

## Preferred Oyster Restoration Projects

### Texas Trustee Implementation Group

### Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #2

The *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill severely impacted subtidal and nearshore oyster populations, compromising the sustainability of oyster reef habitat in the Gulf of Mexico. Oysters improve water quality and clarity, provide habitat, refuge, and foraging areas for many aquatic organisms, and aid in reducing shoreline erosion and wetland loss. On behalf of the public, the Texas Trustee Implementation Group is proposing to implement one alternative (project) in the Texas Restoration Area to restore and partially compensate for oyster injuries. A summary description of the proposed project is provided below.

### Landscape Scale Oyster Restoration in Galveston Bay

The Landscape Scale Oyster Restoration project proposes to restore approximately 50 acres of degraded subtidal and intertidal oyster reefs across the Galveston Bay system in Texas. The project would construct a network of intertidal and subtidal reef complexes focusing on the Trinity and the Upper-Galveston Bay subsystems. These activities would support recovery of ecosystem services and oyster fisheries at landscape scale, building off existing oyster projects in the bay. The estimated cost of the project is \$9,500,000.



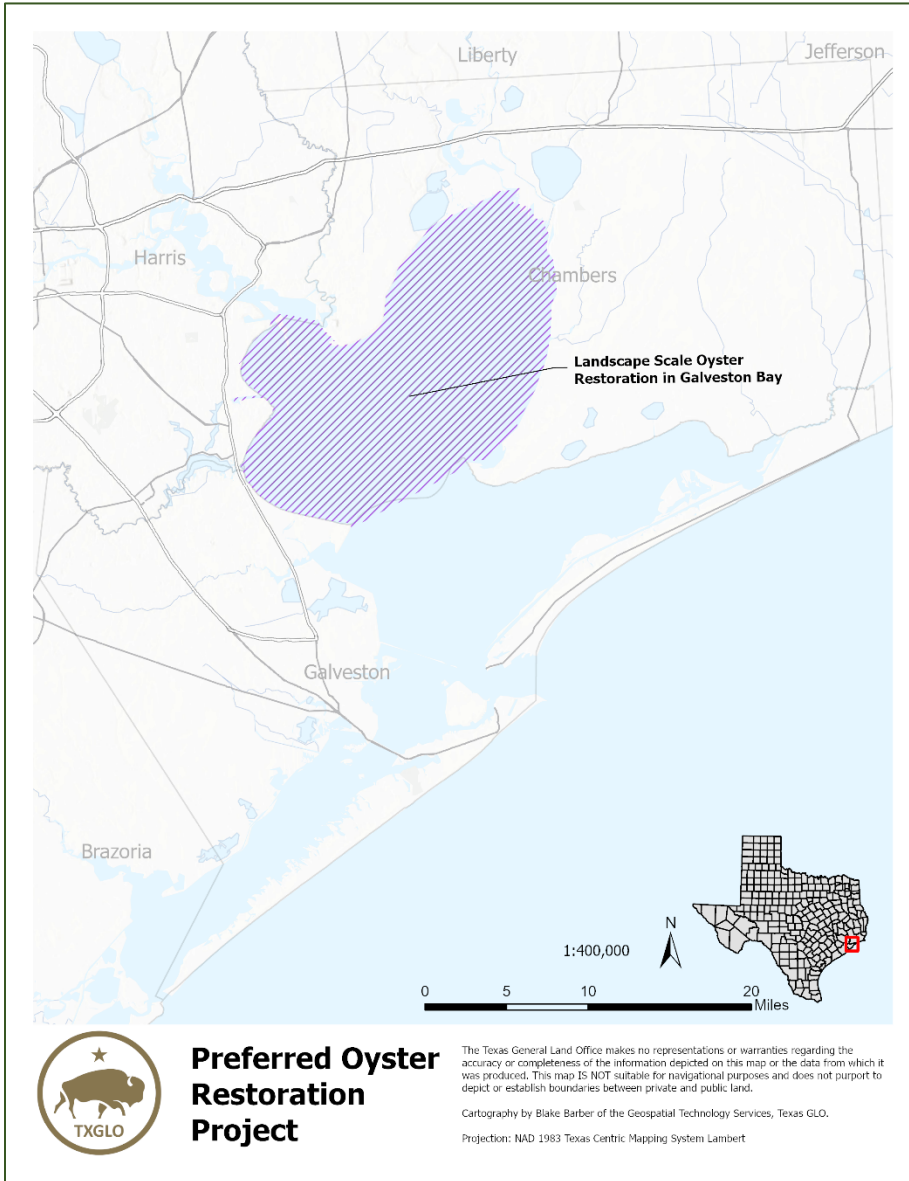
Greater yellowlegs foraging on an intertidal oyster reef in Galveston Bay (Woody Woodrow, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

#### Landscape Scale Oyster Restoration in Galveston Bay

Location: Galveston Bay

Funding Amount: \$9,500,000

**Total Funding Proposed: \$9,500,000**



Oyster reef construction (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department).

For additional project information, please see the Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #2: Restoration of Wetland, Coastal and Nearshore Habitats; Nutrient Reduction; Oysters; Sea Turtles; and Birds online at [www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/texas](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/texas).