

## Apex Barges Oil Spill

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**Case History:** On July 28, 1990, an oil tanker collided with two barges being towed by a tugboat in the Houston Ship Channel, near Galveston, resulting in an estimated 692,000 gallons of oil being discharged into Galveston Bay. This bay is the seventh largest estuary in the United States, and the largest in Texas. Natural resources affected included: surface water, sediments, aquatic invertebrates, wetlands, migratory birds, marine mammals, saltwater fish, and endangered and threatened species. The case was settled in December 1994, for \$1,700,000, with \$1,312,000 available for restoration.

**Responsible Parties:** Golnoy Barge Company, Apex Towing Company, Shinoussa Shipping Company, and Fidelis Shipping Corporation.

**Trustees:**

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

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

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

[NOAA](#)

[DOI-FWS](#)



The Pierce Marsh restoration project provides a variety of estuarine habitat for wildlife.

**Current Status:** Restoration consisting of 4 projects selected by the Apex Trustee Council was implemented: I-45 Scenic Corridor to Galveston, [San Jacinto Historic Park](#), [Pierce Marsh](#), and [Galveston Island State Park](#). Each resulted from a complex structure of partnering efforts which involved fund matches from private, state and federal funds. Utilizing the \$1.3 million settlement as the catalyst, the partnered restoration resulted in over \$3.9 million in restoration activities. Restoration projects include the acquisition of 2,472 acres intertidal wetland habitat, creation of a combination of 275 acres intertidal wetland, submerged aquatic vegetation, salt-flat/high marsh, colonial waterbird nesting habitat and protect an additional 400 acres of eroding intertidal wetland. Each project is protected in perpetuity through conservation easements or public trust ownership. All four restoration projects have been completed.

**Documents:**

The links below will allow you to view documents concerning the Alcoa-Lavaca Bay NRDAR.

Some documents 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.

[Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment](#) (part a)

[Restoration Plan/Environment Assessment](#) (part b)

**Contact:**

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**Other Links:**

[Region 2 Environmental Contaminants Program Homepage](#)

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