

## Chiltipin Creek Oil Spill

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**Case History:** In January, 1992, a pipeline ruptured, discharging nearly 124,000 gallons of light crude oil into a 38 acre marsh/mudflat/algal mat community complex associated with Chiltipin Creek, San Patricio County, Texas. An in-situ burn was conducted in an effort to remove the oil, causing additional impacts. The Trustees utilized the Habitat Evaluation Procedure to determine that purchase of the 110 acre [Shamrock Island](#) would adequately compensate the public for losses to resources and habitat services from the spill. Shamrock Island is located in Corpus Christi Bay, Nueces County, Texas, and was slated for development activities. The Island supports sand/shell beach, grass/shrub xeric upland; low, mid and high marsh wetlands; and small coves and lagoons. The far west end of the Island supports a tremendous bird rookery for over 20 species of shore and wading birds. The restoration plan for this case included protection of the property in perpetuity and stabilizing areas being eroded. The total settlement for this case was for \$153,793.



The Shamrock Island project protected rookery habitat for multiple species of colonial birds in perpetuity.



**Responsible Parties:** Exxon Pipeline Company.

**Trustees:**

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

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

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

[DOI-FWS](#)

**Current Status:** Restoration and monitoring of the Shamrock Island project is complete. [The Nature Conservancy](#) accepted responsibility for a Conservation Easement on the island and the island now provides and protects excellent habitat for multiple species of shore and wading birds, including pelicans, herons, egrets, ibises, and cranes.

**Documents:**

The links below will allow you to view documents concerning the Chiltipin Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration.

Most reports will be in PDF format and you will need [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) to view them. Some files may be large so note the file size before downloading.

**[Chiltipin Creek Spill Agreement](#)**

FWS [Field Investigation Report of the Exxon Pipeline/Chiltipin Creek Oil Spill](#), January 1992

**Contacts:**

[Kenneth Rice](#), [Corpus Christi Ecological Services Field Office](#), 391-994-9005

**Other Links:**

[Region 2 Environmental Contaminants Program Homepage](#)

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Environmental Contaminants Program Washington Office Homepage](#)