



NFWF

The Hotspots Mapping Initiative

Evaluating the feasibility of hotspot communication networks to enhance fishing in the Gulf of Mexico

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PHOTO: David Hills

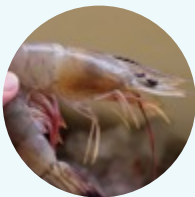
INTRODUCTION AND GOALS

Introduction: Five-year VOLUNTARY project, being managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Goals:



Evaluate the feasibility of fisheries hotspot communication networks to improve fishing in and around the Gulf of Mexico.



Identify data and technology requirements for successful implementation of hotspot mapping and communication networks.

Background

WHY USE HOTSPOT MAPPING

Mapping hotspots will:

- Improve commercial and recreational fishing experiences through less sorting time and fewer dead discards
- Create potential marketing or certification opportunities
- Allow more fish to grow and reproduce, restoring natural resources that were affected by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill



TIMELINE

2020 – 2021

Identify and engage stakeholders including fisheries, managers, and scientists

2023 - 2024

Develop hotspot network implementation plans for promising fisheries in cooperation with the various fisheries

2022

Research and identify focal fisheries, regions, fleets, and/or ports that would benefit from bycatch hotspot communication networks

2024 and Beyond

If hotspot communication networks seem feasible, NOAA may seek resources to implement through a subsequent *Deepwater Horizon* Open Ocean Restoration Plan



QUESTIONS?

FURTHER PROJECT INFORMATION

<https://www.nfwf.org/programs/bycatch-hotspots-project>

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