



NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

## RECIPIENTS

Texas Parks and Wildlife  
Department

## AWARD AMOUNT

\$3,824,000

## LOCATION

Redfish Bay, San Patricio  
County, Texas

## AWARD DATE

November 2016

## STATUS

Active

## PROGRESS UPDATE

TPWD continued to relocate oysters from the beneficial use footprint to the amended relocation site. Currently 80% of the oyster relocation activities have been completed. (January 2019)

The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about NFWF, go to [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org).

## TEXAS

### Dagger Island Restoration Project

This project will construct a half-mile, nearshore breakwater and beneficially use dredged material to restore an island in order to protect approximately 5,236 acres of coastal habitat, including 2,630 acres of seagrass in Redfish Bay, an area adjacent to Corpus Christi Bay. Additionally, this project will restore approximately 28 acres of coastal wetland habitat and create oyster, invertebrate and fisheries habitat.

Dagger Island was once a nearly contiguous island separating Corpus Christi Bay and Redfish Bay. Island degradation and shoreline erosion from natural and anthropogenic causes (e.g., shipping and dredging associated with the Corpus Christi Ship Channel) have significantly decreased the size of the island into a chain of smaller islands and altered the function and values they provide to the Redfish Bay system. These low lying islands have sand and shell hash shorelines leading to scarped banks that transition to typical high marsh vegetation including patches of mangrove on the Corpus Christi Bay side (south) of the island. Additionally, Redfish Bay contains the northernmost extensive stands of seagrass on the Texas coast and is unique in that it is one of three bays that contain all five species of native seagrass in Texas. The entire area is critically important for a number of species, including finfish, shrimp, blue crab, and sea turtles.



As displayed in the above aerial photo, Dagger Island has decayed significantly over the past 50 years.