

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION APPROVES ADDITION TO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IN TEXAS

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has approved acquisition of 2,798 acres for the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge on Texas' Gulf Coast, 50 miles south of Houston. The addition brings the total to 9,403 acres of the approximately 12,000 acres approved for the refuge in 1965 by the Commission

The refuge, which consists of low-lying marshes dotted with small, brackish lakes adjacent to shallow bays, is ideal habitat for wintering waterfowl.

Texas' Gulf Coast is the most important wintering area in the Central flyway for migratory birds. Millions of waterfowl, representing at least 16 species of ducks and 6 species of geese, are dependent on this coastal habitat during annual migration.

The Commission passes on proposed land acquisitions from funds collected through the sale of duck stamps and advances authorized by Congress against future duck stamp sales. Its members are Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton (chairman), Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe, Senator Henry Bellmon of Oklahoma, Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana, Representative Silvio Conte of Massachusetts, Representative John Dingell of Michigan, and the Secretary of Agriculture.

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