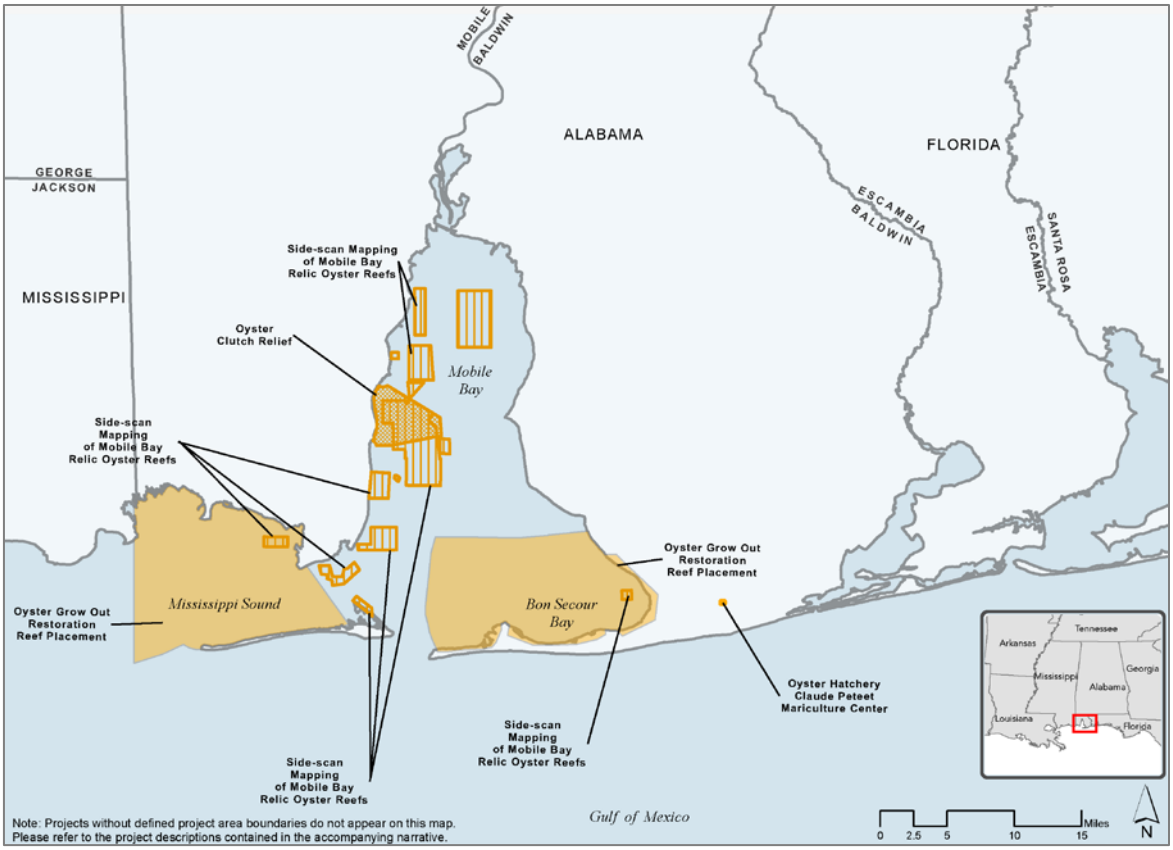
Alabama Restoration Area

Oysters Restoration Type
Draft Restoration Plan II



The *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement notes that oyster "restoration would be accomplished by directly restoring reef habitat, enhancing oyster reef productivity, and restoring regional oyster recruitment by increasing oyster spawning stock populations and, subsequently, the regional larval supply."

In screening projects for Draft Restoration Plan II under this restoration type, Alabama Trustee Implementation Group (AL TIG) Trustees considered whether projects, at a minimum, would:

1. Make direct contributions to solving long-term oyster survivorship problems in Alabama coastal waters;
2. Play an important role in filling major scientific information or data gaps for oysters;
3. Promote effective stewardship of oyster resources in Alabama.

Alabama Restoration Area

Oyster Projects Proposed for Implementation in Draft Restoration Plan II

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST
REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES – OYSTERS		
Oyster Cultch Relief and Reef Configuration	This project proposes to investigate the merits of deploying different types of cultch material in various configurations to facilitate positive settlement and growth of oysters on selected reef areas in Mobile Bay, Alabama. The project would include the deployment of oyster shell, limestone rock, and fossilized oyster shell in three experimental configurations including mounding, elongated furrows, and control plots using typical cultch broadcasting methods. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) would be the implementing Trustee.	$480,262
Side-scan Mapping of Mobile Bay Relic Oyster Reef (Engineering and Design Only)	This project would use sonar technology to identify benthic areas of mid- to lower-Mobile Bay that are suitable to support cultch material for oyster reef restoration. Depending on the side-scan results, these areas could be used to reestablish oyster populations through initial efforts to seed reef areas with hatchery-raised, high-density oyster spat setting. The ADCNR would be the implementing Trustee.	$104,229
Oyster Hatchery at Claude Peteet Mariculture Center-High Spat with Study	This project would construct an oyster hatchery at the existing Claude Peteet Mariculture Center in Gulf Shores and would provide operation and maintenance funding for the facility for a four-year project period. Project components would also include remote setting and deployment from a Dauphin Island facility. Additionally, the project would result in the deployment of cultch material, including spat on shell, to areas identified as suitable for oyster growth. Lastly, this project includes development of a coastal Alabama comprehensive oyster restoration strategy. The ADCNR would be the implementing Trustee.	$2,949,472
Oyster Grow-Out and Restoration Reef Placement	This project would establish up to three protected oyster gardening grow-out areas located in Grand Bay, Portersville Bay, and Bon Secour Bay and use these adult sized oysters for restoration reef placement. The project would grow out oysters to at least one year old, place these oysters on existing reef sites, including existing complementary living shoreline sites in Mobile Bay and Mississippi Sound as well as cultched sites, and identify and prioritize future restoration reef locations. The ADCNR would be the implementing Trustee.	$962,370

For additional information, contact:

AMY HUNTER
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR)
ALTIG@dcnr.alabama.gov