

Open Ocean Restoration Area

July 2018



WHO WE ARE

The Trustee representatives for the Open Ocean Restoration Area are:

- Ashley Mills, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Laurie Rounds, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Ron Howard, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Gale Bonanno, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

RECENT ACTIVITIES

In the past year, we have been busy overseeing the continued engineering, design, and construction of restoration projects approved during Early Restoration. We initiated development of two Open Ocean restoration plans in February 2018. Restoration Plan 1 is focused on birds and Gulf sturgeon and will be released in summer 2018. Restoration Plan 2 is focused on fish, sea turtles, marine mammals, and mesophotic and deep benthic communities and is anticipated for release in late 2018 to early 2019.






WHAT WE DO

The Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group, comprised of federal trustees, works on restoring wide-ranging and migratory species; including birds, Gulf sturgeon, fish and water column invertebrates, sea turtles, marine mammals, and mesophotic and deep benthic communities. We address species throughout their life stages and geographic ranges, including inland, coastal, and offshore areas. Therefore, we may use some funds for restoration outside of the Gulf of Mexico. We coordinate with state trustees when proposed projects overlap their jurisdictions.



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RESTORATION PROJECTS

| | PROJECT DESCRIPTION | STATUS | ESTIMATED COST |
|--|--|---|----------------|
| REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES | | | |
| Oceanic Fish Restoration Project | This project is also known as the Pelagic Longline Bycatch Reduction Project. Gulf pelagic longline (PLL) fishery targets yellowfin tuna and swordfish. This project reduces the number of fish accidentally caught and killed in fishing gear by compensating PLL fishermen who voluntarily refrain from PLL fishing during an annual six-month period; instead they use alternative gear so they can continue to harvest yellowfin tuna and swordfish. NOAA is the lead implementing Trustee for this project. |  | \$20M |
| PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES | | | |
| Beach Enhancement Project at Gulf Islands National Seashore | This project removes asphalt and other road material scattered over the Fort Pickens, Santa Rosa, and Perdido Key areas of Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District, by storms and hurricanes. The fragments of asphalt and road material range from quarter-inch pea size to 10-foot large slabs to brick. In sensitive areas, removal is done by hand. The Department of the Interior is the lead implementing Trustee for this project. |  | \$10.8M |
| Bike and Pedestrian Use Enhancements Project, Davis Bayou, Mississippi District, Gulf Islands National Seashore | This project includes bike and pedestrian use enhancements in the Davis Bayou Area of Gulf Islands National Seashore, Mississippi District, to improve the safety of roadway users via construction of multiple-use trails. The project widens the existing road surface on Park Road for 2.17 miles to accommodate multiple-use bicycle-pedestrian trails. The Department of the Interior is the lead implementing Trustee for this project. |  | \$7M |
| Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Trail Enhancement Project | This project repaired and enhanced the Jeff Friend Trail. An aged boardwalk and gravel trail was repaired and improved to meet American with Disabilities Act standards, to ensure safe public access and to enhance the quality of visitor experience. The project also included construction of an observation platform along the trail, and the widening of two parking spaces to better accommodate visitors who have physical disabilities. The Department of the Interior is the lead implementing Trustee for this project. |  | \$545K |
| Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry Project | This project funded the purchase of two pedestrian visitor ferries for use between the City of Pensacola, Pensacola Beach, and the Fort Pickens area of Gulf Islands National Seashore in Florida. Ferries were delivered to Pensacola, stored in dry dock over the winter and are now in operation. The Department of the Interior is the lead implementing Trustee for this project, in coordination with the City of Pensacola and Escambia County. |  | \$4M |

 In progress  Monitoring/O&M  Complete