

Nature-based Resilience for Gulf Coast Communities:

Using Regional Sediment Management to Sustain the Coast

EESI BRIEFING

WASHINGTON, DC: JUNE 24, 2019

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American Shore & Beach Preservation Association

Advocating for healthy coastlines

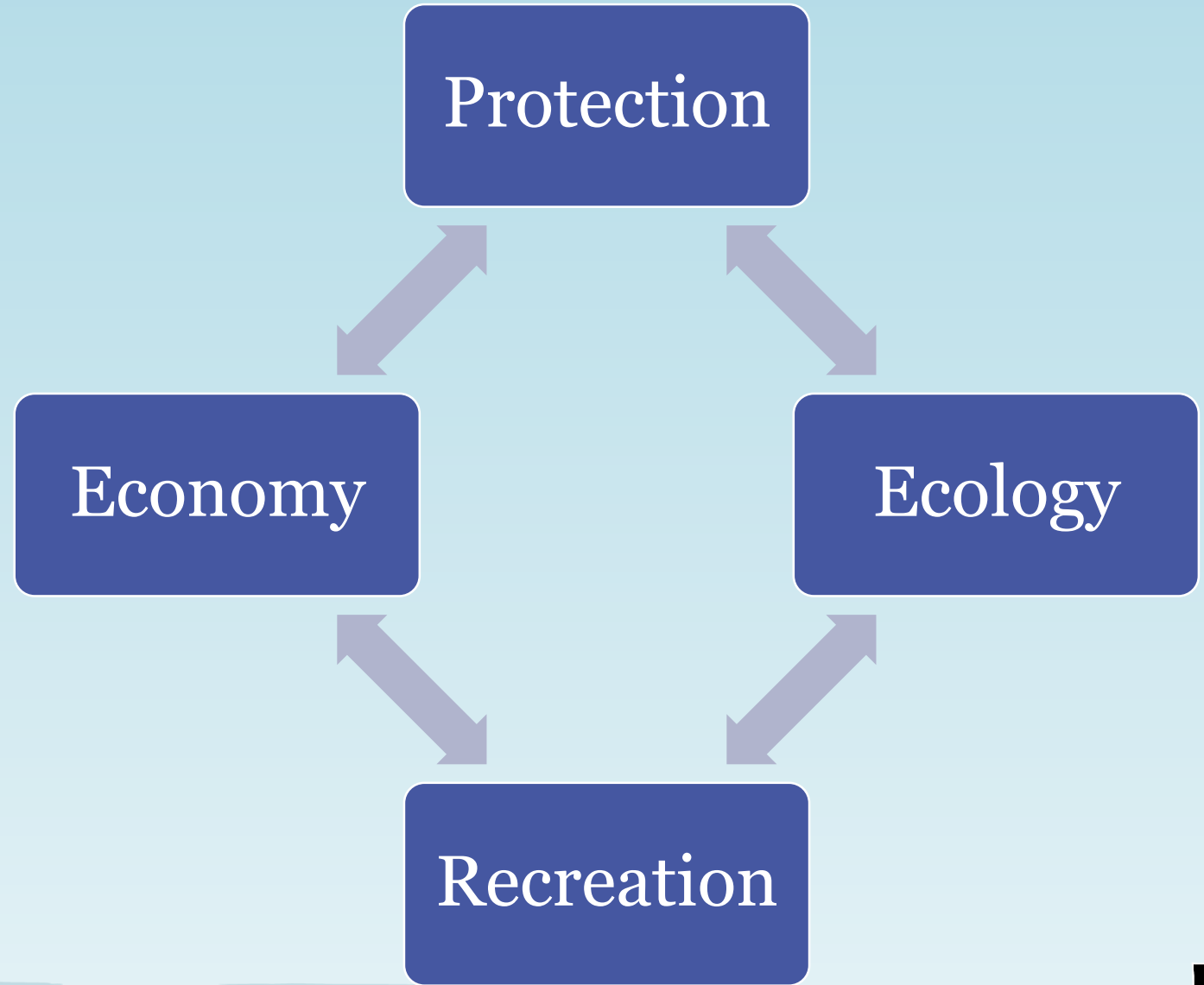
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Vision:

*Advocating
for healthy
coastlines*



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Sediment: The building block of Nature-Based Resilience



A Coastal Sediment Crisis...





Where has all the sediment gone?



An aerial photograph of a coastal wetland area. The image shows a complex network of water channels and land patches. The land is colored in shades of green, brown, and tan, indicating different vegetation and sediment levels. Two circular callouts with dashed borders point to areas of sediment loss. A dashed line with arrows at both ends connects these two areas, passing over a central region of the wetlands.

**SEDIMENT
WASTED**

SEDIMENT STARVED WETLANDS

**SEDIMENT
WASTED**

*Shoreline recession... is not “natural,”
but caused by human activity to benefit
the navigation industry.*

- Dr. James Houston
Dir. Emeritus, USACE-ERDC

Exacerbating factors:



■ Ocean Surface



■ Elevation <5m

■ Elevation <10m

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What's already happening:



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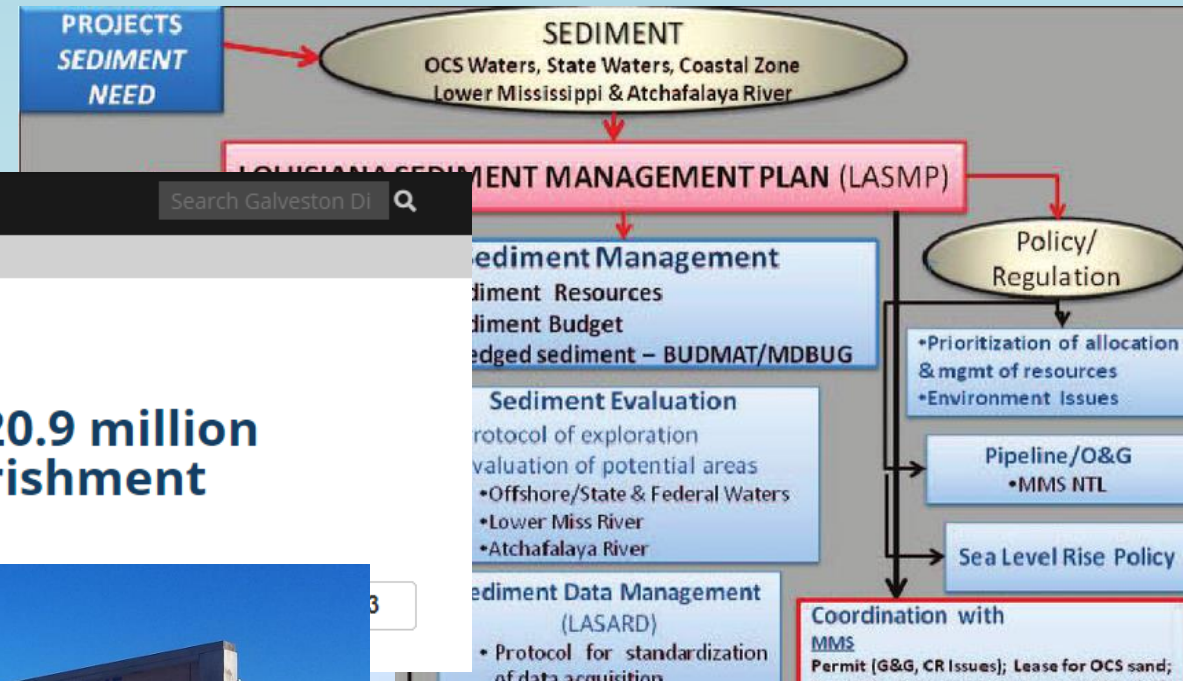
US Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District

Media / News Releases

News Releases by Month

- June 2019 (3)
- May 2019 (2)
- April 2019 (3)
- March 2019 (4)
- February 2019 (2)
- January 2019 (6)

USACE Galveston District awards \$20.9 million dredging project with beach renourishment component

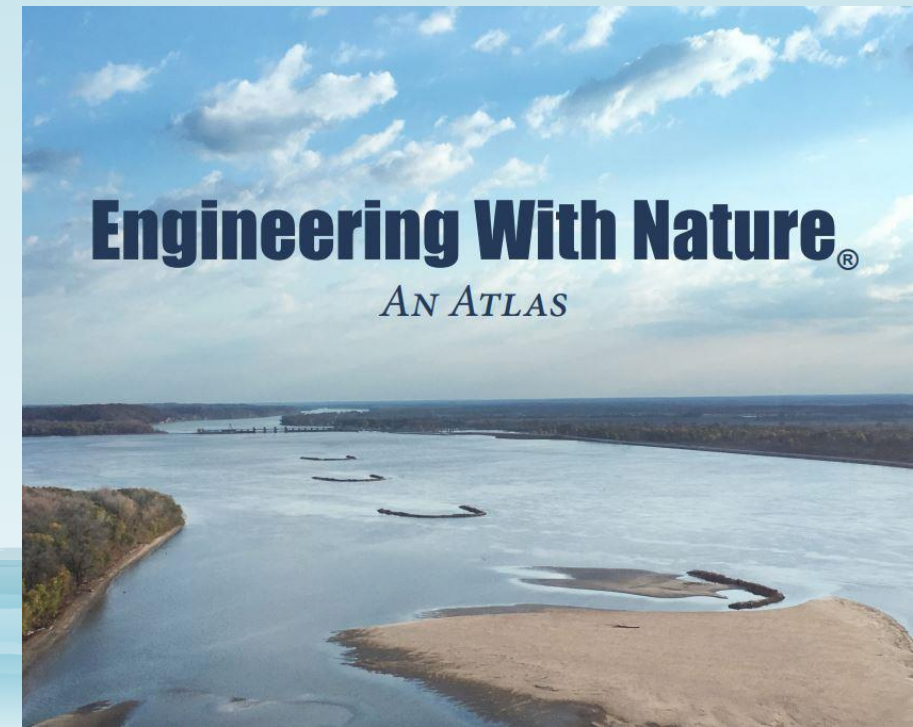


State Efforts

- **Louisiana:** State Master Plan, Sediment Diversions; BUDMAT
- **Florida:** Beach restoration; Jacksonville RSM Center of Excellence
- **Alabama:** Proposed Law requiring use of Dredged Material from Mobile Bay
- **Texas:** Dredge material used for beaches from Galveston Ship channel.
- **Mississippi:** MSCIP; Use of Alabama dredge material for barrier island restoration.
- **Gulf of Mexico Alliance:** Collaborative working group on RSM

Corps Districts & Practices

- Gulf is a Regional leader:
 - 3 of the top RSM districts in the country* are Jax, Mobile, Galveston.
(* opinion)
 - Jax has RSM Center for Expertise.
 - ERDC (Vicksburg, MS) – Hosts RSM program for USACE.
- Corps Studies focused on RSM:
 - South Atlantic Coast Study (SACS)
 - Texas Coastal Study
- Engineering With Nature
- Sec. 1122 BUDM pilot program



How Can Congress Support Nature-Based Resilience?



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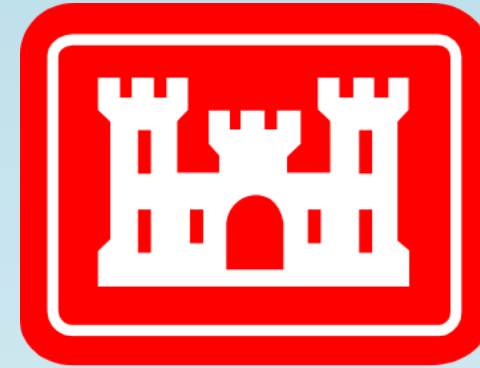
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1) Army Corps Concerns:

A. Change the understanding of the USACE “federal standard” of least cost disposal;

B. Reform Benefit-Cost-Ratio (BCR), which encourages single-benefit project design.



**US Army Corps
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2) Legislation:

A. Living Shorelines Act (H.R. 3115 – Rep. Pallone, lead sponsor)

B. Coastal Communities Adaptation Act (H.R. 1317 – Rep. Rouda, lead sponsor)



3) Sustained federal investment

A. Appropriations: Energy & Water; CJS (NOAA);
Interior & Environment

B. Upfront investment, rather than post-storm (but
until we get upfront invest, post-disaster is critical!)



4) Commitment to Infrastructure, People & Nature



Questions?



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Why Nature Based Resilience?

