

6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5869 Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5869 O 361.825.2000 • F 361.825.2050

Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust Quarterly Progress Report

Restoring oyster reef habitat in Tres Palacios Bay and developing best practices for future restoration Award # 020

Submitted by:

Jennifer B. Pollack, Ph.D. Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi

Reporting Period: March 1 to June 30, 2022 Date of Submission: June 17, 2022

> Submitted to: Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust



II. Description of tasks completed:

- A project team kickoff meeting was held on March 11, 2022, to review project tasks and timelines, assign roles and responsibilities, and identify action items.
- Data on oysters and surficial sediment characteristics, collected during pre-award diver surveys in Tres Palacios Bay, were shared with the project team.
- Meetings were held with permitting agencies and area stakeholders (Matagorda Bay Foundation) prior to final site selection.
- Final reef site was chosen near Oliver's Point and the Coon Islands in Tres Palacios Bay (see Exhibits A-C)
- Reef design was finalized according to the site chosen (see Exhibit D)
- Pre-Construction Notification Application for Nationwide Permit 27 was prepared, finalized, and submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers (June 15, 2022)
- Surface Lease application was prepared, finalized, and submitted to the Texas General Land Office (June 15, 2022)

III. Status of tasks in progress:

- Preparing applications for Texas Parks and Wildlife Stocking Permit and Scientific Permit
- Collect broodstock and perform experimental spawns in mobile oyster hatchery
- Experiment with calcein staining of larvae
- Permitting applications submitted to agencies, waiting on feedback
- Sourcing of oyster shell for reef construction

IV. Plan for next quarter:

- Finalize and submit applications for Texas Parks and Wildlife Stocking Permit and Scientific Permit
- Continue working with Army Corps and Texas General Land Office to obtain final permit and surface lease
- Continue collection of broodstock, experimental spawning, and calcein staining
- Identify source of oyster shell for reef construction

V. Adherence to Project Timeline:

- We have adhered to the project timeline. No delays have been encountered.









