MISSISSIPPI

Enhancement of St. Louis Bay Oyster Reef

This project will expand an existing oyster reef in St. Louis Bay in Mississippi by 20 acres. Restoration will be accomplished through the deployment of clutch material at an existing 10-acre oyster reef site to add acreage and increase vertical relief. The vertical relief will ensure greater resilience to occasional incidents of low dissolved oxygen as well as enhance fisheries habitat. Commercial harvest in this part of St. Louis Bay is prohibited.

Oysters play a critical role in maintaining water quality and providing habitat for many estuarine species. The opportunity to expand this existing oyster reef was identified through Phase I of MDEQ's Oyster Restoration and Management project funded in 2015. Information gained from this work will inform MDEQ's plans to develop and implement a large-scale coast-wide oyster restoration strategy.