

Oyster Reefs Provide Valuable Benefits

- Absorb wave energy to protect shorelines and reduce the rate of shoreline retreat
- Enhance water quality
- Provide habitat for estuarine and marine wildlife
- Enhance fisheries by providing refuge and feeding habitat for fish, shrimp and crabs
- Provide a source of larval oysters for nearby seed grounds and leases
- Trap suspended sediment to naturally build salt marsh

Job Creation

Oyster reef restoration projects across the Gulf of Mexico make good ecological and economic sense. These projects create jobs in coastal communities and invest in local and state economies. Achieving resiliency in coastal habitats and communities across the Gulf requires a healthy environment and healthy economy.

A Vision for Project Success

To measure project success and the effectiveness of each reef technology at different habitats, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center is conducting a comprehensive monitoring program at the reef sites to evaluate reef sustainability (oyster growth and success), shoreline stabilization and the potential of the reefs to provide fisheries habitat and water quality benefits.

Partners in Restoration

Many partners have collaborated with TNC on the oyster reef restoration projects and/or provided generous funding. Including: Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, NOAA, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Chevron, Shell, Lowes, Walton Foundation, Freeman Foundation, El Paso, Merck, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Coastal Environments Inc., Wayfarer Environmental Technology and ORA Estuaries.

Working Together

Our goal was to maintain or create 57 jobs with the Grand Isle and St. Bernard Marsh project. To date, a total of 95 positions have been funded.



The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

for more information:

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