



# Open Ocean Restoration Planning

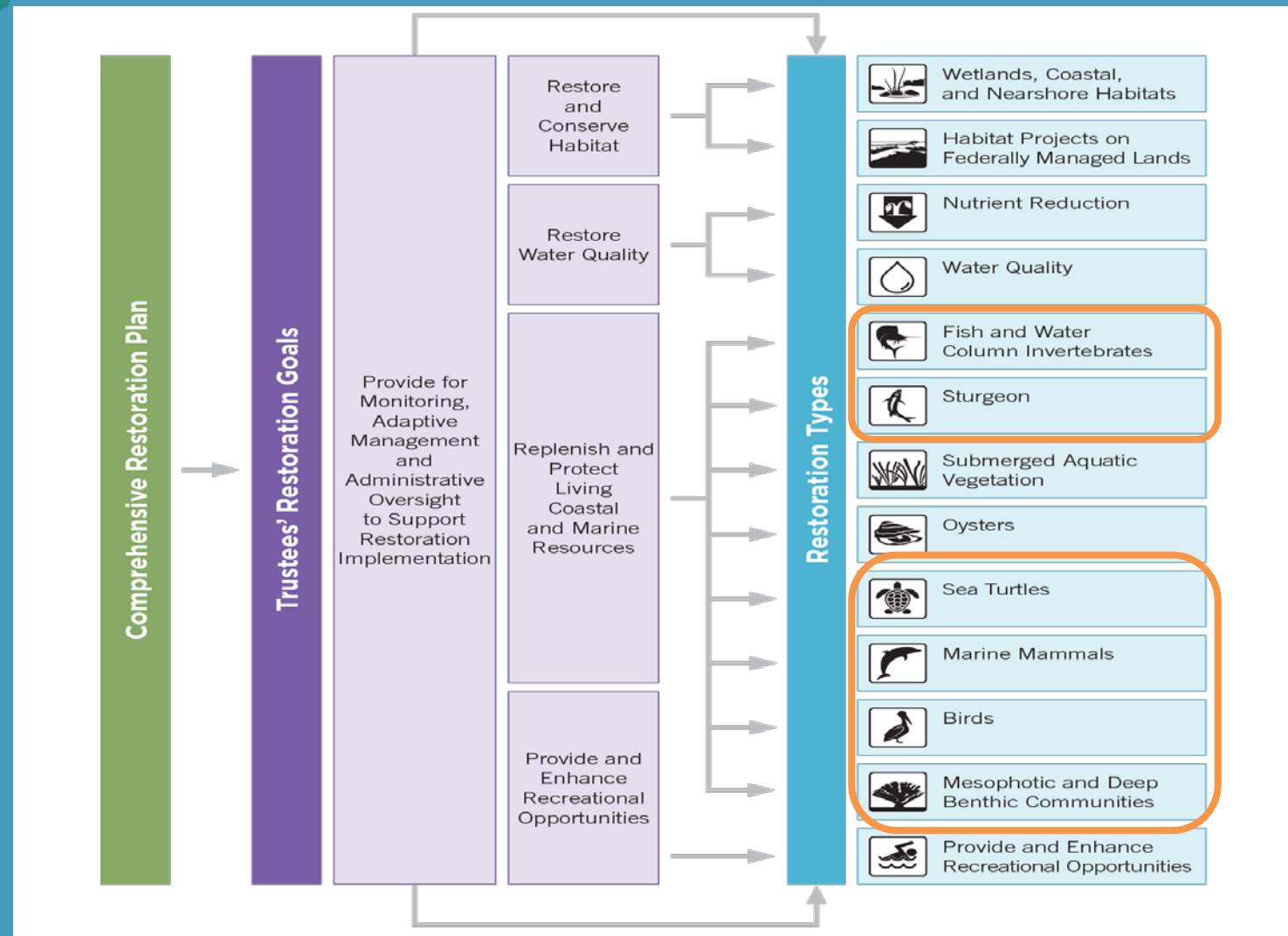
Gulf States Marine Fisheries  
Commission  
March 21, 2019

# Today's Agenda

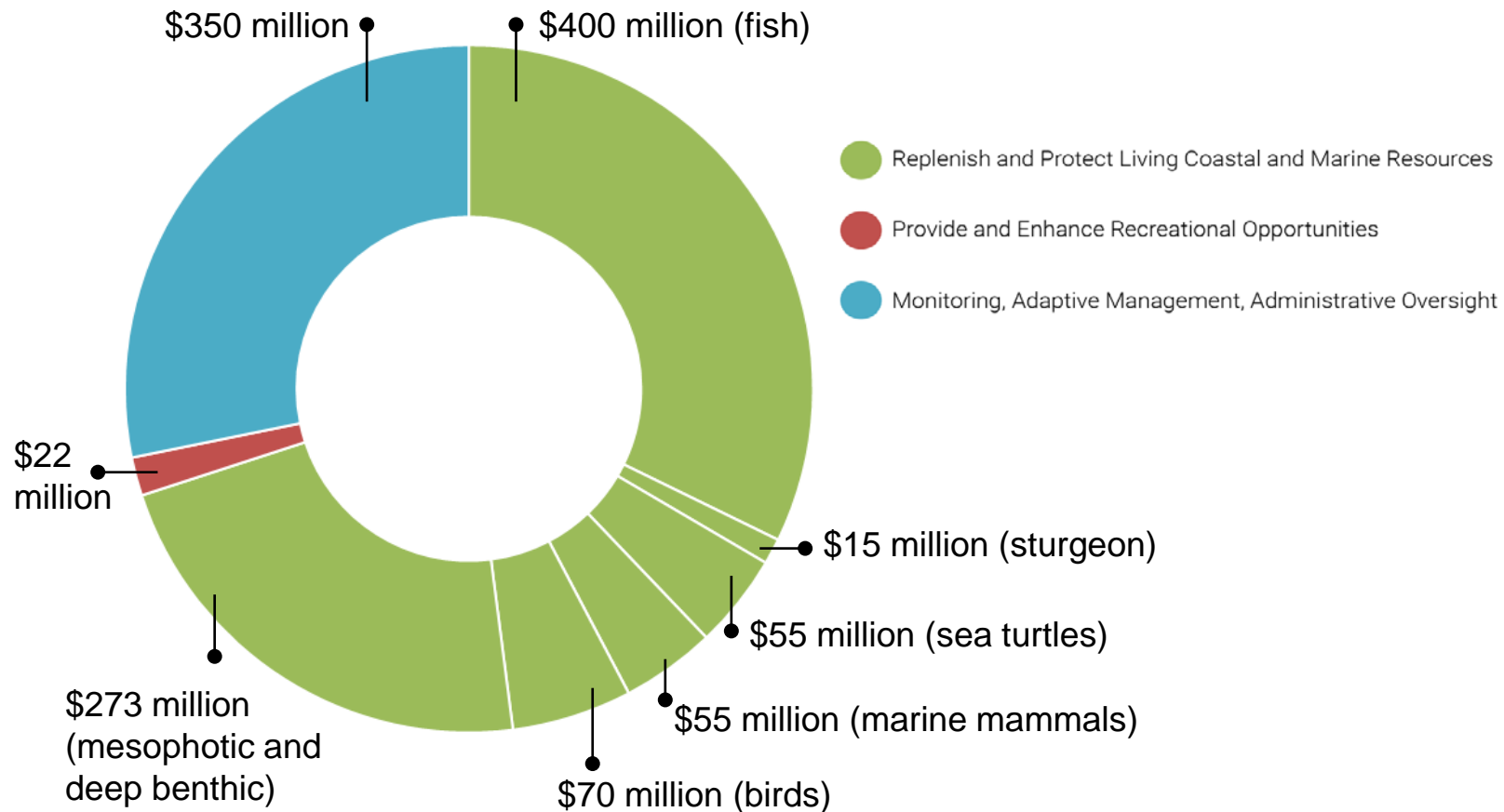
- *Deepwater Horizon* Settlement
- The Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group
- Restoration Planning
- Fish Restoration
- For More Information



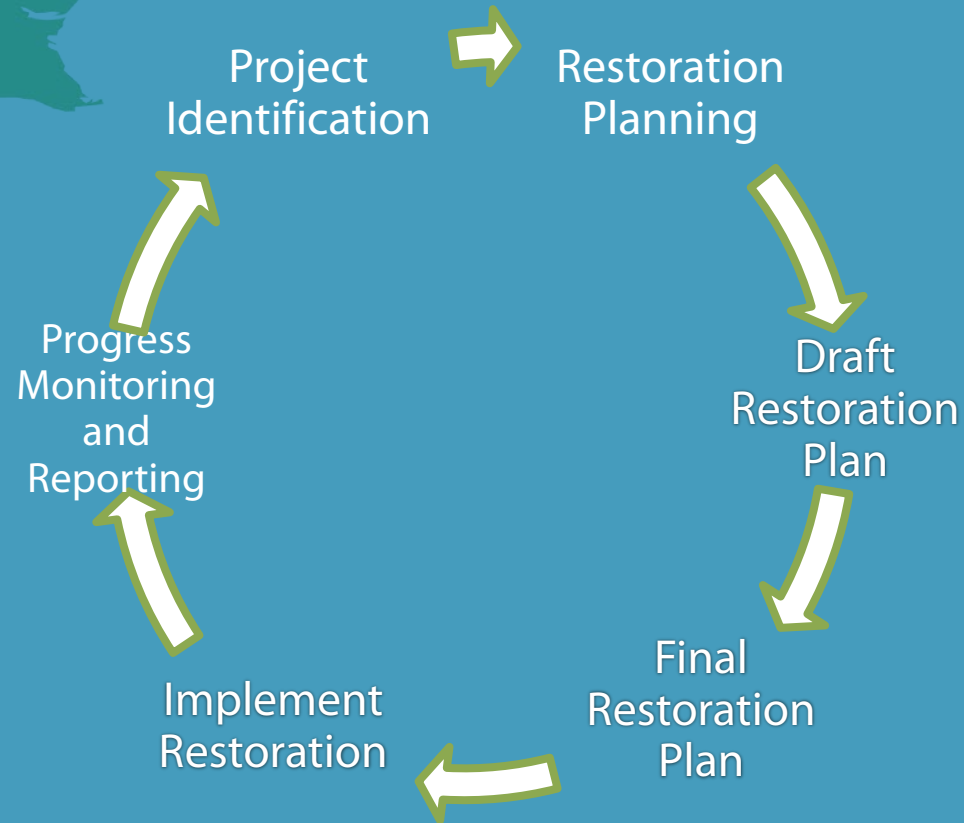
# Overview of Programmatic Restoration Plan



# 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

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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

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- 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

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- 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](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov)





# Thank you



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