DWH Open Ocean Fish Restoration

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting
March 12, 2020
Today’s Agenda

• Open Ocean TIG Restoration Plan 2.
• Restoring Open Ocean Fisheries Resources – Project Next Steps
• Questions and Answers.
Goal: Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
NRDA Trustees’ Governance Structure

Trustee Implementation Groups (TIGs)

- Texas
  Trustees for Texas Federal Trustees

- Louisiana
  Trustees for Louisiana Federal Trustees

- Mississippi
  Trustees for Mississippi Federal Trustees

- Alabama
  Trustees for Alabama Federal Trustees

- Florida
  Trustees for Florida Federal Trustees

- Regionwide
  All Trustees

- Open Ocean
  Federal Trustees

- Unknown Conditions and Adaptive Management
  All Trustees
May 2019: Released draft Restoration Plan 2.

May – August 2019: Held public meetings and received comments.

August – November 2019: Considered and incorporated comments.

December 2019: Released Final Restoration Plan 2 selecting 18 projects totaling almost $226 million.
Fish and Water Column
Invertebrates

- Oceanic Fish Restoration Project, $20M *(in progress).*
- Restoring for Bluefin Tuna via Fishing Depth Optimization, $6.1M
- Better Bycatch Reduction Devices, $17.1M
- Reduction of Post-release Mortality from Barotrauma, $30M
- Communication Networks and Mapping Tools to Reduce Bycatch—Phase 1, $4.4M

Photo: © Jay Fleming
• Identifying Methods to Reduce Sea Turtle Bycatch in the Reef Fish Bottom Longline Fishery, $290K

• Reducing Juvenile Sea Turtle Bycatch Through Development of Reduced Bar Spacing in Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs), $2.2M

• Developing Methods to Observe Sea Turtle Interactions in Gulf of Mexico Menhaden Purse Seine Fishery, $3M.

• Gulf of Mexico Sea Turtle Atlas, $5.7M

• Developing a Gulf-wide Comprehensive Plan for In-water Sea Turtle Data Collection, $655K

• Long Term Nesting Beach Habitat Protection for Sea Turtles, $7M
Project Highlight: Engagement With Industry

Improved and increased fisheries stakeholder engagement:

• Project 1: Reducing Juvenile Sea Turtle Bycatch Through Development of Reduced Bar Spacing in Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs).

• Project 2: Better Bycatch Reduction Devices for the Gulf of Mexico Commercial Shrimp Trawl Fishery.

• Project 3: Developing Methods to Observe Sea Turtle Interactions in Gulf of Mexico Menhaden Purse Seine Fishery
• Reduce Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise, $8.9M
• Reduce and Mitigate Vessel Strike Mortality, $3.8M
• Reducing Impacts to Cetaceans during Disasters by Improving Response Activities, $4.2M
• Compilation of Environmental, Threats, and Animal data for Cetacean Population Health Analyses
Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities

- Mapping, Ground-truthing, and Predictive Habitat Modeling, $35M
- Habitat Assessment and Evaluation, $52.6M
- Coral Propagation Technique Development, $16.9M
- Active Management and Protection, $20.6M
- Projects phased - 1-2 year implementation planning, 7-8 year duration
Fish and Water Column
Invertebrates
Reduction of Post-release Mortality from Barotrauma

• Distribute FDDs and other tools, promote their use & educate recreational fishermen on best handling practices

• Monitor changes in use of release devices and handling methods

• Improve release mortality estimates for reef fish
• Release Mortality Symposium – Oct 2019

• Research Priorities from the council workshop participants

• Stakeholders, engagement strategy and key requirements
Better Bycatch Reduction Devices

- Identify new advances in BRD technology
- Validate the effectiveness of improved BRDs
- Maximize the use of better BRDs through outreach and incentives
- Maximize restoration benefits through dockside BRD training

Photo: © Jay Fleming
For More Information

Website, Interactive Map
Where to Find More Information

www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov
Questions?
Thank you

www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov