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
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

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Overview of Programmatic Restoration Plan

Comprehensive Restoration Plan

Trustee's Restoration Goals

- Provide for Monitoring, Adaptive Management and Administrative Oversight to Support Restoration Implementation
- Restore and Conserve Habitat
- Restore Water Quality
- Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
- Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities

Restoration Types

- Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats
- Habitat Projects on Federally Managed Lands
- Nutrient Reduction
- Water Quality
- Fish and Water Column Invertebrates
- Sturgeon
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
- Oysters
- Sea Turtles
- Marine Mammals
- Birds
- Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities
- Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities
Open Ocean Restoration Area Funding

- Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources: $350 million
- Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities: $22 million
- Monitoring, Adaptive Management, Administrative Oversight: $400 million (fish)
- $15 million (sturgeon)
- $55 million (sea turtles)
- $55 million (marine mammals)
- $273 million (mesophotic and deep benthic)
- $70 million (birds)
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.
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.
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.
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

www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov