



Open Ocean Restoration Planning

Gulf States Marine Fisheries
Commission
March 21, 2019

Today's Agenda

- *Deepwater Horizon* Settlement
- The Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group
- Restoration Planning
- Fish Restoration
- For More Information



BP NRDA Settlement

2016 Settlement: \$8.8 billion:

Restore and Conserve Habitat: \$4.7 billion

Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources: \$1.8 billion

Restore Water Quality: \$400 million

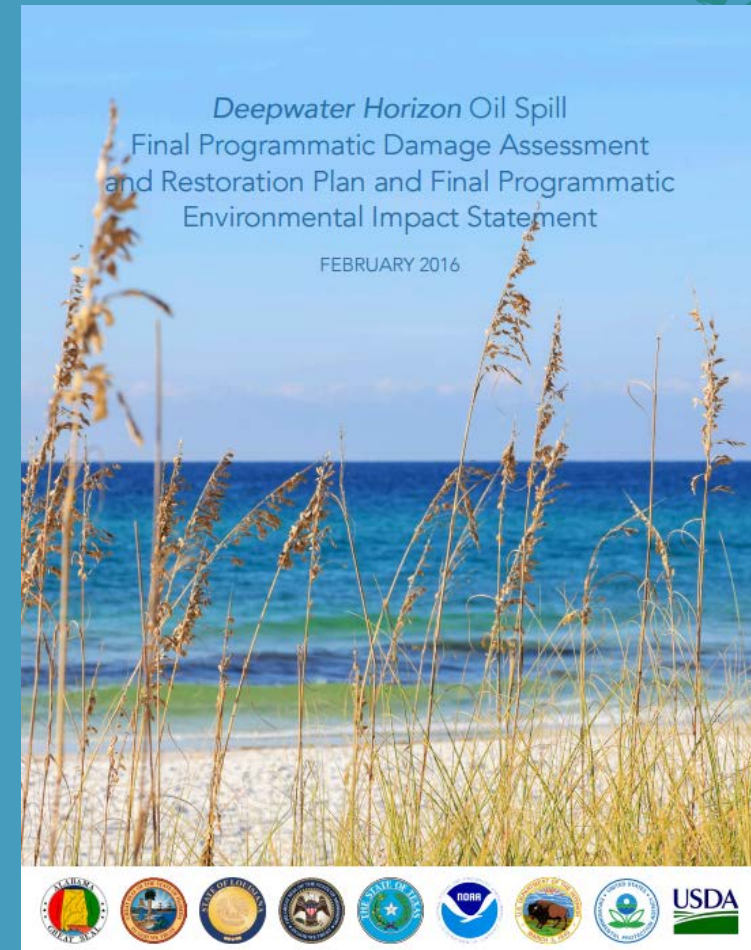
Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities: \$400 million

Monitoring, Adaptive Management, Administrative Oversight: \$1.5 billion



Programmatic Restoration Plan

- **Damage assessment:** injuries to natural resources and services
- **Restoration:** ecosystem approach and science-based adaptive management
- **Governance:** framework for future decision-making, including selection & implementation of projects



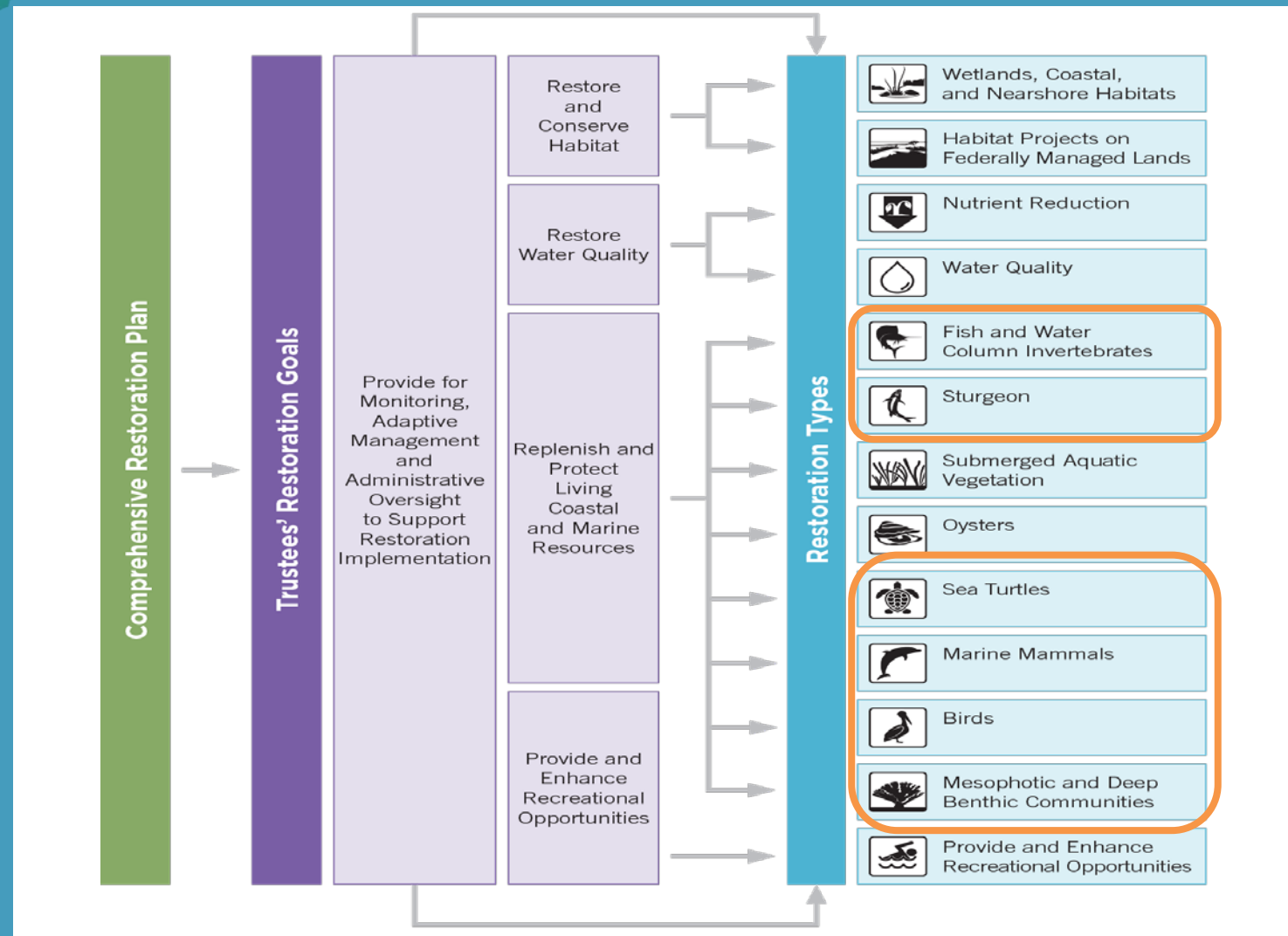


The Open Ocean TIG

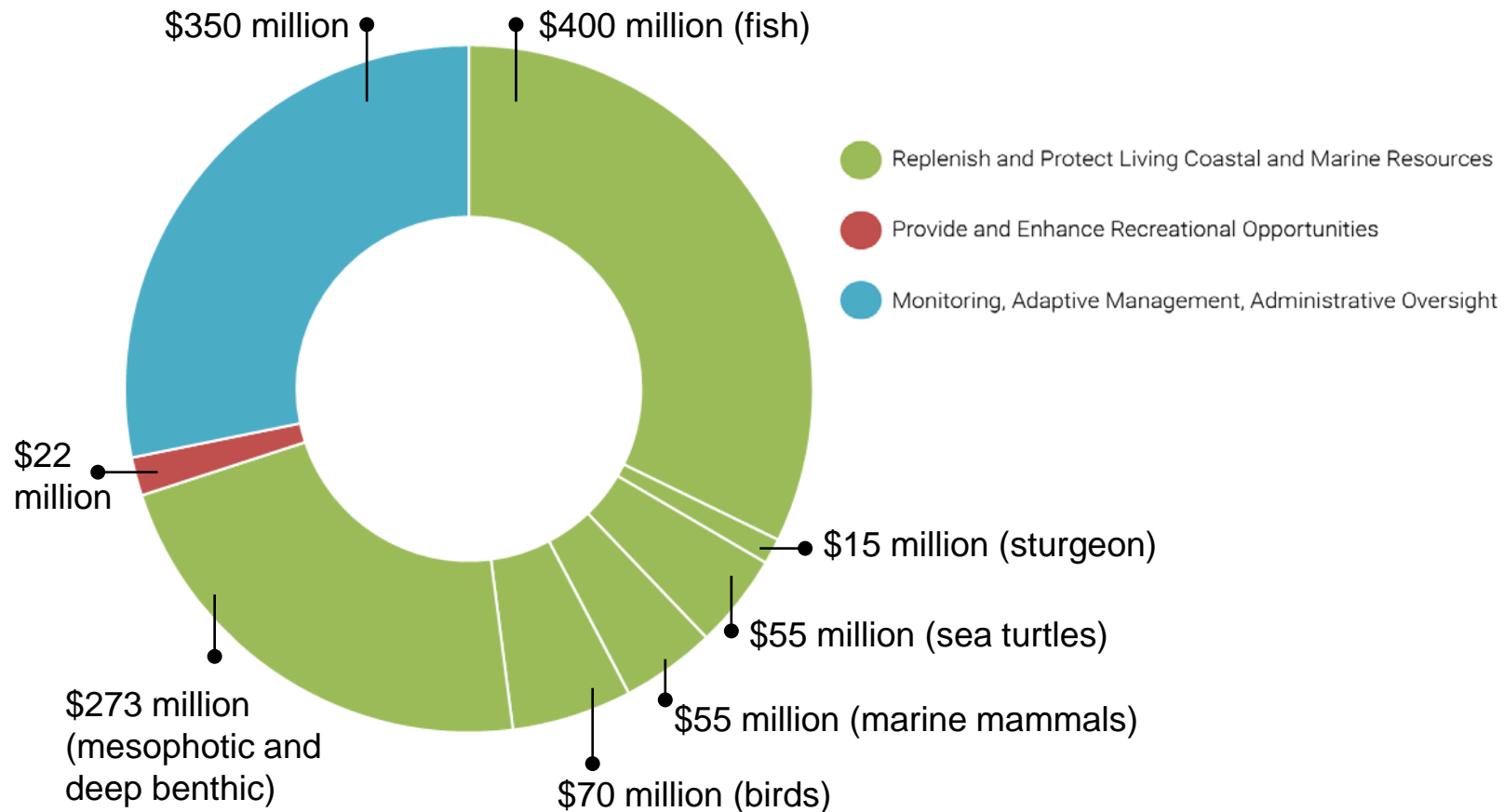


NOAA	USDA	EPA	DOI
Chris Doley	Ron Howard	Gale Bonanno	Kevin Reynolds
Laurie Rounds	Mark Defley	Treda Grayson	Ashley Mills

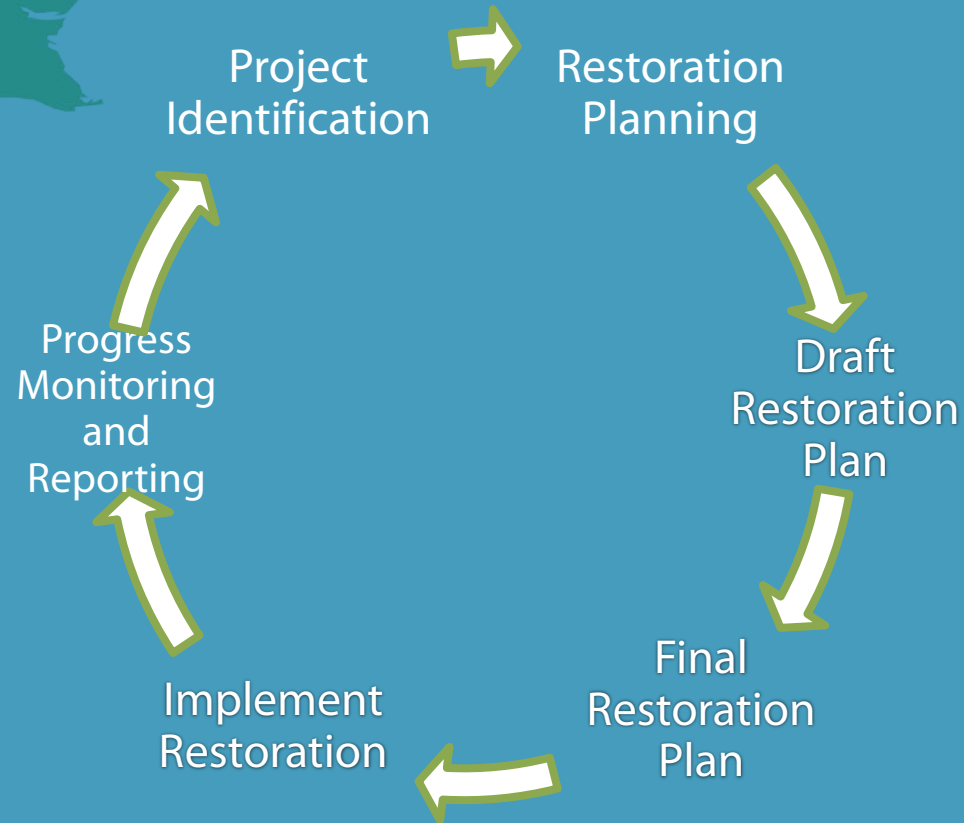
Overview of Programmatic Restoration Plan



Open Ocean Restoration Area Funding



TIG Restoration Planning Cycle



- Spring 2017- Requested project ideas from the public
- Fall 2017- Completed screening
- Winter 2018- Began drafting two restoration plans
- October 2018- Released Draft Restoration Plan 1/EA: Birds and Sturgeon
- Spring 2019 – Anticipate releasing Draft Restoration Plan 2/EA

Draft Restoration Plan 2 and Environmental Assessment

- Proposes restoration for Fish, Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities, Sea Turtles, and Marine Mammals.
- Anticipated release in spring 2019 for public comment period.
- Public engagement through in-person and webinar meetings during the comment period.



Restoration Plan 2 Priorities

Sea Turtles: Reduce bycatch in commercial & recreational fishing; conserve nesting beaches, collect and integrate sea turtle restoration data.

Marine Mammals: Reduce risk of vessel collisions; reduce impacts from human-made noise; increase capacity to respond to disasters; and collect and integrate marine mammal restoration data.



Restoration Plan 2 Priorities

Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities: Mapping and assessment, developing innovative restoration techniques, and reducing threats.

Fish & Water Column Invertebrates: Reduce mortality of coastal pelagic, reef & highly migratory species by improving bycatch reduction devices, enhancing fishing practices and tools for fishermen, and reducing barotrauma in reef fish.





Fish and Water Column Invertebrates

Restoration activities being considered include:

- Reducing barotrauma in reef fish recreational fisheries.
- Better fish bycatch reduction devices for the shrimp trawl.
- Bycatch identification and communication networks.
- Techniques to reduce bycatch in the pelagic longline fishery.

Reducing barotrauma in reef fish recreational fisheries

- Provide outreach, training, and materials to recreational anglers and businesses
- Monitor and evaluate use in the fishery using existing monitoring frameworks
- Perform validation studies to improve estimates of post-release mortality



Better fish bycatch reduction devices

- Distribute currently certified BRDS that are underutilized in Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawl fishery under an incentivized program
- Develop, evaluate, and certify new innovative BRDs and BRD/turtle excluder device (TED) combinations for use in shrimp trawl fishery
- Incentivize the use of BRD technology in US and Mexican Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawl fisheries



Where to Find DWH NRDA Information



www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov



Thank you



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