# Region-wide Restoration Area

June 2019

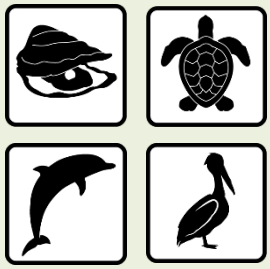
## WHO WE ARE

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

- Amy Hunter, Alabama
- Gareth Leonard, Florida
- Lawrence B. "Bren" Haase, Louisiana
- Chris Wells, Mississippi
- Angela Sunley, Texas
- Ben Frater, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
- Jamie Schubert, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Ron Howard, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Timothy Landers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

## 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.



## RECENT ACTIVITIES

We continue to oversee implementation and monitoring of Early Restoration projects. The Region-wide Trustee Implementation Group (TIG) has developed the scope and schedule of upcoming restoration planning efforts.

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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. DOI 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. DOI along with Alabama and Florida are working together to implement this project. | ⟳ | $4.2M |
| **Sea Turtle Early Restoration Project** | The Region-wide TIG portion of this project includes two complementary components that address threats to sea turtles in the marine environment: (1) Enhancement of the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network; and (2) Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawl bycatch reduction. Together, these components include enhancement of existing programs involved in stranding work; funding for additional staff, training, supplies, equipment, and vehicles for agencies and organizations; and expansion of NOAA's Gear Monitoring Team and Southeast Shrimp Trawl Fisheries Observer Program 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. NOAA is the lead implementing Trustee for the Region-wide portion of this project. | ⟳ | $25M |

⟳ In progress ◉ Monitoring/O&M ✓ Complete