



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**<sup>®</sup>  
New Orleans District

# News Release

Public Affairs Office  
504-862-2201

[www.mvn.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Julie Morgan, 504-862-2587  
September 28, 2001

### **Corps building ground on Breton Island**

**NEW ORLEANS** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is pumping material dredged from the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet onto Breton Island to construct up to 100 acres of habitat. A series of storms between 1996 and 1998, especially Hurricane Georges in 1998, reduced the island to 179 acres, compared with the 820 acres in 1869.

The southern-most of the Chandeleur Island chain, Breton Island is a major commercial and recreational fishing area and home to thousands of resident and migratory seabirds and waterfowls.

Work to rebuild the island is being done in the three phases:

**Phase One:** During emergency dredging of the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet in 1999, the Corps and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources used material to fill three of four gaps in Breton Island caused by Hurricane Georges. Additionally, the dredge placed material at a sacrificial berm site vulnerable to wave action to successfully fill in the fourth gap.

**Phase Two:** The Corps is now placing material as reinforcement around the Gulf side of the island's northern rim.

**Phase Three:** Additional material will extend and re-establish the arc that connects the north side of the island to the Breton National Wildlife Refuge at the southern tip.

In 1999, scientists estimated that Breton Island would disappear within 10 years if no restoration efforts were undertaken. However, because of its proximity to the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, the island has become a targeted disposal area for dredged material and will be replenished during the annual maintenance of the MR-GO ship channel.

The Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet is a 76-mile deepwater channel connecting the Industrial Canal in New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico.

