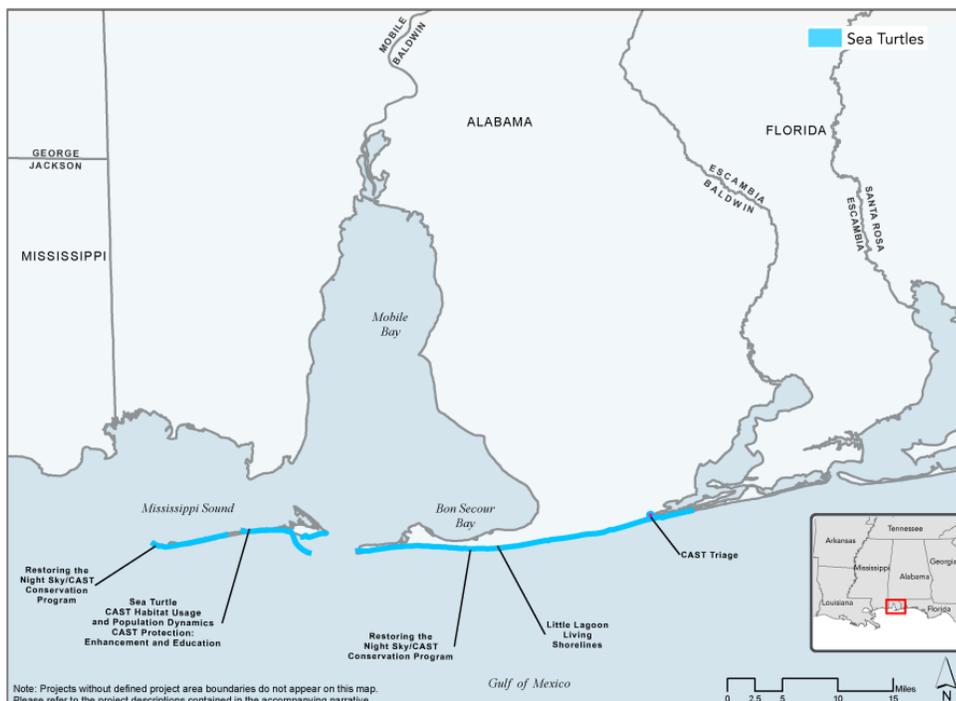


Alabama Restoration Area Sea Turtles Restoration Type Draft Restoration Plan II

In Alabama, sea turtle injuries from the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill resulted from both oiling and response activities along the state's sea turtle nesting beaches. The assessment reported that, as a result of response activities, approximately 30 loggerhead nests, equivalent to 2,000 loggerhead hatchlings, were lost. In addition, nests from three species—loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, and green sea turtles—were excavated prior to hatchling emergence, and eggs were translocated from Florida and Alabama beaches to a protected hatchery on the Atlantic coast of Florida. A total of 28,681 eggs from 274 nests in Alabama and Florida (16 nests from Alabama and 258 nests from Florida) were translocated, and 14,796 hatchling turtles emerged and were released into the Atlantic Ocean. Because these hatchlings entered the Atlantic Ocean and are believed unlikely to return to the Gulf, the assessment assumes these hatchlings were lost to the Gulf of Mexico breeding population because of the spill.



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 reducing sea turtle bycatch and vessel collision mortality or injury in Alabama coastal waters;
2. Enhance hatchling productivity or restore/conservate nesting habitat;
3. Enhance enforcement of laws protecting sea turtles;
4. Increase survival through actions to investigate and respond to threats and emergency incidents; or
5. Fill knowledge or data gaps specific to sea turtles and habitats in Alabama.

Alabama Restoration Area

Sea Turtle Projects Proposed for Implementation in Draft Restoration Plan II

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST
REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES – SEA TURTLES		
Coastal Alabama Sea Turtle (CAST) Triage	This project would provide a new, appropriately equipped facility and program for the initial triage, treatment, release, and/or transfer of injured or ill sea turtles. Currently, Alabama has no facilities equipped for handling sea turtle strandings. The project would construct a new facility on property owned by the City of Orange Beach and establish a program that would be supported by the City of Orange Beach in the future. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) would be the implementing Trustee.	\$622,915
CAST Conservation Program	This project would support existing sea turtle programs in Alabama to strengthen efforts to protect nesting sea turtles and enhance the survival of sea turtle hatchlings in Alabama. The proposed project would provide funding for the continued operation, expansion, and enhancement of the existing Share the Beach Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring Program, which as of January 2018 is proposed to be managed by the Alabama Coastal Foundation. The ADCNR would be the implementing Trustee.	\$935,061
CAST Habitat Usage and Population Dynamics	This project would study migration patterns, habitat use, and distribution patterns of sea turtles along the Alabama Coast. The project proposes to sample in-water sea turtles to initiate a long-term monitoring program designed to determine distribution and habitat use, vital rates (including survival rates), connectivity, and potential impacts of anthropogenic activities for sea turtles in coastal and nearshore waters of Alabama. The USDOJ would be the implementing Trustee.	\$1,631,696
CAST Protection: Enhancement and Education	This project would enhance state enforcement and increase turtle protections in Alabama state waters through increased awareness and understanding of the Endangered Species Act (ESA); increase resources dedicated to ESA-related activities for state enforcement agencies; work towards reducing fisheries bycatch; and work towards reduced impacts on nesting turtles. The ADCNR would be the implementing Trustee.	\$906,874
Restoring the Night Sky—Assessment, Outreach and Training	The long-term goal of the Restoring the Night Sky—Assessment, Training, and Outreach (E&D) project is to reduce the impacts of light pollution on federally managed lands that disorients nesting sea turtles and hatchlings, disrupting their reproductive activities and reducing their reproductive success. The project would produce an Alabama coast-wide analysis of the impacts of light pollution on federally managed lands and nearshore waters in Baldwin and Mobile counties in Alabama, helping to guide future work to mitigate this issue. Specifically, the project would help restore coastal habitats at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge injured by the <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> spill by producing an inventory of artificial light sources that affect the refuge. The project would also include pilot tests of alternative lighting systems to assess public and ecological responses to different lighting options. The USDOJ would be the implementing Trustee.	\$183,003 ¹ (An additional \$216,655 would be provided from the AL TIG's Monitoring and Adaptive Management (MAM) allocation for MAM activities within the project.)

For additional information, contact:

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

¹ Project proposed for funding under Habitat on Federally Managed Lands Restoration Type, with MAM activities within the project to be funded from the AL TIG's MAM allocation.