Tule Lake

Site Specific Response Plan

January 15, 2020

Prepared by:
Texas General Land Office
US Coast Guard
Texas Parks and Wildlife
US Fish and Wildlife

Description

The purpose of this project was to develop a site-specific acute pollution event response plan for Tule Lake to minimize damage to natural resources in the system during a pollution event. The plan would provide first responders with high quality, detailed information pertaining to land and water access routes, sensitive habitats to avoid or protect, and specific strategies for protecting those habitats. Sensitive habitats, access routes, and staging areas are clearly marked on maps and defined in the plan, so they can easily be found and utilized by personnel in the field.

Tule Lake, which is owned by the Port of Corpus Christi Authority of Nueces County (POCCA), is an approximately 175-acre area of vegetated uplands, emergent wetlands, mud flats, and open water brackish shallow water wetland located in Nueces County, south of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel between the Tule Lake Turning Basin and the Viola Turning Basin. A mud flat surrounded by *Spartina alterniflora* provides habitat for many shorebirds including piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and red knot (*Calidris canutus)*. It is tidally connected to the Corpus Christi Inner Harbor, which in turn flows into Corpus Christi Bay and is considered a fisheries nursery habitat. Hydrology is driven by a tidal connection with the Corpus Christi Ship Channel as well as runoff from man-made drainage features. In 1974, an archaeological site was found which contained midden remains and artifacts immediately adjacent to the western border of the Tule Lake Tract. The land use surrounding the Tule Lake areas is designated commercial and industrial use; however, this site is highly utilized by the public for bird watching.

Contact Lists

USCG Monitored Frequencies

Channel	Frequency	Use	Remarks
6	156.3	Ship-to-ship safety	Use for ship-to-ship safety & Search and Rescue
12	156.6	Harbor Master/VTIS	Working Frequency
13	156.65	Bridge to Bridge	Message must be about ship navigation
16	156.8	International Distress, Safety and Calling	Only for hailing, distress, and Search and Rescue
21A	157.5	U. S. Coast Guard Only	
22A	157.1	USCG Liaison & Maritime	Use this channel to talk to Coast Guard and public
23A	157.05	U. S. Coast Guard Only	
81A	157.075	GOM	Working Frequency
83A	157.175	GOM	Working Frequency
17		State Operators	Working Frequency

Telephone Contacts

Title	Phone Number
TGLO Region 3 Corpus Christi 24-hour Duty Phone	(361) 687-6220
TGLO Region 3 Corpus Christi Office	(361) 886-1650
USCG Command Center	(361) 939-0450
USCG Pollution Response Duty Phone	(361) 533-7166
Port of Corpus Christi Emergency and Spill Notification (Security Command Center)	(361) 882-1182
Port of Corpus Christi Harbor Master	(361) 882-1773
Texas Parks & Wildlife	(512) 389-4848

Response Procedures

1. Cease all non-essential work. If the number of available personnel permits, assign one to make telephone notifications while other personnel immediately identify incident specific response priorities (#3). If only one staff member is available, begin with notification procedures in the order listed (prioritize notifications).

2. Make necessary notifications (numbers for cooperating response agencies, contractors, and stakeholders. Do not include "courtesy" calls. Use position titles and established phone numbers, not individual names).
    - **National Response Center – (800) 424-8802**
    - **Texas Emergency Spill Reporting Center – (800) 832-8224**
    - **TPWD 24-hr Austin Communications – (512) 389-4848**
      le.communications@tpwd.texas.gov
    - **Port of Corpus Christi – 361-882-1182**

3. Determine incident specific priority protection areas (prioritize developed Geographic Response Plans in ICS 204 format).
    - See GRP for Tule Lake Entrance

4. Mobilize equipment, manpower, and resources available to implement spill response as outlined in developed ICS 204s.
    - See attached ICS-204 for Tule Lake.

5. Respond (secure the source, contain, recover).

Booming Strategies

If the responsible party is unknown, the Port of Corpus Christi Authority (POCCA) can deploy response equipment, and will deploy oil spill response contractors to protect POCCA property.

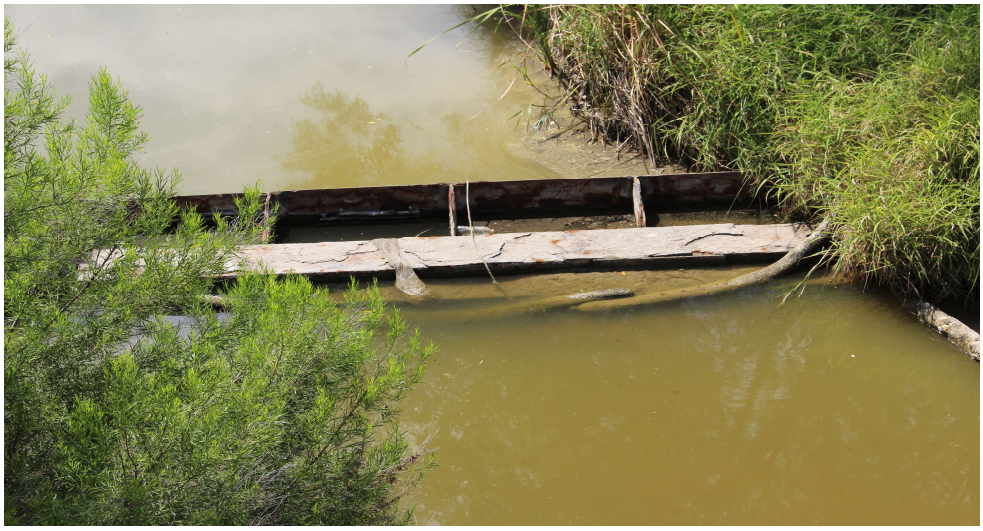
Spills in the Inner Harbor:

- Exclusion booming of the inlet to Tule Lake. Inlet is 100' across. The outlet from the end of the pier to the shore line west of the inlet is approximately 158 feet (see below picture). More than one stretch of exclusion boom may be required due to wind and current conditions. See point #1 on the "Inflows" map.

(Exclusion Booming across intakes)

Spills from south of Up River Road:

- Spills emanating from sources south of Up River Road will be addressed according to the facility response plan as implemented by the party responsible for the spill and cleanup. Each drainage ditch is between 15 and 30 feet wide and lined with vegetation. Hard boom and sorbent boom should be utilized to prevent spilled material from leaving these ditches and entering Tule Lake. Please refer to points 2-7 on the "Inflows" map.



(A weir in the drainage canal west of the Pin Oak facility. Refer to location 2 on the inflows map (Fig 3))

Response considerations:

- Under light oiling, the best practice is to let the area recover naturally.
- Heavy accumulations of pooled oil can be removed by vacuum, sorbents, or low-pressure flushing. During flushing, care must be taken to prevent transporting oil to sensitive areas down slope or along shore.
- Cleanup activities should be carefully supervised to avoid vegetation damage. Best Management Practices are discussed in the South Texas Coastal Zone Area Contingency Plan Attachment 5 – Texas Coast Sensitive Habitat Plan. The methodologies and procedures found in section 5 of this document must be implemented during any spill response.
- Any cleanup activity must not mix the oil deeper into the sediment. Trampling of the roots must be minimized.
- Cutting of oiled vegetation should only be considered when other resources are at great risk from leaving oiled vegetation in place.

Available Resources and Equipment

- Corpus Christi Oil Spill Control Association Pre-Stage Boom Trailer.
    - Location / Citgo Dock 3, Corpus Christi Inner Harbor
    - Contact: General Manager
    - Phone Number: (361) 882-2656
    - 1500 ft. of 18" Abasco boom and anchors

- Corpus Christi Oil Spill Control Association Boom Trailer.
    - Location / Bulk Materials Docks, Corpus Christi Inner Harbor
    - Contact: General Manager
    - Phone Number: (361) 882-2656
    - 1000 ft. of 20" American Marine boom and anchors

- TGLO Response Trailer
    - Location / 1830 N. Lexington Avenue, Corpus Christi TX, 78409
    - Contact: TGLO Region 3- Regional Manager
    - Phone Number: (361) 886-1650
    - 1000 ft. of response boom and 300 ft. of Expandi-boom.

List of Discharge Cleanup Organizations in the area:

- Corpus Christi Oil Spill Control Association
    - 1231 Navigation Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX 78407
    - (361) 882-2656

- Miller Environmental Services, Inc.
    - 401 Navigation Boulevard, Corpus Christi, TX 78408
    - (361) 289-9800

Additional information:

- USFWS Best Management Practices for habitat types
- NOAA Shorline Assessment Manual
- Characteristics of Coastal Habitats (Choosing Spill Response Alternatives) NOAA
- TPWD BMPs on other sources:
  https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/habitat_assessment/tools.phtml
- Oil Spills in Marshes (Planning & Response Considerations) 2013, NOAA
  - Table 3-4. Guidance on selecting appropriate response options for oiled marshes.
- Refer to GLO toolkit and specific atlas pages for resources at risk (web links and attach hardcopies when applicable)

Staging Areas

(See Fig. 4)

1. Name: **Citgo Turn-Around Lot**

    - Location / Address: **6966 Upriver Road, Corpus Christi, TX**
    - Closest Boat Ramp: **N/A**
    - Distance from Boat Ramp: **N/A**
    - Directions from Sector: I**-37 to Southern Minerals Road (left) to Upriver Road and turn right. On south side of Upriver Road west of the Citgo West Plant Main Gate**
    - Water Depth at Bulkhead: **N/A**
    - TGLO Atlas Number: **188**
    - Heliport on Site: **No**
    - Phone on Site: **No**
    - Internet on Site: **No**
    - Radio on Site: **No**
    - On Site Power: **Yes**
    - On Site Water: **Yes**
    - Gated: **Yes**
    - Tidal Influence: **N/A**
    - Size of Area: **3.8 acres**
    - Site Contact Name: **Paul Lobretch**
    - Site Contact Number: **361-816-7509**

2. Name: **Valero Asphalt Refinery**

    - Location / Address: **6966 Upriver Road, Corpus Christi, TX (approximate)**
    - Closest Boat Ramp: **N/A**
    - Distance from Boat Ramp: **N/A**
    - Directions from Sector: : I**-37 to Southern Minerals Road (left) to Upriver Road and turn right. On north side of Upriver Road west of the Valero Asphalt Refinery**
    - Water Depth at Bulkhead: **N/A**
    - TGLO Atlas Number: **188**
    - Heliport on Site: **No**
    - Phone on Site: **No**
    - Internet on Site: **No**
    - Radio on Site: **No**
    - On Site Power: **No**
    - On Site Water: **No**
    - Gated: **Yes**

- Tidal Influence: **N/A**
- Size of Area: **0.9 acres**
- Site Contact Name: **Ralph Ramirez**
- Site Contact Number: **361-289-1707**

3. Name: **Citgo Dock #3**

   - Location / Address: **6966 Upriver Road, Corpus Christi, TX**
   - Closest Boat Ramp: **Port of Corpus Christi Oil Dock #11**
   - Distance from Boat Ramp: **3.4 miles**
   - Directions from Sector: **I-37 to Up River Road, then north on a gated access road immediately east of the Valero Asphalt Terminal.**
   - Water Depth at Bulkhead: **48 feet**
   - TGLO Atlas Number: **188**
   - Heliport on Site: **No**
   - Phone on Site: **Yes**
   - Internet on Site: **Yes**
   - Radio on Site: **Yes**
   - On Site Power: **Yes**
   - On Site Water: **Yes**
   - Gated: **Yes**
   - Tidal Influence: **Yes**
   - Size of Area: **1.2 acres**
   - Site Contact Name: **John Mann**
   - Site Contact Number: **361-844-5711**

Access Routes

Authority to access the Tule Lake area must be granted by the POCCA and United States Coast Guard. Tule Lake is a secure, restricted area; unescorted access is only allowed if personnel have a TWIC card and have been vetted by POCCA.

Land: I-37 to Up River Road, then north on a gated access road immediately east of the Valero Asphalt Terminal. The road leads to Citgo Dock #3.
*The contact number for gate access is 361-844-5959.

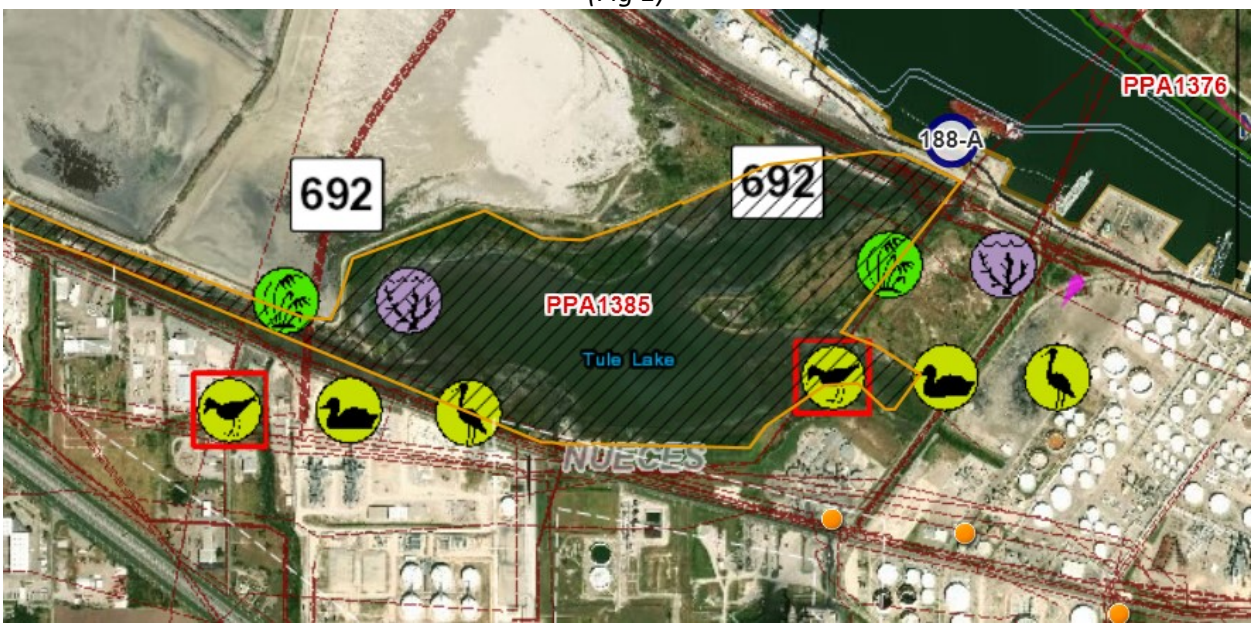
Air: Closest Helo Spot is Spohn Hospital. Additional landing areas may be available at nearby refineries, or a 100' by 100' space may be designated as an ad hoc landing area.

Water/Boat Ramps: Port of Corpus Christi Oil Dock #11 (27° 49' 20.22" N, 97° 26' 20.41" W) I-37 to Up River Road, then north on Cantwell Lane to the guard gate at Public Docks 3, 4, 7 and 11. The ramp is west of dock #11 (2.5 miles from entrance to Tule Lake)

Maps

Biological:

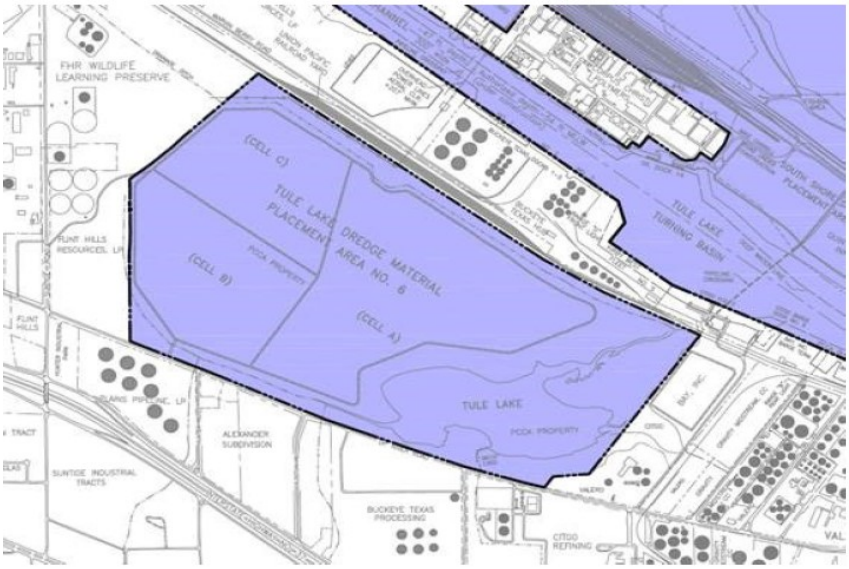
(Fig 1)



- http://www.glo.texas.gov/ost/
- All biological and shoreline data can be found on the TGLO toolkit using the link above. Tule Lake can be found on page 188.

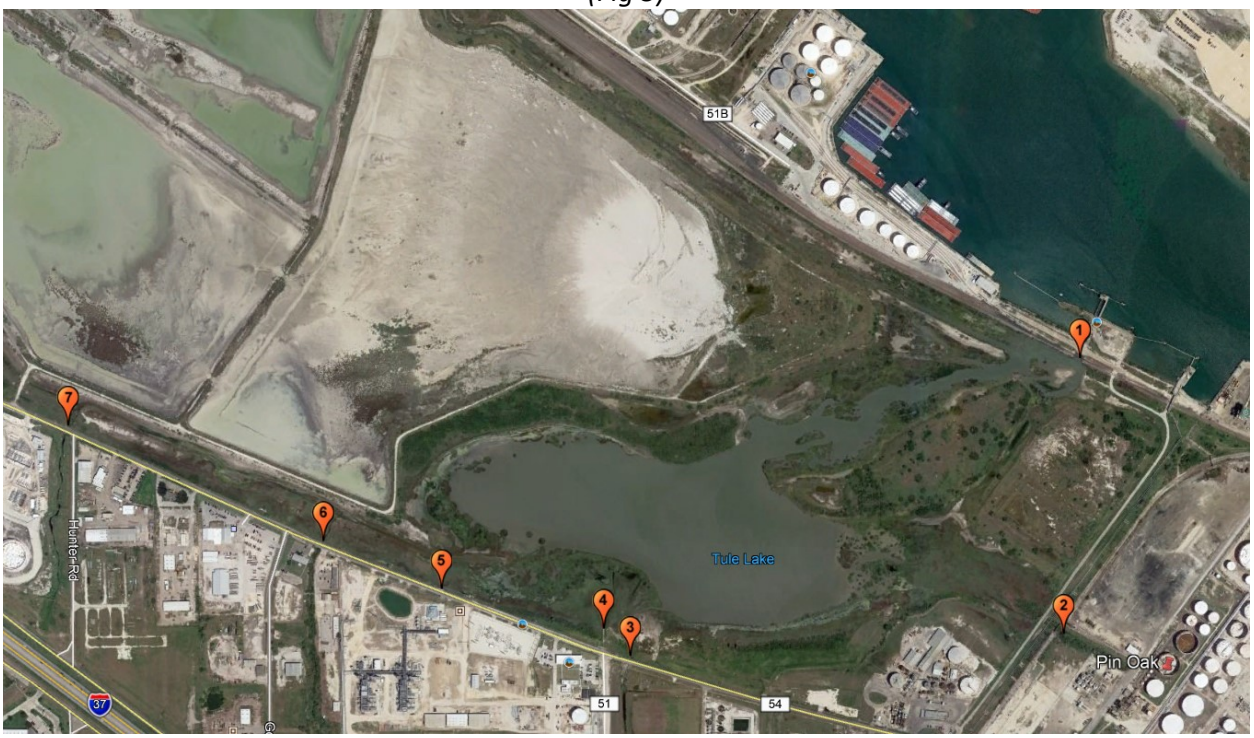
POCCA Property Map

(Fig 2)

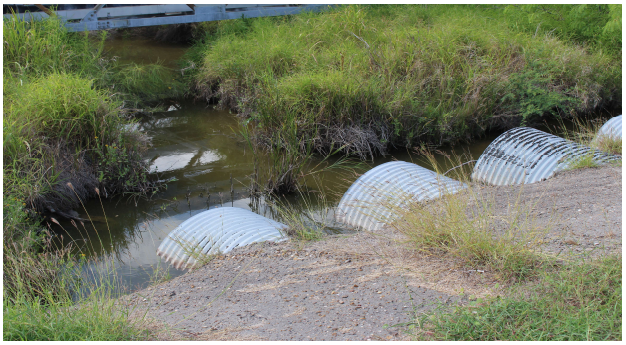


Inflows:

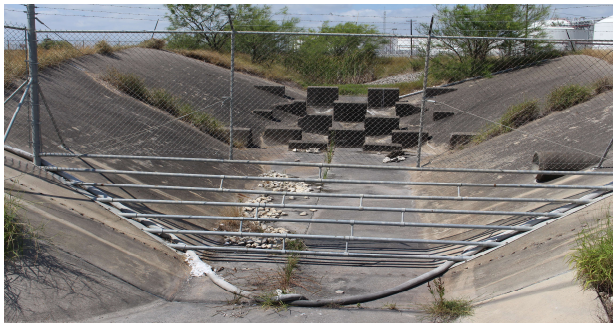
(Fig 3)



Inner Harbor Intake



Outfall from Pin Oak

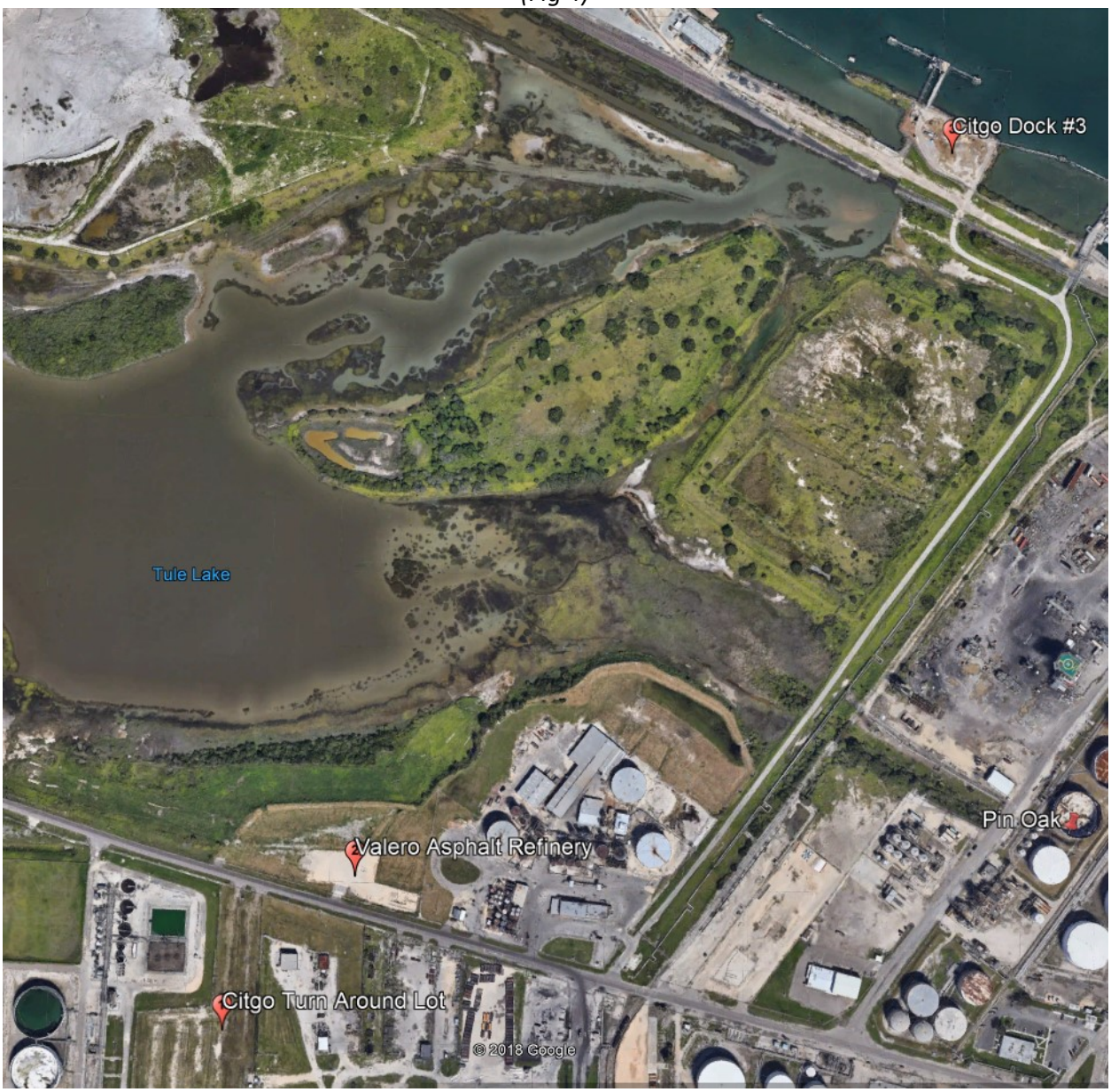


Upriver Road Outfall

Upriver Road Outfall

Staging Areas:

(Fig 4)



Points of Contacts:

- **Citgo Turnaround Lot or Dock #3**: Paul Lobretch – 361-816-7509
- **Valero Asphalt Refinery**: Ralph Ramirez – 361-289-1707

1. Incident Name	2. Operational Period (Date/Time)	Assignment List ICS 204-OS
3. Branch	4. Division/Group	

5. Operations Personnel
Operations Section Chief _____
Branch Director _____
Division/Group Supervisor _____

6. Resources Assigned This Period — "X" Indicates 204a attachement with special instructions

Resource Identifier	Leader	Contact Info #	# of Persons	Reporting Info/Notes/Remarks	

7. Assignments

SAFETY NOTE High vessel traffic with dangerous wakes and surges possible. Slip, trip and fall hazard. Proper PPE is required.

8. Site Number:	9. Quad Name:	10. NOAA Chart Number:	11. GLO Atlas Page:	12. County
188-A	Corpus Christi	11311	188	Nueces

13. Site Information 188-A

Location is in Corpus Christi Inner Harbor along south shore of Tule Lake Turning Basin. Water flows through 4 culverts located behind Citgo Oil Dock 3. Access by land may be difficult due to locked gates. Tule lake contains sensitive marsh habitat. Port security concerns. Call Port Police (361)882-1182 and Harbor Master (361)882-1773 before entering harbor and for notifications and updates.

14. Latitude
27 49' 27.31"

15. Longitude
97 29' 33.17"

16. Closest Boat Ramp	17. Distance From Ramp	18. Boat Type
Public Oil Dock 3, 4, 7, 11 Ramp	2.5 NM	Medium to Shallow

19. Directions From Local Sector

Take I-37 to Up River Rd., then North on Cantwell Ln. Follow Cantwell Ln. to guard gate at Public Docks 3, 4, 7, 11. Ramp is by dock #11. From ramp, head west to inlet.

20. Closest Airport
Corpus Christi

21. Closest Heliport
Spohn Hospital

22. Trustee/Contact Numbers

USCG:	361-533-3001	RRC:	361-242-3113
USCG Duty:	361-533-7166	TPWD:	512-389-4848
TGLO:	361-886-1650	NRDA:	512-426-7291
TCEQ:	361-825-3100	USFWS:	281-667-2088

23. Resources at Risk

Atlas Priority: Medium

Environmental: High

Economic: High

24. Width of Inlet in ft: 95

25. Water depth in ft: 2-6

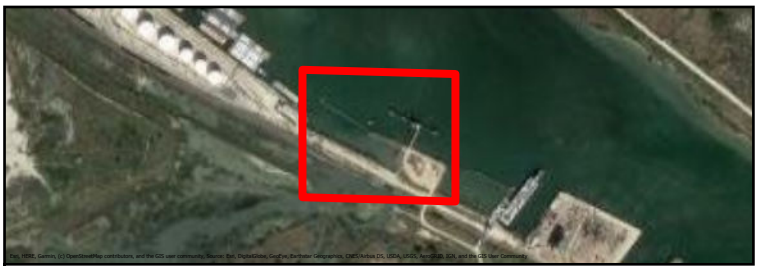
26. Current: 0

27. No. of Personnel: 4

25. Booming Strategy Recommendation

Exclusion booming of inlet to Tule Lake. Beware of shallow water and obstructions when approaching culverts. Secondary boom may be necessary depending on wind, tide, and current conditions.

Aerial Photo



On Site Photo

29. Prepared By:	30. Reviewed by (PSC)	31. Reviewed by (OSC):
Assignment List	**ICS 204 OS (Geographic Response Plan)**	**Updated Date:**

"Response strategies may need to be modified to account for changes due to seasonality, weather conditions, spill characteristics, tides and any other considerations."