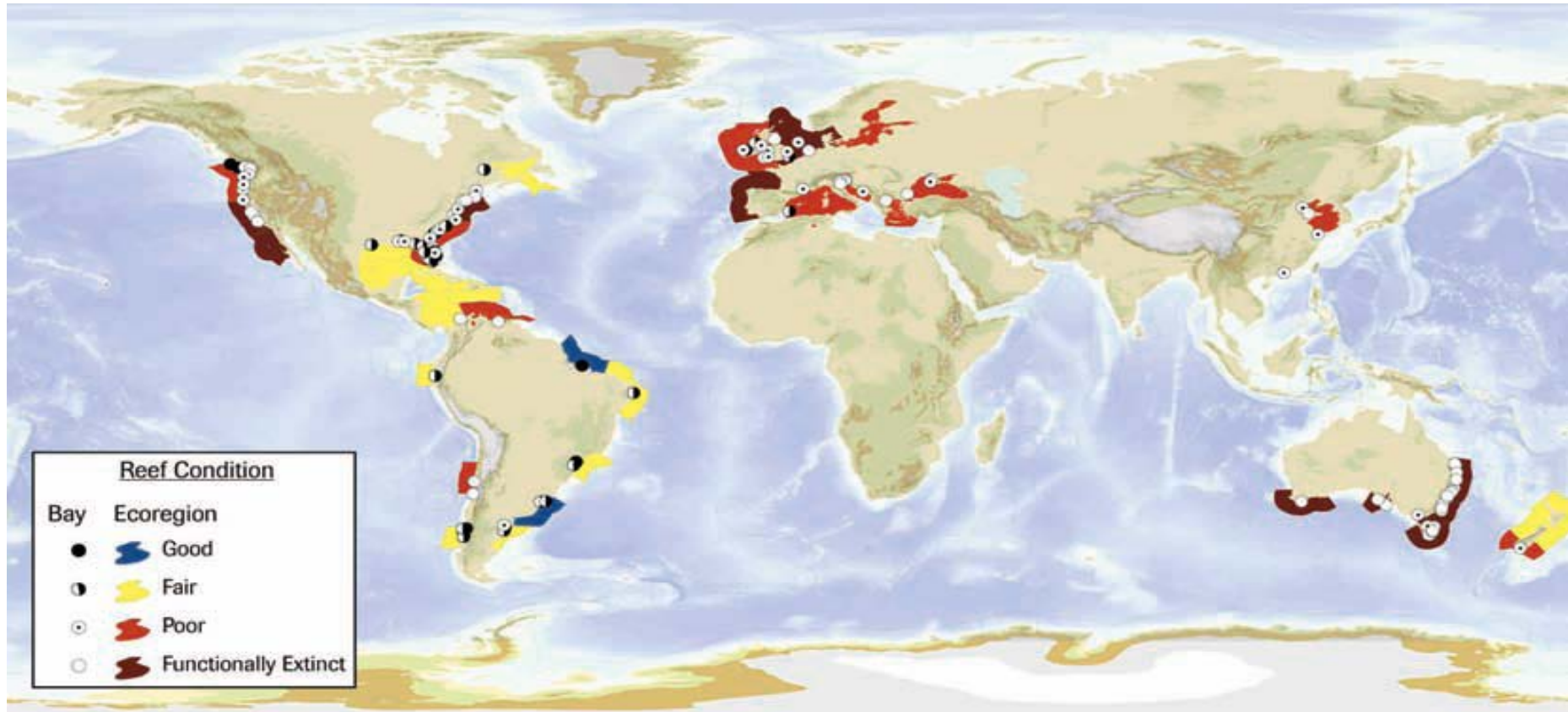


The Nature Conservancy's  
Engagement and Evolution  
in the  
Restoration and Recovery of Oyster  
Resources in the Gulf of Mexico

# First, the old news....

- **Globally, 85% of oyster reefs have been lost.**
  - **Gulf of Mexico represents a real opportunity for restoration.**

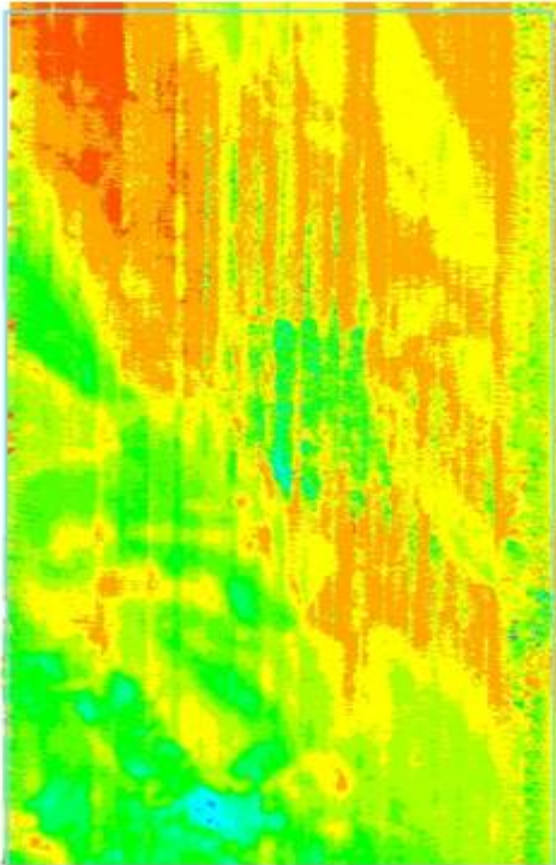




Restoration to what, and for what purpose?

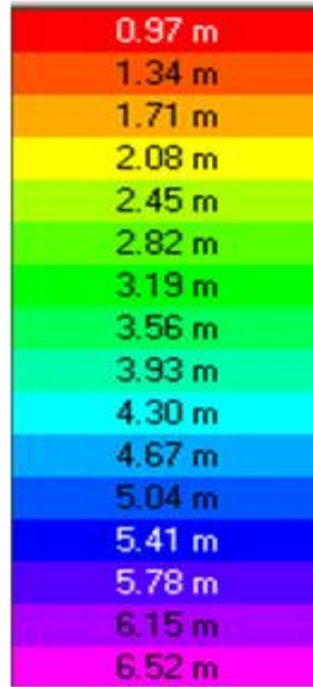
- Stock enhancement/production  
vs.
- Ecosystem Services  
  
Or
- Commodity  
vs.
- Valued habitat  
  
Or
- Hybrid

3D

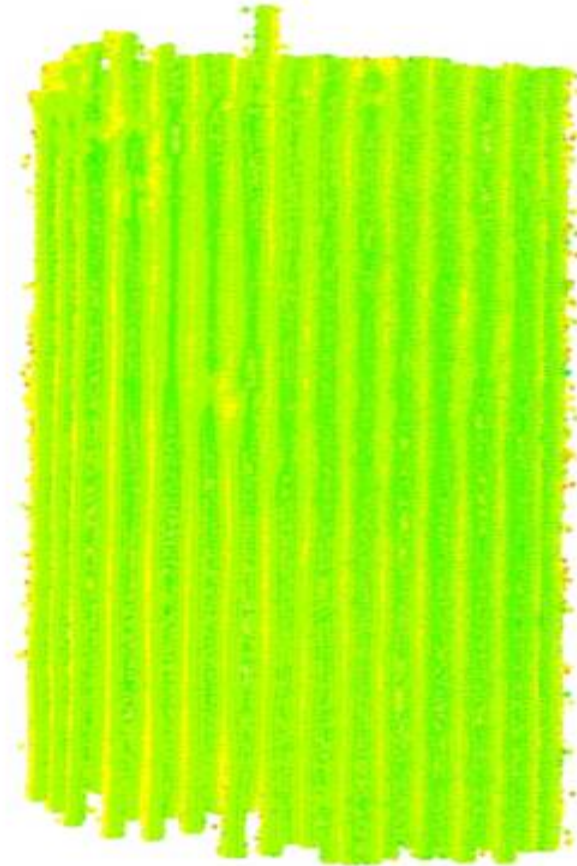


**Sabine Lake Reef**

vs.



2D



**Middle Reef  
East Galveston Bay**



2 Years

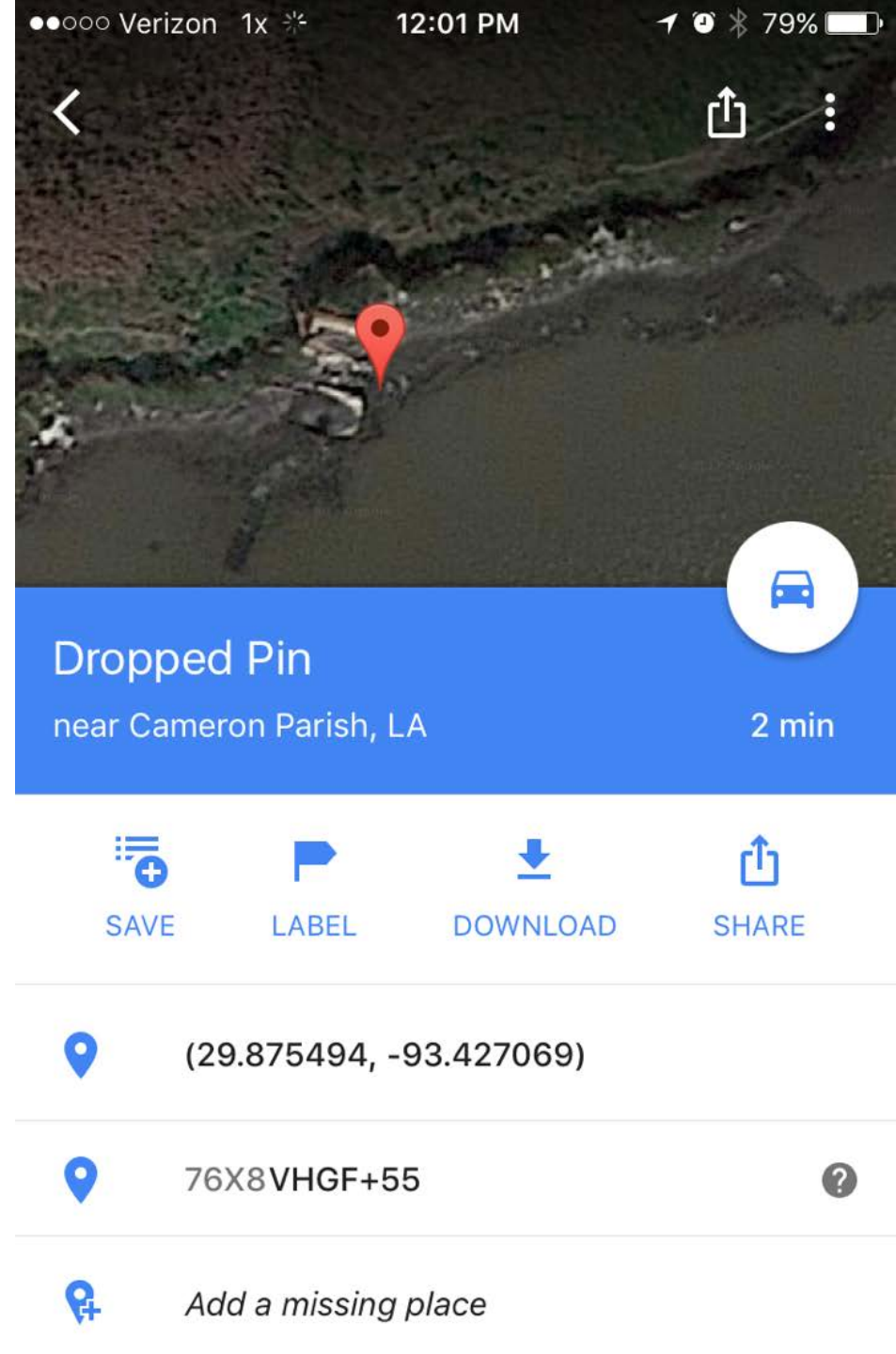


OysterBreak™ photos source: D. Dehon, 2008



1 Year







**Mesh Bags**



**Hesco Delta Unit  
(type of gabion)**



**Oyster Mats**



**ReefBlks**

Also restoration...



Courtesy MASGC





# Charter of Collaboration

(LA Sea Grant, LDWF, Cameron Port Commission, TNC)

- Develop a comprehensive, integrated plan for oyster resources in Calcasieu Lake;
- Increase the coverage and ecosystem services of oyster as a habitat;
- Increase the production and opportunity for the commercial harvest of oysters;
- Raise awareness of the importance of oyster resources with local communities by providing education and outreach, and stewardship opportunities;
- Work with area business to garner support for projects aiming to restore and promote recovery of oyster resources.

# Integrated Plan for Oyster Resources in Calcasieu Lake

- Cultch planting
- Shell retention program
- Reef building
- Brood stock areas
- Off-bottom culture (farming)
- Estuarine spatial planning
- Opportunities for seafood industry to have a broader role
- Partnerships and engagement





## Oyster Restoration in the Gulf of Mexico

Proposals from The Nature Conservancy  
2018

### Where TNC has been catalyst

**FL** – Stakeholder engagement and planning in Pensacola; Garcon Point

**AL** – Helen Wood Park and other volunteer-driven projects

**MS** – Bay St. Louis (5-Star and GEBF), shell recycling, MSCFU engagement

**LA** – From ARRA to Calcasieu

**TX** - Large subtidal projects like Matagorda and Copano Bay



### Where TNC has partnered/supported

- Supported regional shellfish initiative efforts lead by MASGC
- ORG
- Partnering with Pew on including connecting unmarketable product with restoration (similar to MASGC effort)
- Facilitating regional discussions at GOMA (2016) and GSMFC (2019)

Questions?

Complaints?

