

**Mississippi River, Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico, LA  
Interagency Field Trip to Southwest Pass Beneficial Use Sites**

**CEMVN-OD-T  
June 2012 Trip Report**

**Overview** – The CEMVN conducted an interagency field trip to two beneficial use sites along the right-descending bank of Southwest Pass on May 30, 2012. The cutterhead dredge CALIFORNIA was performing maintenance of Southwest Pass near river mile 14 BHP during the site visit (contract 12C0021). Prior to the field trip, the CALIFORNIA had placed approximately 1.4 million cubic yards of material in Placement Area #1 and about 900,000 cubic yards of material in Placement Area #2. The CALIFORNIA was discharging into Placement Area #1 during this field trip.

In attendance were personnel from USACE (Jeff Corbino, Al Mistrot, Scott Clement, & Jesse Adams), LDNR (Jeff Harris, Brian Marcks, & Frank Cole), USFWS (David Castellanos), and Plaquemines Parish Government (Albertine Kimble). Observations & pictures from this field trip are presented in this trip report. A vicinity map with picture legend is provided below.





Picture 1. Upper boundary of Placement Area #1, looking towards the right-descending bank of Southwest Pass. The dredge CALIFORNIA was actively pumping into this beneficial use placement area, & flowing dredged material slurry generated the surface ripples visible in this photo.

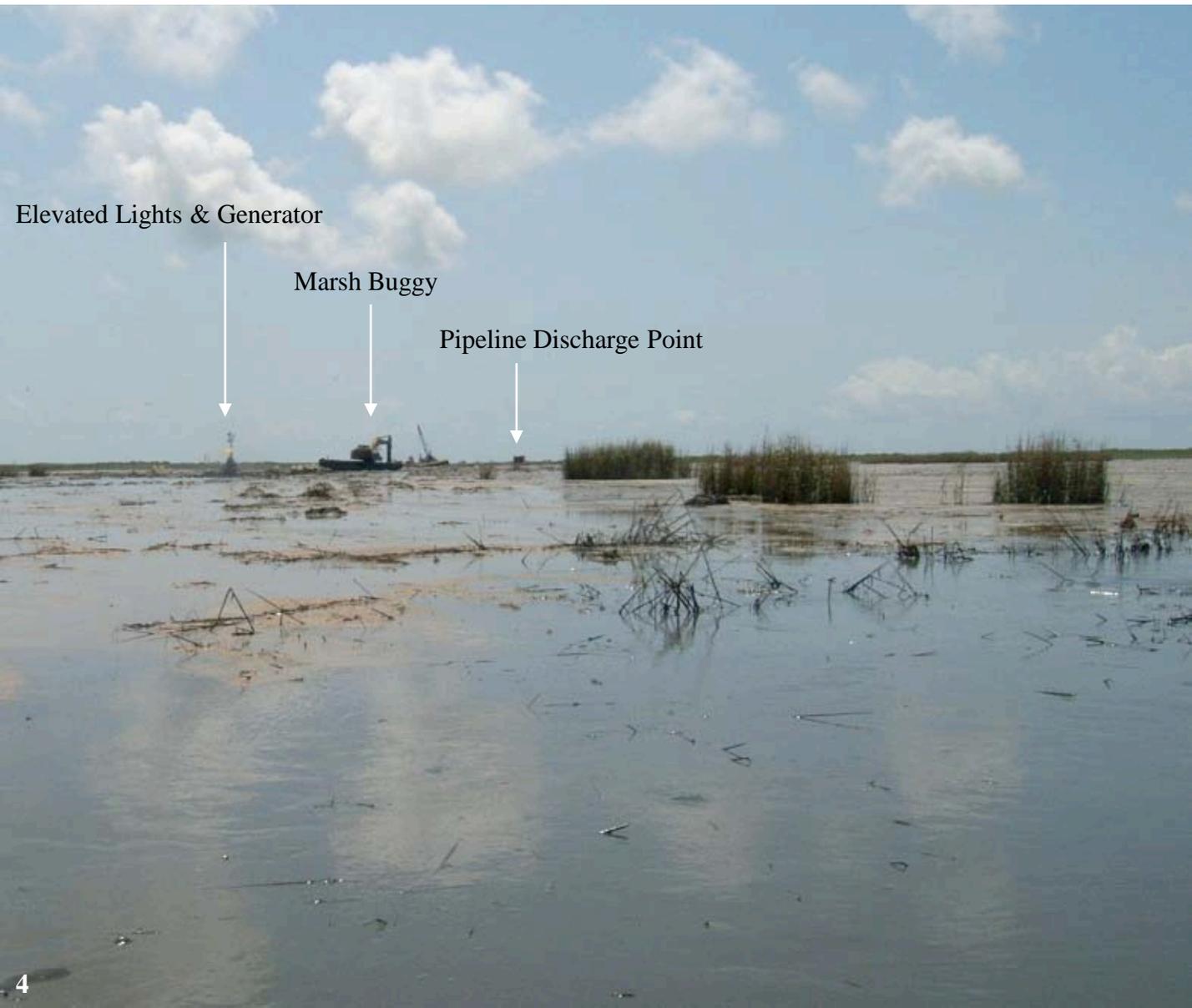


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Pictures 2-3. Elevation marker denoting target slurry elevation of 5.5' (left). The CALAFORNIA was working near river mile 14 BHP (top). Other equipment was nearly obstructed by marsh grass within the placement area (below).



Elevated Lights & Generator

Marsh Buggy

Pipeline Discharge Point

4



Pictures 5-8. Dredged material discharged into Placement Area #1 was predominantly fine-grained sediments mixed with organic material. Trail made by the leading airboat exposed its pudding-like consistency (above). Organic foam was scattered throughout the site (below).





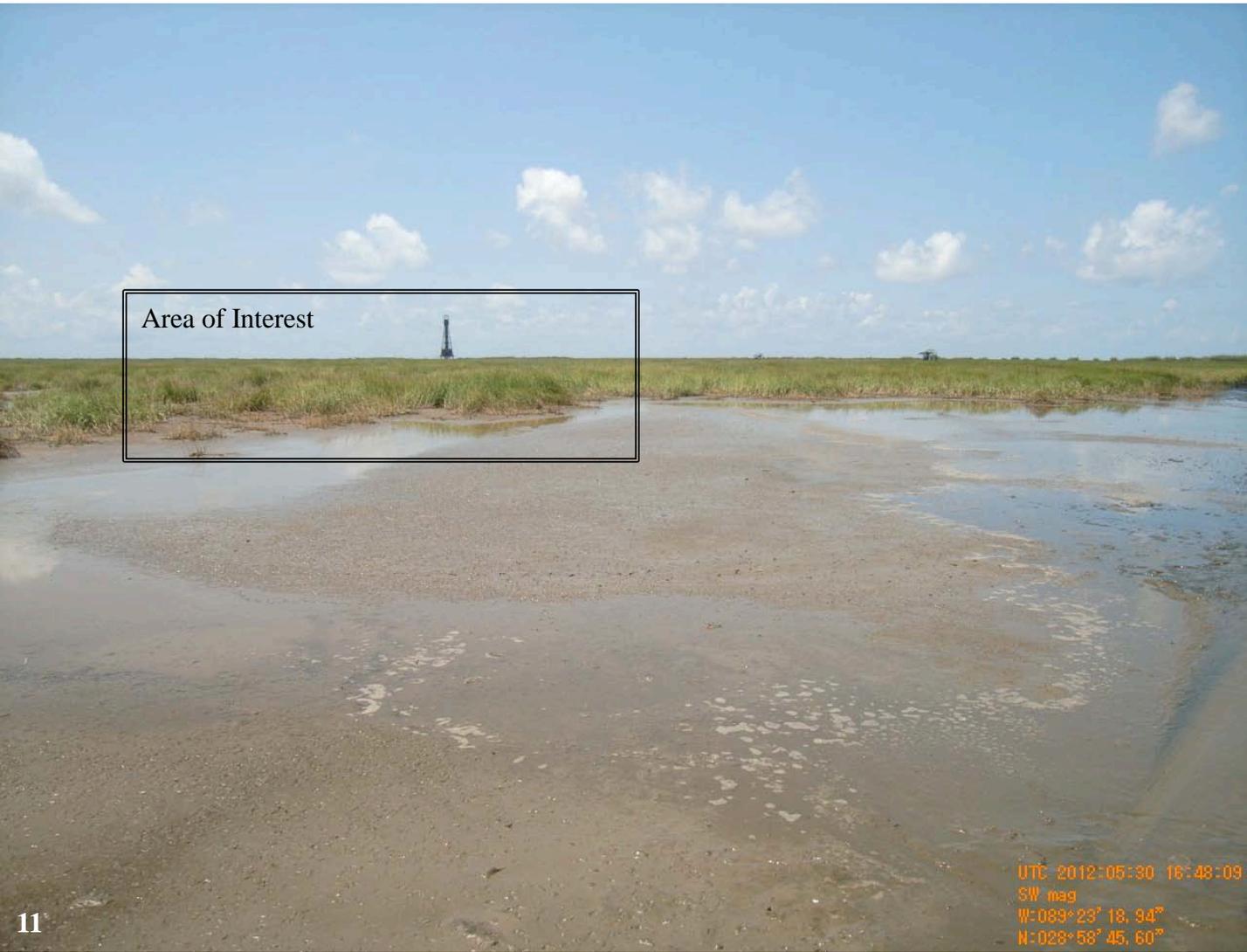
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Pictures 9 & 10. Crab & bird tracks on the surface of partially dewatered dredged slurry.

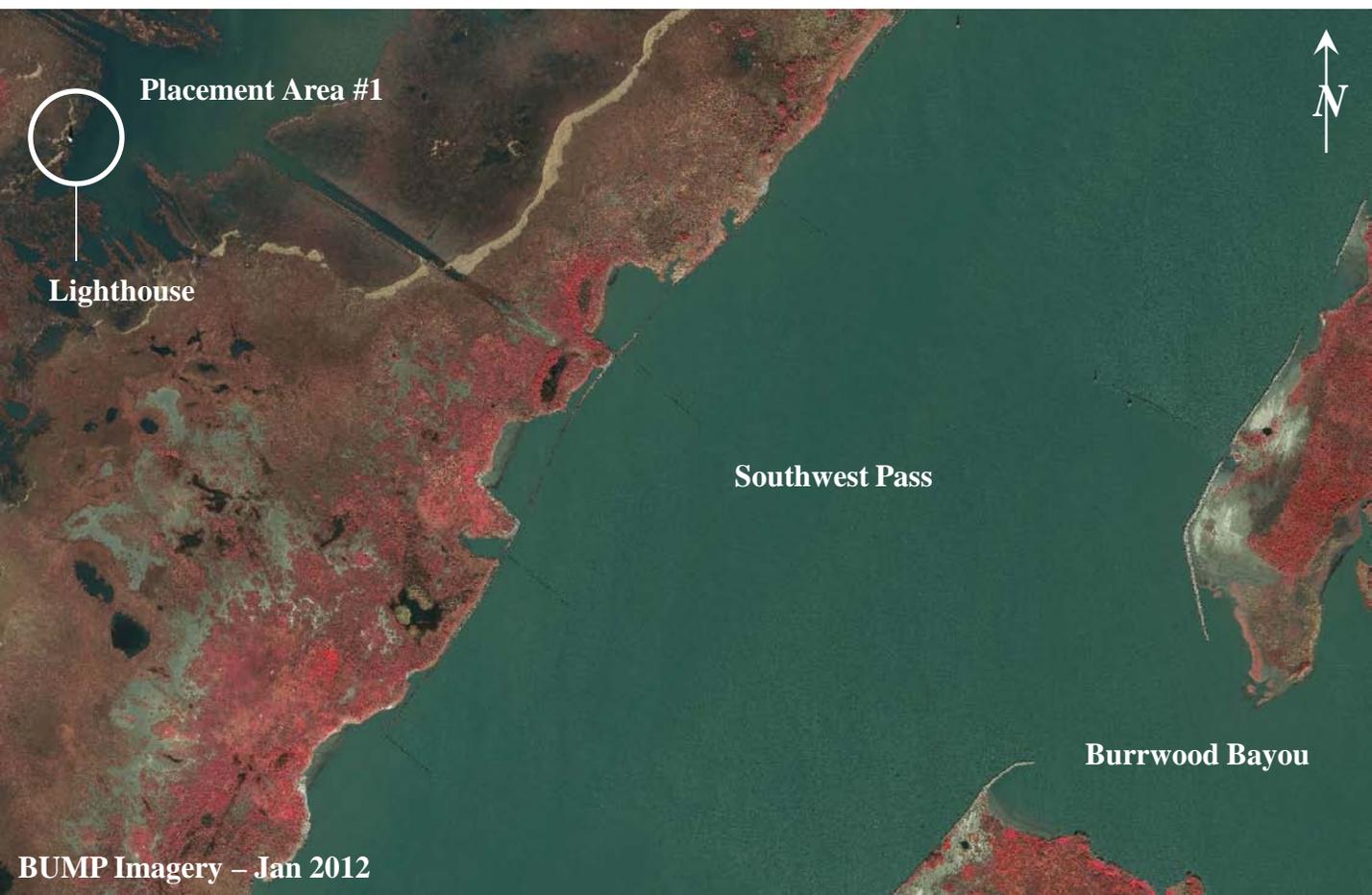
Long-views of Placement Area #1 looking northwest towards Mud Bay (above) & the right-descending bank of Southwest Pass (left).



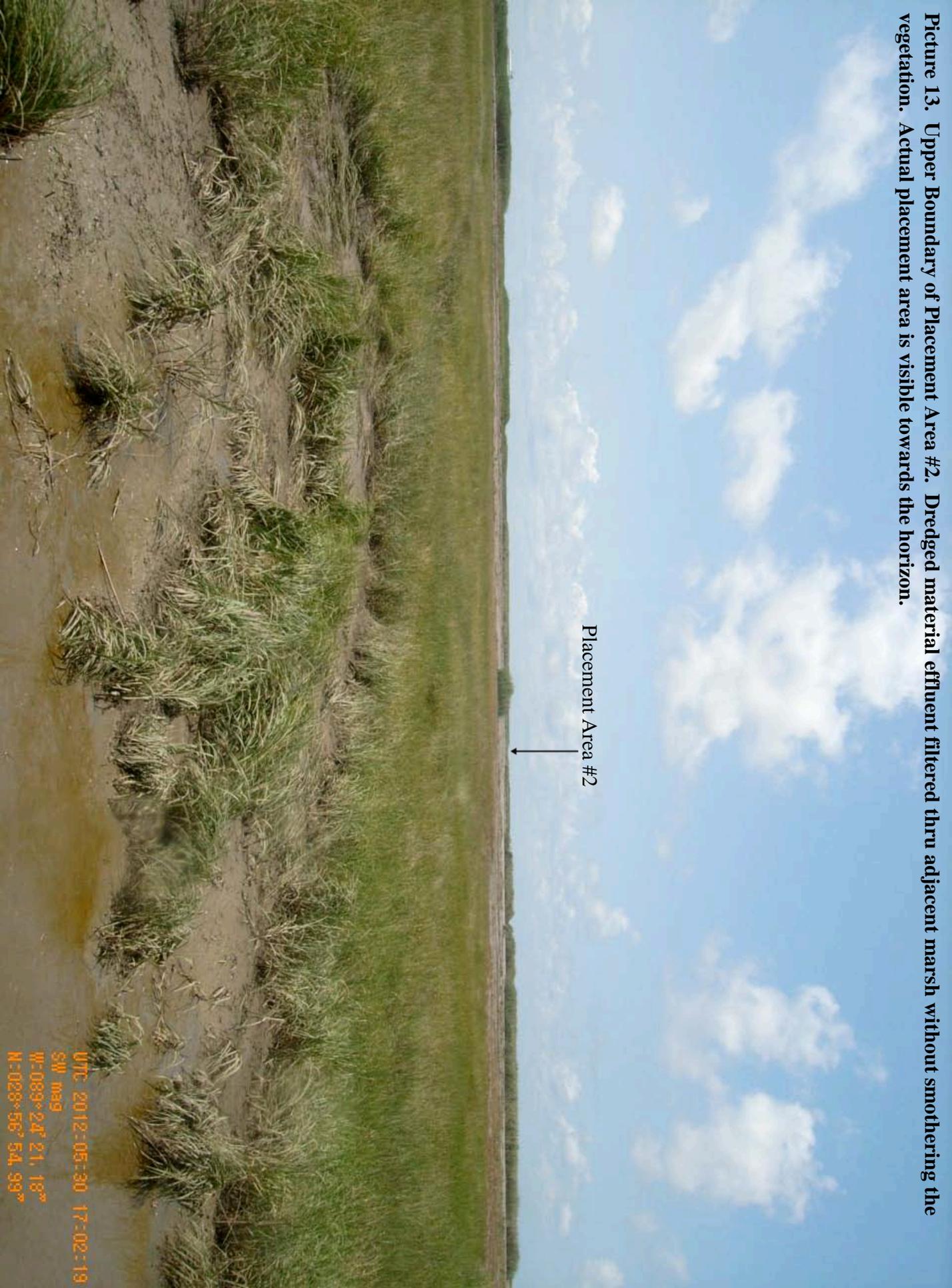
Picture 11 & Area of Interest 11-a. Dredged material was effectively semi-confined by marsh grass within Placement Area #1, without smothering the grass stands.



Picture 12 & BUMP Aerial Photography. A relic lighthouse about 1 mile west-northwest of the opening to Burrwood Bayou from Southwest Pass serves as a convenient waypoint for locating Placement Area #1.



Picture 13. Upper Boundary of Placement Area #2. Dredged material effluent filtered thru adjacent marsh without smothering the vegetation. Actual placement area is visible towards the horizon.



Placement Area #2



UTC: 2012-05-30 17:02:19

SW Mag

W:089°24'21.18"

N:028°56'54.99"



14



15



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Pictures 14-16. Dredged material within the upper boundary of Placement Area #2 was predominantly fine-grained sediments mixed with organic material.

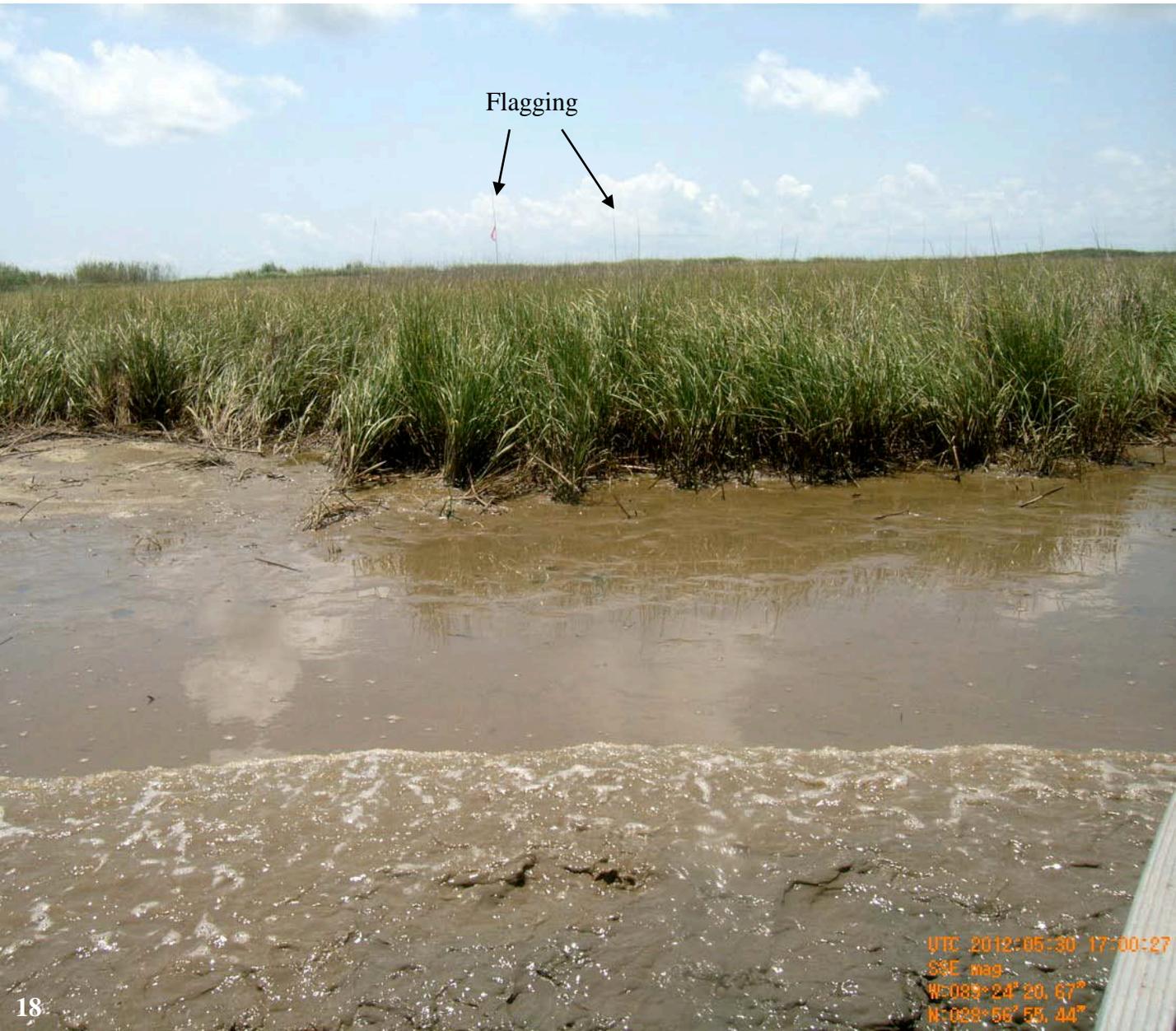
A blue crab hiding in the muck (top). Fiddler crabs were abundant along the perimeter marsh (right).



Pictures 17 & 18. Natural gas platform adjacent to the upper boundary of Placement Area #2 (left).

Survey flags within the disposal area, possibly marking one of the many pipelines crisscrossing thru the marsh alongside Southwest Pass (below).

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