

Bow Sun Oil Spill

Case History: In May 1994, an oil tanker collided with a dock in the Texas City Ship Channel, near Galveston, Texas, spilling over 36,000 gallons of bunker oil into the channel. Approximately 1.5 miles of the south bank, 2.5 miles of the north bank, and most of the surface waters of the southwestern leg of the Texas City Ship Channel were oiled. Injuries to natural resources and the services they provide were primarily associated with the oiled shorelines and included an estuarine marsh. Because the majority of impacts were to State resources, the DOI elected not to participate in the assessment as a Trustee, but has offered technical assistance multiple times throughout the response and assessment process and has monitored case progress. In April 1997, the Trustees and Responsible Parties (RPs) agreed that the construction of approximately one acre of emergent marsh, in addition to reimbursement for assessment costs, would adequately compensate the public for injuries resulting from this spill. The settlement resulted in \$25,000 for restoration.

Responsible Parties. Skibaksjeselkapet Storli, owner of M/V Bow Sun.

Trustees:

[Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#) (TPWD)

[Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#) (TCEQ)

[Texas General Land Office](#) (TXGLO)

[DOI-FWS](#)

Current Status: Because proposed restoration activities are being conducted in the upper regions of Galveston Bay, an area impacted by the discharges from multiple other sites, restoration activities have been combined in a landscape approach with other Natural Resource Damage (NRD) settlements. These Bow Sun settlement funds, combined with other NRDAR funds, will be used to restore 5 acres of fringe wetlands by planting wetland species on public land adjacent to Sims, Brays, Vince or Buffalo Bayou. Restoration is slated to be completed by October 2007.



The Bow Sun Oil Spill impacted miles of fringe marsh on the Texas Coast.

Contacts:

[Kenneth Rice](#), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, [Corpus Christi Ecological Services Field Office](#), 361/994-9005

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