

Region-wide Restoration Area

July 2018



WHO WE ARE

The Trustee representatives for the Region-wide Restoration Area are:

- Amy Hunter, Alabama
- Gareth Leonard, Florida
- Michael Ellis, Louisiana
- Chris Wells, Mississippi
- Angela Sunley, Texas
- Chris Pease, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Jamie Schubert, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Ron Howard, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Timothy Landers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

RECENT ACTIVITIES

We continue to oversee engineering, design, and implementation of early restoration projects. In June 2017, we released strategic frameworks for birds, marine mammals, sea turtles, and oysters. The Region-wide TIG is currently developing the scope and schedule of upcoming restoration planning efforts.




WHAT WE DO

Our work for the Region-wide Restoration Area replenishes and protects marine mammals, sea turtles, birds, and oysters. Wildlife affected by the spill often live and migrate across jurisdictional boundaries—so Region-wide Restoration Area projects will be implemented across jurisdictional boundaries.



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RESTORATION PROJECTS

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ESTIMATED COST
REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES			
Enhanced Management of Avian Breeding Habitat Injured by Response Activities in the Florida Panhandle, Alabama, and Mississippi	Beach-nesting bird habitats were harmed by oil spill response activities. Placing markers at sensitive nesting sites is intended to protect eggs, chicks, and adults. The project is located across three Gulf states: Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi. In Florida, site enhancements are located in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, and Franklin counties. In Alabama, sites are located in Baldwin and Mobile counties. In Mississippi, sites are located in Jackson and Harrison counties. The Department of the Interior and Florida are working together to implement this project.		\$1.8M
Improving Habitat Injured by Spill Response: Restoring the Night Sky	Public area lighting deters female sea turtles from reaching their natural beach habitat and reduces successful nesting. The lighting also disrupts the migration of baby sea turtles toward the ocean. This project retrofits existing lighting to make it more sea turtle friendly at locations in Florida and Alabama. The Department of the Interior along with Alabama and Florida state agencies are working together to implement this project.		\$4.2M
Sea Turtle Early Restoration Project	This project includes complementary components that address threats to sea turtles on nesting beaches and in the marine environment: (1) Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle Nest Detection and Enhancement; (2) Enhancement of the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network; and (3) Enhancement of Texas Fisheries Bycatch Enforcement. Together, these components include enhancement of existing programs involved in nest detection/protection and stranding and rehabilitation work; funding for additional staff, training, supplies, equipment, and vehicles for agencies and organizations; and expansion of NOAA's Gear Monitoring Team and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Law Enforcement Division's capacity to improve compliance with Turtle Excluder Device regulations for the purpose of reducing incidental takes of sea turtles during the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery season. The Department of the Interior, NOAA, and Texas are working together to implement this project.		\$25M

 In progress  Monitoring/O&M  Complete