



LIVING SHORELINES

Pelican Point

© ERIKA NORTEMANN/TNC

Pelican Point is located on state-owned lands, adjacent to a heavily used public access site with a boat launch and land-based fishing, just north of the mouth of Weeks Bay in Baldwin County. In 2013, The Nature Conservancy placed four reef segments about 80 ft from the shoreline, restoring over .1 acre of reef breakwater and living shoreline habitat.

The 2013 Pelican Point project was developed by TNC and Allied Concrete, and incorporated engineering design principles to determine reef dimensions. The Pelican Point project was a volunteer reef building event organized to construct four Oyster Castle™ reef breakwaters to protect approximately 430 ft of shoreline owned by the state of Alabama at the mouth of Weeks Bay. Construction occurred in Spring 2013 and over two days, 932 volunteers - a total of 6,555 manhours - participated in the build.

PELICAN POINT FACTS

CONSTRUCTED IN
2013

99%
IMPROVED
SHORELINE PROTECTION



14,000
OYSTER CASTLES™

150
MARSH PLANTS

430
LINEAR FEET

932
VOLUNTEERS

6,555
VOLUNTEER HOURS

4
REEFS



© MARY KATE BROWN/TNC

Reef structure helps accumulate sediment.

The design yielded four reefs constructed with interlocking Oyster Castles™ and created 0.1 acres of reef habitat. In December 2013, the Baldwin County Grasses in Classes Program planted 150 smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) plants on the beach behind the breakwaters to help stabilize the shoreline and enhance marsh habitat. Monitoring at the site shows the reefs have been colonized by mussels and the shoreline has been stabilized.

The Pelican Point restoration project was the first to attempt using Oyster Castles™ to build large reefs. There were some difficulties with the volunteers assembling the interlocking blocks given the larger scale and sediment composition along the water bottom. We worked with the manufacturer to redesign the configuration of the reefs to achieve the planned habitat creation and wave attenuation goals, while eliminating the problems with fitting the blocks together. This modified multiple pyramid design required fewer blocks and, thus, we were able to use the ‘excess’ blocks to construct reefs at two additional sites: Beckwith Camp and Taylor’s Riverview Park.

The Future of Pelican Point

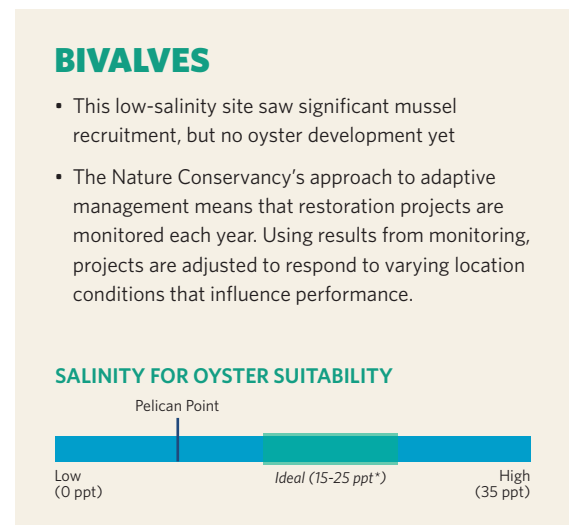
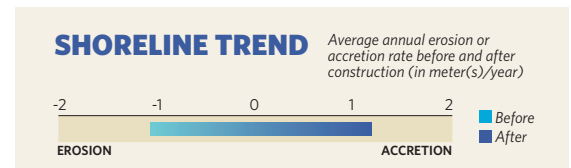
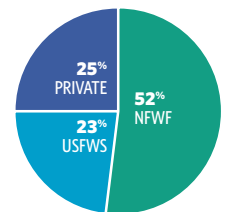
The Nature Conservancy continues to monitor the site to observe shoreline protection and oyster recruitment progress.



LOCATION Baldwin County, AL

PARTNERS 100-1000: Restore Coastal Alabama Dauphin Island Sea Lab

FUNDERS NFWF Mobile Bay Fund; USFWS National Fish Habitat Action Plan, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership; and Private (anonymous): \$348,312 total



*ppt = parts per thousand