Aerial Photographic Survey of Texas Gulf Passes

Objective: To photograph the natural passes at least once every three months and at any additional times of unusual circumstance (high tides, etc.)

Procedure: Photographs will be made at least four times a year with a K-20 aircraft camera and will be taken from the Commission airplane.

Findings: Replacement of the Champion by the Colonial Skimmer created some difficulties. The window from which the camera could be lowered was a fixed one in the Skimmer. This required shooting through the glass, which diminished the quality of the photographs. There was also considerable difficulty in arranging for use of the aircraft. Adverse weather, and conflicts in scheduling accounted for numerous delays.

Results: Photographs were taken in May, July, August and October of 1958 and in February and April of 1959. All areas were not simultaneously covered, however.

Comments: This project should be continued in order to show any natural changes which occur in these areas. Any construction should be photographed more frequently, especially those recently opened passes.
Figure I: Rollover Fish Pass October 20, 1958. Remedial construction is underway.

Figure II: Yarborough Cut August 8, 1959. Shifting dunes to the south have crossed the cut and the gulf entrance is closed.
Figure III: Gulf entrance of Mansfield Cut August 8, 1959. The sinking jetties can be seen in the surf zone.

Figure IV: Cedar Bayou April 1, 1959, just prior to dredging and straightening of the channel.