

# Alonzo Landing

**PURPOSE:** To protect shoreline from erosion caused by waves and wind and provide salt marsh and oyster reef habitat.



*These breakwaters are protecting the Saw Grass Point Salt Marsh from erosion caused by wind and boat traffic in the area.*

## BACKGROUND

The Alonzo Landing project included placing Wave Attenuation Devices (WADs) or breakwaters along the shoreline of Saw Grass Point Salt Marsh in Dauphin Island to help restore 2 acres of aquatic habitat and preserve the shoreline. The breakwaters are concrete pyramids designed to protect the shoreline from boat wash and the natural effects of erosion. The devices break the waves generated from boats and wind instead of allowing the waves to crash ashore and cause erosion. The Alonzo Landing project also created critical habitat for many species. The pier that was built as part of the project can be used for viewing wildlife. Signs posted on the pier help visitors learn about the salt marsh and birds that can be seen there.

## PROJECT DETAILS

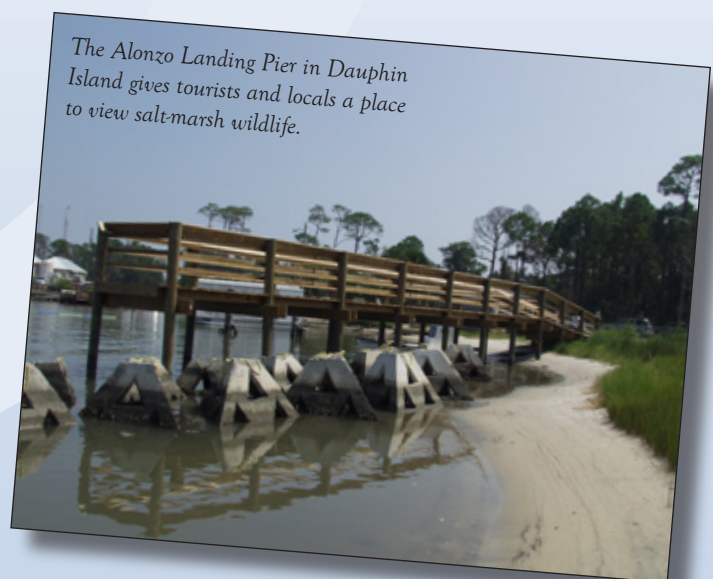
- 182 breakwaters were placed near the shoreline.
- The breakwaters were put in the water in April 2005.
- The 100-foot pier was completed in August 2006.
- There are five educational signs on the pier.
- About 20 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Trust Resources species will benefit from the new oyster reef and restored salt marsh.
- Six derelict boats and sunken vessels were removed from the marsh as part of this project.

## A MODEL PROGRAM

Using the breakwaters for shoreline restoration may be an important first step toward protecting habitats. Some agencies are looking at the Alonzo Landing project and considering using the wave attenuation devices to preserve marshes in other areas. The WADs have shown success at Alonzo Landing as sediment is building from the WADs back toward the shoreline in Alonzo Landing. Also, oyster density is higher on the WADs than on commercial oyster reefs in Alabama.

## SPONSORS

This project was the result of a partnership among the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, The Town of Dauphin Island, the State Lands Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bridgestone Firestone Retail and Commercial Operations and the Gulf of Mexico Foundation.



*The Alonzo Landing Pier in Dauphin Island gives tourists and locals a place to view salt-marsh wildlife.*

### MASGP-06-035

*This publication was supported by the National Sea Grant College Program of the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under NOAA Grant NA06OAR4170078 and the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium.*