

NAME: Deadman's Island Restoration Project

LOCATION: Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County, Florida

ACRES: 13 acres

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:

The City of Gulf Breeze

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed restoration project utilizes the offshore placement of 392 artificial vertical oyster reef structures along approximately 1,240 linear feet of shoreline to reduce the wave energy and placement of dredge spoil behind the structures for planting of emergent salt marsh. This project would place the oyster reef structures on existing open-water bay bottom and emergent salt marsh where no such vegetation currently exists. Areas of the north end of Deadman's Island will need to be filled, raised and sloped appropriately to create a stable shoring for the proper stabilization for planting vegetation. Sand bags and coir logs will be placed under the root system of the existing trees to support and restore the existing marine oak trees.

EXPECTED BENEFITS:

The creation of the oyster reef/wetland/shoreline stabilization/dune habitat would enhance benefits to resident and migratory shore birds, as Deadman's Island has been observed to be a migratory bird drop zone. In addition, the project will serve to enhance juvenile and adult fish habitat, and the shells liberated from the oyster reefs will wash onto the shore to form a beach, which can be used as shore bird nesting areas.

STATUS: Construction