The Nature Conservancy

LIVING SHORELINES

Alabama Port

Alabama Port is located just south of Mobile County's Bayfront Park and runs parallel to the Dauphin Island Causeway. The shoreline has been experiencing significant erosion since the 1950's. Reef segments were placed about 100 ft waterward from the shoreline and fronted more than 4,471 ft of natural shoreline. The project restored almost 1 acre of reef breakwater and living shoreline habitat.

Alabama Port is one of two restoration sites funded through a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant. The main objectives for this project included the

ALABAMA PORT FACTS

CONSTRUCTED IN **2011**

32% IMPROVED SHORELINE PROTECTION

984 REEFBALLS

50,000 BAGS OF SHELL

164 REEFBLKS™

152 JOBS SUPPORTED

6 REEFS

4,471 LINEAR FEET

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN ALABAMA
118 North Royal Street, Suite 500 | Mobile, AL 36602 | nature.org/alabama

Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*) use oyster reefs for foraging at Alabama Port.

creation of fishery related jobs for south Mobile County, the restoration of oysters, and the protection of eroding shorelines. The project helped create local jobs for oystermen, shrimpers, and workers as well as promote healthy fisheries that can sustain traditional livelihoods of fishers and those involved in the seafood processing industry. This project, in combination with the Coffee Island project, employed 33 full-time workers and contributed to paychecks for 152 positions in the coastal Alabama community.

The project created 0.4 miles of oyster reefs and protected approximately 4 acres of marsh habitat, while limiting erosion along approximately 4,471 feet of shoreline. The methods used in this project offered a more natural approach to shoreline protection that enhances critical habitats for many species of fish and invertebrates.

The Future of Alabama Port

Implementing alternative techniques in front of bagged shell reefs will be explored, as well as refilling the ReefBLKs™ to restore wave attenuation capacity and substrate availability.

LOCATION Mobile County, AL

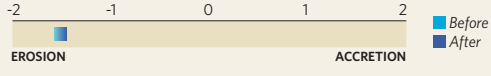
PARTNERS National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources State Lands Division, Mobile County Government, University of South Alabama, University of North Florida Center for Community Initiatives, Dauphin Island Sea Lab

100% NOAA

FUNDER NOAA: $1,126,000

SHORELINE TREND

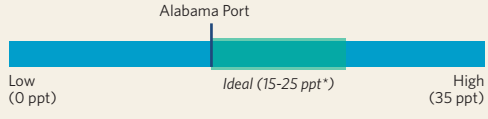
Average annual erosion or accretion rate before and after construction (in meter(s)/year)



BIVALVES

- This mid-salinity site saw high numbers of mussels and steady oyster numbers over the 7-year monitoring period. ReefBLK™ had the highest oyster density.
- The Nature Conservancy's approach to adaptive management means that restoration projects are monitored each year. Using results from monitoring, projects are adjusted to respond to varying location conditions that influence performance.

SALINITY FOR OYSTER SUITABILITY



**ppt = parts per thousand*