



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENTS

The Nature Conservancy

AWARD AMOUNT

\$2,500,000

PARTNERS

Galveston Bay Foundation

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

LOCATION

Trinity Bay, Houston, Texas

AWARD DATE

November 2015

STATUS

Active

PROGRESS UPDATE

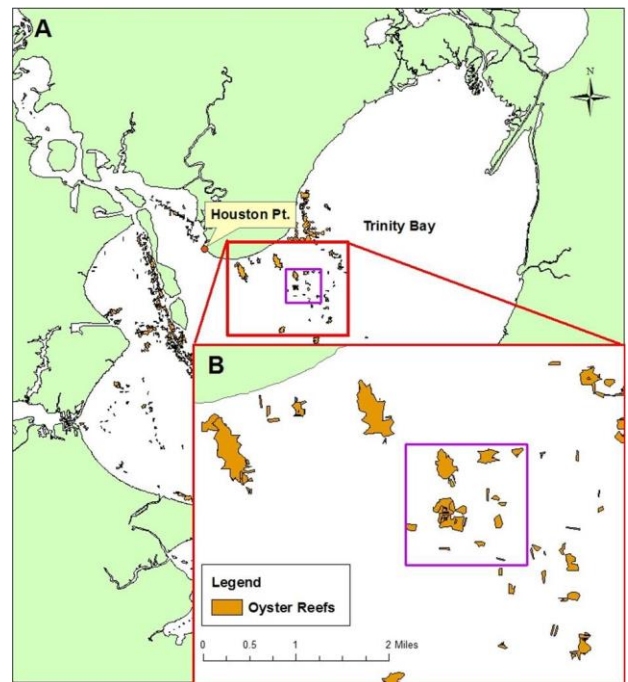
A contract is underway for 100% design and oyster reef construction. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit is currently under review. Construction is expected to begin summer 2019. (January 2019)

TEXAS

Galveston Bay Sustainable Oyster Reef Restoration

This project will restore 40 acres of degraded oyster reef habitat in the upper portion of Galveston Bay using high vertical relief structures and segmented reef complexes. Recent hurricanes devastated these critical oyster grounds which are vital to the Galveston Bay ecosystem. Additionally, this project will create one of the largest oyster sanctuaries in coastal Texas. The 15 acres restricted to harvest will be used to maximize the export of oyster larvae to the nearby 25 acres of commercial reefs created by this investment. The commercially harvestable acres will be restricted from harvest for the first two years after construction to ensure the establishment of a sustainable stock.

Overall, this project will bolster populations of coastal and marine resources of the Gulf Coast by restoring historic oyster reefs and promoting sustainable harvest strategies in Galveston Bay, a priority feature of coastal Texas. Additionally, the project will provide an opportunity for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to demonstrate an innovative approach to establishing a more sustainable oyster population without completely restricting commercial harvest.



This project will expand current oyster habitat and also create a sanctuary to assist in the implementation of future oyster work in the area.

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.