

CITATION

COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION AWARD

EAST BAY WETLAND AND WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PROJECT

In recognition of the outstanding contributions of the East Bay Wetland and Water Quality Protection Project to protect and restore key coastal habitats supporting diverse wildlife.

Collaborative efforts of Federal and State agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and private industry have protected nearly 8,000 acres of diverse coastal habitats along the East Bay from severe erosion and habitat degradation. Project partners placed over three miles of erosion control structures along the East Bay shoreline of Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. Placement of these structures has provided critical protection to one of the most remote and pristine areas in the Galveston Bay system. Areas along the project area were experiencing severe erosion rates that resulted in scouring, leaving much of the shoreline with erosive bluffs and patchy remnants of saline wetlands. The protection of this shoreline is critical to the protection of adjoining marsh habitats. Marsh habitats protected and restored by the project provide important nursery grounds for recreationally and commercially important aquatic species, such as Gulf menhaden, sea trout, southern flounder, red drum, and bay anchovy. They also provide critical wintering habitat for waterfowl and grassland bird species, and valuable stopover habitat for neotropical migratory birds. Due to the diverse partnership and the extent of protection achieved per dollar spent, the project serves as a model for efficient and collaborative protection of shorelines in the Galveston Bay system

For its exemplary collaborative work sustaining threatened marshland habitat, the East Bay Wetland and Water Quality Protection Project is granted the Cooperative Conservation Award of the Department of the Interior.

Secretary of the Interior