October 2007 (rev.)

Sediment Trapping at "The Jaws" (TV-15)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1997 **Cost:** $3.4 million
Project Area: 2,782 acres **Status:** Completed
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 1,999 acres
Project Type: Sediment and Nutrient Trapping

Location

This project is located in the northeast portion of West Cote Blanche Bay in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana.

Problems

Continuous wind and wave energy in the bay is preventing sediments from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway from becoming marsh. In addition, these energies are causing a shoreline erosion rate of 15 feet/year.

Restoration Strategy

This project was authorized to reduce wave-induced shoreline erosion within the project area and promote the deposition of sediment by creating vegetated wetland terraces and reducing wave fetch, or the distance waves can travel unimpeded. Distributary channels will be dredged to deliver water and sediment to the project area.

One way to trap sediments is to build both vegetated terraces to dissipate wave energy and distributary channels to direct sediments to the project area. Low wave and current energy allow sediments to drop out of the water column, thereby accreting and allowing wetland vegetation to establish. This project calls for the dredging of a distributary channel system that will facilitate spreading the sediment load over a wide area. Dredge spoil will be used to create low elevation terraces along the landward flank of each dredged distributary to protect the depositional area associated with the channel landward of the terrace.

Aerial photo of constructed terraces at the "Jaws" project.

Progress to Date

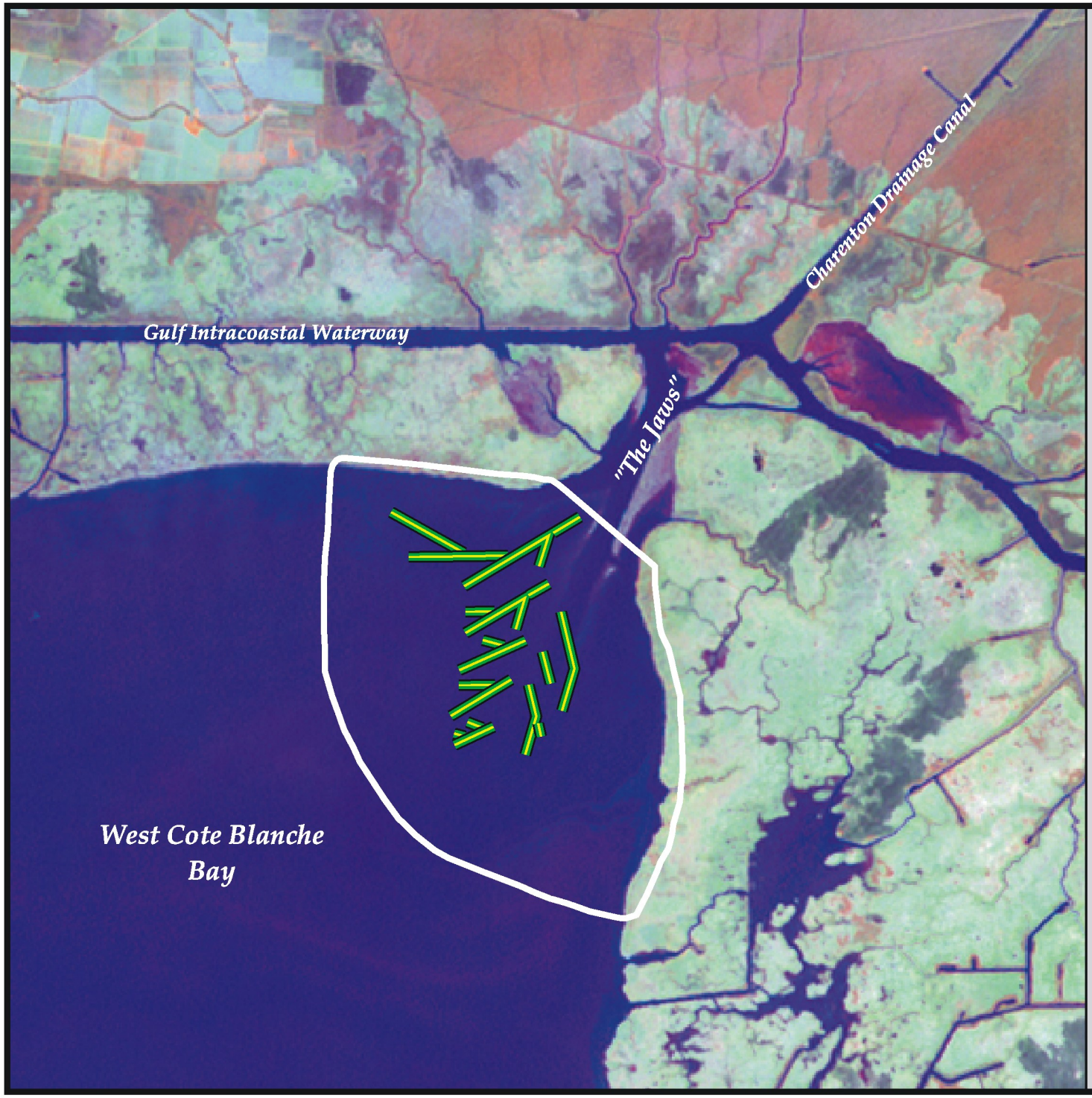
Construction was completed in December, 2004. The project is currently in the O&M phase.

This project is listed on Priority Project List 6.

For more project information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
National Marine Fisheries Service
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 389-0508

Local Sponsor:
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-7308



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Terrace*

Project Boundary

* denotes proposed feature

USGS
science for a changing world

N

0.5 0 0.5 1 Miles

0.5 0 0.5 1 Kilometers

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

Background Imagery:
2002 Thematic Mapper Imagery

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