

Texas Rookery Islands

Galveston Bay and East Matagorda Bay, Texas

Phase IV Proposed Early Restoration Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Texas Rookery Islands project would restore and protect three rookery islands in Galveston Bay and one rookery island in East Matagorda Bay. Rookery islands in Galveston Bay include Dickinson Bay Island II, located within Dickinson Bay; Rollover Bay Island, located in East (Galveston) Bay; and Smith Point Island, located west of the Smith Point peninsula. Dressing Point Island lies in East Matagorda Bay and is part of the Big Boggy National Wildlife Refuge. The purpose of the proposed project is to begin to restore and protect bird species injured as a result of the spill. It would include coordination with state and federal agency biologists and with non-governmental organization partners prior to implementation and would be implemented by the Texas Trustees and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The goal is to increase the numbers of nesting colonial waterbirds by restoring and protecting rookery islands in Galveston and East Matagorda Bays. The design for the restoration and protection of the rookery islands would take into consideration methods to protect the islands from land loss associated with erosion and relative sea level rise. Rollover Bay and Smith Point Islands currently support only limited colonial waterbird nesting due to diminishing size and habitat loss. Dickinson Bay Island II was completely lost to nesting birds several decades ago. Waterbird use of Dressing Point Island has declined as its size has decreased.

Restoration activities at each rookery island would increase the amount of available nesting habitat by expanding the size of the island and enhancing habitat quality by establishing native vegetation. Habitat longevity would be increased by increasing the size of the island, establishing vegetation, and constructing protective features such as breakwaters or levees. The Texas Rookery Islands project would benefit various colonial waterbirds, including brown pelicans, gulls, royal and sandwich terns, and wading birds such as great blue herons, roseate spoonbills, reddish egrets, great egrets, snowy egrets, tricolored herons, and black-crowned night herons.

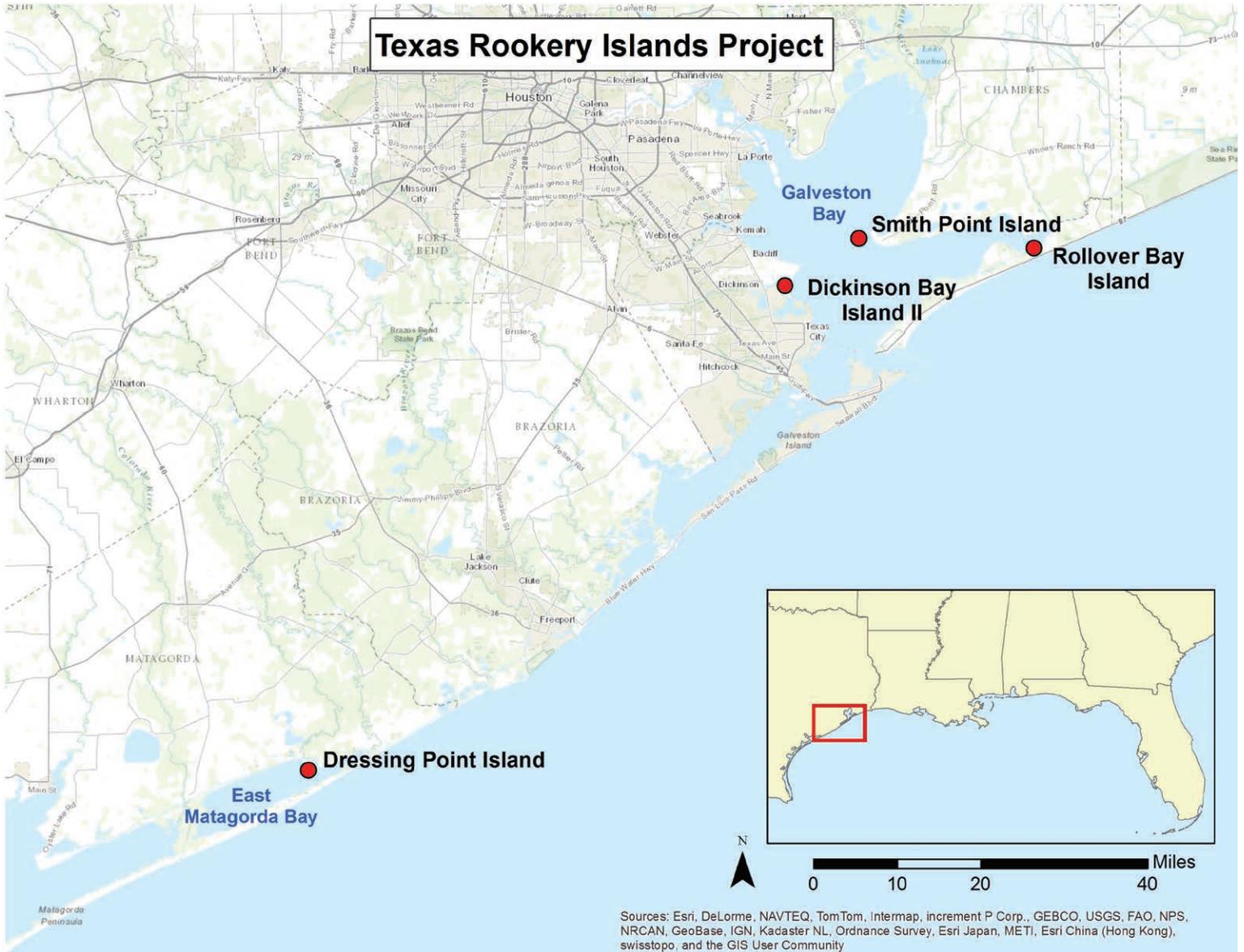
ESTIMATED COST : \$20,603,770



Tri-colored herons, brown pelicans, royal terns, and laughing gulls congregate to nest on Evia Island in Galveston Bay.

USFWS Woody Woodrow

Texas Rookery Islands Project



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



Woody Woodrow

Roseate Spoonbill is a species that will benefit from the creation of nesting habitat from this project.

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