

# Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 (ME-16)

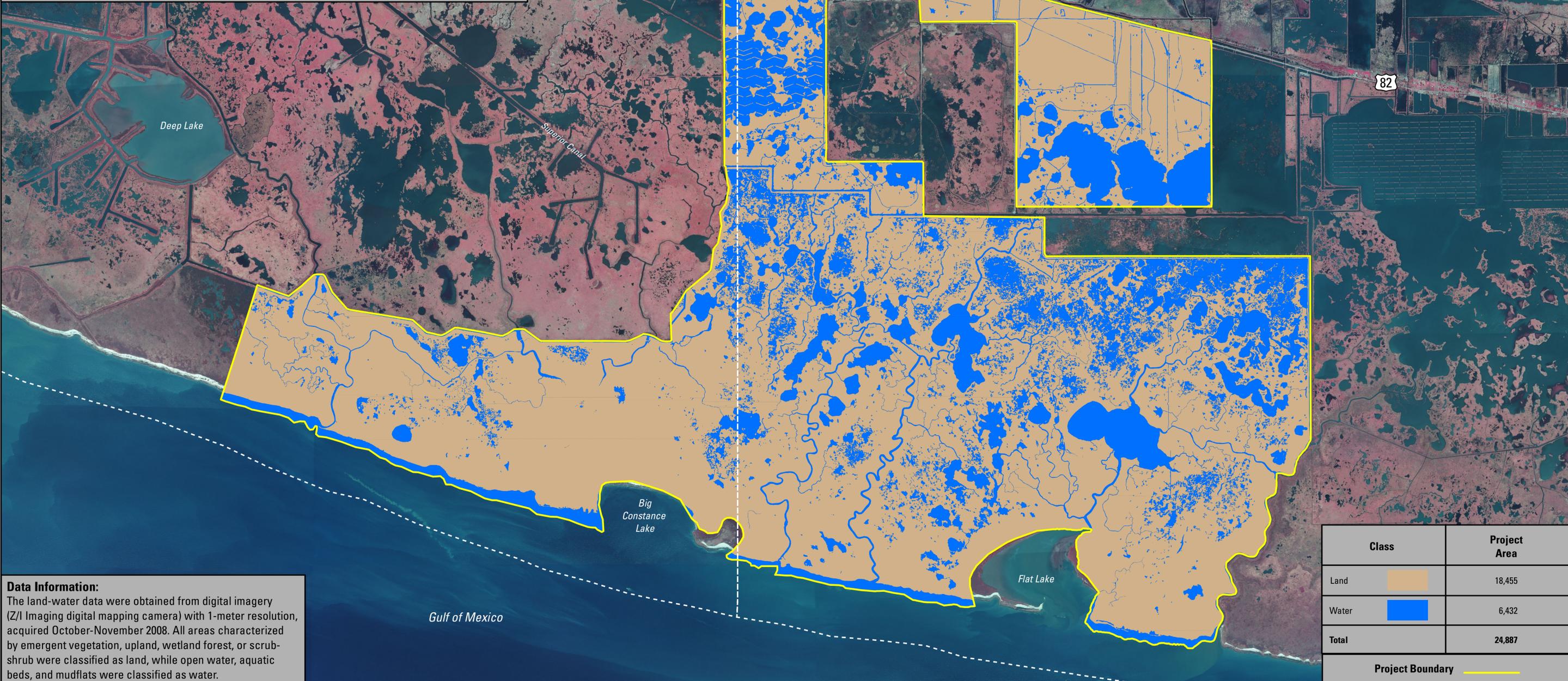
Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

2008 Land-Water Classification



**Project Description:**

The Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 Project (ME-16) area is located on the Gulf of Mexico shoreline of southwestern Louisiana, in the central and eastern portions of Rockefeller State Wildlife Refuge. The project is located in both Cameron and Vermilion Parishes and encompasses 24,887 acres. Since gates and locks were implemented to control water levels and inhibit saltwater intrusion, freshwater levels have increased in the Mermentau Basin. Saltwater intrusion is now being caused by lack of freshwater flow due to these structures and Highway 82. With hydrologic modifications, the Freshwater Introduction South of Highway 82 project goals are to restore and protect brackish and intermediate marshes inside the project area over the 20-year project life. Multiple canals were widened and deepened using dredges, new water control structures were built, existing water control structures were modified, and earthen plugs were removed to accomplish the project goals. To facilitate marsh growth, earthen terraces were also installed and vegetated. Construction of these features was completed in October 2006.



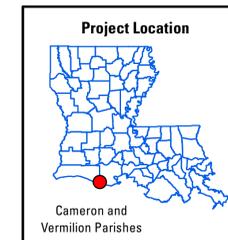
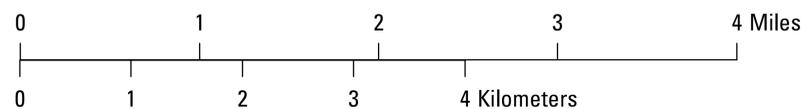
**Data Information:**

The land-water data were obtained from digital imagery (Z/I Imaging digital mapping camera) with 1-meter resolution, acquired October-November 2008. All areas characterized by emergent vegetation, upland, wetland forest, or scrub-shrub were classified as land, while open water, aquatic beds, and mudflats were classified as water.

| Class                   | Project Area  |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Land                    | 18,455        |
| Water                   | 6,432         |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>24,887</b> |
| <b>Project Boundary</b> |               |

**Prepared by:**  
 U.S. Department of the Interior  
 U.S. Geological Survey  
 National Wetlands Research Center  
 Lafayette, Louisiana  
 and  
 Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority  
 Lafayette Regional Office

Scale = 1:30,000



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