

Mobil Mining Chemical Spill

Case History: The Mobil Mining and Minerals Company is located near Pasadena, Harris County, Texas. In April 1992, a retaining wall within the facility failed, releasing 45 million gallons of gypsum and acidic process water into Cotton Patch Bayou, and from there into the Houston Ship Channel. Approximately 7 miles of the ship channel and associated resources were oiled and millions of fish were killed. Cotton Patch Bayou provides habitat for song- and wading birds, terrestrial reptiles, mammals, and numerous invertebrates, such as crayfish, in addition to other intrinsic wetland values. As a result of the spill, natural resource Trustees provided the Responsible Party with a NRDAR claim proposing to create and enhance 17 acres of tidal wetland, and a 17 acre area of freshwater wetlands near the Houston Ship Channel.



Responsible Party: Mobil Mining and Minerals Company.

The 34 acre Mobil Mining restoration site provides an oasis of habitat for a variety of migratory waterfowl and songbirds amidst a heavily industrialized area.

Trustees:

[NOAA](#)

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

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

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

[DOI-FWS](#)

Current Status: The restoration action and monitoring at this site has been completed. The 34 acre site is located adjacent to the Houston Ship Channel and provides an oasis of salt marsh and tidal wetlands within a heavily industrialized area. Final settlement amount was estimated at \$1,600,000. This restoration is protected in perpetuity by a Conservation Easement held in Public Trust.

Documents:

The links below will allow you to view documents concerning the Mobile Mining Site and associated restoration.

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.

NOAA – [Restoration](#) Activities

Contacts:

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

Other Links:

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 2 Environmental Contaminants Program Homepage](#)

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