U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Brazos Island Harbor, TX



Brazos Island Harbor, TX Operation and Maintenance

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FACT SHEET as of April 01, 2019

AUTHORIZATION: RHC Doc. 16, 71st Congress, Second Session, 1930; as amended, Sec. 201, P.L. 99-662, 1986

TYPE OF PROJECT: Navigation

PROJECT PHASE: Operation and Maintenance



Beneficial Use of Dredge Material at South Padre Island

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Senators Cornyn and Cruz (TX), Representative Gonzalez (TX-15), Cloud (TX-27), Cuellar (TX-28), and Vela (TX-34).

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: Brownsville Navigation District, Port of Brownsville, Port Isabel, and the Texas General Land Office, which cost shares for beach nourishment.

BACKGROUND: The Brazos Island Harbor deep draft navigation project consists of a 42-feet deep by 300-feet wide by approximately 23 miles long channel; extending from the Gulf of Mexico to the Port of Brownsville and Port Isabel. A jettied entrance channel with a project depth of 44-feet connects to the main channel with a 42-feet project depth. The main channel leads to the Turning Basin at the Port of Brownsville, which has a 36-feet project depth. A side channel with a project depth of 36 feet leads to the Port Isabel and an adjacent shallow draft fishing boat harbor. The project also includes two rock jetties at the channel inlet; 1.39 and .96 miles in length.

The Port of Brownsville is ranked #61 in the nation with respect to commercial tonnage (7.8 million tons total in 2017). The major commodities moved through the Port of Brownsville include: petroleum products, ores and minerals, steel and other metals, vegetable oils, and grains.

STATUS: FY 2018 activities include maintenance dredging of the Jetty Channel to project depth with associated Sea Turtle Trawling.

The USACE Galveston District plays a key role in America's well-being by keeping waterways open for navigation and commerce. The Galveston District is directly responsible for monitoring more than 1,000 miles of channel. Dredges are constantly at work keeping vital marine arteries open for waterborne traffic carrying cargo ranging from crude oil to coffee. Other priorities include construction of jetties or breakwaters to protect harbor and inlet entrances and the locks along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway at the crossing of the Brazos and Colorado rivers.



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