

# NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

## CASE FILE: Apex Barges—Texas

### *July 28, 1990, Galveston Bay, Texas—*

The Greek Tank Vessel, *Shinoussa*, collided with Apex tank barges carrying oil in the Houston Ship Channel. At least 700,000 gallons of partially refined crude oil were discharged from two of the damaged barges. The spread of sheen and mousse in Galveston Bay was extensive.

Oil impacted shorelines, birds, emergent marsh, and aquatic resources. The removal finned fish was banned from Galveston Bay and a ban on shellfish and shrimp removal remained in effect for more than a month.

### **Trustees**

The federal, state, and tribal agencies who responsible for the natural resources impacted by this oil spill are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the State of Texas.

### **Settlement**

The trustees agreed to a negotiated damage claim of \$1.7 million.



*Oiled marsh*

The court formally entered the settlement in late 1994. After recovery of outstanding state and federal trustee agency assessment costs, a total of \$1.3 million remains available to address natural resource injuries.

### **Restoration**

After public meetings and deliberations, four wetland restoration projects in the Galveston Bay area were identified and awarded from the settlement.

Marsh terraces were constructed on 63 acres of shallow, open-water habitat. Wave barriers were installed, and additional marsh terraces were built on 121 acres of shallow, open-water bottom. A 57-acre site was constructed, restored, improved, and enhanced. An additional 22 acres of small islands of emergent marsh were created and more than 35 acres of wetlands were created with dredged material.



[www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov)

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