Institute, and an owl from the Texas State Aquarium Wildlife and Rescue, just to name a few. The Roundup also included

face painting, a fish printing station, a live band, and sand sculpture art.

Thank you to everyone who attended and thank you to all those who participated in making this event a success! If you missed out on this exciting event, the GLO is currently planning the 2025 Coastal Roundup, which will be on April 26th at Isla Blanca Park on South Padre Island!

► For more information, or if your organization would like to participate, please contact Cara Stewart (cara.stewart@glo.texas.gov).



The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department brought a 20-foot touch tank for visitors at the Coastal Roundup to experience the sensations of touching crabs, snails, and anemones.



An owl attending the 2024 Coastal Round Up. The Texas State Aquarium Wildlife Rescue helps a number of marine and wildlife animals such as raptors, manatees, and sea turtles. For more information, visit texasstateaquarium.org.



Federal Activities in Coastal Waters

► Texas Deepwater Port News

By: Leslie Koza, Texas General Land Office

Texas has three pending (and one issued) deepwater port (DWP) license applications. All DWP applications are required to be consistent with the Texas Coastal Management Program and the Texas Governor must approve or deny each Texas DWP application. The status for each DWP application is listed below.

SPOT (Sea Port Oil Terminal, LLC):

SPOT has applied to own, construct, and operate a DWP to export domestically produced crude oil approximately 27.2 to 30.8 nautical miles off the coast of Freeport. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) issued a conditional concurrence June 21, 2021. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was published August 23, 2022. On August 31, 2022, Governor Abbott issued his approval for the issuance of the deepwater port license. On November 21, 2022, the Maritime Administrator issued the SPOT Record of Decision, with conditions. The Maritime Administrator signed the SPOT Terminal Services LLC Deepwater Port License April 8, 2024.

GulfLink (Texas GulfLink, LLC):

GulfLink has applied to own, construct, and operate a DWP to export domestically produced crude oil approximately 28.3 nautical miles off the coast of Brazoria County. The GLO's conditional concurrence was issued April 13, 2023. The FEIS has been finalized but has yet to be published.

Bluewater (Bluewater Texas Terminals, LLC):

Bluewater has applied to own, construct, and operate a DWP to export domestically produced crude oil approximately 15 nautical miles off the coast of San Patricio County. The Draft EIS (DEIS) was published for public notice and comment October 28, 2021, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers public notice was published November 18, 2021. A supplemental DEIS for Interagency review is expected around August 2024.

Blue Marlin Onshore Port, LLC:

Blue Marlin Onshore Port (BMOP) has applied to develop the BMOP Project in the Gulf of Mexico to provide crude oil transportation and loading services for crude oil produced in the continental United States. The project extends from Nederland, Texas to Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The application was deemed administratively complete on October 22, 2020, and two public scoping meetings were held on December 2, 2020, and December 3, 2020, for the communities of Cameron Parish, Louisiana and Jefferson County and Orange County, Texas.

Preliminary DEIS for interagency review is expected around mid-August 2024.

► Additional information can be found at the [regulation's website](#)

► More information on the applications can be found [here](#) using the docket number in the table below.

DWP Applicant	Docket No MARAD-	Date Application Submitted to MARAD
SPOT (Sea Port Oil Terminal)	2019-0011	1/31/2019
GulfLink (Texas GulfLink, LLC)	2019-0093	5/30/2019
Bluewater (Bluewater Texas Terminal, LLC)	2019-0094	5/30/2019
BMOP (Blue Marlin Offshore Port, LLC)	2020-0127	10/1/2020

Living Shoreline Lowdown

▶ Living Shorelines: Past to Present

By: Kristin Hames, Texas General Land Office

Approximately 357,000 linear feet of Texas bay coastline is protected by living shorelines. The early records of living shoreline efforts were smooth cordgrass plantings placed by local Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the 1980s and 1990s to buffer shorelines from erosion. To date, 120 living shoreline projects have been constructed along the Texas coast in urban neighborhoods, rural coastlines, bird rookery islands, and as part of large-scale habitat restoration initiatives. Information on these projects is available on the [GLO living shorelines website](#).

Eighty-four of the 120 living shorelines projects incorporate a hard structural component in addition to natural materials. Seventy-four sites are located north of the Matagorda-Brazoria county border, with the remainder concentrated in Matagorda, Calhoun, Aransas, and Nueces counties. The most common species planted for projects is smooth cordgrass, though projects in the Trinity Bay area have incorporated rushes, arrowhead, and other plants with a freshwater tolerance.

As oyster conservation efforts ramp up in Texas, there is increased interest in integrating oyster friendly practices into living shoreline design. Specifically, oyster recruitment structures and reef building are being incorporated into living shoreline projects. There are 22 currently established living shorelines designed for oyster reef growth and several other projects are in the design or construction phase. One ongoing project is the community oyster reef restoration at Goose Island State Park. Volunteers place oyster shell bags in a growing reef adjacent to the shoreline. The oyster shells are obtained through the Sink Your Shucks oyster recycling program founded by Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. At their last community event in May, 250 volunteers participated in the reef building. The program has constructed over 45 acres of reef, including portions that function as living shorelines to protect vulnerable coastline.

Living shorelines design and implementation will continue to evolve with best restoration practices and methodology. The changing coastline brings challenges including erosion, storm surge and subsidence. The ecosystem is in flux with mangrove expansion into salt marsh habitat, variable water flow regimes, and weather events. Living shorelines provide a tool for environmental managers to preserve and protect coastal areas while maintaining Texas' natural beauty and ecosystem functions.



Oyster reef breakwater at Galveston Bay Foundation Sweetwater Preserve property. As oyster conservation efforts ramp up in Texas, there is increased interest in integrating oyster friendly practices into living shoreline design. Photo credit: Galveston Bay Foundation



Rushes thriving at the Job Beason Park living shoreline in Chambers County. Living shorelines provide a tool for environmental managers to preserve and protect coastal areas while maintaining Texas' natural beauty and ecosystem functions.

Beach Dune Digest

► Beach and Dune Management Resources

By Mei Ling Valdes, Texas General Land Office

The GLO's Beach Access & Dune Protection Program (Beach Dune team) is responsible for balancing the protection of critical sand dunes with the preservation of access to and use of public Gulf-facing beaches along the Texas coast. To carry out this responsibility, one of the goals of the Beach Dune team is to develop technical and educational documents to aid local governments and beachfront property owners in promoting best management practices.

The Beach Dune team recently released updates to the Texas Beach Accessibility Guide and the Dune Protection and Improvement Manual for the Texas Gulf Coast. The Texas Beach Accessibility Guide contains information on adopting and implementing beach accessibility measures for persons with disabilities. The guide was revised to include more specific requirements and updates to the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and Texas Accessibility Standards. The Dune Protection and Improvement Manual provides vital information on dune restoration and protection, including helpful definitions, concise standards, and photographic examples. The Beach Dune team added step-by-step restoration instructions, planting recommendations, and



The Texas Beach Accessibility Guide contains guidance for adopting and implementing beach accessibility measures for persons with disabilities and has been revised to include more specific requirements and updates to ADA and Texas Accessibility Standards.



Two pelicans coloring sheet featured in Beach Dune's educational family fun documents. These dune themed coloring sheets were produced for the 2024 Coastal Roundup and are available upon request.

seasonal guidelines. Both the Texas Beach Accessibility Guide and the Dune Protection and Improvement Manual are available in Spanish, and can be downloaded from the [GLO's website](#)

In addition to these manuals, the Beach Dune team has recently developed one-page educational documents to highlight special topics, such as the mitigation sequence and the prohibition on walking and driving on dunes. The Beach Dune team also created beach dune themed coloring sheets, which were produced for the 2024 Coastal Roundup and are available upon request. The Beach Dune team continues to develop additional technical and educational materials related to the beach dune system to better assist local governments and property owners. Currently, the team is working on technical bulletins to provide targeted guidance on specific dune restoration techniques and other topics of interest.

If you are a researcher and would like to collaborate on projects related to dune restoration or the beach dune system along the Texas Gulf coast, please contact Michelle Culver (michelle.culver@glo.texas.gov). Specifically, the Beach Dune team is interested in projects related to the use of brushy materials and hay bales to restore dunes and factors impacting plant survivability and dune restoration success. Certain projects and studies may be eligible for funding under the Coastal Management Program if the project aligns with the funding priorities.

Stories from the Surf

► Adrian Loucks: My Path to Adopt-A-Beach

By: Cara Stewart, Texas General Land Office

If you've ever had the privilege of attending an Adopt-A-Beach cleanup event, then you might have had the pleasure of meeting Adrian Loucks. Since 2021, Adrian has played a vital role as Program Coordinator for the Adopt-A-Beach Program. This program specializes in picking up trash and debris along the Texas coast and has grown in popularity as the years have progressed. However, to understand how Adrian became the Program Coordinator, we must first start from the beginning.

Growing up in Corpus Christi, Adrian spent a great deal of her time in the outdoors with her family. She participated in numerous outdoor activities, including beach combing and crab trapping. When asked if she enjoyed crab trapping, Adrian said "As a kid, I was very impatient with the whole process. I was always ready to pull on the rope and see what surprises laid in store for me. To my surprise and slight dismay, I would always pull the rope too soon and there were never any crabs." Even though Adrian had a rough time as an amateur crab trapper, the experiences from the coast as a child were ultimately what shaped her into loving and wanting to protect the natural beauty of Texas beaches.

After graduating from the University of Texas as a double major in Anthropology and Spanish, Adrian had her heart set on wanting to help others. This led her to work in the nonprofit sector, where she spent some time with an international aid



Adrian Loucks and singer-songwriter Phil Collins after a press release at the Alamo. Phil Collins allowed his Alamo artifacts to be shown in a 2014 exhibition.

organization in Washington, D.C. After a few years away from the Lone Star State, Adrian was ready to come back home to Texas, where she worked for the American Red Cross, and then on to the University of Texas School of Natural Sciences. Adrian joined the GLO in 2011 and began working with Adopt-A-Beach in 2015.

With all her previous experience, it is no wonder that she can handle the Adopt-A-Beach program with such grit and grace. When the Adopt-A-Beach Program began in 1986, it averaged 2,800 volunteers for the first cleanup. Since Adrian began her role as Program Coordinator, she has built up the program exponentially with a total of 580,623 volunteers and an average of about 6,000-7,000 volunteers participating in cleanups each year. This is no doubt an immense accomplishment for Texas coastal communities, along with the GLO. When asked to name one event that made Adrian excited to work for the GLO, Adrian stated "It was the day that the Alamo was doing a huge press release for the singer Phil Collins. Phil Collins has a ton of Alamo artifacts and in 2014, he released his collection to the Alamo to enlarge the exhibit. Being a part of that entire experience was a major highlight in my time with the Agency."

For Adrian, it is the educational aspect of what she does that is most important and leaves the greatest impression on the public. "My program provides students, teachers, beach communities and the overall public a chance to learn about ways to help maintain a cleaner beach environment for all to thrive," she said.

► To learn more about the Adopt-A-Beach Program, or to sign up for one of the upcoming beach cleanups, visit texasadoptabeach.org



Young Adrian enjoying the sunshine and sandy beaches of Corpus Christi. Growing up, her family would spend a great deal of time crab trapping and combing the Texas beaches.

Keeping up with CEPRA

► J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area Shoreline Protection Combats Erosion and Protects Habitat

By: Rita Setser, Texas General Land Office

The J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Shoreline Protection Coastal Erosion Protection and Response Act (CEPRA) project was completed in December 2023. The project was done in collaboration with Ducks Unlimited (DU) and the manager of the WMA, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The project constructed approximately 0.5 miles of breakwaters on the southern shoreline of the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway (GIWW) in the Salt Bayou Unit. Funding was provided by CEPRA Cycle 12 and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council.

The J.D. Murphree WMA is comprised of approximately 25,000 acres of coastal marsh near Port Arthur, Texas, hosting diverse communities of flora and fauna, including rare and endangered species. The WMA serves as an important winter stopover for migratory birds and sustains a notably robust American alligator population that has been extensively studied and well-managed.

Waves produced by boat and barge traffic in the GIWW have caused severe erosion in this area, with an average of 101 feet of shoreline retreat observed since the 1930s. Erosion combined with subsidence is causing saltwater intrusion and coastal marsh degradation. Without intervention, the habitat will convert to less valuable, more saline, open water environments.

The shoreline protection constructed for this CEPRA project extended breakwaters completed in 2014 that have been effectively abating erosion and allowing marsh to accrete between the shore and breakwaters, creating new habitat. In addition to reducing erosion and protecting marsh, the breakwaters themselves create habitat for oysters and nektonic species.

The latest CEPRA project breakwaters are a subset of an overarching Tier 1 Project in the 2023 Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan that seeks to complete a total of 3.7 miles of breakwaters to comprehensively protect the WMA. The J.D. Murphree WMA Shoreline Protection CEPRA Project is the latest in a series of successful partnerships in the area between the GLO, DU and TPWD that reduce erosion, protect critical habitat, and build coastal resiliency.

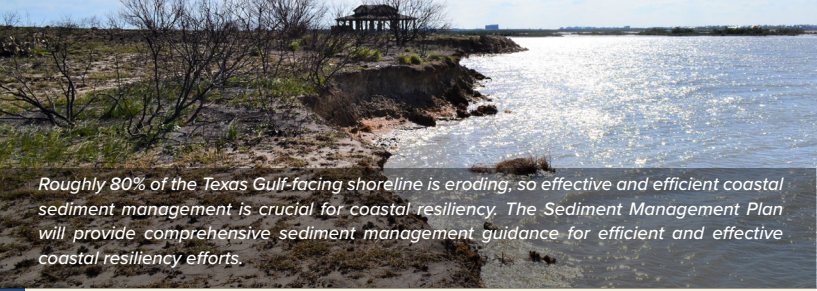
► For more information, visit the [project page](#)



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In addition to reducing erosion and protecting marsh, the breakwaters themselves serve as a resting spot for brown pelicans and gulls.



Roughly 80% of the Texas Gulf-facing shoreline is eroding, so effective and efficient coastal sediment management is crucial for coastal resiliency. The Sediment Management Plan will provide comprehensive sediment management guidance for efficient and effective coastal resiliency efforts.

Sediment Management Scoop

► Sediment Management Plan Updates

By: Caroline Jurca, Texas General Land Office

The Coastal Management Program (CMP) continues to lead the development of the Texas Sediment Management Plan (SMP). Roughly 80% of the Texas Gulf-facing shoreline is eroding, so effective and efficient coastal sediment management is crucial for coastal resiliency. The SMP will provide comprehensive sediment management guidance to address these needs. The first iteration of the SMP is planned for 2028, with new iterations to follow every four years to incorporate new data and policy recommendations. The writing of the SMP is currently underway, with sections focusing on:

- Defining authorities and involvement of all federal, state, and local entities in sediment management
- Providing context of the geological history and geomorphology of the Texas coast
- Guiding to identify and develop potential sediment borrow areas
- Providing guidance for efficient authorization and permitting of sediment placement projects and dredging of offshore borrow areas
- Improving tools for the inventorying of sediment resources
- Providing guidance to appropriately allocate sediment resources
- Creating best practices for monitoring sediment resources, budgets, and transport
- Making recommendations for policy development or modification to protect access to and optimize the use of sediment resources
- Defining State priority areas to best focus limited financial and sediment resources

Additionally, the GLO has applied for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regional general permit (RGP) and is attempting to obtain a programmatic biological opinion to expedite permitting beach nourishment projects at any publicly accessible, critically eroding, Gulf-facing beach. Nourishment under the RGP will fall into two categories—standard maintenance nourishment or storm response nourishment—which will have different limitations on location, spacing between adjacent nourishment events, maximum nourishment length, and maximum template size. Additional best management practices will also be used to meet the requirement of no more than minimal impacts. The public notice was distributed to all known interested persons in June 2024, and any received comments are currently under review.

The GLO continues searching for valuable sediment resources to use as borrow areas for coastal resiliency projects. The GLO’s CEPRA team is leading the search for offshore sediment in state and federal waters. Coastwide geophysical surveys have been completed throughout all four Regions to locate potential sediment resource areas. Geotechnical investigations have been completed in Region 1, while Regions 2-3 are underway, confirming and characterizing sediment deposits that may serve as future borrow areas. Region 4 will begin in late 2024.

Additionally, the GLO has funded a feasibility assessment of reservoir-impounded sediment as a sediment source for coastal projects. The GLO is also funding a coastwide investigation of susceptibility to barrier island breaching. The study will map historical washover locations and combine this with lidar elevation data, dune volumetrics, dune continuity, and dune vegetation to determine a breaching susceptibility index (BSI). Phase 1 is underway; processing of high-resolution imagery, aircraft trajectories, and lidar data collected in Spring 2024 has begun for the upper Texas coast. The BSI will be one of many environmental and socioeconomic metrics that will feed into the critical erosion area identification tool project planned for 2025 to provide a data-driven way to determine funding priorities for coastal resiliency projects.

For more information or to get involved with the Texas Sediment Management Plan, contact Caroline Jurca (caroline.jurca@glo.texas.gov).

Clean Coast Texas Corner

► Where do Tidal Datums Come From?

By: Johanna Valente, Texas General Land Office

The Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network (TCOON) is a foundational component to the development of geodetic datums. Datum is a reference point. It is the numerical answer to the question of “where?”, a calculation based on hundreds of similar measurements using state of the art equipment to ensure the most accurate information possible. There are many different types of datums. The 28 TCOON stations used today collect measurements necessary to calculate tidal datums. Examples of these include Mean High Water, Mean Low Water, Mean Tide Level, and Mean Sea Level. These datums are functionally necessary for emergency storm preparedness, navigation, engineering, and boundary determinations.

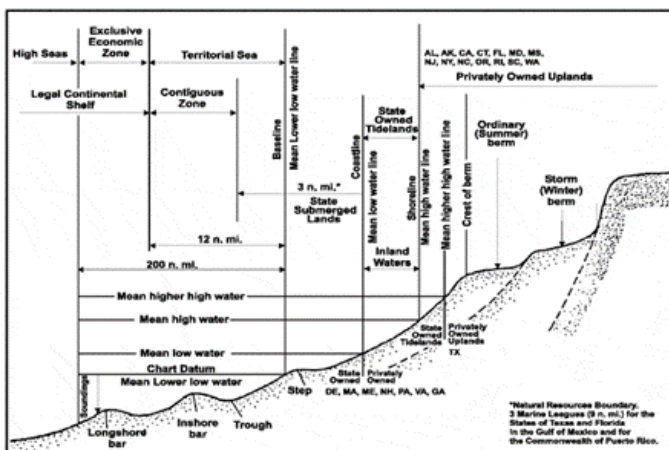
The Texas General Land Office was the first state agency to initiate the development of a tidal station network, partnering with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to provide technical assistance. In 1993, TCOON became a state partnership under the 88th Legislature with the support of NOAA and the US Army Corps of Engineers. This year, the GLO prioritized the maintenance of TCOON platforms, including rebuilding the Lynchburg and Copano stations destroyed during Hurricane Harvey. The future of TCOON looks bright. Planes can continue

to safely navigate through the air knowing exactly how far above sea level they’re flying, and large ships are able to pass safely through Texas ports. For questions on the TCOON platforms, contact Johanna Valente (Johanna.valente@glo.texas.gov).



There are 28 TCOON platforms along the Texas coast. The GLO has prioritized the maintenance of TCOON platforms in 2024.

DATUMS



TCOON stations collect measurements necessary to calculate tidal datums. Examples of tidal datums include Mean High Water, Mean Low Water, Mean Tide Level, and Mean Sea Level.

CMP Success Story

► West Matagorda Bay Conservation Corridor Expands by Over 800 Acres

By: Meghan Martinez, Texas General Land Office

In 2021, the Matagorda Bay Foundation (MBF) received Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) funds from the Coastal Management Program (CMP). MBF used the awarded funds to facilitate the purchase of Dog Island.

Dog Island is an 829-acre coastal “island” located a few miles west of Matagorda, Texas. The acquisition of Dog Island by MBF has protected more than 800 acres of vital coastal habitat. Its proximity to historic Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Texas Nature Conservancy properties creates and preserves a coastal conservation corridor over 9-miles long at the eastern end of West Matagorda Bay. The island’s topography, location, and current use provide unique opportunities as a hub for birding, wildlife viewing, and to study the impacts of management strategies on coastal health and productivity.



The Dog Island Preserve is an 829-acre coastal “island” located just a few miles west of Matagorda, Texas.



Dog Island now has three benches in place for resting areas. These benches will come in handy for those who are hiking, fishing, birding, kayaking, camping, or volunteering for educational purposes.

As a result of this project, access to the island’s resources has been improved by the creation of a boat access area, a maintained four-mile trail, several interior access points, a camping area, and the installation of three benches. The benches provide visitors and hikers a place to rest. MBF engaged over 100 stakeholders and volunteers to survey the island, create trail, paddle, and habitat maps, install signage and benches, and design future island infrastructure. Volunteers have visited Dog Island for educational opportunities that include conservation stewardship, wildlife observation, and to contribute to the island’s improvements. In addition, a Wildlife Management Plan was developed by MBF and TPWD to ensure best management practices for invasive species, native wildlife, and avian species. The project was successfully completed in March 2024.

► To learn more about this project, check out the [project's final report](#)



Natural Resource Damage Assessment Program

► Flint Hills Resources Settles for December 2022 Oil Spill

By: Tara Whittle, Texas General Land Office

On December 24, 2022, oil was discharged from Dock 5 at Flint Hills Resource Ingleside Terminal, owned by Flint Hills Resources Ingleside, LLC in Nueces County, Texas. The leak resulted in approximately 14,070 gallons of Ingleside Eagle Ford crude oil entering Corpus Christi Bay, which subsequently flowed into Nueces Bay. The incident resulted in oiled shorelines in Corpus Christi Bay and Nueces Bay and caused significant injuries to the Texas coastline and multiple habitats. The spill also resulted in the loss of multiple species of birds and sea turtles.

Flint Hills Resources executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State and Federal Natural Resource Trustees to facilitate a cooperative assessment of injuries to natural resources. The designated State trustees for the natural resources impacted by the Flint Hills Resources spill are the General Land Office, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The Federal trustees are the U.S. Department of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Department of the Interior, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Nueces Bay shoreline. The December 2022 oil leak resulted in approximately 14,070 gallons of Ingleside Eagle Ford crude oil entering into Corpus Christi Bay, which subsequently flowed into Nueces Bay.

In May 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Texas Office of Attorney General, on behalf of the Federal and State Trustees, obtained a final judgment in federal court to settle natural resource damages and for Federal and State trustee costs for approximately \$589,000. See *United States v. Flint Hills Resources Ingleside, LLC*, Case No. 2:24-cv-00079 (S.D. Tex). The Texas Trustees are excited to begin restoration planning to restore for the natural resources impacted by this spill and to make the public whole.

► For more information, please contact a GLO NRDA Trustee: nrda@glo.texas.gov, or check out this [link](#)

Eyes on the Horizon

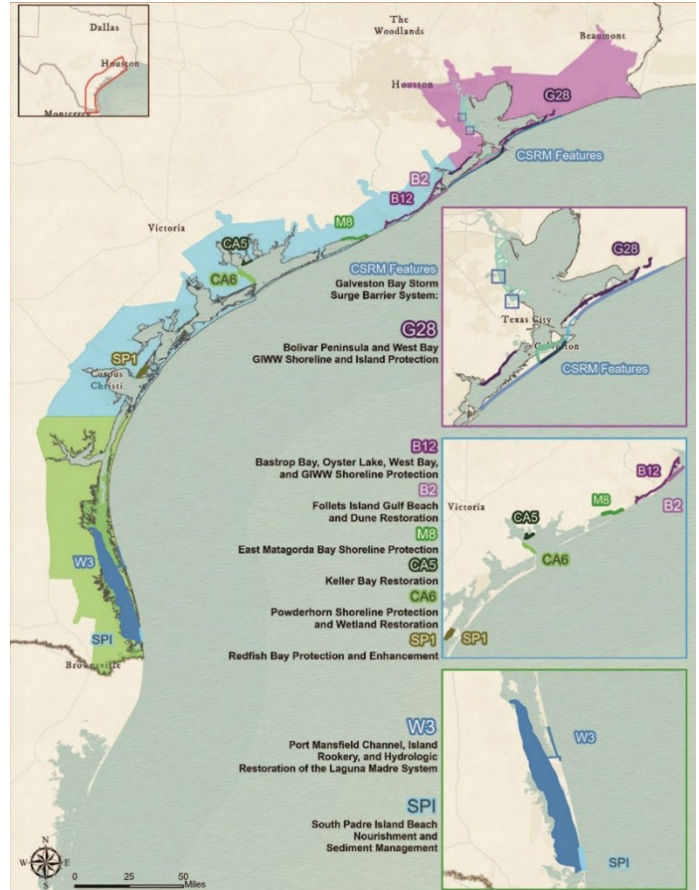
► Planning a Resilient Coastline: Coastal Texas Updates

By: Sara Purdon, Texas General Land Office

The Coastal Texas Project was signed into law through the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA) to deliver critical protection from coastal storm surge for communities, nationally important industries, and vital ecosystems of the Texas coast. The passage of WRDA 2022 authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and its project partners to continue implementation activities for the project. The GLO is the non-federal sponsor for the eight Ecosystem Restoration and South Padre Island Beach Nourishment and Sediment Management measures of the Project, which include the creation of 114 miles of breakwaters, 15.2 miles of bird rookery islands, 2,052 acres of marsh, 12.32 miles of oyster reef, and 19.5 miles of beach and dune. The Coastal Texas Project represents a systemwide risk management strategy for the coastline of Texas, employing multiple lines of defense to reduce the risk of coastal storm surge and to restore degraded coastal ecosystems. The proposed system of improvements will increase Texas' ability to withstand and recover from coastal storms, adapt to rising sea levels, and maintain the social, economic, and environmental systems which serve both the state and the nation.

A recent and momentous development comes from the USACE publishing their 2024 Work Plan allocating the first installment of Federal funding to the Coastal Texas Project. Specifically, the Work Plan provides \$500,000 to support the preconstruction engineering and design of the first segment of the Bolivar Peninsula and West Bay Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Shoreline and Island Protection feature, also known as Ecosystem Restoration measure G-28, and to prepare the project for construction. This is an enormous and pivotal step forward in our collective efforts, spanning over a decade, in getting these coastal protection measures in place both through Federal appropriations and local sponsorship. In allocating this funding to the Coastal Texas Project, the USACE will now work with the Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD) and the GLO to start and complete the Coastal Texas Project's first set of plans and specifications and to prepare the G-28 feature for construction. This milestone is a testament to the GLO's commitment to protecting Texans, restoring our natural systems, and increasing the resiliency of our coastal state.

► For more information, please [click here](#).



The eight Ecosystem Restoration and South Padre Island Beach Nourishment and Sediment Management measures locations. In total, these measures will create 114 miles of breakwaters, 15.2 miles of bird rookery islands, 2,052 acres of marsh, 12.32 miles of oyster reef, and 19.5 miles of beach and dune.



Upcoming Meetings

American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) - National Coastal Conference 2024

August 26th-29th, 2024 Galveston, Texas

<https://asbpa.org/2024-asbpa-national-coastal-conference/>

Coastal Resilience & Adaptation Conference

September 18th & 19th, 2024 Virtual

<https://na.eventscloud.com/website/69230/>

Restore America's Estuaries- 2024 Coastal & Estuarine Summit

October 6th-10th, 2024 Washington, D.C. Region

<https://estuaries.org/2024-rae-summit/>

2025 Coastal Round Up

April 26th, 2025 South Padre Island