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SOUTH-CENTRAL COASTAL OPERATIONS' AREAS

Isles Dernieres Barrier Islands Refuge:

Comments:

Comments by USGS (Wetlands Center, Lafayette) personnel based on aerial surveys of the coast were that the majority of structural landscape damage was to barrier islands like Raccoon Island. A site visit from the ground by LDWF personnel confirmed this to some extent but it appeared that within Isles Dernieres Barrier Islands Refuge, Raccoon Island may have received less damage than the other islands within the chain. Much of this appeared to be due to the greater distance from the impact area as well as the segmented offshore breakwaters (bw) that appeared to greatly protect the beach habitat and vegetation beyond that. The western spit was severely impacted but the “footprint” appeared to be intact. Much of the spit was under water, or very nearly so, during the site visit but it was evident that it was very shallow and may very well be “reworked” in future months. Most of the vegetated portion on the spit just west of bw 15 remained above water. The byside of the island appeared to suffer some minimal erosion.

Raccoon Island East End Pre- and Post-Gustav (Source: USGS)



Raccoon Island Western Spit Pre- and Post-Gustav (Source: USGS)



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Whiskey Island was much like Raccoon in terms of spits on each end of the island. Both spits were primarily underwater but appeared to have retained their footprint and should rebuild in time. The gulf side beach was inaccessible due to high winds and time constraints. Bayside marsh appeared to have received some vegetative damage and erosion.

Trinity/East Island lost both spits. The western spit appeared to possibly be lost or damaged beyond natural repair process as it appeared the old spit area was much deeper and the wave energy was very high. The bayside received some marsh loss. The gulf side that we observed off California canal received heavy beach erosion and over washing. The eastern spit was underwater and appeared to be deeper with less of an existing footprint for rebuilding. The old Stone Energy platform living quarters was completely destroyed.

IDBI Refuge - Trinity Island



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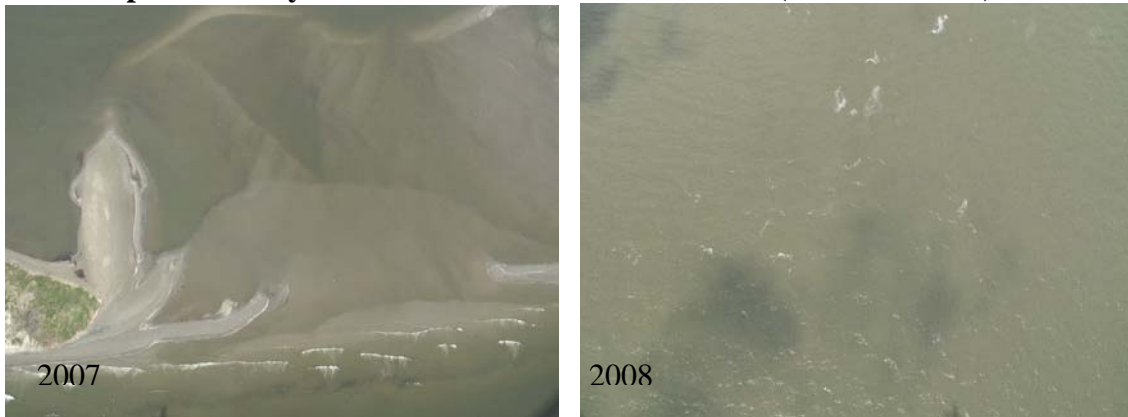


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Western Spit of Trinity Island Pre- and Post-Gustav (Source: USGS)



Eastern Spit of Trinity/East Island Pre- and Post-Gustav (Source: USGS)



Wine Island appeared to have taken the brunt of destruction within the Isles Dernieres chain. Although it is small and elevated, the entire island was overtopped with significant over washing. Although the footprint is similar to pre-Gustav, the elevation appeared to have been significantly affected from the over washing. There is obviously less material within the rock dike due to scouring.

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Scour on Elevated Portion of Wine Island



Wildlife Impacts:

Wildlife impacts were only observed on Wine Island. Ten brown pelicans, one adult and the remainder young birds of varying age, were observed dead as well as several birds that appeared to be slightly wounded or sick. Only about ½ of the island perimeter was searched do to time constraints. Undoubtedly more dead birds would have been found had the interior and remainder of the perimeter been searched and overall impacts to pelicans on Wine Island was probably substantial. Many hundreds of live and apparently healthy pelicans were seen along the beach area as well as in the interior of the island however unlike Raccoon Island, no young were seen on nests as any active nests would have been easily topped. All islands had many pelicans as well as many tern species and other shorebirds and waterbirds observed either loafing or feeding.

Dead Immature Pelican on Wine Island

