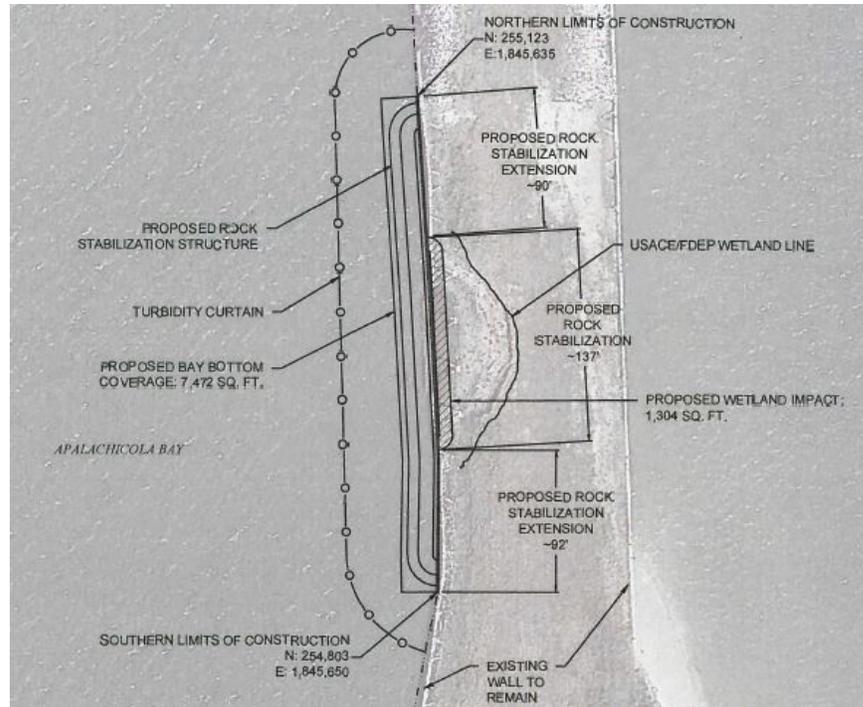


Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

Apalachicola Causeway Island Restoration

Location

Franklin County,
Florida



The St. George Island Bridge Causeway is a 32 acre, 1.3-mile-long spoil island that formerly supported a bridge connection between the St. George Island and Eastpoint on the mainland. Following the decommissioning of the bridge in 2004, the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) assumed management the island, which supports a large colony of seabirds and shorebirds of statewide significance and designated as a Critical Wildlife Area (CWA) by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Under grant from the NFWF Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund for Comprehensive Panhandle Coastal Bird Conservation, Audubon of Florida contracted ESA Scheda to address a number of growing management concerns related to protection of seabird nesting

habitat on the island. The main elements of concern included areas of severely eroding seawalls, loss of nesting substrate, the need for permanent signage along the perimeter indicating the island as a CWA, and developing an engineered solution to prevent seabird chicks from falling off the edge of the seawalls when disturbed.

ESA Scheda managed the overall project and worked with Taylor Engineering as our coastal engineering sub to develop a broad range of alternatives for the planning and engineering portion of the restoration project. ESA Scheda developed cost-effective solutions for signage and chick barrier requirements and spearheaded the permitting efforts to stabilize four critically eroded sections of seawall with a combination of revetments and breakwaters.