COASTAL BEND

BAYS & ESTUARIES PROGRAM

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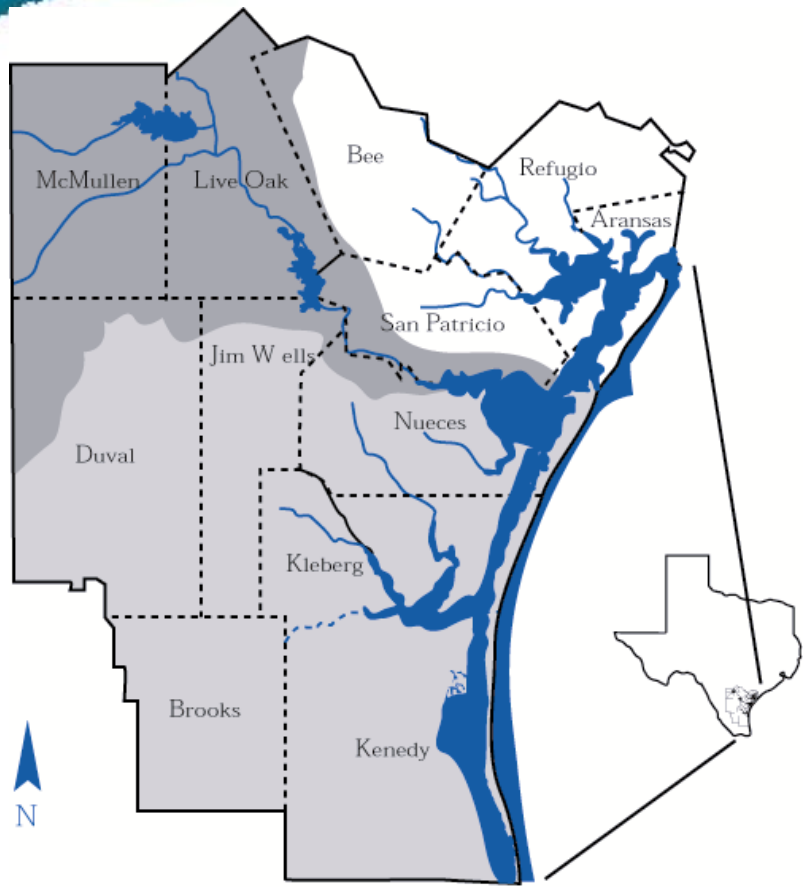
CBBEP History

- 1987 – U.S. Congress established the National Estuary Program (NEP) to promote long-term planning and management of nationally significant estuaries
- 1994 - CBBEP was officially established as one of 28 estuaries of "National Significance"
- 1998 - ***Coastal Bend Bays Plan*** formally approved by Tx Governor George Bush
- 1999 – Plan approved by the U.S. EPA
- 1999 – Program become non-profit org

The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program

- Local 501(c)(3) established in 1999
- Mission – the implementation of the ***Coastal Bend Bays Plan***
- Non-regulatory, voluntary partnership effort - work with industry, environmental groups, bay users, local governments, and resource managers
- Support continued economic growth and use of the bays

12 Counties in the Texas Coastal Bend



- 75 miles of estuaries along south-central coastline
- 12 counties encompass 11,500 square miles of land
- 515 square miles of bays, estuaries and bayous
- 3 of the 7 major estuaries in Texas: Aransas Bay, Corpus Christi Bay, and Upper Laguna Madre

Key Funding Partners = Owners

- $600,000 - US EPA
- $850,000 - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- $75,000 - Port of Corpus Christi (plus office space and utilities)
- $75,000 - City of Corpus Christi
- $75,000 - Port Industries of CC
- $30,000 – San Patricio County
- $5,000 – City of Aransas Pass
- $5,000 – City of Ingleside
- $5,000 - City of Portland
- $5,000 – City of Port Aransas

- A Community Developed Plan
- Commitment by the Partners (Owners)
- A Strategy to Leverage Base Funding and to Pursue other Opportunities

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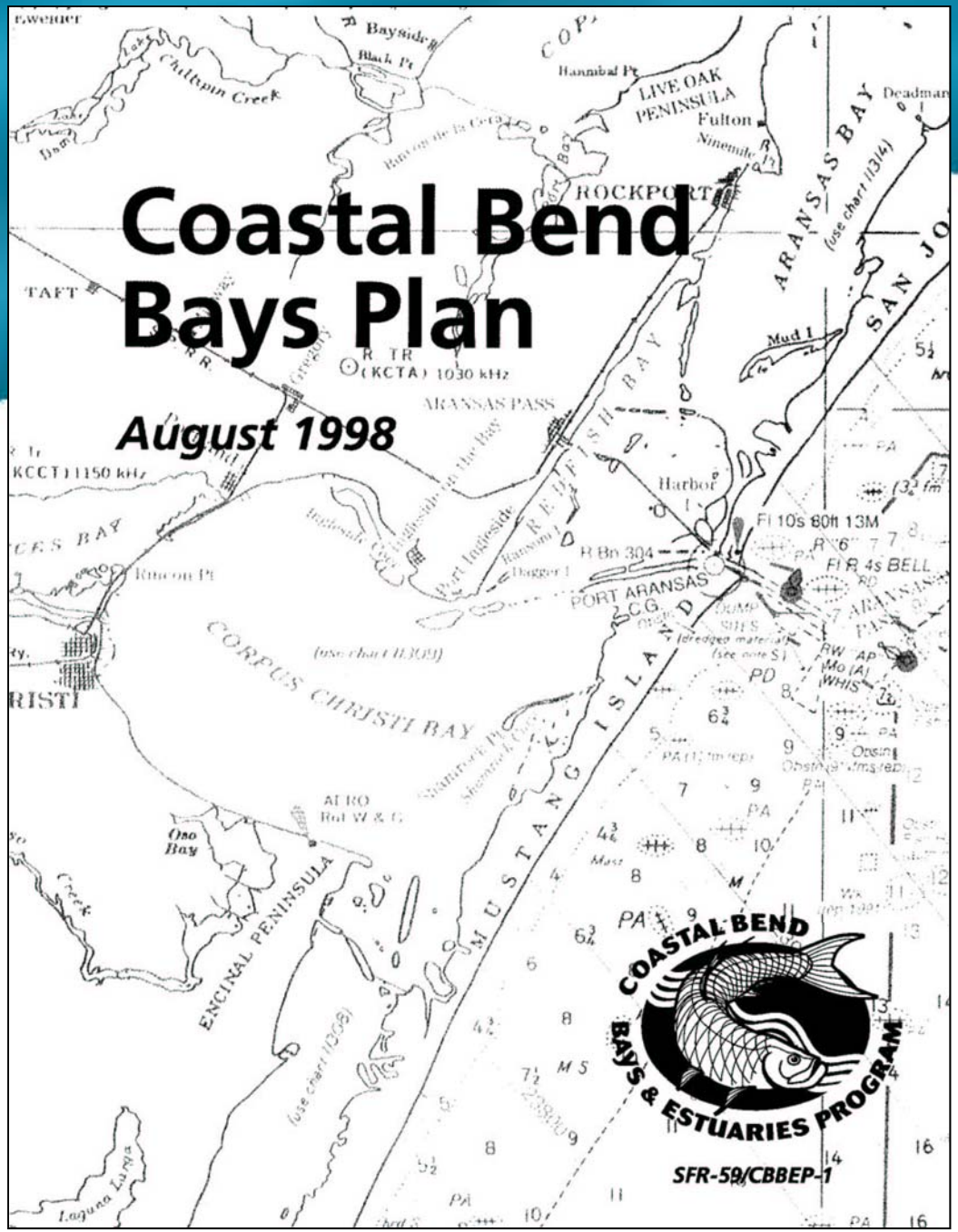
CBBEP
Board of Directors

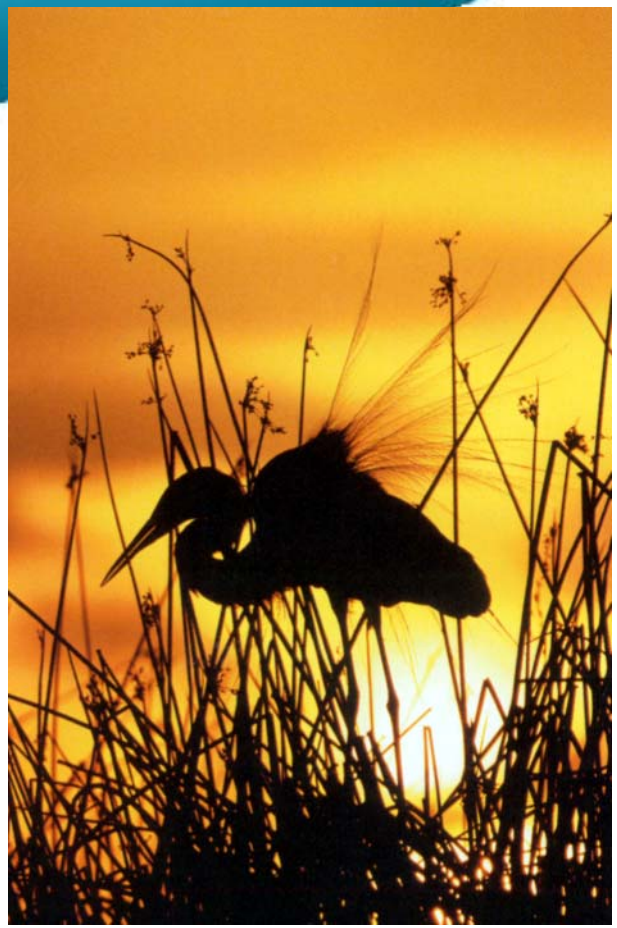
Mr. Robert Wallace Jr., Chairman
Coastal Bend Bays Foundation
Mr. Robert Corrigan
CBBEP Bays Council
Mayor Joe Adame / Mr. Jay Reining / Ms. Peggy Sumner City of Corpus Christi
County Judge Terry Simpson / Mr. Tom Bridges
San Patricio County
Mr. Gary Eddins / Mr. Tom Curlee
Port Industries of Corpus Christi
Commissioner Francis Gandy / Mr. Bill Green
Port of Corpus Christi Authority



- **Hundreds of Volunteers**
- **4 Years of Work**
- **<u>6 Major Themes</u>**

Priority Issues

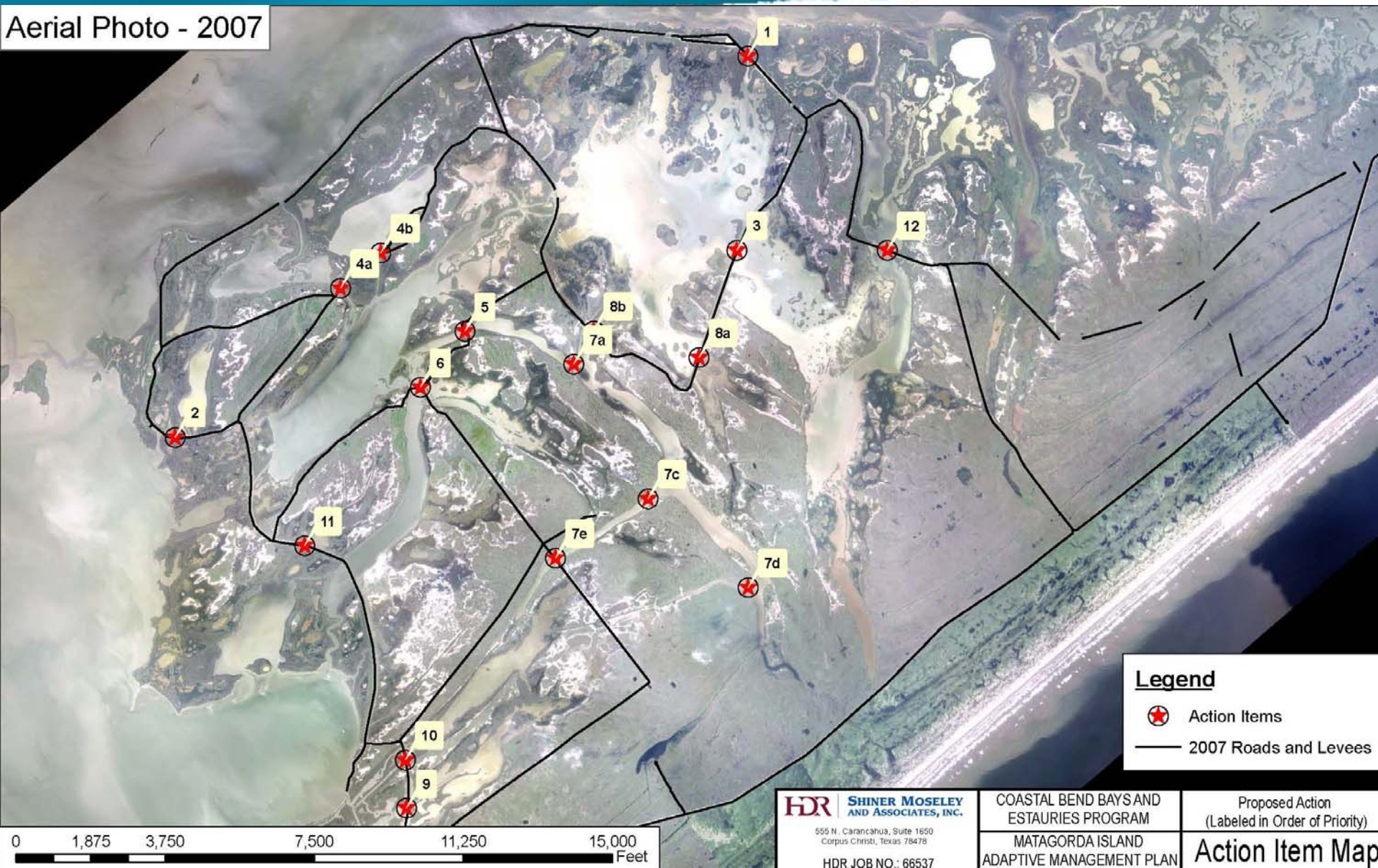
- Human Uses
- Maritime Commerce & Dredging
- Habitat Loss
- Living Resources
- Water & Sediment Quality
- Freshwater Resources
- Public Education and Outreach



Habitats

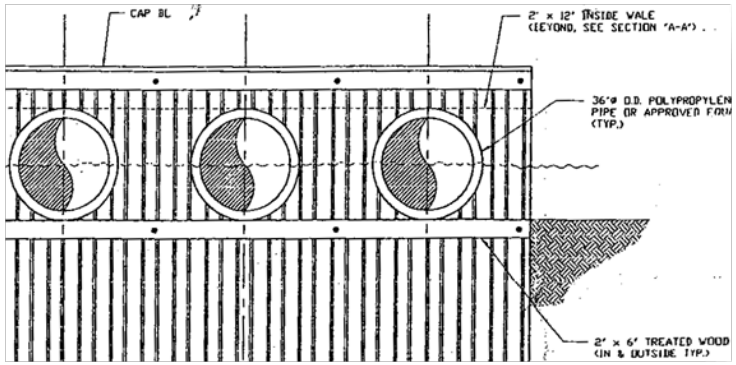
- Open Water 275,000 acres
- Seagrass Beds 92,000 acres
- Coastal Marshes 113,000 acres
- Wind-Tidal Flats 21,400 acres
- Hard Substrate Reefs 4,000 acres
- Shoreline 13,000 miles

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge – Matagorda Island Marsh Restoration



Aransas National Wildlife Refuge – Matagorda Island Marsh Restoration by Adaptive Management

- Design and installation of water control structures to restore hydrology and improve water quality of the 15,000 acre marsh.



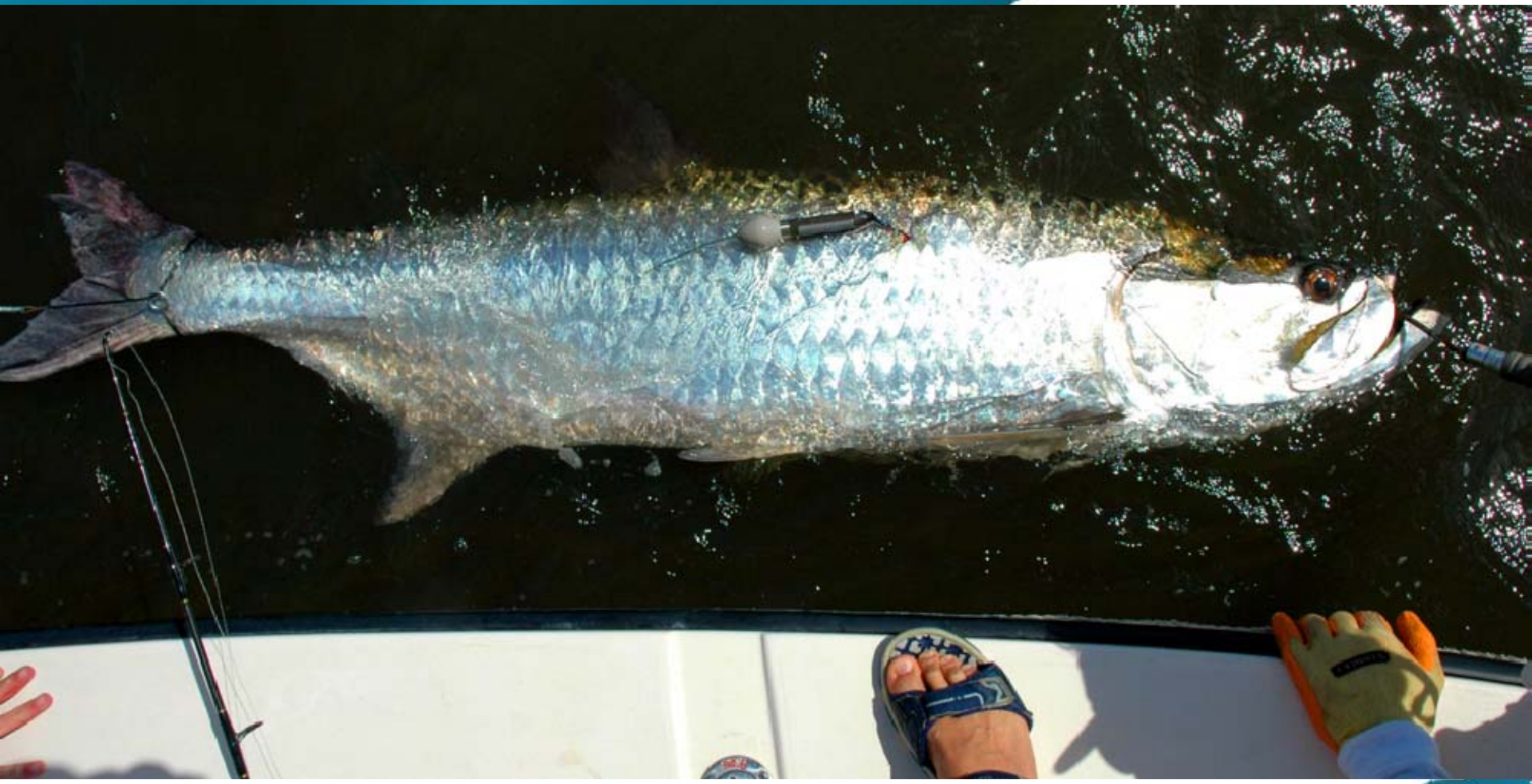
Aransas National Wildlife Refuge
Whooping Crane Habitat Restoration

- Treated exotics and invasives

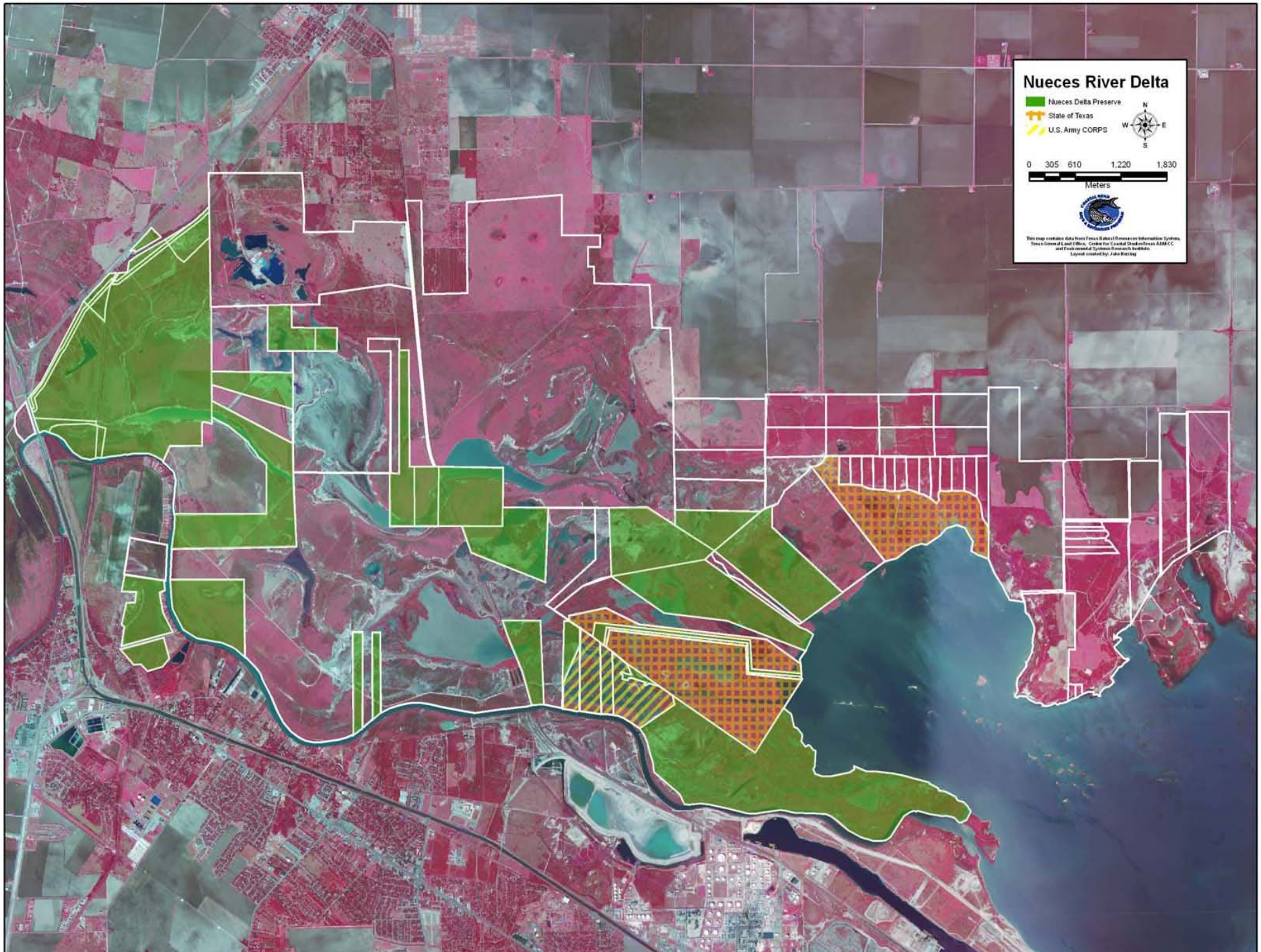
Copano Bay Oyster Reef Restoration Project

- Restored 1 acre of oyster reef in April 2008
- Lead by the TNC

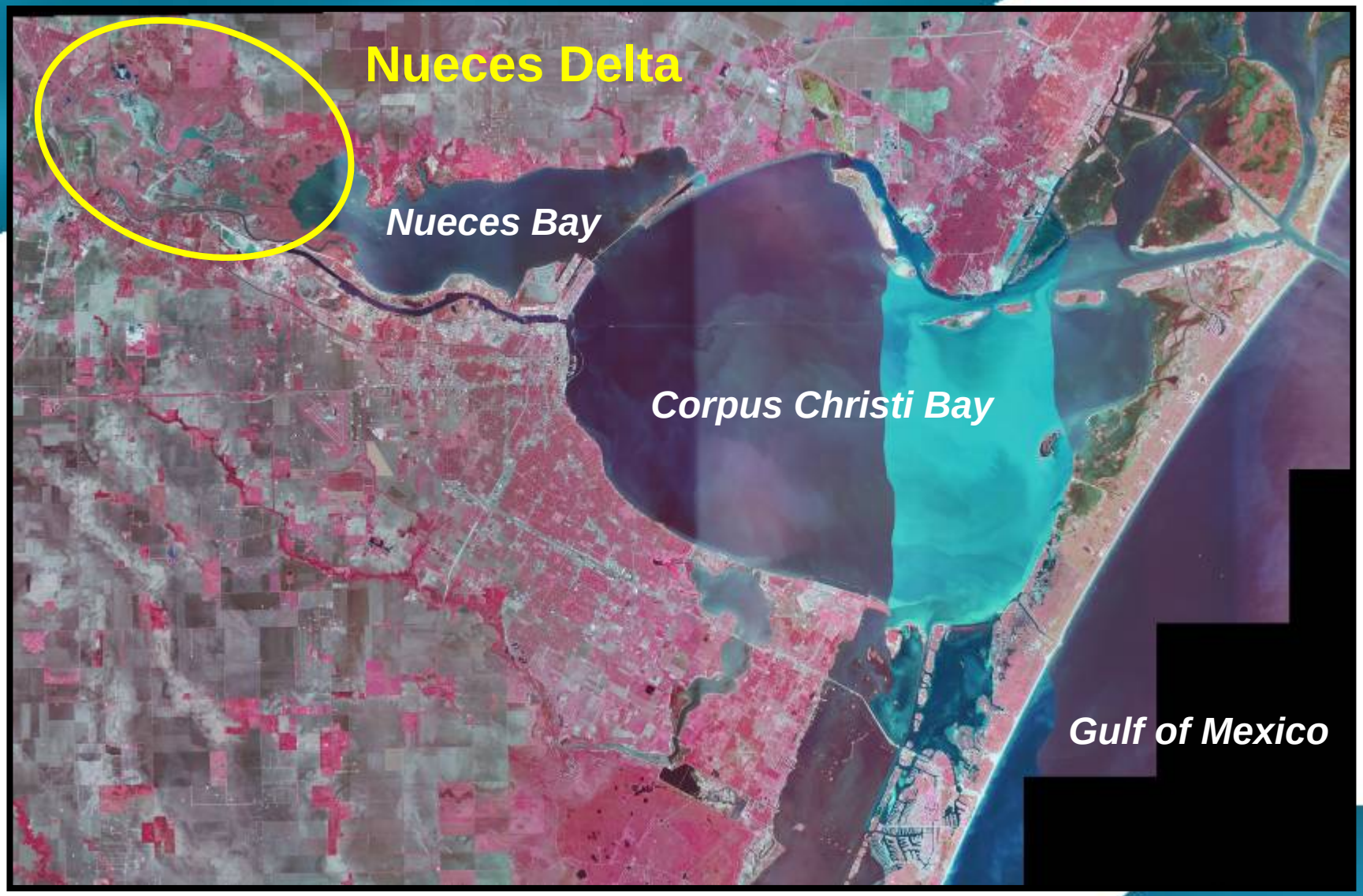
Tarpon Tagging Project



- Tagged tarpon in the Coastal Bend with satellite tags to monitor migration patterns around the Gulf of Mexico
- Lead by the University of Texas – Marine Science Institute

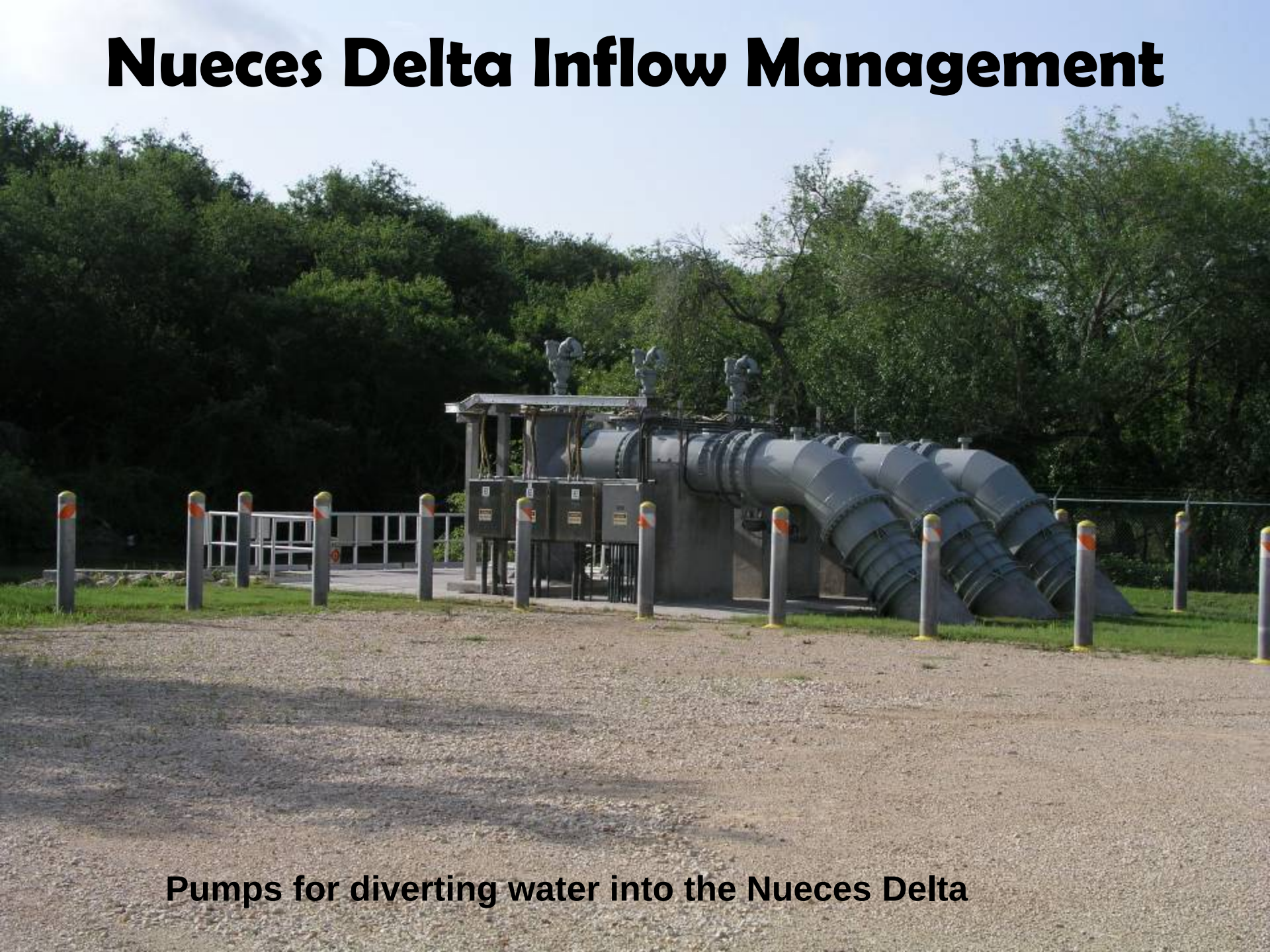

Nueces River Delta
Nueces Delta Preserve
State of Texas
U.S. Army CORPS
N
W
E
S
0 305 610 1,220 1,830
Meters
This map contains data from Texas Natural Resources Information System, Texas General Land Office, Center for Coastal Studies Texas A&M-CC and Environmental Systems Research Institute.
Layout created by: Jake Ruring

Nueces Delta Inflow Management



- Project to restore freshwater flow back into the river delta

Nueces Delta Inflow Management

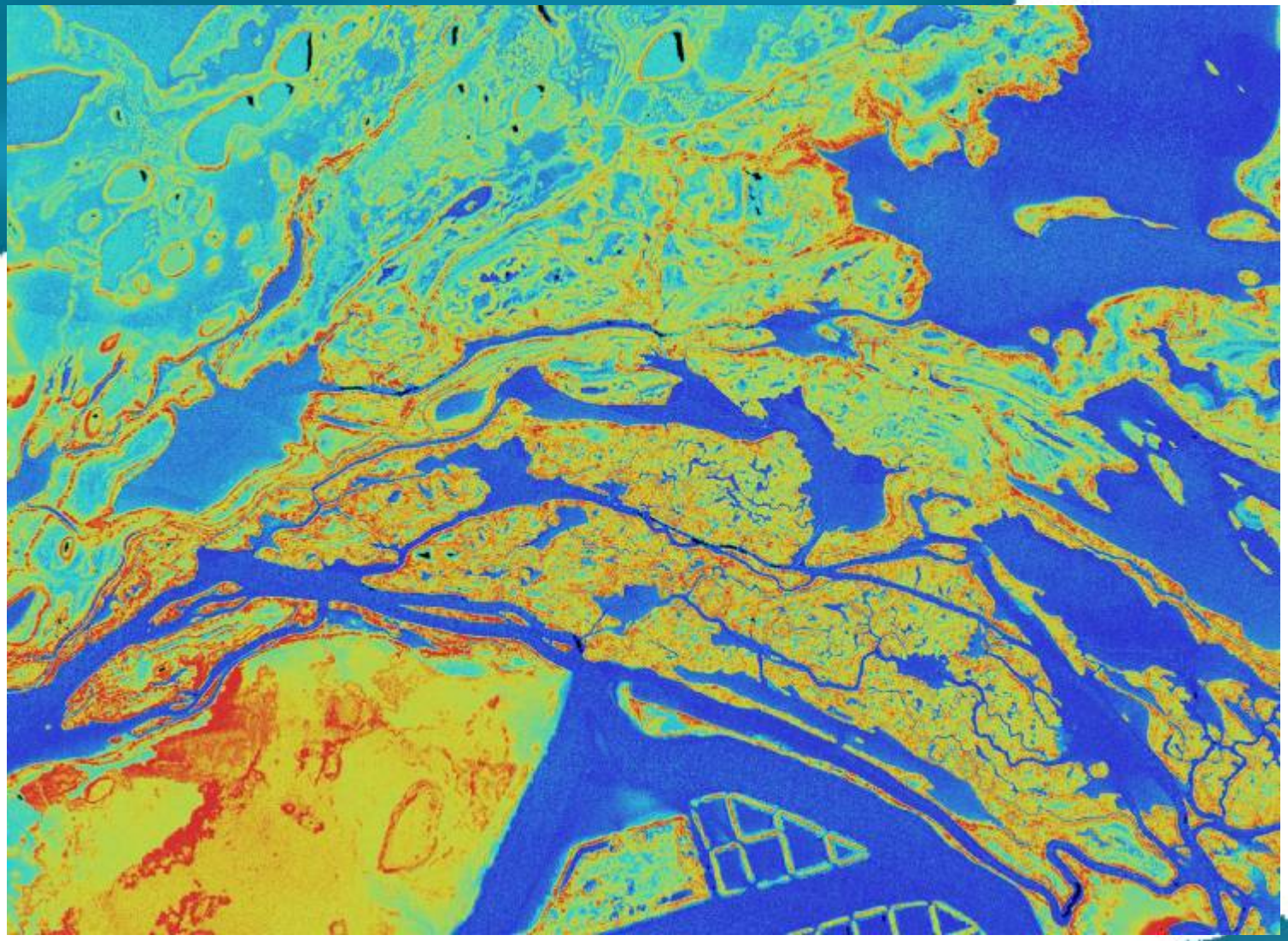


Pumps for diverting water into the Nueces Delta

Nueces Delta Inflow Management

- Outfall into the Nueces Delta

Nueces Delta Inflow Management

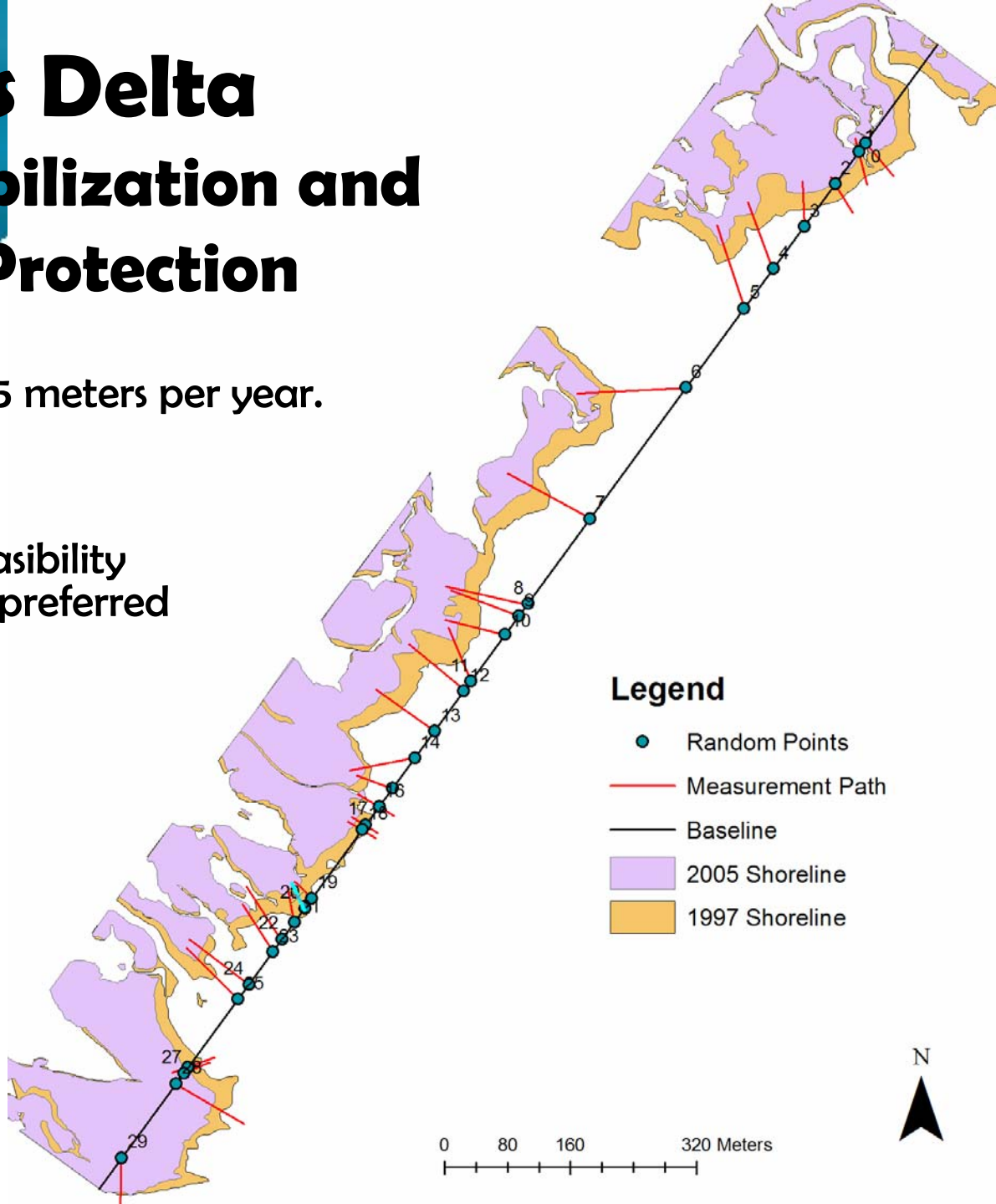


- LiDAR of Nueces Delta collected to help understand water flow patterns

Nueces Delta

Shoreline Stabilization and Habitat Protection

- Documented erosion of 2.5 meters per year.
- Nearing completion of feasibility assessment of selection of preferred alternative.
- Next step: Design and permitting.

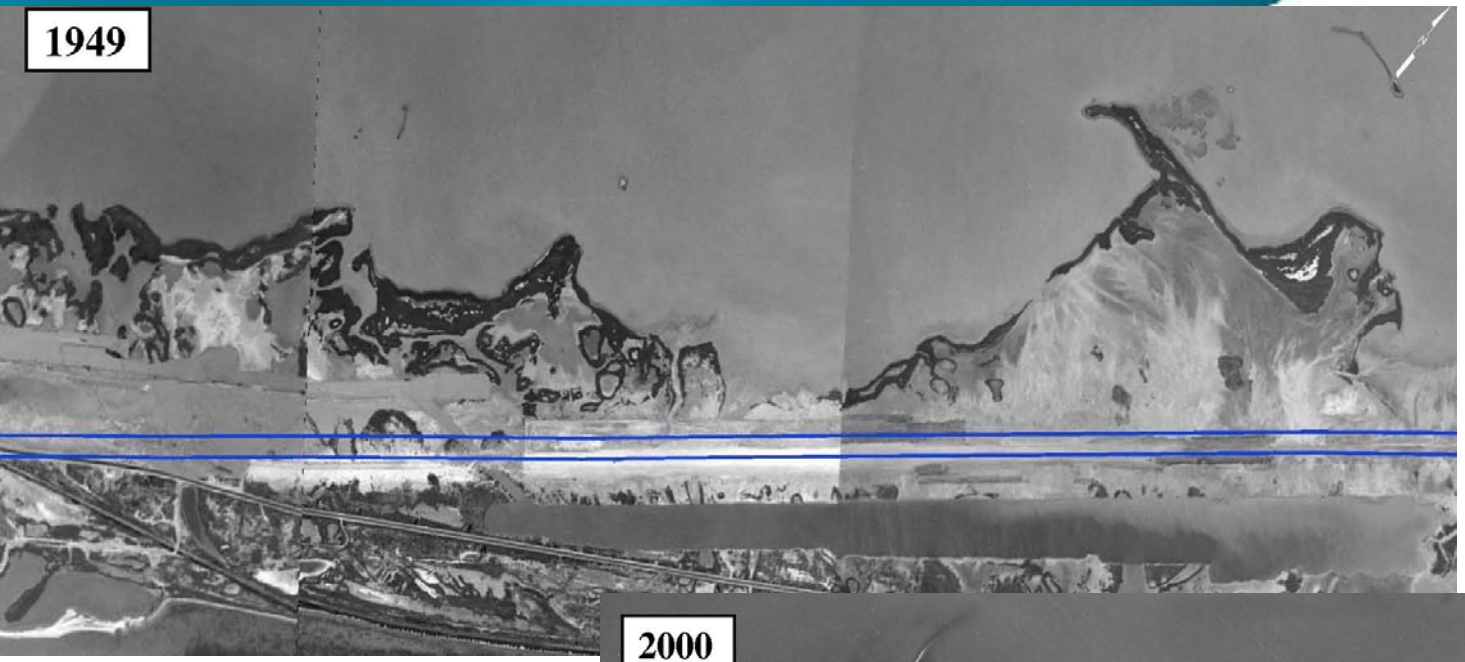


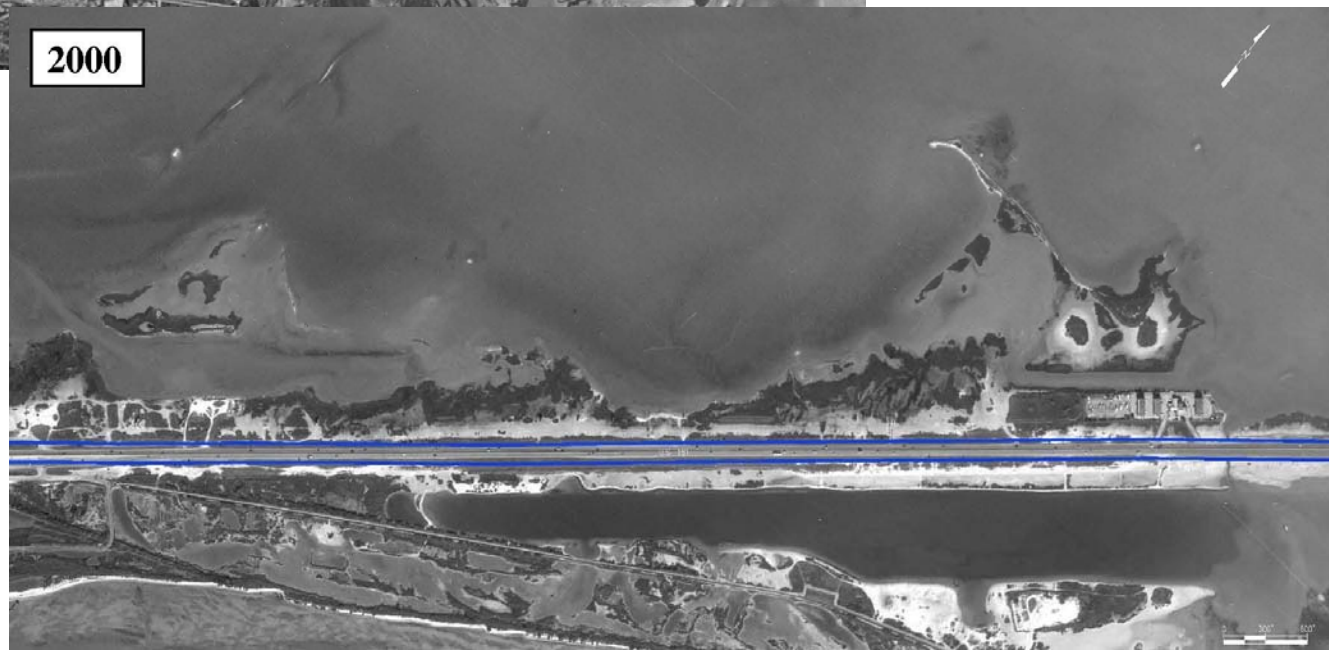
Nueces Bay Rookery Island Habitat Restoration Project

- CBBEP & TGLO - $1.5 million construction project
- Dredged material from the bay, shoreline stabilized with 5,000 tons of limestone rock
- Restore lost island habitat & protect existing rookery islands

Nesting Platforms

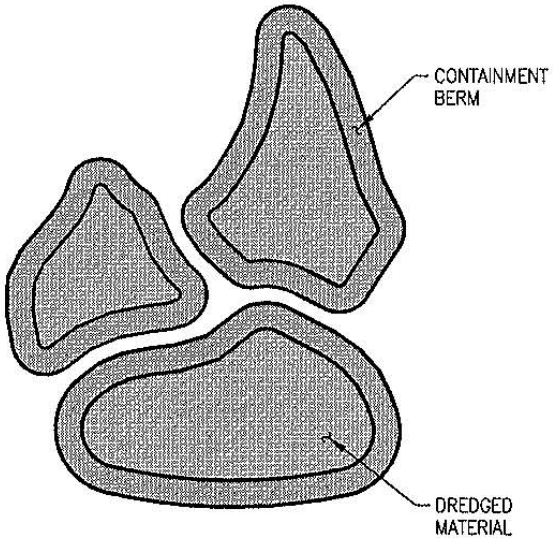
Nueces Bay Causeway Marsh Restoration





- Approximately 600 acres of emergent marsh lost to the construction of Highway 181

Nueces Bay Causeway Marsh Restoration



PLAN VIEW –
CONFINED EMERGENT MARSH PLANTING CELLS

- End Vision: Planting cells and circulation channels that mimic pre-construction marsh conditions.

Hypoxia Monitoring in Corpus Christi Bay

- **Currently monitoring temporal and spatial characteristics of hypoxia in Corpus Christi Bay**
- **Project will be completed in December 2008**

Post Opening Packery Channel Nekton Sampling

Sampling nekton around a newly opened pass to the Gulf of Mexico and comparing to pre-opening conditions

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