



# Gulf Shoreline at Point Au Fer Island

January 2013

## U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

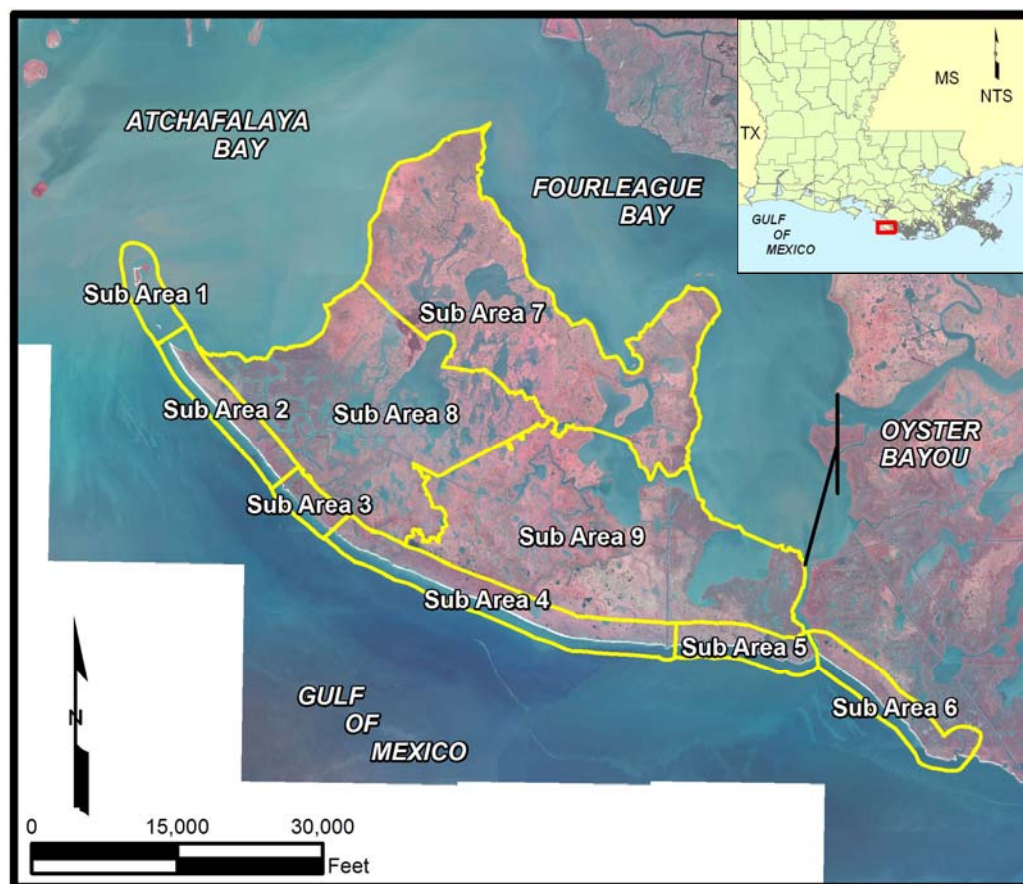
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The Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) program focuses on critical, near-term ecosystem restoration projects and studies, as approved in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. The program goal is to slow the current trend of coast-wide wetland loss and resource degradation.

Several restoration techniques are employed in this program, including freshwater diversions, marsh creation and barrier island restoration. Overall, the program is focused on a systematic approach to coastal restoration using larger projects to restore natural features and ecosystem processes.

The Gulf Shoreline at Point Au Fer Island project is an ecosystem restoration project designed to maintain the hydrologic separation of the Gulf of Mexico from interior marshes by ensuring shoreline integrity. The project was

authorized under the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 - Section 7006(e)(1) and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana (CPRA) is the cost-share partner in the development and implementation of this project.



### Project Location

The study area is located in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, approximately 30 miles south of Morgan City, near the southeast portion of Atchafalaya Bay.

### Project Goals

The goals of the project are to maintain the hydrologic separation of the Gulf of Mexico from interior marshes by ensuring shoreline integrity, to maintain an estuarine gradient in interior waters, and to reduce or reverse the trend of wetlands deterioration in the project area.

### Objectives

The objective of the project is to prevent direct connections from forming between the Gulf of Mexico and interior water bodies so that interior and bayside estuarine wetlands will not be exposed to direct gulf influence, thereby limiting the adverse effect this would have on these wetlands and the resources they provide. The objectives will be achieved by:

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[www.lca.gov](http://www.lca.gov)

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- Reducing the projected loss of acreage due to gulf shoreline recession on Point Au Fer Island over the 50-year period of analysis to maintain the critical geomorphic structure of the island;
- Reducing future loss of critical interior wetland habitat acreage on Point Au Fer Island over the 50-year period of analysis to maintain the critical geomorphic structure of the island;
- Improving the ecosystem function of various barrier island habitats on Point Au Fer Island which provide suitable habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species over the 50-year period of analysis.

## Project Features

This project's restoration features will provide for stabilization of the gulf shoreline of Point Au Fer Island through shoreline protection and marsh restoration. Stabilization techniques to be considered include using offshore sediment sources, Atchafalaya River sediments, and near-offshore segmented breakwaters. Active and abandoned oil and gas structures (canals, well heads, and pipelines) occur in the area. This site is important for migratory birds and oyster leases are present in the study area. Threatened or endangered species are expected to occur in the area, as well as cultural resources.

## Project Status

The Gulf Shoreline at Point Au Fer Island Feasibility Study was initiated on 5 June 2009. A Preferred Alternative was identified on 13 September 2010; however, due to policy guidance, the team reevaluated the Preferred Alternative.

By request of the State of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority in October 2012, the feasibility study for this project has been suspended.

Anyone seeking additional information on the Gulf Shoreline at Point Au Fer Island project can visit the Louisiana Coastal Area program website at [www.lca.gov](http://www.lca.gov).

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