

## **COASTAL STORM DAMAGE RISK MANAGEMENT REDUCTION: COASTAL TEXAS PROJECT**

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### **Abstract**

Approximately \$25M is being invested in coastal storm risk management feasibility studies along the Texas coast. The ongoing Coastal Texas Feasibility study will result in a comprehensive review of the problems and opportunities related to storm surge impacts and environmental restoration for the entire Texas Coast. The study is being completed under the Corps' planning modernization and "SMART Planning" process. A Reconnaissance Study was completed in May of 2015, followed by the initiation of the feasibility study in November 2015. The study received an exemption under the Corp's 3x3x3 rule (later codified under WRRDA). Additional time and costs were approved to complete the dual purpose study resulting in a 5.5-year, \$19.8 million feasibility effort.

The study is completing its 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 5.5-year study process and is expected to have a tentatively selected plan and a draft report in the summer of 2018. An update on the Coastal Texas study will be presented, as well as information on the Corp's exemption process and challenges with SMART Planning.

The study effort is comprised of:

- 1) Development of a Comprehensive Plan for the entire Texas coast incorporating Corps projects, Texas State Master Plan, and studies and projects by others;
- 2) Analyses of storm surge impacts for the Galveston Bay region and other locations using coastal and estuarine modeling, application of sea level rise scenarios over the project life, and multiple lines of defense; and
- 3) Coastal environmental restoration such as beach, wetland, marsh, oyster reef, bird island, and other habitats.