



# Deepwater Horizon Region-Wide TIG Oyster Restoration Project

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee Meeting

12 October 2021

Eric Weissberger

on behalf of the Region-Wide Trustee Implementation Group

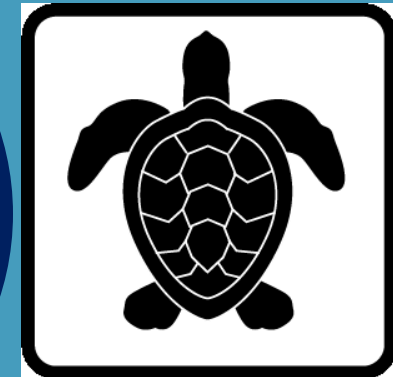
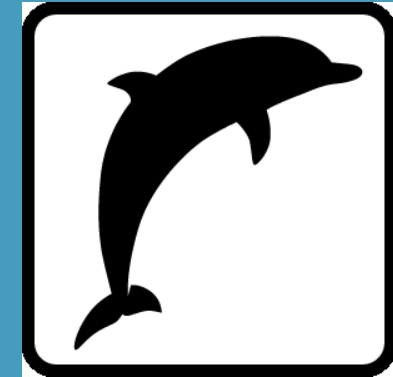
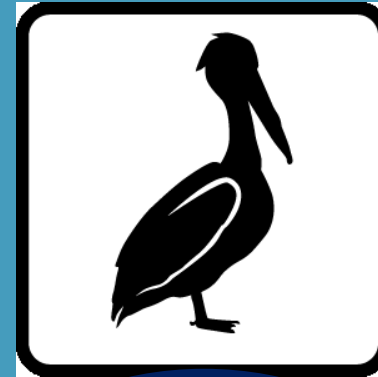
# Restoration Plan 1



Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill  
Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group

## Final Restoration Plan/ Environmental Assessment 1: Birds, Marine Mammals, Oysters, and Sea Turtles

September 2021

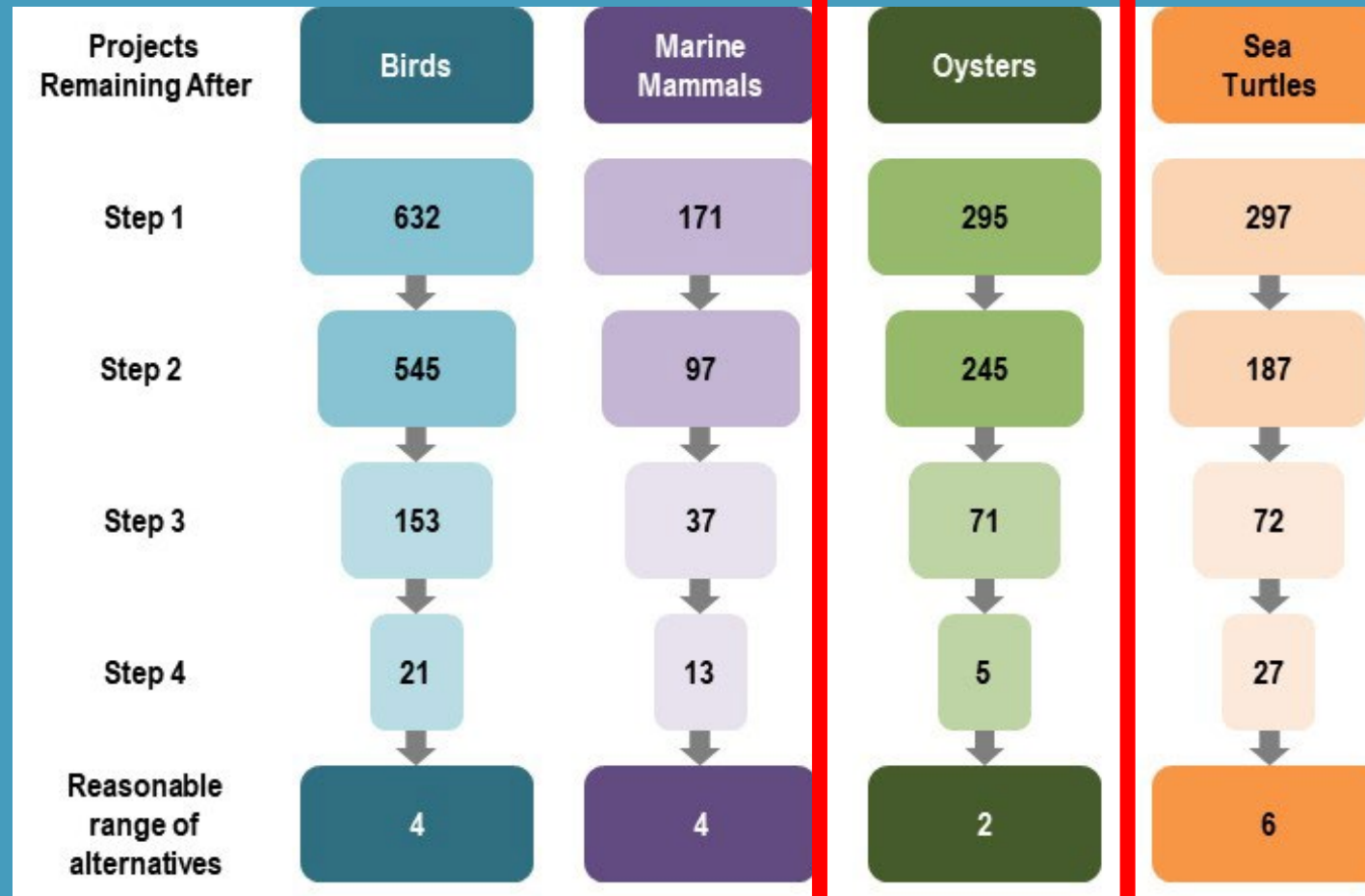


# Oyster Workgroup Members

NRDA Trustee	Representative(s)
Florida	Ryan Gandy, Amy Raker
Alabama	Kelly Swindle, Bethany Kraft
Mississippi	Emily Cotton, Alane Young, Bradley Ennis
Louisiana	Brady Carter*
Texas	Richard Seiler, Ray Newby, Bill Rodney
EPA	Troy Pierce
DOI	Ben Frater
NOAA	Eric Weissberger*
USDA	Mark Defley, Ben Battle, Ron Howard

\* Co-lead

# Screening



# Preferred Alternative

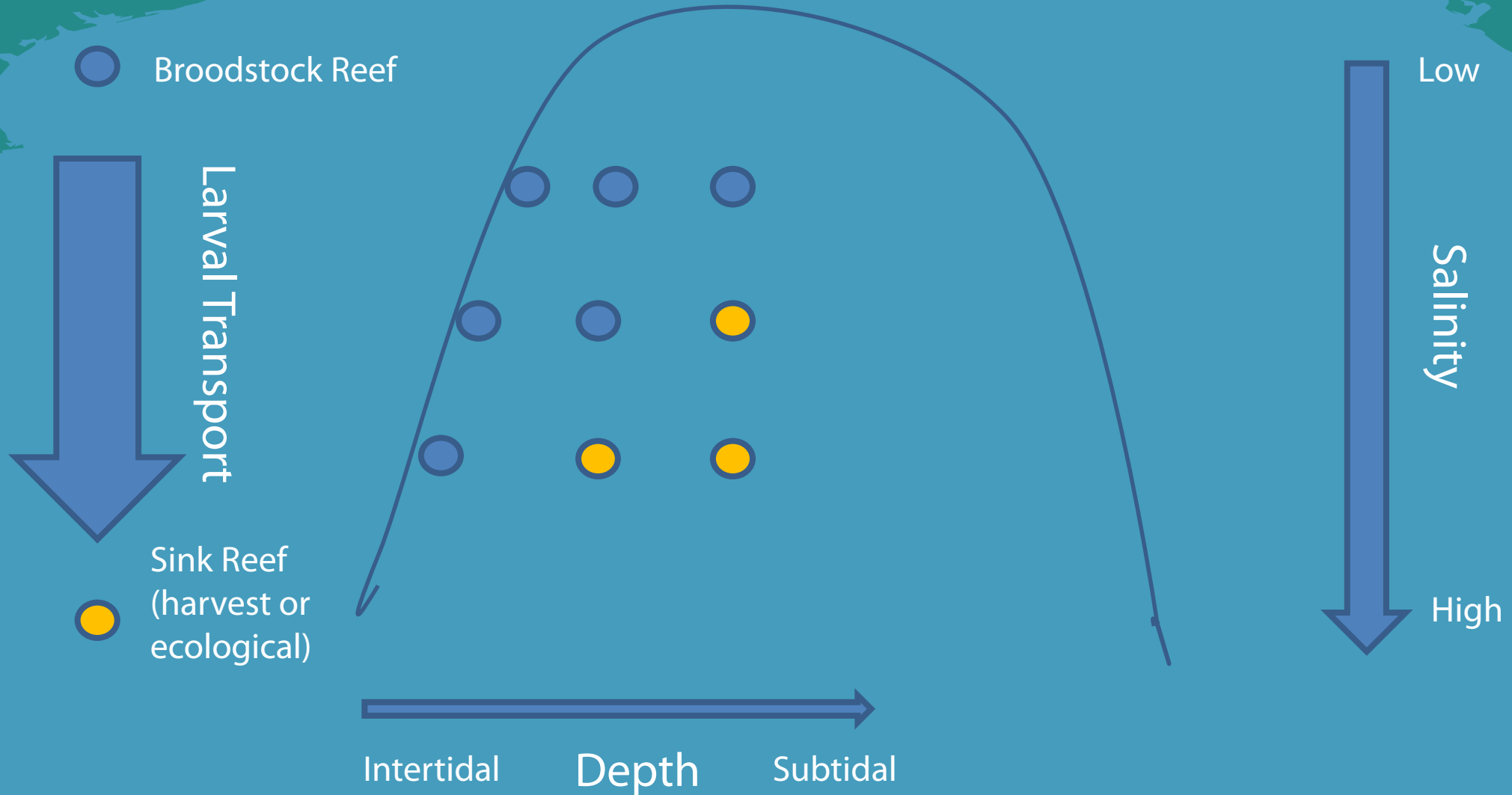
## Improving Resilience for Oysters by Linking Brood Reefs and Sink Reefs

- Foster resilience by building reefs over a range of
  - Habitat types (e.g. intertidal/subtidal)
  - Depths
  - Salinity
- Incorporating larval transport into design
- Restore damaged nearshore-offshore connection
- Estimated cost: \$35,819,974



Photo by Pollack Lab, Harte Research Institute

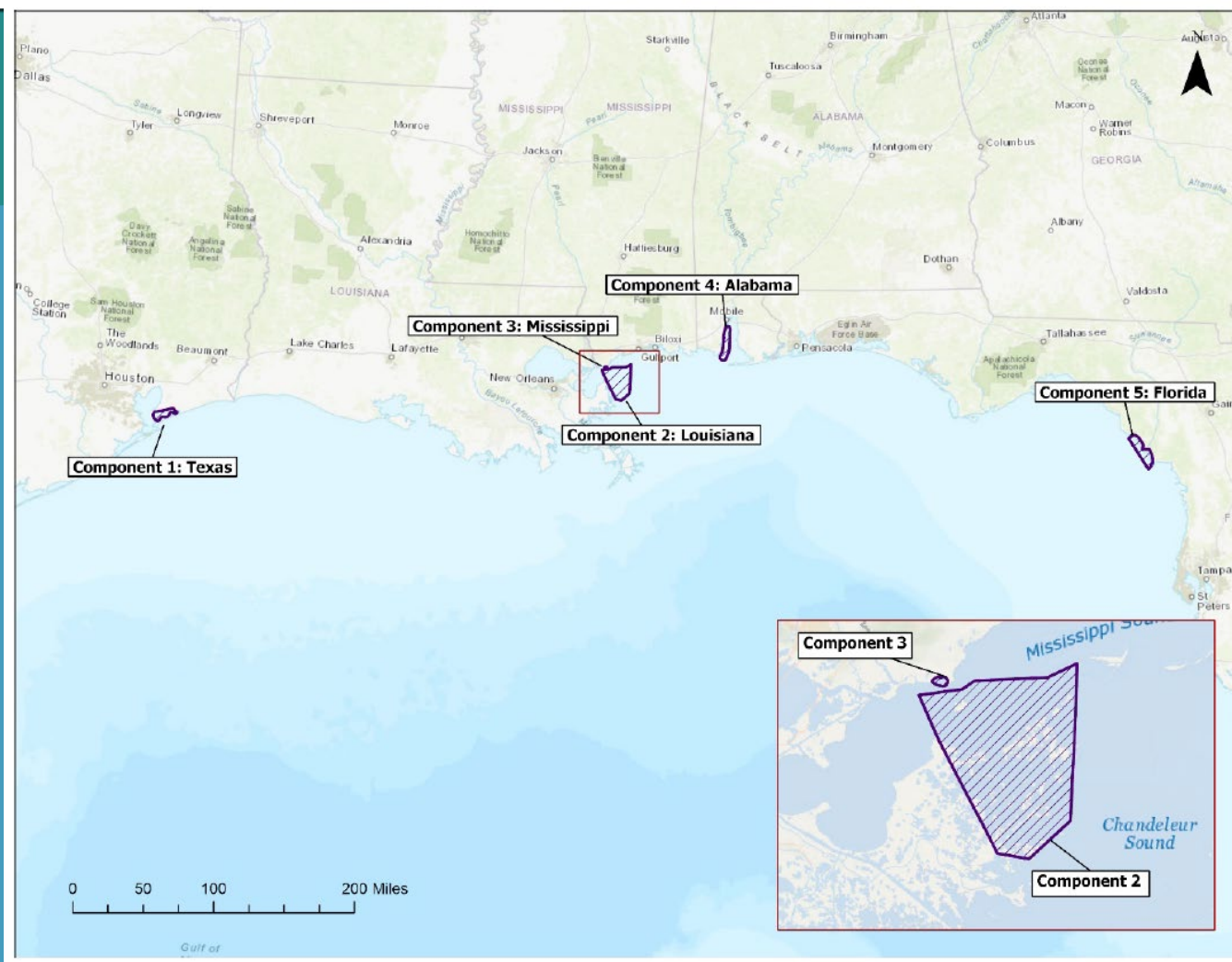
# Conceptual Diagram





# Locations

- TX:** East Galveston Bay
- LA:** Mississippi Sound and Northern Biloxi Marsh
- MS:** Heron Bay
- AL:** Western shore of mid-lower Mobile Bay
- FL:** Cedar Key to Horseshoe Point (Suwanee Sound)



# Implementation

## Site selection

- Habitat suitability indices
- Bottom scanning
- Larval transport modeling

Specific design will vary by state management goals

Follow the depth/habitat/salinity gradients as possible for resilience

Management with shell budget



Photo by Florida Sea Grant



# Monitoring

To be determined, but may include metrics for

- Oyster habitat created
- Oyster reef salinity and depth gradients
- Oyster reef interconnectivity and recruitment
- Oyster habitat productivity
- Explanatory variables



Photo from <https://wec.ifas.ufl.edu/>

# Questions



Photo by Erika Nortemann, TNC