Lessons Learned from Diversion Projects

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General Findings

- Operation restricted by law suits
- Water level is only minimally affected by diversions
- Vegetation composition shifts to species that indicated fresher water, especially closer to the diversion
- There are indications that land loss rates in the project areas have been reduced

Planning

- Take steps to minimize/eliminate conflicts with multiple resource users groups
- Evaluate the use of many small diversions vs. fewer larger ones
  - Evaluate goals and time scales
    - Land building
    - Land loss reduction

Engineering/Construction

- Evaluate the use of gated structures vs. siphons
  - Ability to divert water at low river stages
  - Operation costs
- Address potential for vandalism to the structures
- Make sure that discharge through the structure is measured

Operations and Maintenance

- Ensure consistency with restoration objectives
  - Control with state or federal agency

Monitoring

- Measurements of discharge volume are needed to evaluate the level of physical and biological response
- No reference areas are available
  - Coastwide monitoring could be a solution