October 2002
Cost figures as of: March 2013

Channel Armor Gap Crevasse (MR-06)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1993 **Project Area:** 2,097 acres
Approved Funds: $0.88 M **Total Est. Cost:** $0.88 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 936 acres
Status: Completed Dec. 1997
Project Type: Sediment Diversion
PPL #: 3

Location

The project is located on the eastern side of the Mississippi River Delta in the Delta National Wildlife Refuge in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. It is west of the eastern delta's Main Pass and north of Pilottown.

Problems

Because of the revetment that runs along the Mississippi River shoreline, the area adjacent to the river no longer receives marsh nourishing sediment, nutrients, or fresh water.

During levee construction, a shallow gap was created in the stone armor along the riverbank to allow overflow during high river stages. Inadequate width and depth in the original design led to an infrequent and ineffective amount of water entering the marsh. The emergent delta originally anticipated did not materialize.

Restoration Strategy

The project plan consisted of deepening an existing 200-foot wide gap in the Mississippi River channel bank armor. In addition, the existing channel from the gap to Mary Bowers Pond was enlarged.

The implementation of this project will restore vegetated wetlands by increasing fresh water and sediment from the Mississippi River to the Delta National Wildlife Refuge area.

This project promotes sediment accretion and marsh creation by increasing the introduction of sediment and fresh water into the project area. The average flow of water is approximately 2,500 cubic feet per second and is expected to create 936 acres of emergent marsh over the 20-year life span of the project.

A crevasse is shown providing the marsh nourishing sediment necessary for delta production. The crevasse is the channel-like feature intersecting with the Mississippi River, seen here with ship traffic at the top of the image. The Mary Bowers Pond, being fed by the crevasse, can be seen in the foreground.

Progress to Date

Surveys have identified a Shell pipeline in the crevasse area that would be negatively impacted. Shell is lowering it at their expense.

The construction phase of the project is complete. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources is monitoring the project with further operation and maintenance scheduled for the future. This project is on Priority Project List 3.

For more project information, please contact:

US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

Federal Sponsor:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans, LA
(504) 862-1597

Local Sponsor:
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-4736

Channel Armor Gap Crevasse (MR-06)

Spoil Gap
Dredge Channel
Project Boundary

N

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Miles

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 Kilometers

Map Produced By:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Field Station

Background Imagery:
1998 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

Map Date: August 20, 2002
Map ID: 2002-11-443
Data accurate as of: August 20, 2002