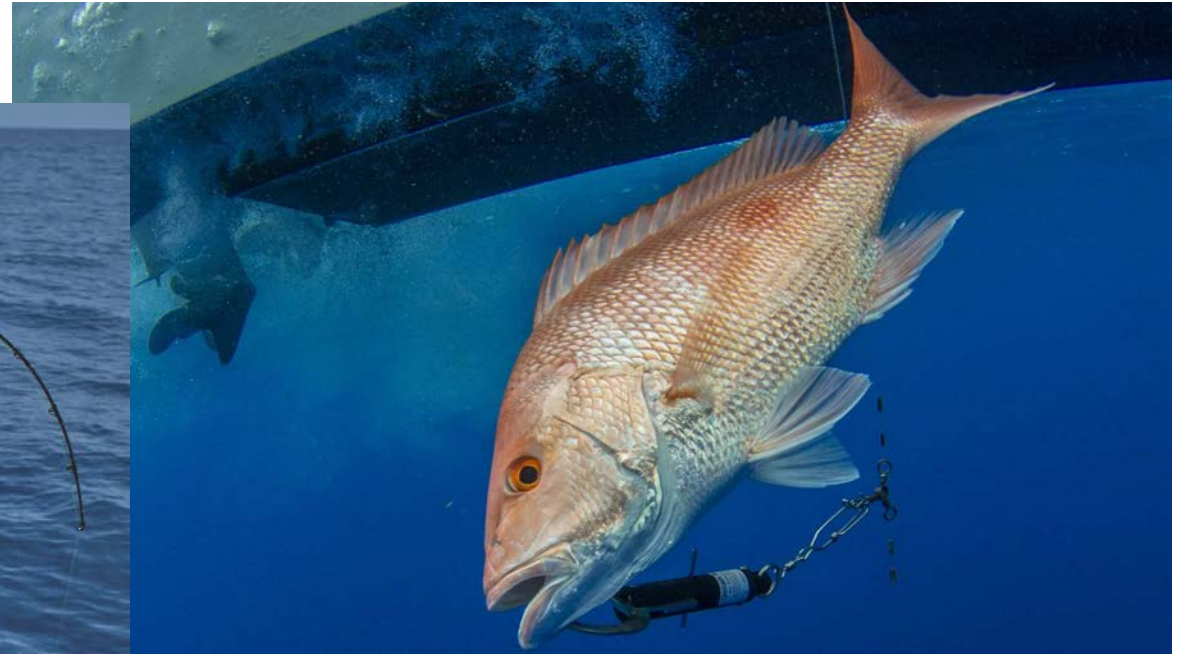
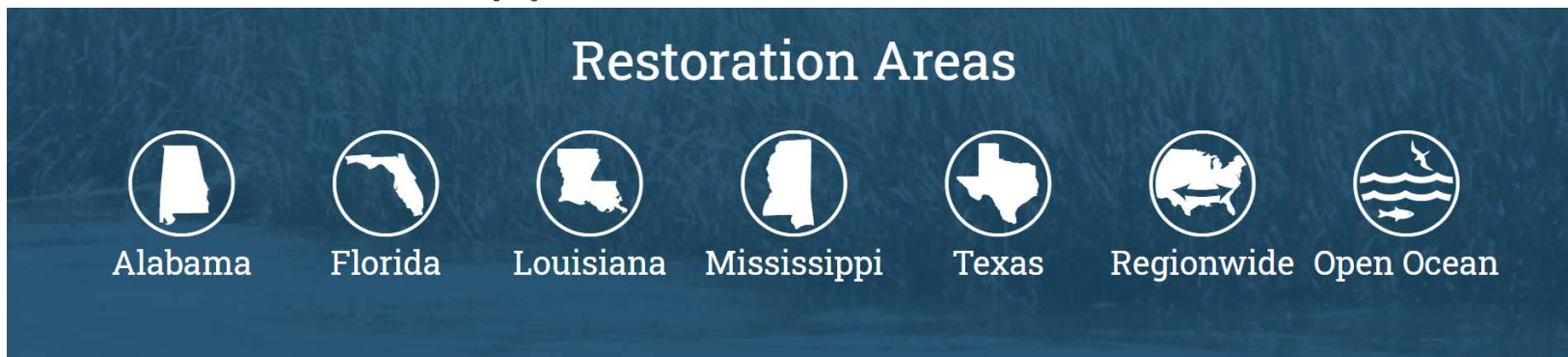


Working to Reduce Release Mortality of Gulf Reef Fish Stocks



History

- April 20, 2010, Deepwater Horizon exploded
- National Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) evaluated restoration needs
- October 5, 2015 NRDA provided a comprehensive restoration plan
- April 4, 2016 – Court approved \$8.8B settlement with BP



Open Ocean Research Area

- December 10, 2019 Open Ocean TIG released Restoration Plan 2, \$226M to support 18 projects
- Plan focused on 4 main areas:
 - Partner with commercial fisherman to reduce sea turtle bycatch
 - Develop tools and techniques to reduce risks to marine mammals
 - Better understand deep-sea (mesophotic and deep benthic)) coral habitat
 - Develop innovative tools for commercial fishermen to reduce bycatch
 - Develop innovative tools to help recreational fishermen reduce release mortality



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Restoring Injured Fish Populations by Reducing Release Mortality

- Three main areas of focus:

1. Develop, distribute, educate anglers on tools available to help reduce release mortality in GoM reef fish
2. Monitor use of tools and restoration of reef species
3. Validate effectiveness of fish descender devices



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 1. RFP for attitudes and opinion surveys
 2. Monitoring angler use and discard rates (dockside surveys, elogs, increased sampling for offshore sector, improve release catch survey methods)
 3. Utilize observer programs
 4. Potentially work with emerging technologies
3. Validate effectiveness of fish descender devices



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2. Monitor use of tools and restoration of reef species
3. Validate fish descender device effectiveness
 - Four research projects aimed at various priority areas
 1. Predator interactions
 2. Release mortality rates for data poor species
 3. Best handling practices
 - Intended to engage and utilize for-hire fleet where possible



Questions?

