

**Breaux Act Dedication Ceremony  
(Vermilion/Iberia, 6 projects)  
Comments for Col. Peter Rowan  
November 14, 2002**

Greeting, salutations...

Honor to be part of today's festivities...

Much has been accomplished in the past decade...

Since construction began in Oct 91, the Task Force agencies, together with DNR, have completed 50 projects to restore, protect and nourish Louisiana's coastal wetlands. As a recent resident to Louisiana and to the chair of the Breaux Act Task Force, I am honored to have a role in contributing to the productivity of this state through successful partnering.

Today we celebrate the ground breaking and dedication of 6 Breaux Act projects...

When completed will have a net benefit of almost 16,000 acres...another step to create, restore or protect our fragile but boundlessly productive coast.

The Corps is dedicating the Marsh Island Hydrologic Restoration Project today.

Located in Iberia Parish on the eastern portion of the Marsh Island State Wildlife Refuge and surrounding Lake Sand.

Listed on Priority Project List 6

Project Area of 6,697 acres

Cost \$5.1 million

Completed in December 2001

Net Benefit after 20 years: 367 acres

Natural erosion and subsidence, as well as navigation canals, have led to the deterioration of the north rim of Lake Sand and the interior marshes.

This project stabilizes the northeastern shoreline of Marsh Island, including the northern shoreline of Lake Sand, and helps restore the historic hydrology.

Project components include:

construction of 7 closures for oil and gas canals at the northeast end of Marsh Island

protection of the northeast shoreline with rock including the isolation of Lake Sand from Vermilion Bay.

Natural bayous will provide fisheries access points into the area marshes.

The project increases marsh, fish, and wildlife productivity by reducing shoreline erosion and correcting altered hydrology.

I'd like to thank the US Fish & Wildlife, owners of Marsh Island, and recognize our contractors, Luhr Brothers and TAACON for a fantastic job in constructing this project. I'd also like to recognize all the Task Force members and their staff for their work and dedication. We couldn't have proceeded without the support from the parish representatives and from the State of Louisiana.

We are all partners in an enormously complicated, expensive and important mission...saving coastal Louisiana. Together with concerned citizens and environmental groups, we can pull together into an unprecedented task force to ensure the future bounty of Louisiana's coastal wetlands. We must do it for the nation, for the state, for our children's future.

Thank you.