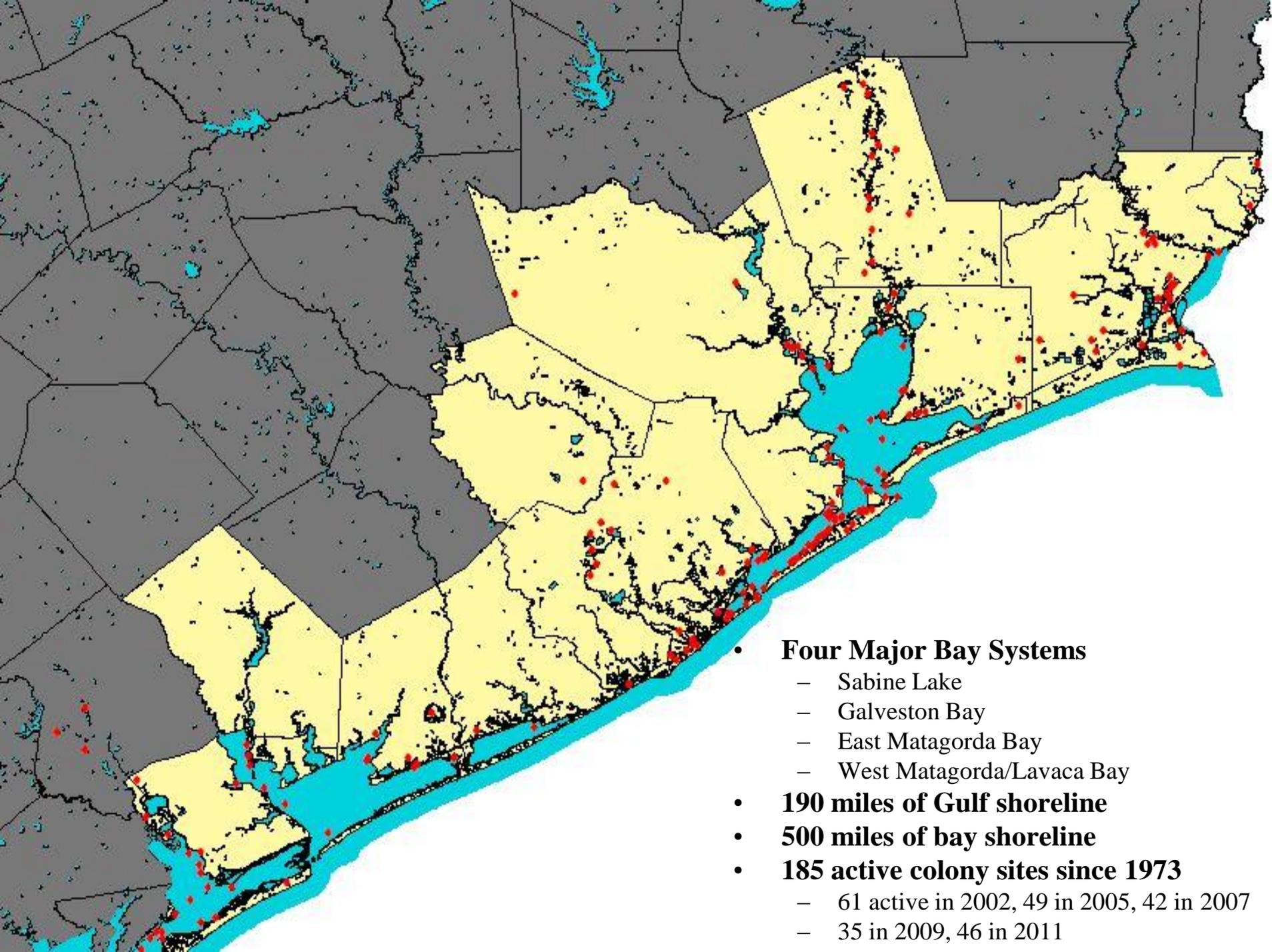


2011 TCWC Upper Texas Coast Update





- **Four Major Bay Systems**
 - Sabine Lake
 - Galveston Bay
 - East Matagorda Bay
 - West Matagorda/Lavaca Bay
- **190 miles of Gulf shoreline**
- **500 miles of bay shoreline**
- **185 active colony sites since 1973**
 - 61 active in 2002, 49 in 2005, 42 in 2007
 - 35 in 2009, 46 in 2011

2011 Upper Texas Coast Counts

- Received count information for 87 colonies out of 122
- 60 colonies reported activity and 17 were inactive and 8 not surveyed
- Missing several colony counts
- Had new construction at several sites



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Total Breeding Pairs (2001-2011)



2011	---	48,499
2010	---	48,300
2009	---	52,093
2008	---	112,547
2007	---	139,004
2006	---	117,215
2005	---	137,590
2004	---	183,212
2003	---	175,932
2002	---	154,906
2001	---	144,838



10 Year Trend for Upper Texas Coast



Islands under Construction

- ❖ Mid Bay
- ❖ Bolivar Marsh
- ❖ Evia (completed)
- ❖ Chocolate Bayou PA
- ❖ Galveston Island State Park
- ❖ Burnet Bay

Future Construction

- ❖ Dickinson Bay
- Bird Island
- ❖ Dressing Point
- ❖ Cedar Lakes



Brown Pelican Breeding Pairs - Upper Texas Coast



2011- 3765 10 active sites

2010 – 3294 – 9 active

North Deer population increased 86%

14% increase



Gull-billed Tern Breeding Pairs - Upper Texas Coast

❖ 488 breeding pairs 2011

❖ 621 breeding pairs 2010

❖ 7 sites 2011

❖ 9 sites 2010

❖ 21% decrease



Roseate Spoonbill Breeding Pairs, Upper Texas Coast



- ❖ 226 breeding pairs in 2011
- ❖ 589 breeding pairs in 2010
- ❖ Missing Trinity River site – drought stricken site, Teppco
- ❖ 62% decrease



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Forester's Tern

- ❖ 1242 pairs in 2011
- ❖ 2333 pairs in 2010
- ❖ 17 sites
- ❖ 47% decrease
- ❖ Goat Island, Dickenson Bay Bird Island, Swan Lake and the terracing project at Galveston Island State Park were the major rookery sites.



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Great Blue Heron Breeding Pairs – Upper Texas Coast

- ❖ Active colonies – 15 in 2011
- ❖ 147 breeding pairs 2011
- ❖ 547 breeding pairs 2010
- ❖ 73% decrease
- ❖ Missing several key rookery



White Ibis

- ❖ 1278 pairs in 2011
- ❖ 1123 in 2010
- ❖ 14% increase
- ❖ 8 active sites
- ❖ South Deer and Point Hunt had 1121 pairs combined for 2011



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Reddish Egret Breeding Pairs - Upper Texas Coast

- ❖ 93 breeding pairs 2011
- ❖ 33 breeding pairs 2010
- ❖ 80 breeding pairs 2009
- ❖ 182% increase over 2010
- ❖ 6 sites
- ❖ Marker 52 Spoil Island - 61 prs



White-faced Ibis Breeding Pairs – Upper Texas Coast

- ❖ 112 breeding pairs in 2011
- ❖ 207 breeding pairs in 2010
- ❖ 101 breeding pairs in 2009
- ❖ 46% decrease

South Deer Island - less than 1/2



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Royal Tern

- ❖ 7349 pairs 2011
- ❖ 4951 pairs in 2010
- ❖ 48% increase
- ❖ 4 sites 2011, 9 sites 2010



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Issues

- Drought affected several of the sites
- Some sites had already fledged
- Had several site under construction
- Volunteers – We need more!



2011 TCWC Upper Coast Summary

- Overall counts are lower for most colonial waterbird species
- Drought?
- Still missing data sheets for several rookery sites
- Have 3 new sites this year
- 5 sites were inaccessible due to drought conditions.
- Several sites were not surveyed



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I would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped out with this year's survey. We could not have done it without you.

If you would like to survey next year, please contact me at donna_anderson@fws.gov

Questions????

