



299 Hwy 332 West      Lake Jackson      Texas      77566

---

979-480-0999      WWW.GCBO.ORG

Date: May 4, 2026  
Re: April Progress Report

**Contract #098** – Managing for Gulf American Oystercatchers: Monitoring the Gulf Coast Populations and Investigating Wintering and Foraging Behaviors

With our research team, we were able to deploy an additional two transmitters, bringing our total deployed to twenty-one. Both captured adults were determined to be males, one of which was documenting nesting. Both individuals were captured and banded near the Formosa Plastics Plant, and the old Alcoa Plant, in Point Comfort. We successfully collected blood and feather samples from these individuals, and will be able to compare the heavy metal loads to birds captured in areas further away from the plant. We attempted to capture several adults on the far west end of Matagorda Bay and were unsuccessful. We will plan to target that area during the next breeding season, after deciding to hold the remaining transmitters for next year. Data retrieval continues as expected.

We continued our annual monitoring surveys in multiple bay systems. Currently, we are monitoring 30 active nests, thirteen of which successfully hatched chicks. We have been able to band ten chicks; the remaining did not survive to banding age or are not currently old enough. Volunteers continue to assist with the monitoring, and have documented at least seven additional nests.



An example of the retrieved data from a tagged American Oystercatcher. This individual was found nesting on Lavaca Spoils (note the cluster of points at the bottom of the image), near the intersection of Lavaca and Matagorda Bays. Yellow points are daytime locations, and blue points are nighttime locations.