



NFWF

## Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

### RECIPIENT

Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program

### AMOUNT

\$1,587,000

### PARTNERS

USFWS

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Texas Department of Transportation

Mission Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve

### LOCATION

Aransas River and Copano Bay, Texas

### AWARD DATE

November 2014

### STATUS

Monitoring

### PROGRESS UPDATE

Construction is completed on the north culvert and is in progress on the final south culvert. (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).

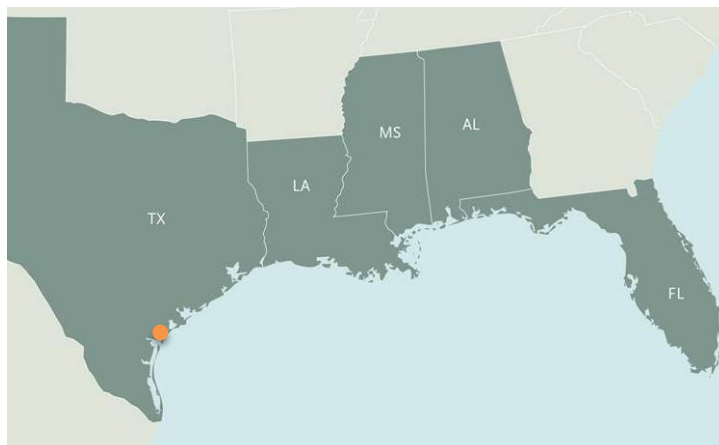
## TEXAS

# Egery Flats Marsh Restoration

This project will restore hydrology and reduce salinity to enhance over 600 acres of emergent marsh, submerged aquatic vegetation, and tidal flats at Egery Flats in the Aransas Bay complex near the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. This effort is expected to result in 300 acres of restored estuarine marsh habitat.

Egery Flats is located along the northwest edge of Copano Bay, a water body adjacent to Aransas Bay in Texas's mid-coast. Over 100 acres of estuarine marsh and vital habitat in Egery Flats has been converted to open water since the 1950s. A secondary goal is to enhance the re-vegetation of emergent marsh. This investment will address the erosion and conversion of critical brackish marsh habitat by upgrading culverts along Texas roadway that are currently restricting tidal circulation within the Egery flats area, and planting of 10 acres of emergent marsh within Egery Flats.

The marsh areas of Texas's mid-coast are essential habitat for living marine resources and provide feeding grounds for waterfowl, wading birds, and shorebirds. Many of these birds also rely on the nearby Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. The proximity of a healthy feeding ground and marine nursery to the Federal Refuge will enhance the overall ecological productivity and value of the Aransas Bay complex.



The restoration of the 600 acre Egery Flats basin will enhance important habitat for birds and marine species in Aransas Bay.