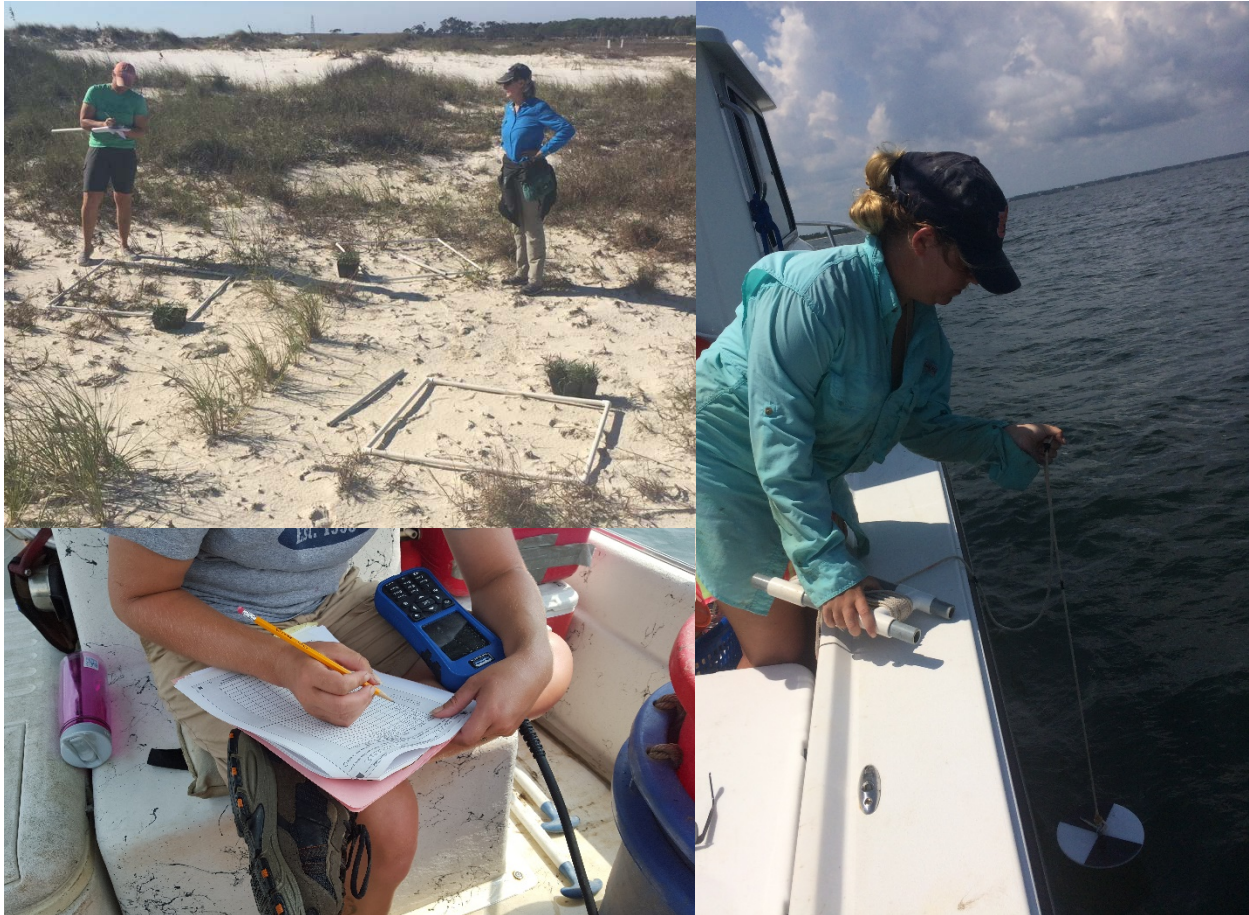


## E: Monitoring Guidance



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## E.1. Background

The Cross-TIG MAM work group has developed monitoring guidance, including core and objective-specific performance monitoring parameters and associated measurement units and data collection methods, for some Restoration Approaches, to promote consistency in data collection among similar types of projects and allow for future analysis across TIGs and Restoration Types (Section 10.6.2 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). This guidance may also assist the TIGs by providing recommended methodologies for monitoring restoration projects, saving time and money spent developing suitable monitoring protocols for individual restoration projects. If adjustments from this monitoring guidance are needed for a particular project, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016).

Monitoring guidance has been developed for Restoration Approaches related to coastal wetlands; beaches, dunes, and barrier island habitats; water quality improvements; protection and conservation of marine, coastal, estuarine, and riparian habitats; oysters; submerged aquatic vegetation; and recreational use projects, using the process described in Section E.1. Monitoring guidance for additional Restoration Approaches will be included in future versions of this document. The monitoring guidance is organized in this manual as follows. First, the core and objective-specific performance monitoring parameters are presented in a single, alphabetized list that also includes recommended measurement units; monitoring methods; and guidance on the location, frequency, and duration of the sampling, as appropriate to each parameter. The remainder of the document presents guidance specific to each of the Restoration Approaches. For each approach, core and objective-specific performance parameters, and additional parameters for adaptive management or validation monitoring are provided in tables. Information related to the process (Section E.2) that informed the identification of the parameters, such as example drivers and uncertainties, is also included.

Project teams within each TIG will identify parameters applicable to the objectives for each individual restoration project when developing the project MAM Plan. In addition to the project monitoring guidance identified in this Manual, specific monitoring may be required to comply with permits granted by regulatory agencies. The TIGs are not restricted from adding additional parameters not identified herein, such as those needed for regulatory compliance, to evaluate pre-restoration baseline conditions, or to evaluate project “as-built” conditions. Other project monitoring that may be needed for specific projects should be determined by the TIGs.

### Reference

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016. Trustee Council Standard Operating Procedures for Implementation of the Natural Resource Restoration for the *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) Oil Spill. Originally approved May 4, 2016; revised November 15, 2016.



## E.2. Process for Developing Monitoring Guidance

The following process was used to develop monitoring guidance for each Restoration Approach:

1. Example project-specific restoration objectives were developed for each Restoration Technique, using the strategy described in Section 2.4.1.1 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0.
2. Drivers and potential uncertainties that may influence the project's ability to achieve the restoration objectives were documented. Existing conceptual models relevant to the Restoration Approach were compiled and reviewed, if available, such as those described in Section 2.4.2.1 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0.
3. Core performance monitoring parameters were identified, which could be used to evaluate progress toward the example restoration objectives. Monitoring frameworks developed by the Trustees for several commonly implemented types of projects during Early Restoration were reviewed to help identify relevant performance monitoring parameters. Existing monitoring plans developed for similar types of projects were also reviewed for relevant performance monitoring parameters.
4. Additional monitoring parameters were identified for each objective that may help resolve uncertainties, explain outside drivers, optimize project implementation, support decisions about corrective actions or other adaptive management of the project, and/or inform the design of future DWH NRDA projects.
5. The identified parameters were categorized into the following groups:
  - a. Performance monitoring parameters: Two types of performance monitoring parameters were identified:
    - i. Restoration Approach core performance monitoring parameters are used to evaluate project performance for restoration objectives common to projects under the Restoration Approach and should therefore be collected for projects within a Restoration Approach, to the extent practicable. The intent of performance monitoring is to document whether the projects have met their established performance criteria and determine the need for corrective actions (15 CFR § 990.55(b)(1)(vii)).
    - ii. Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters are used for additional restoration objectives for a specific project under a Restoration Approach and should therefore be collected for projects that include those additional objectives to the extent practicable.
  - b. Additional parameters for adaptive management or validation monitoring that may be used to resolve uncertainties, explain outside drivers, optimize project implementation, support decisions about corrective actions and other adaptive management of the project, and inform the planning of future DWH NRDA restoration projects, as described in Appendix 5.E.3.1 of the PDARP/PEIS (DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). Selection of specific additional monitoring parameters will depend on the needs of the individual project, and additional monitoring parameters may not be needed for all projects.
6. For each core and objective-specific performance monitoring parameter, the parameter was defined and some technically sound data collection methods, including methodology references, monitoring location, frequency and duration, potential additional analyses, and additional relevant references were summarized, as appropriate.

**Reference**

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016. *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill: Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP) and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan>.

### E.3. Restoration Approach Core and Objective-Specific Performance Monitoring Parameters

*This guidance is intended to promote consistency in data collection among similar types of projects and allow for future analysis across TIGs and Restoration Types, (Section 10.6.2 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). This guidance may also assist the TIGs by providing recommended methodologies for monitoring restoration projects, saving time and money spent developing suitable monitoring protocols for individual restoration projects. If adjustments from this monitoring guidance are needed for a particular project, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). Project teams within each TIG will identify parameters applicable to the objectives for each individual restoration project when developing the project MAM Plan. In addition to the project monitoring guidance identified in this Manual, specific monitoring may be required to comply with permits granted by regulatory agencies. The TIGs are not restricted from adding additional parameters, and other project monitoring that may be needed for specific projects should be determined by the TIGs.*

This list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters expands upon Section 2.4.4 and Attachments E.2–E.8 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 and supplemental monitoring guidance developed for additional restoration approaches. It provides additional guidance on the development of the monitoring section of the MAM Plan. All core and objective-specific performance monitoring parameters across the subset of Restoration Approaches covered in the MAM Manual Version 1.0 as well as the monitoring guidance subsequently released for additional monitoring approaches are combined into an alphabetized list below and are numbered for ease of reference. The Restoration Approaches addressed to date include:

- Create, restore, and enhance coastal wetlands
- Create, restore, and enhance barrier and coastal islands and headlands
- Restore and enhance dunes and beaches
- Restore and enhance submerged aquatic vegetation
- Protect and conserve marine, coastal, estuarine, and riparian habitats
- Reduce nutrient loads to coastal watersheds
- Reduce pollution and hydrologic degradation to coastal watersheds
- Restore and enhance submerged aquatic vegetation
- Restore oyster reef habitat
- Enhance public access to natural resources for recreational use
- Enhance recreational experiences
- Promote environmental stewardship, education, and outreach

Additional monitoring parameters for consideration, such as those needed for additional Restoration Approaches identified in the PDARP (DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a) and adaptive management or validation monitoring parameters listed in the monitoring guidance for each Restoration Approach, are not included in this list at this time. Each parameter in the alphabetized list includes guidance on measurement unit(s) and monitoring methods, with a crosswalk to the Restoration Approach(es) for which the parameter is identified as a core or objective-specific performance monitoring parameter, but not if the parameter is listed only as a parameter for consideration. Some parameters are measured directly while others are calculations (e.g., Oyster Reef Volume). Guidance on monitoring locations, frequencies, and durations of sampling are also included. For some parameters, additional guidance for potential analyses using that monitoring parameter (see Section 2.4.6 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0) is also provided. Although metric units are listed in the parameter descriptions, standard units are also acceptable.

This section is subject to change at the discretion of the Trustees, potentially as a result of newly identified and/or developed monitoring parameters, methods, and technologies. The monitoring parameters identified in a project MAM Plan should be consistent with the monitoring guidance outlined in this attachment, wherever appropriate. However, the content of the MAM Plan, including identification of Restoration Approaches, monitoring objectives, monitoring parameters, and budget is at the discretion of the TIG that is conducting restoration planning (Section 10.3.2 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016b). Monitoring frequency and duration may vary by project due to objectives, performance criteria, project-level decisions, and/or the need for corrective actions.



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### E.3.1. Area

**Parameter Type:** Measured, Calculated, or Modeled

**Units:** square meters (m<sup>2</sup>) or square kilometers (km<sup>2</sup>)

#### Definition

Area may be defined three different ways depending on the project objectives. Projects should indicate which definition(s) is being used. Additional area definitions may also be developed for specific projects, as needed.

**Area of Project Footprint:** the maximum areal extent of restoration activities.

**Area of Project Influence:** the area affected by restoration activities as determined by the Implementing Trustee. This area may extend beyond the project footprint.

**Area of Habitat:** the summed area, by habitat type, of habitat patches within the project footprint.

#### Restoration Approaches

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Create, Restore, and Enhance Barrier and Coastal Islands and Headlands
- Restore and Enhance Dunes and Beaches
- Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats
- Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds
- Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds
- Enhance Public Access to Natural Resources for Recreational Use
- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
- Restore Oyster Reef Habitat

#### Potential Methodologies

##### Potential Field-Based or Remote Sensing Methodologies

**Method 1:** Project and habitat boundaries can be mapped based on aerial imagery collected by airplane, helicopter, unmanned aerial systems (UAS); high-resolution satellite imagery; or other appropriate remote sensing platforms. Imagery used to map wetland boundaries should include true color and infrared bands, and have a spatial resolution of 1 meter (m) or less. For comparison of different remote sensing platforms commonly used for wetland mapping, see Klemas (2011) and Klemas (2013). For additional information on the use of UAS for wetland mapping, see Klemas (2015), Madden et al. (2015), Zweig et al. (2015), and Samiappan et al. (2017). Source imagery should be orthorectified [i.e., free from distortions related to sensor optics, sensor tilt, and differences in elevation; see Rufe (2014)]. Collected imagery should be imported to spatial analysis software to digitize the perimeter of the project footprint and the boundaries of habitat areas within the project footprint. Additional guidance on using aerial imagery can also be found in Anders and Byrnes (1991), Crowell et al. (1991), Morton (1991), and FLDEP (2014). For coastal wetland projects, see Steyer and Llewellyn (2000) and Dahl and Bergeson (2009) for wetland habitat mapping

procedures. For guidance on mapping SAV, see Kirkman 1996 and Vittor & Associates, 2016.

**Method 2:** Ground surveys can be used to map an area for smaller projects. Use a real-time kinematic Global Positioning System (RTK GPS) to take continuous measurements while walking, boating around, flying, or digitizing the perimeter of the project and along the boundaries of specific habitats within the project footprint. For wetlands, standard field wetland delineation techniques should be considered for areas where wetlands transition into non-wetland habitats (Federal Interagency Committee for Wetland Delineation, 1989). For SAV projects that aim to promote regrowth of native SAV, ground surveys should focus on areas targeted for regrowth.

**Method 3:** For SAV aerial mapping where airborne remote sensing cannot detect the deep edge of bed, towed underwater video can provide reliable estimates of seagrass area (Christiaen et al. 2016). New techniques for mapping SAV continue to be developed and piloted in localized applications.

**Method 4:** For intertidal oyster reefs, the footprint may be measured using a surveyor's measuring wheel, laser rangefinder, or transect tape (Baggett et al. 2014).

**Method 5:** For subtidal oyster reefs, the footprint may be measured using side-scan or multi-beam sonar (Baggett et al. 2014) or professional/survey grade echo sounder.

**Method 6:** For subtidal oyster reefs, the footprint may be measured using a sounding pole in conjunction with GPS (Baggett et al. 2014)

For many methods, the resulting data should be analyzed using spatial analysis software to calculate the area of habitat created, restored, enhanced, or protected. For habitat protection, conservation, or other habitat projects, the habitat type(s) should also be documented. For coastal wetland projects, Cowardin et al. (1979) provides an example for wetland classification standards.

### ***Monitoring Locations for Field-Based or Remote Sensing Methodologies***

Area of habitat built or enhanced should be determined for the entire project footprint. Some data, such as aerial photography, may be collected over larger areas. A reference and/or control site could be established, where appropriate and applicable.

### ***Guidance on Frequency and Duration for Field-Based or Remote Sensing Methodologies***

For projects that do not include construction, project monitoring is suggested before and after project implementation. In general, for projects including construction activities, monitoring is proposed pre-construction, immediately after construction (as-built), and post-construction. A baseline pre-construction condition could be established based on data obtained during the Engineering and Design (E&D) period.

**Beaches, dunes, and barrier islands:** Monitoring is proposed immediately after construction (as-built) and every 3 years up to 10 years post-construction.

**Coastal wetlands:** Monitoring is proposed immediately after construction (as-built), with at least 1–2 additional monitoring events over the monitoring period. For further

guidance and recommendations on wetland monitoring frequency and duration, see Tiner (1999), Neckles et al. (2002), and NAS (2017).

**Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV):** Monitoring is proposed immediately after construction (as-built), 1 year post construction, and with additional monitoring every 5 years over the monitoring period (Neckles et al. 2012; Vittor & Associates, 2016). Seasonal sampling may be needed for species that exhibit high inter- and intra-annual variance due to seasonally changing environmental conditions.

**Oyster reefs:** Baggett et al. (2014) suggest monitoring occur pre-construction, within three months after construction, 1-2 years post-construction, and 4-6 years post-construction (a more ecologically relevant time scale, considering the oyster disease Dermo and salinity are correlated at a periodicity of 4 years (Soniati et al. 2009)) and after any event that may alter the habitat within the project footprint. For further guidance on oyster reef monitoring frequency and duration see Baggett et al. (2014) and NAS (2017).

Funding for one additional contingency monitoring event could be included in the monitoring budget, which could be implemented as needed to account for storm impacts.

## Modeling Methodologies

Area of coastal wetlands with hydrology restored by the project will be estimated or modeled based on other parameters, including depth, duration, and frequency of flooding.

**Method 1:** The area influenced by a hydrologic restoration project can be estimated based on hydrodynamic modeling prior to project implementation. The area of influence should be estimated prior to project implementation to establish the restoration target. See MacBroom and Schiff (2012) for a review of commonly used 1- and 2-dimensional hydraulic modeling approaches for tidal restoration projects. Models should document assumptions and limitations in estimating the area of influence.

**Method 2:** Post-restoration, the area influenced can be calculated as the area over which the target depth, duration, and frequency of flooding has been achieved, based on water-level measurements, elevation data, ground survey and/or remote sensing data, and compared to projections from the hydrodynamic model.

## Monitoring Locations for Modeling Methodologies

The location of monitoring should be estimated/modeled across the area surrounding the restoration project. The modeled area should extend slightly beyond the area where any influence is expected as a result of the project.

## Guidance on Frequency and Duration for Modeling Methodologies

The area influenced by the project could be estimated prior to project implementation to establish a baseline. The area of influence could be calculated/modeled immediately after project implementation (as-built) and annually for up to five years following implementation, based on water level data and/or elevation data collected for the project. Additional measurements could be taken after events that could alter habitat within the project footprint (e.g., severe storms, sedimentation events).

## Other Potential Analyses

Area measurements may also be used in conjunction with other parameters listed herein (e.g., elevation, vegetation percent cover and composition) to perform the following calculations and analyses: habitat type changes, shoreline change, land loss or gain, beach and dune profile change, volume change, bathymetric profile change, and sediment movement. Area measurements can also be used to help assess habitat or landscape connectivity and/or reductions in habitat fragmentation. Water depth and light availability may also be particularly relevant for understanding regrowth potential of SAV.

### E.3.2. Bird Abundance, Density, and Community Composition

**Parameter Type:** Measured, Calculated, or Modeled

**Abundance Units:** none

**Density Units:** number per unit area (see [E.3.1 Area](#) for units)

**Community Composition Units:** none

#### Definition

Abundance is the total number of birds within a defined area of interest. Density is abundance divided by area. Community composition is the diversity and relative abundance of bird species within the area of interest.

#### Restoration Approaches

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Create, Restore, and Enhance Barrier and Coastal Islands and Headlands
- Restore and Enhance Dunes and Beaches
- Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats
- Restore Oyster Reef Habitat

#### Potential Methodologies

Conway (2011) provides a Standardized North American Marsh Bird Monitoring Protocol. This protocol, which employs a combination of point counts and call back surveys, was used to survey marsh birds in all affected states during the DWH oil spill.

#### Monitoring Location

Conway (2011) provides a discussion of survey site selection. The protocol recommends the establishment of permanent survey sites along a survey route.

#### Guidance on Frequency and Duration

In general, monitoring is proposed pre-restoration (once, if applicable) and annually for five years, or longer, after restoration. Conway's (2011) methods include three surveys or more during the peak marsh bird breeding season. Surveys are usually conducted during the morning or evening.

### E.3.3. Channel Dimensions

**Parameter Type:** Measured

**Units:** meters (m)

## Definition

The cross-sectional profile (e.g., width and depth) of channels intended to convey water for the restoration project.

## Restoration Approach

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands

## Potential Methodologies

**Method 1:** For shallower channels, cross-sectional profiles can be measured using advanced survey instrumentation, such as RTK GPS or Total Station; traditional survey instrumentation, such as a level and rod; or using a measuring tape or equivalent linear measurement device. Special care should be taken to not damage the escarpments.

**Method 2:** In deeper water that cannot be measured with topographic survey techniques, a bathymetric survey can be conducted using a depth finder fitted with a differential GPS or another acoustic method as appropriate.

The position of the profiles should be carefully marked so that the same cross-sections can be repeatedly monitored following restoration. See Roegner et al. (2008) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS, 2011) for more information on potential methodologies.

**Method 3:** For hardened channels or culverts, dimensions can be measured using a measuring tape or equivalent linear measurement device.

## Monitoring Location

Cross-sectional profiles should be measured in the channels specifically targeted by the hydrologic restoration within the project area. A reference and/or control site could be established, where appropriate and applicable.

## Guidance on Frequency and Duration

In general, monitoring is proposed pre-construction, immediately after construction (as-built), and post-construction. A baseline pre-construction condition could be established based on information obtained during the E&D. Sampling could be conducted pre-construction (once), immediately following construction (as-built), and annually thereafter. Monitoring is proposed for five years post-construction or longer to ensure channel dimensions are being maintained sufficiently to meet performance criteria. For fixed or hard structures such as culverts, additional monitoring following as-built measurements may not be necessary because the dimensions are assumed to be stable. However, additional sampling may be needed after large storm events.

## Other Potential Analyses

Channel dimensions may also be used to calculate the cross-sectional area in square meters (m<sup>2</sup>) or volume in cubic meters (m<sup>3</sup>).

### E.3.4. Debris

**Parameter Type:** Measured

**Units:** none (count of items) or weight in kilograms (kg)



## Definition

The amount, source, location, movement and/or impact of marine debris.

## Restoration Approach

- Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats
- Enhance Recreational Experiences

## Potential Methodologies

For coastal projects, information about marine debris can be collected using shoreline surveys, benthic trawls, or floating litter survey operations (Cheshire et al., 2009). There are a number of different survey methods, including comprehensive and rapid beach assessments, and debris assessment and standing stock surveys [see Cheshire et al. (2009), Opfer et al. (2012), and Lippiatt et al. (2013)]. Surface water and at-sea surveys can also be conducted (Ryan et al., 2009).

## Monitoring Location

Location of collecting debris is, in part, dependent on accessibility of the site and available equipment. Sampling should focus on areas where debris is suspected to accumulate, but may be stratified by factors such as land use, proximity to river mouths, substrate, tourism, fishing pressure, oceanic current patterns, bathymetry, and hydrodynamics (Lippiatt et al., 2013). For shoreline surveys, Opfer et al. (2012) developed walking patterns to ensure the entire shoreline site or transect is covered.

## Guidance on Frequency and Duration

The amount of sampling necessary to assess debris concentrations depends on the spatial variability of the debris, the desired level of detection, and whether the project's objective is to estimate flux rate (accumulation rate of litter) or just standing crop (quantity of litter per unit area or length of transect) (Cheshire et al., 2009). Collection events every 28 days provide good estimates of monthly averages (Lippiatt et al., 2013), while collection events every three months allow for the interpretation of seasonal changes. Collection could also take place before/after cleanup events as applicable.

## Other Potential Analyses

A pre-restoration assessment could be conducted to characterize conditions before cleanup.

### E.3.5. Discharge

**Parameter Type:** Calculated

**Units:** cubic meters per second (m<sup>3</sup>/s)

#### Definition

The volume of water through a channel (e.g., stream, river, or tidal creek) within a given time period, typically in units of cubic meters per second (m<sup>3</sup>/sec) or cubic feet per second (cfs). In general, discharge is calculated by multiplying the velocity of the water (e.g., m/s) by the cross-sectional area (m<sup>2</sup>).

#### Restoration Approaches

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats
- Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds
- Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds

### Potential Methodologies

**Method 1:** Calculate discharge by multiplying the water velocity by the cross-sectional area ( $m^2$ ) of the channel (see Section E.9.29 Velocity, Water; and Section E.9.3 Channel Dimensions).

**Method 2:** An Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) can be used to measure both water velocity and water depth within a stream. Typically, the ADCP is mounted to a small water craft and guided along the stream channel to take the measurements.

**Method 3:** For streams where a stream gage is installed, the discharge can be calculated based on a stage-discharge relation. The development of a stage-discharge relation requires numerous discharge measurements at the given reach across all ranges of streamflow (Rantz et al., 1982; Turnipseed and Sauer, 2010). However, the stage-discharge relationship cannot be applied to tidally affected areas.

**Method 4:** Installation of Acoustic Doppler Velocity Meters (ADVMS) at index-velocity stream gages. Discharge is calculated using the index velocity method (Levesque and Oberg, 2012). This approach is best to calculate discharge in reaches with unsteady streamflow that prevents the development of a stage-discharge relationship.

See Steyer and Llewellyn (2000) and Olson and Norris (2007) for more information on potential methodologies.

### Monitoring Location

Discharge should be measured or calculated for channels within the project area that are an important component of the project design. If discharge is calculated by multiplying the water velocity by the cross-sectional area, these two measurements should be taken in the same area. A reference and/or control site could be established, where appropriate and applicable.

### Guidance on Frequency and Duration

In general, monitoring is proposed pre-construction, immediately after construction, and post-construction. A baseline pre-construction condition could be established based on information obtained during the E&D. Sampling could be conducted pre-construction (once), immediately following construction (once), and annually thereafter. Additional sampling may be needed after large storm events.

For projects with tidal influence, if continuous recorders are used, data could be collected for two weeks or longer during a sampling event to be able to capture one lunar cycle of spring and neap tides, but longer time periods (e.g., 3–4 months or year-round) are preferred. For discrete measurements, the discharge could be assessed over several tidal cycles.

For projects with riverine influence, sampling events could be designed to capture both high- and low-flow events. If continuous recorders are used, data could be collected for two weeks or longer during high- and low-water conditions, but year-round data collection for one or more years is preferred to fully capture the seasonal variability in flow conditions. For

discrete measurements, the discharge could be assessed over a few weeks during both high- and low-flow conditions.

### Other Potential Analyses

Discharge data may also be needed to model the area influenced by hydrologic restoration.

## E.3.6. Dissolved Oxygen (DO)

**Parameter Type:** Measured

**Units:** milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million (ppm)

### Definition

DO represents the concentration of oxygen mixed and dissolved into the water column.

### Restoration Approaches

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats
- Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds
- Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds
- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

### Potential Methodologies

A DO meter, water quality sonde, or data logging system can be used to record measurement data taken with a DO sensor. Data collection and calibration procedures of data sondes will be determined by the respective instrument's QA/QC procedures. Site determination for the data collection, as well as the frequency and duration, will be determined by the project-specific objectives. See USGS (2013).

## E.3.7. Educational Materials

**Parameter Type:** Measured

**Units:** none (count) or as appropriate based on the nature of the materials

### Definition

Number of, type, nature and/or extent of educational materials developed and/or distributed to promote environmental stewardship, education, and outreach. Materials may include flyers, pamphlets, videos, interactive learning screens, programs, or teacher-led activities.

### Restoration Approach

- Promote Environmental Stewardship, Education, and Outreach

### Potential Methodologies

Collection methods will vary depending on the type of educational materials developed. For example, if educational flyers are developed, the collection technique may be documenting the number of flyers printed, the number of types of flyers developed, etc. The information

collected should include the type and number of educational materials, as well as a summary of the information presented in the educational materials.

### ***Monitoring Location***

Materials should be monitored at their distribution location(s). This could include location of sign posts, flyer distribution points, or locations where education activities occur, such as a school.

### ***Guidance on Frequency and Duration***

Materials could be monitored for the period in which they are produced. The materials will be distributed according to project specifications and the rate at which materials are distributed should be tracked throughout the distribution period and updated when needed.

### **Other Potential Analyses**

Knowledge of the number of materials produced along with the frequency in which they are accessed by the public can help determine user preferences toward educational materials.

## **E.3.8. Elevation**

**Parameter Type:** Measured, Calculated, or Modeled

**Units:** meters (m)

### **Definition**

Elevation of the created or restored area/habitat relative to geodetic datums, tidal datums, or surrounding area.

### **Restoration Approaches**

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Create, Restore, and Enhance Barrier and Coastal Islands and Headlands
- Restore and Enhance Dunes and Beaches
- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
- Restore Oyster Reef Habitat

### **Potential Methodologies**

#### **Topographic Methodologies**

To evaluate the effectiveness of the restoration on the elevation and area of beach, dune, oyster reef, SAV, and adjacent subtidal areas, measurements will be compared with previous measurements of shoreline position, elevation, beach and dune profile changes, and volumetric changes within the system when combined with bathymetric surveys as appropriate to the restoration approach. For guidance on elevation monitoring for beach, dune, and barrier island habitats, see FLDEP (2014). For guidance on elevation (reef height) monitoring for oysters, consult Baggett et al. (2014). For marsh habitats, topography and associated hydrologic regime are key determinants of the distribution and composition of marsh vegetation and faunal communities. To evaluate the effectiveness of the restoration design, targeted elevations should consider the desired wetland habitat.

**Method 1:** Topographic profiles can be done to measure land elevation by using RTK GPS surveys. Elevation is measured at evenly spaced distances along transects or on a grid, and interpolated using spatial analysis software to create a Digital Elevation Model (DEM). See CPRA (2016) for an example protocol for conducting RTK GPS ground surveys within restoration projects.

**Method 2:** Airborne topographic Light Detection and Ranging or Laser Imaging Detection and Ranging (LIDAR). This is an optical remote sensing technology that can measure the distance to targets by illuminating the target with laser light and analyzing the backscattered light. Ground control points should be established to calculate accuracy and ground surveys may be needed to develop ecosystem-specific correction factors in densely vegetated marshes. For additional information on the use of LIDAR to monitor marsh elevations, see Brock et al. (2002), Schmid et al. (2011), Hladik and Alber (2012), Heidemann (2014), Buffington et al. (2016), and Medeiros et al. (2015).

**Method 3:** Photogrammetric surveys along transects. Collect elevation data using stereo aerial photogrammetry, coupled with control point elevation measurements collected with RTK GPS (Smith and Vericat, 2015; Smith et al., 2016).

**Method 4:** For more frequent measurements of elevation to determine sediment compaction rates, settlement plates may be installed during project construction (Dunnicliff, 1993). Elevation of the plates and top of the structure can be measured using advanced surveying instrumentation (e.g., RTK GPS) and as-built elevation compared to elevation in years post-construction.

**Method 5:** Traditional survey equipment (level and rod or transit pole and self-leveling laser) (Baggett et al. 2014).

**Method 6:** Ruler, meter stick, or graduated rod (Baggett et al. 2014).

Regardless of method employed, the elevation should be measured relative to geodetic and/or tidal datums (Rydlund and Densmore, 2012). Vertical error should be summarized for all elevation measurements, regardless of the data collection method used. Remotely sensed elevation data should have vertical error reporting that adhere to American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) standards, the general standards for gauging vertical error in DEMs.

### ***Monitoring Location for Topographic Methodologies***

Topographic profiles should be collected along the entire project footprint (typically collected for a larger area). A reference and/or control site could be established, where appropriate and applicable.

### ***Guidance on Frequency and Duration for Topographic Methodologies***

For beaches, dunes, barrier island, oyster reef, and SAV projects, data collection could occur pre-construction, immediately after construction (as-built), and at an appropriate frequency and duration relevant to project-specific conditions. A baseline pre-implementation condition could be established based on information obtained during the E&D.

For marsh restoration projects, monitoring could occur immediately after construction (as-built), and post-construction at an appropriate frequency and duration relevant to

project-specific conditions. Funding could also be included for an additional contingency data collection, to be implemented as needed, in response to storm impacts.

### **Bathymetric Methodologies**

Bathymetric surveys can be performed to collect water depth information by using:

**Method 1:** RTK GPS in shallow waters.

**Method 2:** Single-beam sonar.

**Method 3:** Multi-beam sonar.

**Method 4:** Topobathymetric LIDAR surveys along transects.

**Method 5:** Echo-sounder (Baggett et al. 2014).

**Method 6:** Depth finder (Baggett et al. 2014).

**Method 7:** Sounding pole (Baggett et al. 2014).

For potential guidance on performing Methods 1 and/or 2, see Sallenger et al. (2003), Morton et al. (2005), Stockdon et al. (2009), Guy and Plant (2014), Heidemann (2014), and Smith et al. (2016). Elevation data acquired from remote sensing should have vertical error reporting and adhere to the ASPRS standards, the general standards for gauging vertical error in DEMs.

### ***Monitoring Locations for Bathymetric Methodologies***

Bathymetric profiles should be collected along the entire project footprint (typically to be collected for a larger area). A reference and/or control site could be established, where appropriate and applicable.

### ***Guidance on Frequency and Duration for Bathymetric Methodologies***

In general, monitoring is proposed pre-construction, immediately after construction (as-built), and post-construction. A baseline pre-construction condition could be established based on profiles obtained during the E&D. Collections could be conducted pre-construction, immediately after construction (as-built), and post-construction at an appropriate frequency and duration relevant to site-specific conditions. Funding could also be included for an additional contingency data collection, to be implemented as needed in response to storm impacts or other factors that may influence elevation.

### **Other Potential Analyses**

For beaches, dunes, and barrier islands, additional potential analyses using elevation data include shoreline change, habitat change, beach and dune profile change, volume change, bathymetric profile change, volume change, and sediment movement. For marshes, elevation data could be used to support calculation of the area of habitat built or enhanced within a particular elevation zone and to calculate the sediment compaction rate.

## **E.3.9. Enterococci**

**Parameter Type:** Measured



**Units:** concentration expressed as the most probably number per hectoliter (MPN/100 L) or as Colony-Forming Units per deciliter (CFU/100 mL)

### Definition

Pathogenic bacteria, or indicator species, are indicators of recent fecal matter contamination and that pathogens dangerous to human beings may be present.

### Restoration Approaches

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds
- Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds

### Potential Methodologies

For methods on assessing Enterococci, see IDEXX Enterolert (Baird et al., 2017; and U.S. EPA, 2017). Data collection and calibration procedures of detection instruments will be determined by the respective instrument's QA/QC procedures. Site determination for the data collection, as well as the frequency and duration, will be determined by the project-specific objectives.

### Other Potential Analyses

Coliphages are additional pathogens that could be assessed as indicators of recent fecal matter contamination and exposure likelihood.

## E.3.10. Epibenthos and Infaunal Abundance, Density, Composition, and Mass

**Parameter Type:** Measured, Calculated, or Modeled

**Abundance Units:** none (count) or catch per unit effort (CPUE)

**Density Units:** number of individuals per square meter (individuals/m<sup>2</sup>)

**Composition Units:** none

**Mass Units:** grams (g)

### Definition

Epibenthic and infaunal organism abundance, density, and composition on the inundated marsh platform, in tidal channels and ponds, oyster reefs, and/or adjacent unvegetated bottom habitat.

### Restoration Approach

- Restore Oyster Reef Habitat

### Potential Methodologies

Fisheries-independent monitoring approaches should be used to measure epibenthic organism abundance/density in and around restored marshes. Sessile epifaunal invertebrates may be sampled with the quadrat method used for oyster density sampling. Infaunal invertebrates may be sampled with cores (15 cm diameter, 15 cm depth), washing samples over a 2mm or smaller mesh.

Method 1: Use the quadrat sampling method for hard substrates to sample sessile invertebrates (see Oyster Density for methods).

Method 2: Use cores (15 cm diameter x 15 cm depth) to sample infaunal invertebrates, washing samples over a 2 mm or smaller mesh (Baggett et al. 2014).

Optionally, length and biomass may be measured for all or a subset of the sample. Data should be presented as density (individuals/m<sup>2</sup>), wet weight (g/m<sup>2</sup>), and/or length (cm) per species, as appropriate.

### **Monitoring Location**

Collections should occur in the areas and habitats specifically targeted by the restoration (e.g., marsh edge, interior marsh, ponds, creeks, bay). A reference and/or control site could be established, where appropriate and applicable.

### **Guidance on Frequency and Duration**

In general, monitoring is proposed pre-construction and post-construction. Monitoring could be conducted for three years post-construction or longer in order to be able to adequately capture the changes in community composition at the project site. Sampling could be conducted seasonally, during the spring and fall, both pre- and post-construction, or more frequently. Monthly sampling for two–three years pre-restoration and at two–three-year intervals post-restoration may be needed to evaluate changes associated with the restoration project.

## **E.3.11. *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*)**

**Parameter Type:** Measured or Calculated

**Units:** concentration expressed as the most probable number per hectoliter (MPN/100 L) or as Colony-Forming Units per deciliter (CFU/100 mL)

### **Definition**

*E. coli* are indicators of recent fecal matter contamination, and that pathogens dangerous to human beings may be present.

### **Restoration Approaches**

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds
- Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds

### **Potential Methodologies**

For methods on detection of *E. coli* in water samples, see IDEXX Colilert, IDEXX Colilert-18, EPA 1604, SM 9223 B (U.S. EPA, 2002, 2017; and Baird et al., 2017). Data collection and calibration procedures of detection instruments will be determined by the respective instrument's QA/QC procedures. Site determination for the data collection, as well as the frequency and duration, will be determined by the project-specific objectives.

## **E.3.12. Fecal Coliform Bacteria**

**Parameter Type:** Measured

**Units:** Colony-Forming Units per deciliter (CFU/100 mL)

### Definition

A subset of total coliform bacteria, which are more fecal-specific in origin, are indicators that pathogenic bacteria, viruses, or protozoans dangerous to human beings may be present.

### Restoration Approaches

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds
- Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds

### Potential Methodologies

*Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater* (Baird et al., 2017; and U.S. EPA, 2017) provide analytical techniques for the determination of water quality. Data collection and calibration procedures of detection instruments will be determined by the respective instrument's QA/QC procedures. Site determination for the data collection, as well as the frequency and duration, will be determined by the project-specific objectives.

## E.3.13. Infrastructure or Habitat Constructed and/or Enhanced and Completed as Designed

**Parameter Type:** Measured

**Units:** none or units for measured deviations, as appropriate

### Definition

Determination as to whether the infrastructure (e.g., artificial reef, educational facility, signs) was constructed or the habitat was enhanced (e.g., asphalt removed, trail enhanced) and completed as designed.

### Restoration Approaches

- Enhance Public Access to Natural Resources for Recreational Use
- Enhance Recreational Experiences
- Promote Environmental Stewardship, Education, and Outreach

### Potential Methodologies

The type of infrastructure will vary depending on the project objective(s) and the specific item or process that is being enhanced. The contractor is responsible for collecting this information and should record this as a part of their reporting and on-site inspections. Comparisons of as-built plans/reports and site inspections to construction drawings or other planning materials may be necessary.

### Monitoring Location

This information is collected at the project site.

### Guidance on Frequency and Duration

Infrastructure could be monitored for three years post-construction or longer. For artificial reefs, pre-construction monitoring might be related to siting and determining there is no hard substrate already present. Post-construction monitoring could occur annually for two years or longer. Depending on the project-specific objectives, other hard structures could be monitored more frequently and/or for a longer duration to evaluate weathering of the infrastructure.

### E.3.14. Nekton Abundance, Density, Composition, Length, and Mass

**Parameter Type:** Measured, Calculated, or Modeled

**Abundance Units:** none (count) or catch per unit effort (CPUE)

**Density Units:** number of individuals per square meter (individuals/m<sup>2</sup>)

**Composition Units:** none

**Length Units:** millimeters (mm) or centimeters (cm)

**Mass Units:** grams (g)

#### Definition

Nekton organism abundance, density, and composition on the inundated marsh platform, in tidal channels and ponds, oyster reefs, and/or adjacent unvegetated bottom habitat.

#### Restoration Approach

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Restore Oyster Reef Habitat

#### Potential Methodologies

Fisheries-independent monitoring approaches should be used to measure nekton and epibenthic organism abundance/density in and around restored marshes. Sampling gears are designed to target specific sizes, species, and habitat(s). As such, different gears are recommended under specific circumstances. Nekton density on the marsh surface could be measured using drop samplers, lift nets, or throw traps. Nekton abundance along the marsh edge and within tidal creeks and adjacent open water areas may also be measured using trawls, but these methods do not provide density estimates, and abundance in open water habitat does not necessarily indicate nekton utilization of the marsh surface.

#### Density:

**Method 1:** Use drop samplers to sample small/medium crustaceans and fish on the marsh platform and in shallow open water habitat. Drop samplers allow for quantitative estimates of density and biomass. Potential methods are discussed in Zimmerman et al. (1984) and Minello (2000).

**Method 2:** Use lift nets to sample small/medium crustaceans and fish on the marsh platform and in shallow open water habitat. Potential methods are discussed in Rozas (1992).

**Method 3:** Use throw traps to sample small/medium crustaceans and fish on the marsh platform and in shallow open water habitat. Potential methods are discussed in Kushlan (1981) and Jordan et al. (1997). Throw traps are not as effective in areas of dense vegetation – drop samplers or lift nets are preferable gears for such conditions (Rozas and Minello, 1997).

**Method 4:** Use lift nets to sample small/medium crustaceans and fish on oyster reefs (Crabtree and Dean 1982; Tolley and Volety, 2005; Boudreaux et al 2006; Wenner et al 2006).

#### **Abundance (catch per unit effort):**

**Method 1:** Seines or hand trawls can be used if sampling small/medium crustaceans and fish along the marsh edge or in shallow open water habitat. However, these sampling devices are not suitable for sampling the marsh platform. Seines do not provide an accurate estimate of fish density, but can be used to measure abundance. The length of the seine/trawl and the distance traveled should remain constant from one sampling event to another in order to consistently sample the same area.

**Method 2:** Beam trawls should be used in open water habitat that is typically greater than 2 m in depth to sample juvenile and adult fish or large crustaceans. They may be less effective at sampling small crustaceans and fish than seines and drop samplers.

**Method 3:** Gill nets may be used to sample larger transient fish. The mesh size will vary depending on the size of the target species. Nets should be set 1 hour before sunrise and left in place for 2 hours. Data should be presented as the number of individuals of each species caught per hour (Baggett et al. 2014).

Note that data collected using different sampling gears are not always comparable. Generally, data collected using methods that measure density can be standardized and adjusted for recovery efficiency, but cannot easily be compared to data collected using methods that only measure abundance. See Rozas and Minello (1997) for a review of sampling gear in shallow estuarine habitats.

Optionally, in addition to determining species composition and abundance, measure length and biomass for all or a subset of the sample as grams (g) wet weight. Data should be presented as density (individuals/m<sup>2</sup>), wet weight (g/m<sup>2</sup>), and length-frequency distributions per species. For large collections (50 individuals or more of the same species), a subset of the entire sample for a given species may be measured and extrapolated to remaining individuals of the same species.

See Neckles and Dionne (2000) and Steyer and Llewellyn (2000) for more information on potential methodologies.

#### ***Monitoring Location***

Nekton collections should occur in the areas and habitats specifically targeted by the hydrologic restoration (e.g., marsh edge, interior marsh, ponds, creeks, bay). A reference and/or control site could be established, where appropriate and applicable.

#### ***Guidance on Frequency and Duration***

In general, monitoring is proposed pre-construction and post-construction. Monitoring could be conducted for three years post-construction or longer in order to be able to adequately capture the changes in community composition at the project site. Sampling could be conducted seasonally, during the spring and fall, both pre- and post-construction, or more frequently. Monthly sampling for two–three years pre-restoration and at two–three-year intervals post-restoration may be needed to evaluate changes associated with the restoration project.

## Other Potential Analyses

Used to calculate measures of **Nekton Diversity (E.3.15)**.

### E.3.15. Nekton Diversity

**Parameter Type:** Calculated

**Units:** none

#### Definition

Diversity is related to the species number and abundance within a particular location. There are a number of measurements and indices related to species diversity.

#### Restoration Approach

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands

#### Potential Methodologies

Based on **Section E.3.14 Nekton Abundance, Density, Composition, Length, and Mass**, many measures of diversity can be calculated.

**Method 1:** Species richness: The simplest measure of diversity, the total number of species present in a sample.

**Method 2:** Shannon-Wiener Index (Bradshaw and Brook, 2010).

**Method 3:** Simpson's Index (Bradshaw and Brook, 2010).

#### Monitoring Location

The monitoring location would vary based on project-specific objectives.

#### Guidance on Frequency and Duration

Whenever nekton sampling occurs.

### E.3.16. Number of Improvement Practices Implemented

**Parameter Type:** Measured

**Units:** none (count)

#### Definition

Count of the number of water quality or wetland improvement practices that were implemented as part of the project.

#### Restoration Approaches

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds
- Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds
- Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats



## Potential Methodologies

Count of improvements implemented.

### E.3.17. Oyster Density

**Parameter Type:** Measured

**Units:** number of individual oysters per square meter (oysters/m<sup>2</sup>)

#### Definition

The number of oysters, including recruits, per unit area. The density of live and dead oysters should be calculated separately. The age or size of recruits is project-specific and should be clearly defined.

#### Restoration Approaches

- Restore Oyster Reef Habitat

#### Potential Methodologies

**Method 1:** Place a quadrat on the reef and excavate all live and dead oysters within the quadrat. For rigid structures, place a quadrat on the surface of the reef structure and excavate to a depth necessary to collect all live oysters within the quadrat. For reefs constructed of bagged shell, take random samples by removing a bag of shell; the area sampled is the areal coverage of the bag. Convert densities to number per m<sup>2</sup>. If placed along a shoreline, also report a number per linear meter of shore. Stratify samples as appropriate, such as by reef height, orientation to mainland, or distance from shore. For more information see Baggett et al. (2014).

**Method 2:** Use hydraulic patent tongs to sample the oyster reef. Like quadrats, they sample a known area and density can be calculated. For more information see Chai et al. (1992).

#### Monitoring Location

Samples may be taken over the entire area of the reef. See Baggett et al. (2014) for guidance on the appropriate number of samples.

#### Guidance on Frequency and Duration

Pre-restoration (once, if applicable), and at least annually for 5 years after restoration. Density should be measured after the growing season unless project objectives dictate otherwise.

#### Other Potential Analyses

Density of large oysters (brood stock) may be calculated using density and the oyster size frequency distribution. “Large” is defined for each project as appropriate.

### E.3.18. Oyster Mortality

**Parameter Type:** Calculated or Modeled

**Units:** percentage (%)

### **Definition**

The proportion of dead oysters on a reef expressed as a percentage.

### **Restoration Approaches**

- Restore Oyster Reef Habitat

### **Potential Methodologies**

Divide the number of dead oysters by the total number of live and dead oysters and express as a percentage.

### **Monitoring Locations**

Samples may be taken over the entire area of the reef or control sites if appropriate habitats exist in the area. Control areas could consist of natural reefs, non-reef areas, or other restoration projects depending on the restoration goals. See Baggett et al. (2014) for guidance on the appropriate number of samples and “oyster density” above.

### **Guidance on Frequency and Duration**

Recommended frequency: Pre-restoration (once, if applicable), and at least annually for 5 years after restoration. Sampling should be performed at the end of the oyster growing season in conjunction with sampling for oyster density. If possible, sampling should occur after newly settled oysters have grown to a size greater than 10 mm and can be confidently classified as recruits (Baggett et al., 2014).

## **E.3.19. Oyster Larval Settlement**

**Parameter Type:** Calculated

**Units:** number of spat per square meter per day (spat/m<sup>2</sup>-day), number of spat per square meter (spat/m<sup>2</sup>), number of spat per liter of shell (spat/L of shell), number of spat per weight of shell (spat/kg of shell), or number of spat per individual shell (spat/shell), depending on the method used

### **Definition**

Settlement is defined as the point at which a larva attaches to the substrate or metamorphoses into benthic form (Wildish and Kristmanson, 1997; Baggett et al., 2014). This differs from recruitment, which includes settlement and some period of post-settlement survival (Baggett et al., 2014).

### **Restoration Approaches**

- Restore Oyster Reef Habitat

### **Potential Methodologies**

**Method 1.** Settlement Plates or Shell Strings

Deploy settlement plates or shell strings. Collect and replace plates every 3 or 4 weeks. More frequent replacement will yield finer-scale temporal patterns of settlement. Report as # of spat/m<sup>2</sup> unit area per day.

#### **Method 2. Quadrat**

Estimates of settlement may be obtained from quadrat samples used for density estimates. The number of oyster spat/quadrat should be expressed in #/m<sup>2</sup> so that density can be compared between project types and sites. If the project is a living shoreline or is designed to protect a marsh shoreline, then also report the number of spat per linear meter of shoreline.

#### **Method 3. Shell Bags**

If sampling with mesh bags filled with oyster shell, bags should be placed adjacent to or directly on the site of interest. Record the number and volume of bags of cultch material. Report as #spat/L of pre-deployed shell, # spat/individual shell, or # spat/weight of pre-deployed shell.

#### **Method 4. Oyster Dredge**

For an oyster dredge, tow for a specified time and method (e.g., linear or circular tow direction, speed). Measure the dredge width and tow distance to calculate the area swept. Correct for dredge efficiency as appropriate. Report as, # spat/L of shell, or average # spat/individual shell.

#### ***Monitoring Location***

Samples may be taken across the entire reef area as appropriate.

#### ***Guidance on Frequency and Duration***

Deploy plates or shell strings annually beginning the first week of April. Collect and replace plates or strings at least every 3 or 4 weeks until the end of the known settlement season for the area. Quadrat, shell bag, and dredge sampling may be conducted annually, preferably after fall settlement

### **E.3.20. Oyster Reef Volume**

**Parameter Type:** Calculated

**Units:** cubic meters (m<sup>3</sup>)

#### **Definition**

The space occupied by an oyster reef

#### **Restoration Approaches**

- Restore Oyster Reef Habitat

#### **Potential Methodologies**

These methods assume that the reef is not harvested.

**Method 1:** Reef volume may be calculated by multiplying reef area by elevation (mean reef height).

**Method 2:** Data from a combination of sources may be used to calculate reef volume. Data from side-scan sonar can be digitized into raster data and analyzed in ArcGIS or other software. Reef elevation data can be gathered from a scientific echo sounder (or other appropriate sonar devices like multibeam or interferometric sides scan sonar). Pre- and post-restoration elevation data allows the elevation above surrounding non-reef areas to be determined.  $\text{Area} * \text{mean height} = \text{reef volume}$ .

### ***Monitoring Location***

Reef volume may be calculated for the entire area occupied by the reef.

### ***Guidance on Frequency and Duration***

Reef volume could be calculated immediately after project implementation and annually for up to five years following implementation. Additional measurements could be taken after events that could alter reef volume, such as storms, or extended periods of water quality detrimental to oyster survival (e.g., low salinity events).

### ***Other Potential Analyses***

Reef volume may be used to calculate a shell budget for the reef.

## **E.3.21. Oyster Size Frequency Distribution**

**Parameter Type:** Measured

**Units:** millimeters (mm)

### ***Definition***

Oyster shell height measured from the umbo to the opposite edge of the shell.

### ***Restoration Approaches***

- Restore Oyster Reef Habitat

### ***Potential Methodologies***

Measure the shell height (umbo to opposite edge) of each live and dead oyster collected.

### ***Monitoring Locations***

Samples may be taken over the entire area of the reef. Measure at least 50 oysters per sample, or enough oysters to equal 250 per reef (Baggett et al. 2014).

### ***Guidance on Frequency and Duration***

Pre-restoration (once, if applicable), and at least annually for 5 years after restoration. Sampling should be performed at the end of the oyster growing season in conjunction with sampling for oyster density. If possible, sampling should occur after newly settled oysters have grown to a size greater than 10 mm and can be confidently classified as recruits (Baggett et al., 2014).

### E.3.22. pH (acidity)

**Parameter Type:** Measured

**Units:** Standard Units (pH)

#### Definition

Measure of acidity or potential activity of hydrogen ions (H<sup>+</sup>).

#### Restoration Approaches

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds
- Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds
- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

#### Potential Methodologies

pH can be measured using:

**Method 1:** An electronic pH meter.

**Method 2:** A litmus paper strip coated in a pH-indicating dye.

**Method 3:** pH dye testing kit for liquids.

Data collection and calibration procedures of detection instruments will be determined by the respective instrument's QA/QC procedures. Site determination for the data collection, as well as the frequency and duration, will be determined by the project-specific objectives.

### E.3.23. Recreational Activities Utilized by Public

**Parameter Type:** Measured, Calculated, or Modeled

**Units:** none (counts by activity), person-hours/days/nights per activity, or none (average rating), depending on the nature and extent of the evaluation

#### Definition

Amount of recreational use on the land and/or water, organized by category, where the activities take place, and for how long or how often.

#### Restoration Approach

- Enhance Public Access to Natural Resources for Recreational Use

#### Potential Methodologies

Monitoring could be conducted using key location or onsite surveys, as well as offsite regional telephone or mail surveys.

Use direct observations of recreational use activities (e.g., to determine if visitors are swimming, using the beach).

Conduct surveys. These surveys should be conducted at key locations across the recreational use area. Surveys may include the following types of questions:

How often do you visit the acquired land?

With whom are you visiting the acquired land (commercial tour operator vs. family/friends/self)?

What is your motivation for visiting the site?

What benefits do you expect from visiting the site?

What activities are you participating in (could provide a list based on what recreational activities the land may be used for, with an option for “other”)?

How long are you at the acquired land (hours, overnight, days)?

How would you rate the amount of influence that various setting features had on your experience?

See Moscardo and Ormsby (2004), U.S. Census Bureau et al. (2011), Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism (2014), and Miller et al. (2014) for additional information.

### ***Monitoring Location***

Selection of respondents could use some systematic random sampling procedure within the units chosen for study. This procedure is intended to ensure that the respondents within a location have an equal probability of being asked to participate and, that the choice of target respondents is determined by the sampling system and not by the interviewers.

### ***Guidance on Frequency and Duration***

The survey could be conducted pre- and post-construction or more often depending on the objectives of the project. If appropriate for the project, monitoring should aim to cover different seasons and include weekdays, weekends, and holidays.

## **E.3.24. Right of Entry**

**Parameter Type:** Calculated

**Units:** days

### **Definition**

The right of entry to a project area is measured in terms of the number of days the area was open and closed to the public. This only applies to projects that can be closed or opened, and not to areas/projects that are always open.

### **Restoration Approaches**

- Enhance Public Access to Natural Resources for Recreational Use
- Promote Environmental Stewardship, Education, and Outreach

### **Potential Methodologies**



Document the number of days the project area is open and closed using beach closure information, information on restrictions in place due to severe weather, or other similar information.

### ***Monitoring Location***

The information is collected at the location for which access can be restricted.

### ***Guidance on Frequency and Duration***

Duration and frequency will ultimately depend on site specific conditions, project objectives, and the monitoring period identified in the project-specific MAM plan.

### ***Other Potential Analyses***

The information can help inform trends in visitor use. For example, if severe weather prevents the opening of a facility, visitor use numbers will decline during that period. This additional piece of information will help explain these patterns in visitor use.

## **E.3.25. Salinity**

**Parameter Type:** Measured or Modeled

**Units:** parts per thousand (ppt), Practical Salinity Units (PSU), or unitless. These systems of units are interchangeable, by design.

### ***Definition***

The concentration of dissolved salts in water reported as parts per thousand (ppt), practical salinity units, or may be unitless (indicating the use of the Practical Salinity Scale).

### ***Restoration Approaches***

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats
- Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds
- Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds
- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

### ***Potential Methodologies***

**Method 1:** Surface water salinity may be measured continuously with an in-situ salinity/conductivity sonde and data logger.

**Method 2:** Take discrete samples using a hand-held salinity/conductivity probe or refractometer.

See Neckles and Dionne (2000), Steyer and Llewellyn (2000), Wagner et al. (2006), and U.S. EPA (2014) for additional information on salinity monitoring protocols.

### ***Monitoring Location***

Spatial distribution of salinity measurements will depend on the project type and hydrologic characteristics of the project area. Salinity measurements could be taken near the source of the hydrologic restoration, within the boundary of the area influenced by the project, near the

edge of boundary, and outside the boundary if adjacent to other habitats. A reference and/or control site could be established, where appropriate and applicable.

### ***Guidance on Frequency and Duration***

In general, monitoring is proposed pre-construction, immediately after construction, and post-construction. A baseline pre-construction condition could be established based on information obtained during the E&D. Recommend sampling immediately following construction (as-built) and annually thereafter.

If the parameter is linked to a performance criterion, it could be monitored until the criterion has been met and then sustained for three years. Otherwise, establish a monitoring period long and frequent enough to satisfy project objectives. This may involve capturing annual/inter-annual variability based on factors that could influence salinity at the project site (e.g., precipitation, freshwater inflow).

## **E.3.26. Scarring**

**Parameter Type:** Measured or Calculated

**Count Units:** none

**Length Units:** meters (m)

**Depth Units:** centimeters (cm)

**Area Units:** square meters (m<sup>2</sup>)

### **Definition**

Disturbed or damaged SAV and surrounding sediments as a result of boat propeller damages or other human impacts. Measurement includes counts, lengths, depths, and areas of scars.

### **Restoration Approach**

- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

### **Potential Methodologies**

**Method 1:** Scar boundaries, number, length can be mapped based on aerial imagery collected by airplane, helicopter, unmanned aerial systems (UAS); high-resolution satellite imagery; or other appropriate remote sensing platforms. Recommended landscape-scale monitoring is 1: 9,600 scale to effectively estimate bare patches (< 2-3 m<sup>2</sup>, Dunton and Pulich 2007). Imagery used to establish SAV boundaries should include true color and infrared bands, and have a spatial resolution of 1 meter (m) or less. Source imagery should be orthorectified [i.e., free from distortions related to sensor optics, sensor tilt, and differences in elevation; see Rufe (2014)]. Collected imagery should be imported to spatial analysis software to digitize the perimeter of the project footprint and the boundaries of habitat areas within the project footprint. Additional guidance on using aerial imagery can also be found in Anders and Byrnes (1991), Crowell et al. (1991), Morton (1991), and FLDEP (2014).

**Method 2:** Ground surveys can be used to map the area of small scars. Use a real-time kinematic Global Positioning System (RTK GPS) to take continuous measurements while walking the perimeter of the project and along the boundaries of specific habitats within the

project footprint. If taking depth measurements, record depth of scar at various waypoints while mapping the area of the scar.

**Method 3:** Grid mapping can be used to calculate the area of prop scars; it is best used when scarring is linear (EBAP and FLDEP 2015). A fiberglass measuring tape is extended down the midline of the scar from two anchor points located at each end of the scar. At specified intervals (~1 m) length measurements are taken at right angles from the centerline to the edges of the scar (Hudson and Goodwin 2001). Using this information, a graphical representation of the injury can be made by plotting measured points on a Cartesian plane from which the area of the scarring can be calculated.

**Method 4:** GPS/Trimble Method is best used on wide scars, or scars that may have merged to form larger patches (EBAP and FLDEP 2015). NOAA and the FLDEP utilize this method to collect data about areas with high boat traffic. The Trimble receiver collects points while being walked around the perimeter of the scar or being dragged in a float. The total number of points recorded is dependent on the complexity of the scar; more complex features will require more points to accurately represent the shape. The points are then connected to create a polygon feature in ESRI ArcView or Trimble Pathfinder Office. From that, the area of scarring can be calculated.

### Monitoring Location

Area of habitat impacted should be determined for the entire project footprint. Some data, such as aerial photography, may be collected over larger areas. If using signage and/or buoys to mark boundaries of the project, scarring should be monitored within the boundaries.

### Guidance on Frequency and Duration

In general, monitoring is proposed twice a year, once in the growing season (approximately April through October) and once again in the dormant season, allowing data collection to coincide with the yearly minimum and maximum seagrass densities (EBAP and FLDEP 2015). In general, monitoring is proposed pre-restoration, immediately after restoration, and post-restoration.

### Other Potential Analyses

Scarring measurements may also be used in conjunction with other parameters listed herein (e.g., elevation, vegetation percent cover and composition, turbidity) to perform the following calculations and analyses: habitat type changes, bathymetric profile change, and sediment movement.

## E.3.27. Shoreline Position

**Parameter Type:** Measured, Calculated, or Modeled

**Units:** positions should be georeferenced (latitude, longitude, elevation) or relative changes may be measured in meters (m)

### Definition

The location of the boundary between the land and water at a particular tidal elevation. Calculations of shoreline position will allow for documentation of shoreline change over time, including in response to particular disturbance events.

## Restoration Approaches

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Create, Restore, and Enhance Barrier and Coastal Islands and Headlands
- Restore and Enhance Dunes and Beaches
- Restore Oyster Reef Habitat

## Potential Methodologies

The shoreline position can be measured using high-resolution, near-vertical aerial imagery, RTK GPS survey data, or by measuring shoreline locations along established transects. Comparing shoreline position over time provides information on shoreline change. Any shoreline measurement may be tied to a relevant tidal datum [e.g., mean sea level (MSL), mean high water (MHW), mean low water (MLW)]. Shoreline change should be calculated between shorelines tied to the same tidal datum.

**Method 1:** Delineate the shoreline based on orthophotography collected by aerial survey (see Sections E.9.1 Area and E.9.8 Elevation for methods). Aerial surveying is a method of collecting geomatics or other imagery by using airplanes, helicopters, UAS, or other aerial methods. Imagery acquired should be orthorectified (i.e., free from distortions related to sensor optics, sensor tilt, and differences in elevation). For guidance on collecting aerial orthoimagery please see Rufe (2014). Orthoimagery for monitoring shoreline change should have a spatial resolution of at least 1 m. Additional guidance on using aerial imagery can also be found in Anders and Byrnes (1991), Crowell et al. (1991), Morton (1991), and FLDEP (2014).

**Method 2:** RTK GPS ground surveys can be used for smaller projects to measure land elevation. Walk the shoreline while taking continuous measurements using an RTK GPS. Import the spatial information into ArcGIS and map the shoreline position. For wetlands, the shoreline is defined as the lower/seaward extent of the emergent marsh vegetation. Import and analyze the data using spatial analysis software. Determine the shoreline loss/gain in meters per year. See Steyer and Llewellyn (2000) for more information on this method.

**Method 3:** Establish permanent base stakes along the length of the shoreline at least 10 m inward of the marsh edge and determine the GPS coordinates of each base stake. Measure the linear distance from the base stake to the marsh edge along an established compass direction. The marsh edge is defined as the lower/seaward extent of the emergent marsh vegetation. Import and analyze the data using spatial analysis software. Determine the shoreline loss/gain in meters per year. See Steyer and Llewellyn (2000) for more information on this method.

For additional information on shoreline mapping methods, see Morton et al. (2005), Fearnley et al. (2009), Martinez et al. (2009), FLDEP (2014), and Guy (2015).

Repeated measurements of the shoreline position over time enables calculations of shoreline change, including erosion or seaward expansion. Several references are available for calculating shoreline change over time (e.g., Moore, 2000; Ramsey et al., 2001; Boak and Turner, 2005; Morton et al., 2005; Thieler et al., 2009; Gens, 2010; Rangoonwala et al., 2016).

## Monitoring Location

The shoreline change should be determined for the entire project footprint. For some collection techniques, such as aerial photography, the data will be collected for a larger area. A reference and/or control site could be established, where appropriate and applicable, to calibrate and validate remote sensing data. Spatial variation in the direction and magnitude of shoreline displacement can be measured by selecting reference and/or control points that are surveyed repeatedly over time.

### Guidance on Frequency and Duration

In general, monitoring should be conducted pre-construction, immediately following construction, and post-construction. A baseline pre-construction condition should be established based on data obtained during the E&D. For beaches, dunes, and barrier islands, data collection could occur immediately following construction (as-built) and frequently enough to satisfy project objectives. For coastal wetlands projects, data collection could occur immediately following construction (as-built) and one–two more times over the monitoring period, or longer. In some cases, sampling throughout the year may be useful to identify seasonal patterns in erosion or accretion. Funding for contingency data collection could be included to evaluate storm impacts, as needed.

The duration will ultimately depend on site-specific conditions, project objectives, and the monitoring period identified in the project-specific MAM Plan.

### Other Potential Analyses

Shoreline erosion rate, habitat type changes, shoreline change, habitat change, beach and dune profile change, volume change, bathymetric profile change, volume change, and sediment movement.

## E.3.28. Specific Conductance

**Parameter Type:** Measured

**Units:** microsiemens per centimeter ( $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ )

### Definition

Measure of how well water can conduct an electrical current.

### Restoration Approaches

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats
- Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds
- Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds
- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

### Potential Methodologies

**Method 1:** Specific conductance can be measured using a multi-parameter water quality sonde.

Data collection and calibration procedures of detection instruments will be determined by the respective instrument's QA/QC procedures. Site determination for the data collection, as

well as the frequency and duration, will be determined by the project-specific objectives. See Wagner et al. (2006).

### E.3.29. Structural Integrity and Function of Constructed Features

**Parameter Type:** Qualitative or Measured

**Units:** none or as appropriate for the dimensions or functions evaluated

#### Definition

A series of observations and/or measurements to evaluate the integrity and function of constructed project features, such as breakwaters, weirs, culverts, tidal channels/creeks and/or access control measures such as signs, boardwalks, and fencing. The consolidation of a structure over time may also be monitored through repeated elevation measurements. The integrity of the structure, and its foundation and function are evaluated so that appropriate maintenance or alternative actions can be taken if the constructed feature is not performing as constructed or designed.

#### Restoration Approaches

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Create, Restore, and Enhance Barrier and Coastal Islands and Headlands
- Restore and Enhance Dunes and Beaches
- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

#### Potential Methodologies

**Method 1:** Conduct visual observations and photograph the project site. Visual surveys may be used subjectively to record the overall conditions, integrity, and effectiveness of the structure, including observations of material movement, changes in profile, change in habitat, etc. For hydrologic connectivity projects in which culverts are used, this should include checking for any obstructions to flow through the culvert. For recreational use projects, this may include an inspection of the project features such as entry points, parking lots, signage, and self-registration booths. For barrier island, dune, or beach projects, this may include an inspection of the project features such as dune walkovers, bollards and cable functioning, and other habitat protection features. For SAV projects, this may include inspection of bird stakes used to enhance nutrient levels (Powell et al. 1991), signage, and/or buoys which delineate the edges of the restoration zone, or breakwaters which could include oyster reefs or bio-engineered products.

**Method 2:** Use imagery collected during aerial surveys (see Section E.9.1 Area) to measure changes to the structure.

**Method 3:** Conduct an elevation and/or bathymetric survey of the structure to describe its outer surface geometry and measure changes over time. Measure the elevation of 2–10 points on the structure in relation to an established datum.

- Composition: Position and size of unstable pieces, including major voids and exposures to core or underlayer
- Element composition: shape, size, and position of armor stone, including any fractures.

See Chapter 10 of CIRIA et al. (2007).



### Monitoring Location

Along the entire length of the structure.

### Guidance on Frequency and Duration

Post-construction observations could be made immediately following construction (as-built) and annually for five years post-construction. Additional observations may be needed following extreme weather events. Intervals between monitoring could be predetermined by the risk associated with particular failure mechanisms, structural elements, foundation conditions, exposure conditions, and design criteria.

### Other Potential Analyses

Repeated measurements of the elevation of a structure can be used to calculate a consolidation rate.

## E.3.30. Targeted Injured Species Abundance or Density

**Parameter Type:** Measured, Calculated, or Modeled

**Abundance Units:** none (count)

**Density Units:** individuals per square meter (number/m<sup>2</sup>) or individuals per square kilometers (number/km<sup>2</sup>)

### Restoration Approaches

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Create, Restore, and Enhance Barrier and Coastal Islands and Headlands
- Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats
- Restore and Enhance Dunes and Beaches
- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

### Potential Methodologies

The appropriate sampling methodologies will be dependent on the species targeted by the project.

### Monitoring Location

The restoration project. A reference and/or control site could be established, where appropriate and applicable. Specific sampling locations will depend on the species targeted.

### Guidance on Frequency and Duration

In general, monitoring is proposed pre- and post-construction, and is proposed for three years post-construction to adequately capture the changes in community composition at the project site. Monitoring frequency and seasonal timing will depend on the species targeted.

## E.3.31. Temperature

**Parameter Type:** Measured or Modeled

**Units:** degrees Celsius (°C)

### Definition

A measure of the warmth or coldness of water with reference to some standard value.

### Restoration Approaches

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats
- Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds
- Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds
- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

### Potential Methodologies

Can be obtained using a thermometer or temperature probe. Data collection and calibration procedures of detection instruments will be determined by the respective instrument's QA/QC procedures. Site determination for the data collection, as well as the frequency and duration, will be determined by the project-specific objectives. See also Wagner et al. (2006).

## E.3.32. Terms of conservation/management plan met

**Parameter Type:** Qualitative

**Units:** none

### Definition

Determination as to whether the terms of the conservation and/or management agreement, as applicable, have been met.

### Restoration Approaches

- Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats

### Potential Methodologies

If the project includes a management agreement, the contractor would be responsible for collecting this information and should record this as a part of their reporting and on-site inspections. Comparisons of management reports and site inspections or other planning materials may be necessary. If the project includes a conservation agreement (e.g., easement), the implementing Trustee would determine if the conservation agreement terms were being met through a site visit or discussions with the managing agency or party.

## E.3.33. Total Nitrogen (TN)

**Parameter Type:** Measured

**Units:** milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million (ppm)

### Definition

The sum of organic and inorganic forms of nitrogen in a water sample.

## Restoration Approaches

- Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds
- Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds
- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

## Potential Methodologies

For guidance on potential methodologies to measure TN, see ASTM D5176 (ASTM, 2013a, 2013b) and USGS-NWQL I-2650-03. However, in some cases, directly-measured TN may not be statistically comparable to  $\text{TKN} + \text{NO}_2 + \text{NO}_3$  (Patton and Kryskalla, 2003).<sup>3</sup> See also the U.S. Geological Survey National Field Manual for the Collection of Water-Quality Data (<https://water.usgs.gov/owq/FieldManual/>). TN and total phosphorus (TP) measurements are the United States Environmental Protection Agency's preferred metrics for evaluating nutrient concentrations in waters of the United States (Stoner, 2011). Data collection and calibration procedures of detection instruments will be determined by the respective instrument's QA/QC procedures. Site determination for the data collection, as well as the frequency and duration, will be determined by the project-specific objectives. See the U.S. Geological Survey National Field Manual for the Collection of Water-Quality Data (<https://water.usgs.gov/owq/FieldManual/>).

## Other Potential Analyses

Loads and depth of the sample and collection method could be recorded. Further, TKN,  $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$  (ammonium nitrogen),  $\text{NO}_2\text{-N} + \text{NO}_3\text{-N}$  (nitrite plus nitrate),  $\text{NO}_2\text{-N}$  (nitrite), and  $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$  (nitrate) could be analyzed from the samples.

### E.3.34. Total Phosphorous (TP)

**Parameter Type:** Measured

**Units:** milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million (ppm)

#### Definition

The measure of the sum of all forms of phosphorus, including inorganic and organic forms.

## Restoration Approaches

- Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds
- Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds
- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

## Potential Methodologies

For guidance on potential methodologies to measure TP, see EPA 300.0, EPA 365.2, EPA 365.3, EPA 300.1, SM 4110C, SM 4110B, and USGS-NWQL I-4650-03. Data

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1. <sup>3</sup>  $\text{TKN} + \text{NO}_2 + \text{NO}_3$  has been traditionally used by some agencies as an estimate of TN, but that practice is changing due to the development of less labor-intensive procedures (Walker 2014) and more precise methods (Smart et al. 1981).

collection and calibration procedures of detection instruments will be determined by the respective instrument's QA/QC procedures. Site determination for the data collection, as well as the frequency and duration, will be determined by the project-specific objectives.

### Other Potential Analyses

Soluble reactive-P (orthophosphate phosphorus) and chlorophyll *a* may also be analyzed.

## E.3.35. Total Suspended Solids (TSS)

**Parameter Type:** Measured

**Units:** milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million (ppm)

### Definition

The dry weight of sediment from the known volume of a sub-sample of the original water sample.

### Restoration Approaches

- Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds
- Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds
- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands

### Potential Methodologies

For methods on collection of TSS, see EPA 160.2. Data collection and calibration procedures of detection instruments will be determined by the respective instrument's QA/QC procedures. Site determination for the data collection, as well as the frequency and duration, will be determined by the project-specific objectives.

## E.3.36. Turbidity

**Parameter Type:** Measured

**Units:** nephelometric turbidity unit (NTU)

### Definition

A measure of intensity of light scattered by a sample, or the cloudiness or haziness of a sample.

### Restoration Approaches

- Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats
- Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds
- Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds
- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

### Potential Methodologies

For methods on assessing water turbidity see EPA 180.1 and Wagner et al. (2006).

Data collection and calibration procedures of detection instruments will be determined by the respective instrument's QA/QC procedures. Site determination for the data collection, as well as the frequency and duration, will be determined by the project-specific objectives.

### E.3.37. Velocity

**Parameter Type:** Measured, Modeled, or Calculated

**Units:** meters per second (m/s)

#### Definition

The speed of water moving in a particular direction. Flow velocity can be measured for constrained flow within channels or structures (e.g., culverts), but can also be measured for sheet flow. Velocity can also be measured for bi-directional tidal flows, where flow in the opposite direction has a negative velocity.

#### Restoration Approaches

- Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats
- Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds
- Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds

#### Potential Methodologies

**Method 1:** Measure water velocity (typically in units of m/s) within a channel with a current meter. Typically, multiple velocity measurements should be taken both across the stream and at different depths.

**Method 2:** An ADCP can be used to measure both water velocity and water depth within a stream. Typically, the ADCP is mounted to a small water craft and guided along the stream channel to take the measurements.

#### Monitoring Location

Water velocity should be measured for channels within the project area that are an important component of the project design, or at other locations within the project footprint where the maintenance or restoration of hydrologic flows is important. Water velocity can be measured at a reference and/or control site, where appropriate and applicable.

#### Guidance on Frequency and Duration

In general, monitoring is proposed pre-construction, immediately after construction, and post-construction. A baseline pre-implementation condition could be established based on information obtained during the E&D. Propose conducting sampling pre-construction (once), immediately following construction (once), and annually thereafter. Additional sampling may be needed after large storm events.

For projects with tidal influence and if continuous recorders are used, the data could be collected for two weeks or longer during a sampling event to be able to capture one lunar cycle of spring and neap tides, but longer time periods (e.g., three–four months or year-round) are preferred. If discrete measurements are taken, the water velocity could be assessed over several tidal cycles.

For projects with riverine influence, sampling events could be designed to capture both high- and low-flow events. If continuous recorders are used, the data could be collected for two weeks or longer during high- and low-water conditions, but year-round data collection for one or more years is preferred to fully capture the seasonal variability in flow conditions. If discrete measurements are taken, the water velocity could be assessed over a few weeks during both high- and low-flow conditions.

If velocity measurements will be used to calculate discharge (volume of flow), velocity could be measured at about the same time the channel dimensions are measured.

### Other Potential Analyses

Can be used with **Channel Dimensions (Section E.3.3)** to calculate the flow volume, or **Discharge (Section E.3.5)**.

## E.3.38. Vegetation Density

**Parameter Type:** Calculated

**Units:** number of individual plants per square meter (number/m<sup>2</sup>) or number of individual plants per square kilometer (number/km<sup>2</sup>)

### Definition

Abundance of vegetation in a given area (typically in units of number of individuals or objects per m<sup>2</sup>). The term refers to the closeness of individual plants to one another.

### Restoration Approaches

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Barrier and Coastal Islands and Headlands
- Restore and Enhance Dunes and Beaches

### Potential Methodologies

Use a quadrat to estimate plant species density within a defined area (e.g., 1 x 1-m plots or 2 x 2-m plots). Data recorded by collecting number of plants per unit area in the planted area will include:

- Species identification
- Density of native species
- Density of invasive species if present.

### Monitoring Location

Data could be collected throughout the entire project footprint and at a reference and/or control site, where appropriate and applicable.

### Guidance on Frequency and Duration

In general, monitoring is proposed (pre-construction, immediately after construction, and post-construction). A baseline pre-construction condition should be established if possible. Data collections could occur pre-construction, immediately after construction (could be included in as-built), and every three years for the minimum monitoring period. One additional contingency data collection could be included in the monitoring plan to be implemented as needed to account for storm impacts.



### E.3.39. Vegetation Percent Cover or Composition

**Parameter Type:** Calculated or Modeled

**Units:** percentage (%)

#### Definition

The proportion of ground area in a sampling unit covered by the canopy (leaves, stems, etc.).

#### Restoration Approaches

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Create, Restore, and Enhance Barrier and Coastal Islands and Headlands
- Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats
- Restore and Enhance Dunes and Beaches
- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

#### Potential Methodologies

**Method 1:** Establish plots within the project area and record plot locations with a GPS and/or mark the plots with corner poles to allow for revisiting over time. Estimate percent cover as defined in the project MAM Plan. Percent cover of each species or species category of interest (e.g., native, invasive, herbaceous layer) may also be collected during this time if Vegetation Species Composition is a parameter of interest, as defined in the project MAM Plan. See U.S. EPA (2011) for additional guidance on performing visual estimates of vegetation percent cover. Typical plot sizes for SAV are 0.25 to 1 m<sup>2</sup>, herbaceous vegetation are 1 to 4 m<sup>2</sup> plots and for trees, 50 to 100 m<sup>2</sup> plots or greater, but will be project-dependent. Data collected will vary based on the project but would typically include:

- Visual assessment of total vegetation percent cover of target and undesirable species
- Percent cover by layer (e.g., herbaceous, shrubs, canopy), percent cover of native species, or percent cover of invasive species, if present.
- Percent cover of individual species, if also collecting Vegetation Species Composition.

For additional information on measuring and analyzing plant cover and composition, see Knapp (1984), Elzinga et al. (1998), Coulloudon et al. (1999), Bonham (2013), and Folse et al. (2014).

For SAV, monitoring often requires SCUBA divers to assess composition and percent cover along transects. Permanent transects are often used, with photographs along the transect line recommended for future comparisons (Kirkman 1996, Neckles et al. 2012, Short et al. 2006). For shallow water monitoring, an aquascope or 'fish eye' can provide an accurate means of quantifying seagrass cover and composition without physically entering the water and disturbing sediments (Jackson and Nemeth 2007, Thayer et al. 2005).

**Method 2:** Conduct a visual field inspection with ground photographs and/or high-resolution aerial photography to document that the performance criteria related to percent cover have been met. Note dominant species and the presence or absence of invasive species and any targeted species, along with their relative abundance. This method may be appropriate in

some cases when it can be determined with high confidence based on visual inspection that the performance criteria for the project are being met. Note that it may not be appropriate to combine data collected using this method with data collected using Method 1.

**Method 3:** For SAV percent cover, analyze video footage of quadrats along transects to detect change in cover (McDonald et al. 2006). This method is particularly useful in fragile environments when there is a need to minimize disturbance to the site, although it may not be applicable in turbid areas.

**Method 4:** For areas with no or limited visibility, establish 100 m transects and use a rake to sample every 10 m and recording presence/absence. Species may also be recorded if also collecting **Vegetation Species Composition** (Johnson and Newman 2011, Rodusky et al. 2005).

### Monitoring Location

Vegetation percent cover should be measured throughout the entire project footprint. For hydrologic restoration projects, transects typically go from areas of higher hydrologic influence (such as close to creeks) to areas of lower hydrologic influence (such as interior marshes). A reference and/or control site could be established, where appropriate and applicable.

### Guidance on Frequency and Duration

In general, monitoring is proposed pre-construction, immediately after construction, and annually post-construction until performance criteria are met and sustained for three years. Baseline pre-construction conditions could be established based on information obtained during the E&D. Monitoring could occur pre-construction, immediately after construction (as-built), and then once a year at the peak of the growing season (mid- to late summer).

More frequent monitoring is proposed during the first five years following restoration to allow for the identification of problems and the implementation of adaptive management actions as needed. As the restoration project stabilizes, less-frequent monitoring may be appropriate. Monitoring should be conducted following disturbances to assess impacts and implement adaptive management actions, if needed.

While five years of monitoring is usually sufficient to demonstrate achievement of vegetation performance criteria for herbaceous vegetation, longer monitoring durations are generally needed for forested wetlands to demonstrate successful establishment of the plant community.

### Other Potential Analyses

Vegetation volume may also be calculated by estimating the percent cover (and of each species if also interested in **Vegetation Species Composition**) and multiplying by height to provide a measure of aboveground structure. Vegetation percent cover when used in conjunction with **Vegetation Species Composition** can also be used to assess biological diversity, species richness, and evenness. Community composition metrics include (see Matthews et al., 2009; Magurran and McGill, 2011; and references therein for more information on these metrics):

- Simpson's diversity index
- Shannon-Wiener index
- Mean coefficient of conservatism

- Floristic quality index (FQI) or Forested floristic quality Index (FFQI)
- Community diversity index.

### E.3.40. **Vegetation Species Composition**

**Parameter Type:** Measured or Calculated

**Units:** none

#### **Definition**

The collection of plant species within the vegetation. Can be expressed as list of individual species or proportion of each species within a given area.

#### **Restoration Approaches**

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Create, Restore, and Enhance Barrier and Coastal Islands and Headlands
- Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats
- Restore and Enhance Dunes and Beaches
- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

#### **Potential Methodologies**

See Section **E.3.39 Vegetation Percent Cover or Composition** for relevant methods and references.

### E.3.41. **Vegetation Survival**

**Parameter Type:** Calculated

**Units:** percentage (%)

#### **Definition**

Count, estimated percentage, or calculation of surviving planted individuals, used to evaluate whether additional plantings are needed to promote and establish appropriate vegetation communities.

#### **Restoration Approach**

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats
- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

#### **Potential Methodologies**

**Method 1:** Count the total number of planted plants, and the number of live or dead plantings within established plots. Field sampling could include quadrats, transects, or point surveys. Data collected will be used to calculate vegetation survival.

See Section E.9.31 Vegetation Percent Cover and Composition for additional methods and references.

**Method 2:** Conduct a visual field inspection with ground photographs and/or high-resolution aerial photography to document that performance criteria related to percent cover have been met. Note dominant species and the presence or absence of invasive species and any targeted species, along with their relative abundance. This method may be appropriate in some cases when it can be determined with high confidence based on visual inspection that the performance criteria for the project are being met. Note that it may not be appropriate to combine data collected using this method with data collected using Method 1.

### Monitoring Location

Plots could be distributed over the entire planted area.

### Guidance on Frequency and Duration

For projects with a planting component, survival/mortality of marsh grasses may be assessed for at least one full year following the initial installation. Monitoring could occur twice during the first growing season after planting (recommend 30 days and 90 days post-planting) and again one year after planting, while seasonal sampling may be needed for species that exhibit high inter- and intra-annual variance due to seasonally changing environmental conditions. Additional monitoring may be needed if replanting is required. Survival/mortality of planted trees (e.g., mangroves) should be monitored for three years or longer (Lewis, 2005, 2009). Once the planted vegetation has become established, vegetation monitoring could focus on cover and composition (see Section E.9.31 Vegetation Percent Cover and Composition).

## E.3.42. Visitor Satisfaction

**Parameter Type:** Qualitative

**Units:** none

### Definition

Visitor behavior in, and satisfaction with, project areas.

### Restoration Approaches

- Enhance Public Access to Natural Resources for Recreational Use
- Enhance Recreational Experiences
- Promote Environmental Stewardship, Education, and Outreach

### Potential Methodologies

Social indicator monitoring systems can be used to measure visitor satisfaction with restoration project areas, and monitor response behavior toward restoration activities. Surveys may include information on visitor satisfaction depending on project objectives (Moscardo and Orsmy, 2004).

### Monitoring Location

Selection of respondents should use a systematic random sampling procedure within the units chosen for study. This is intended to ensure that the respondents within a location have an equal probability of being asked to participate, and the choice of target respondents is determined by the sampling system and not by the interviewers. An offsite regional

telephone survey, a key locations survey, or an onsite survey may be used (Moscardo and Orsmby, 2004).

### Guidance on Frequency and Duration

The survey could be conducted pre- and post-implementation or more often depending on the design of the project. Monitoring should aim to cover different seasons and include weekdays, weekends, and holidays.

### Other Potential Analyses

Visitor satisfaction and behavior may be influenced by an array of outside drivers. Consideration of these factors during the survey can help interpret survey responses:

- Visitor characteristics, especially motives and levels of experience with both the places visited and activities participated in, and cultural background
- Visitors' perceptions of the quality of the physical environment, especially judgments of scenic beauty and human impacts on the setting
- Interactions with other people, including tour and park staff
- Effectiveness of programs or activities available
- Perceived quality of the service provided
- Perceived quality of the facilities and built infrastructure.

Visitor satisfaction surveys could also be designed to collect information on visitor impact on acquired lands for protection or restoration. Sampling strategies for determination of impacts within visitor nodes (e.g., sites) and linkages (e.g., trails) are well-developed and have been extensively reviewed [e.g., Hammitt and Cole (1998), Monz (2000), and others] and applied (Monz and Leung, 2006). The National Park Service (NPS) Visitor Impact Phase 1 and 2 Reports can provide additional guidance on monitoring methods (Monz and Leung, 2003a, 2003b). This information could also be used to inform potential wildlife behavior responses resulting from visitor use.

## E.3.43. Visitor Use/Access

**Parameter Type:** Measured

**Units:** none (count) or number of visitors per unit of time (day, month, year, etc.)

### Definition

Public access to the natural resources or project area and/or the number of visitors using the recreational area.

### Restoration Approaches

- Enhance Public Access to Natural Resources for Recreational Use
- Create, Restore, and Enhance Barrier and Coastal Islands and Headlands
- Restore and Enhance Dunes and Beaches

### Potential Methodologies

**Method 1:** Direct observations, including staff observations on-site using hand counters or recording forms, camera recordings, remote sensing, aerial surveys.

**Method 2:** On-site counters, including devices or sensors used to generate counts, such as pressure pads, turnstiles, light beams, active or passive infra-red, or acoustic data loggers.

**Method 3:** Review registrations, including voluntary registrations or permit records, such as track registers, site visitor books, registration or entrance fees, or trip bookings.

**Method 4:** Inferred counts, including indirect counts, such as interviews or counts of elements linked to visitor use such as car park counts, litter, or trail deterioration.

For guidance and methodologies of how to measure visitor use/access, see Cessford and Muhar (2003), Moscardo and Ormsby (2004), FWS (2005), Leggett (2015, 2017), and Horsch et al. (2017).

### Monitoring Location

Visitor use patterns may vary depending on the activity, the number of individuals engaged, and the areas these activities take place. As a result, counting locations should be identified at strategic locations that are representative of the whole recreational use area. Priority sites may include:

- Places of specific management concern
- Places where specific management actions are under consideration
- Places that are considered representative of broader management issues
- Access points such as entrances to public areas/parks
- Locations that represent the diversity of activities such as along beaches, swimming areas, etc. (particularly if completing a survey).

Sampling locations could include a mixture of permanent sites, rotating sites according to needs, and flexible sites identified on case-by-case locations for short-term needs (Cessford and Muhar, 2003).

### Guidance on Frequency and Duration

Data collection is proposed pre-implementation, immediately after implementation (as-built), and at an appropriate frequency and duration relevant to project-specific conditions. The variety of monitoring options to meet differing needs and site situations will impact the timing and frequency of monitoring. Generally, counts should be representative of as full a range of site conditions as possible, taking into account varying times of the day, week, or year; seasonal variations; weather variation; and special use occasions such as holidays or community events. Counts may also be established as a continuous and long-term process at a site, depending on the method utilized.

### Other Potential Analyses

Visitor use counts should consider the number of days the acquired land is accessible/closed in order to accurately interpret changes in visitor use patterns. Project managers should also track the number of days the area is open or closed and the reasons for closure (e.g., beach closures due to water quality concern). See [Section E.3.24 Right of Entry](#).

## E.3.44. Water Level

**Parameter Type:** Measured or Modeled



**Units:** meters (m)

## Definition

Elevation of the water surface, measured or modeled, relative to a geodetic or tidal datum. Water level measurements or estimates can be used to characterize the flooding regimes across the range of habitats restored, including the depth, frequency, and duration of flooding on the marsh surface and within any channels. When channels are an important feature of the project design, water level in the channel(s) should be measured or calculated at mean low tide to evaluate access to marsh surface for marine organisms.

## Restoration Approach

- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

## Potential Methodologies

The elevations of water level recorders and/or staff gauges should be determined and referenced to an appropriate vertical datum to obtain a relationship to marsh surface elevation. Water-level data can also be used to calculate the frequency and duration of flooding at specific locations within the restored area.

**Method 1:** Deploy multiple water level recorders to collect continuous measurements across the restored habitats.

**Method 2:** Collect elevation/bathymetry data (see [Section E.3.8 Elevation](#)) and install a single water level recorder to monitor the water surface elevation at one point, and calculate water levels across the marsh surface based on the elevation data. Assumes hydrologic connectivity is uniform across project area.

**Method 3:** Collect elevation/bathymetry data (see [Section E.3.8 Elevation](#)) and utilize data from an existing permanently deployed water level recorder(s) within or near the project site to calculate water levels across the marsh surface based on the elevation data.

**Method 4:** Install staff gauges at specific locations and make measurements by visual inspection, in combination with installation of one or more continuous water level recorders.

**Method 5:** To evaluate water level in narrow channels, take in-situ measurements using water level loggers along the created channel during mean low tide, including the channel openings or on either side of culverts, or other features that could constrict flow.

See Neckles and Dionne (2000), Steyer and Llewellyn (2000), and Sauer and Turnipseed (2010) for more information on potential methodologies.

## Monitoring Location

Spatial distribution of water level recorders will depend on the project type and the hydrologic characteristics of the project area. Potential locations for water level recorders include near the source of restored hydrologic flows, within the project boundary, near the edge of the influenced area, and outside the influenced area, if adjacent to other habitats. A reference and/or control site could be established, where appropriate and applicable.

## Guidance on Frequency and Duration

Frequency and duration will be project-dependent based on objectives and the need for corrective actions, but in general monitoring is proposed pre-construction, immediately after construction (as-built), and annually post-construction.

If continuous recorders are used, data could be collected for two weeks or longer during a sampling event to capture one lunar cycle of spring and neap tides, but longer time periods (e.g., three–four months or year-round) are preferred. Frequency of measurement from continuous recorders (tide gauges and water level loggers) can vary from every five minutes to every hour, and could be selected based on the resolution needed to meet project objectives.

If discrete measurements are taken, the water level should be assessed over several tidal cycles.

For projects with riverine influence, sampling events could be designed to capture both high- and low-flow events. If continuous recorders are used, data could be collected for at least two weeks during high- and low-water conditions, but year-round data collection for one or more years is preferred to fully capture seasonal variability in the water level. If discrete measurements are taken, the water level should be assessed over a few weeks during both high- and low-flow conditions.

### Other Potential Analyses

Bathymetric profile change, sediment movement, hydrologic connectivity, saturation of root zone, accessibility by fish or waterbirds, and meteorological events and conditions.

## E.3.45. Waves

**Parameter Type:** Measured or Modeled

**Units:** wave heights should be measured in meters (m), directions should use compass headings, wave period should be measured in seconds (s).

### Restoration Approach

- Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

### Potential Methodologies

Wave generation in inland or sheltered coastal water bodies are influenced by wind speed and duration and available fetch such that heights and periods are generally less than those observed on open ocean coastlines (Miller et al. 2015). Instrumentation used in monitoring waves should thus be tailored to those capable of capturing these conditions.

**Method 1:** Field based measurements of wave heights, direction, and period can be collected using a number of instruments, depending on application, and include pressure gauges, accelerometer buoy, acoustic wave gauge, acoustic doppler current profilers, wave wires, and remote sensing techniques (Miller et al. 2015; Pandian et al. 2010)

**Method 2:** In conjunction with field data collection described in Method 1, wave models may also be used to evaluate wave conditions around the entire project site (e.g., Coast & Harbor Engineering 2015; Thomas and Dwarakish 2015). The use of models will also require calibration and validation procedures to ensure model results accurately reproduce the physical measurements (Miller et al. 2015).

## Monitoring Location

The monitoring location will depend on the methods selected, as some deployments require certain depths or to be placed in an array, for example. Wave information should be collected on either side of constructed feature, if used, so that comparisons of wave heights can be made to determine whether performance criteria have been met. In modeling applications, monitoring locations may extend beyond the immediate project site in order to capture necessary boundary conditions.

## Guidance on Frequency and Duration

The appropriate sampling interval and duration should be tied to the conditions the monitoring is intended to sample. Changes in weather patterns (especially winds) will affect wave conditions at a local site so monitoring frequency and duration may consider capturing the range of conditions most frequently experienced at the project site. Rapid response monitoring to capture extreme weather events (e.g., hurricanes) may also be considered for some projects.

For living shoreline projects that are intended to reduce wave heights, monitoring may be needed through several growing seasons of the living shoreline in order to achieve targeted wave reduction benefits.

Additional monitoring may also be needed if changes in the conformation of natural or constructed features that reduce wave energy occur. For example, a breakwater may partially collapse if undercut by scouring, resulting in changes in wave energy around the structure. This monitoring data could be used to inform decisions regarding potential corrective actions.

## Other Potential Analyses

Wave energy, maximum wave height, wave attenuation, and other commonly used statistics can be calculated from measurements of wave heights, periods, and direction.

### E.3.46. Wetland Edge

**Parameter Type:** Measured or Calculated

**Units:** positions should be georeferenced (latitude, longitude, elevation); relative differences between positions should be measured using meters (m) or kilometers (km); ratios are unitless

#### Definition

The boundary between the vegetated wetland surface and non-wetland areas, including water features such as tidal creeks, ponds, unvegetated bottom, or other open water areas.

#### Restoration Approach

- Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands

#### Potential Methodologies

A number of different methods can be used to approximate the amount of wetland edge. Note that not all of these methods measure the same thing and they, therefore, may not produce comparable data.

**Method 1:** The linear distance of wetland edge and the total area of marsh habitat can be calculated based on imagery collected by airplane, helicopter, or UAS; high-resolution satellite imagery; or other appropriate remote sensing platform. Imagery used to map wetland boundaries should include true color and infrared bands, and have a spatial resolution of 1 m or less. Imagery acquired should be orthorectified imagery (i.e., free from distortions related to sensor optics, sensor tilt, and differences in elevation). For guidance on collecting aerial orthoimagery, please see Rufe (2014). The boundaries of wetland habitats and water features can be delineated and the linear length of wetland edge habitat can be measured using appropriate spatial analysis software. The ratio of linear wetland edge to total area of interior wetland habitat can then be calculated. For additional information and references related to mapping wetland boundaries based on remote sensing data, see Section E.9.1 Area.

**Method 2:** Conduct a field survey to map the boundaries of vegetated wetland habitat and water features within the project area. The length of the wetland edge, the total area of wetland habitat, and the ratio of marsh edge to interior marsh habitat can then be calculated. For additional information and references related to conducting ground surveys of wetland boundaries, see Section E.9.1 Area.

**Method 3:** Ratio of wetland habitat to open water (sometimes referred to as land:water ratio) is also used as a proxy for edge in habitat suitability index models. For additional methods on mapping wetlands, see Section E.9.1 Area. Note that this method does not result in an edge-to-interior ratio, and cannot be directly compared to data collected using Methods 1 and 2.

**Method 4:** A number of different fragmentation indices have been developed to quantitatively describe the configuration of wetland and water. See Suir et al. (2013) and Couvillion et al. (2016) for examples.

### Monitoring Location

The entire project footprint. A reference and/or control site could be established, where appropriate and applicable.

### Guidance on Frequency and Duration

Monitoring is recommended immediately following construction (as-built) with one–two additional monitoring events, or more over the monitoring period. Funding for one additional contingency monitoring event could be included in the monitoring budget, which could be implemented as needed to account for storm impacts.

### Other Potential Analyses

In some cases, this parameter can also be used as a proxy for landscape fragmentation.

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## E.4. Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands: Monitoring Guidance



*This guidance is intended to promote consistency in data collection among similar types of projects and allow for future analysis across TIGs and Restoration Types, (Section 10.6.2 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). This guidance may also assist the TIGs by providing recommended methodologies for monitoring restoration projects, saving time and money spent developing suitable monitoring protocols for individual restoration projects. If adjustments from this monitoring guidance are needed for a particular project, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). Project teams within each TIG will identify parameters applicable to the objectives for each individual restoration project when developing the project MAM Plan. In addition to the project monitoring guidance identified in this Manual, specific monitoring may be required to comply with permits granted by regulatory agencies. The TIGs are not restricted from adding additional parameters, and other project monitoring that may be needed for specific projects should be determined by the TIGs.*

*The Cross-TIG MAM work group developed this monitoring guidance by following the process described in the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Procedures and Guidelines Manual Version 1.0 (MAM Manual Version 1.0; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2017).*

This guidance is intended to assist the TIGs in developing MAM Plans for restoration projects, as appropriate. Specifically, it provides:

- Examples of Restoration Techniques
- Guidance on example restoration objectives, example drivers, and example uncertainties
- Guidance on core performance monitoring parameters for projects within the Restoration Approach
- Guidance on supplemental performance monitoring parameters for specific restoration objectives.

The monitoring parameters identified within a project MAM Plan should be consistent with the recommended monitoring defined within this guidance document, wherever appropriate. Depending on the nature of the restoration project, TIGs may also choose not to include some of the elements described in this guidance document (e.g., drivers, uncertainties). If adjustments from the monitoring guidance are needed, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016b). The guidance provided should not be considered exhaustive. Therefore, TIGs may develop project-level objectives, drivers, uncertainties, and monitoring parameters that have not been previously identified. The TIGs will develop MAM objectives and monitoring parameters that pertain to their restoration activities; and will determine the frequency and duration of monitoring, and the associated budget they deem appropriate. Finally, this section is subject to



change as new monitoring parameters, methods, and technologies are identified and/or developed.

The monitoring parameters recommended in this guidance document are further detailed in Attachment E Section E.3, which includes a complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters identified by the Cross-TIG MAM work group and guidance on measurement unit(s) and monitoring methods. Guidance on monitoring locations, frequencies, durations of sampling and potential analyses is also provided where appropriate.

#### **E.4.1. Restoration Techniques**

Restoration Techniques are specific restoration actions the Trustees identified for each of the Restoration Approaches. Restoration Techniques may be used individually or in combination. See Appendix 5.D of the PDARP/PEIS (DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a). The following are example Restoration Techniques included in the PDARP/PEIS for this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional Restoration Techniques may be developed and/or identified.

1. Create or enhance coastal wetlands through placement of dredged material
2. Backfill canals
3. Restore hydrologic connections to enhance coastal habitats
4. Construct breakwaters.

#### **E.4.2. Example Project-Level Restoration Objectives**

Project-level restoration objectives should be specific to the resource injuries and clearly specify the desired outcome(s) of the restoration project (15 CFR § 990.55(b)(2)). See Section 2.4.1 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing restoration objectives. The following are example project-level restoration objectives that may apply to one or more of the above-mentioned Restoration Techniques. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional objectives may be developed and/or identified.

- Create or restore intertidal wetland elevations
- Restore targeted coastal wetland hydrology
- Increase or maintain native coastal wetland vegetation
- Restore targeted salinity regime
- Reduce shoreline erosion rate
- Restore hydrologic connectivity
- Provide habitat for fish and invertebrates
- Provide habitat for resident and migratory birds
- Increase habitat connectivity
- Increase the abundance of targeted species
- Remove invasive species.

#### **E.4.3. Example Drivers**

Drivers are outside forces, natural or anthropogenic, that have the potential to influence the outcome(s) of a restoration project. Drivers tend to be large-scale, long-term forces that are not easily controlled at the scale of a single restoration project (Harwell et al., 2016). See Section 2.4.2 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing the conceptual setting for a MAM Plan, including identifying drivers. The following are example drivers that may be applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional drivers may be identified.

- Hydrologic regime
- Freshwater inflow
- Precipitation
- Sediment input/load
- Subsidence
- Nutrients
- Sea level rise
- Storms/wave energy
- Sediment accretion/erosion
- Grazing/herbivory
- Invasive species
- Hard-freeze events
- Physical impacts
- Boat wakes
- Adjacent development/land use
- Chemical impacts (e.g., oil spills).

#### **E.4.4. Example Uncertainties**

Uncertainties or information gaps have the potential to affect adaptive management decisions for individual or multiple restoration projects. These decisions may include how to improve the likelihood of achieving favorable project outcomes or selecting corrective actions in the event a project is not performing as intended. See Section 2.4.3 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on identifying potential sources of uncertainty for a MAM Plan. The following are example uncertainties that may be applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional uncertainties may be identified.

- Local subsidence and accretion rates (e.g., organic, mineral)
- Optimal hydrologic conditions (e.g., depth, duration, frequency of flooding) for sustainability of the created/restored/enhanced marsh
- Long-term precipitation trends
- Frequency, duration, and severity of freeze events
- Sediment and nutrient inputs
- Vegetation stress due to herbivory, disease, competition by invasive species
- Appropriate habitat characteristics for targeted species, whether the habitat is a limiting factor for the species
- Use of the habitat by targeted species
- Predation on targeted species
- Land use changes
- Construction of new hydrologic barriers (e.g., roads, canals, berms)
- Wetland buffer conversion/management.

#### **E.4.5. Guidance on Developing Parameters for Project-Level Performance**

This section includes two types of monitoring parameters for consideration under the Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands Restoration Approach:

1. Core performance monitoring parameters applicable to projects within a Restoration Approach (core performance monitoring parameters are those used consistently across projects in order to facilitate the aggregation of project monitoring results and the evaluation of restoration progress for each Restoration Type; Appendix 5.E.4 of PDARP/PEIS; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a).

2. Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters that are only applicable to projects with a particular restoration objective.

Additional adaptive management and/or validation monitoring parameters for consideration have also been identified. These additional parameters may be helpful for resolving uncertainties, explaining outside drivers, optimizing project implementation, supporting decisions about corrective actions and other adaptive management of the project, and informing the planning of future DWH NRDA restoration projects. Tables E.4.1 and E.4.2 should not be considered exhaustive, and other parameters may be considered, as appropriate. See the complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters, Section E.3 above, for details on the core performance monitoring parameters including definitions, units, and other guidance.

**Table E.4.1. Core performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration under the Create, Restore, and Enhance Coastal Wetlands Restoration Approach**

Core performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area</li> <li>• Elevation</li> <li>• Vegetation survival<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Vegetation percent cover and composition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water level</li> <li>• Vegetation height (emergent)</li> <li>• Vegetation density (emergent)</li> <li>• Aboveground biomass</li> <li>• Belowground biomass</li> <li>• Salinity (surface water)</li> <li>• Salinity (porewater)</li> <li>• Subsidence</li> <li>• Accretion</li> <li>• Sediment texture</li> <li>• Soil bulk density</li> <li>• Soil moisture content</li> <li>• Soil organic matter</li> <li>• Consolidation of constructed features</li> </ul>

<sup>a</sup> If project is planted with vegetation.

**Table E.4.2. Performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration for projects with specific restoration objectives.** These would be collected in addition to the parameters listed in Table E.4.1.

Project-specific objective	Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
Restore targeted salinity regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salinity (surface water)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salinity (porewater)</li> </ul>
Reduce shoreline erosion rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoreline position</li> <li>• Structural integrity and function of constructed features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sediment consolidation</li> <li>• Elevation</li> <li>• Wave height</li> <li>• Wave energy</li> <li>• Wave attenuation</li> <li>• Fetch</li> <li>• Longshore drift and currents</li> </ul>

Project-specific objective	Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
Restore hydrologic connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Channel dimensions<sup>a, b</sup></li> <li>• Structural integrity and function of constructed features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sediment deposition</li> <li>• Salinity (surface water)</li> <li>• Surface water nutrients</li> <li>• Dissolved oxygen</li> <li>• Soil nutrients</li> <li>• Soil moisture</li> <li>• Velocity (water) in channels, culverts<sup>a, b</sup></li> <li>• Discharge<sup>a, b</sup></li> </ul>
Provide habitat for fish and invertebrate species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Channel dimensions<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Wetland edge</li> <li>• Nekton/epibenthos abundance, density, and composition</li> <li>• Nekton diversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nekton length/width</li> <li>• Nekton biomass</li> <li>• Infauna/epifauna composition</li> <li>• Infauna/epifauna density</li> <li>• Infauna/epifauna biomass</li> <li>• Abundance/density of predators for targeted species</li> <li>• Salinity (surface water)</li> <li>• Temperature</li> <li>• Dissolved oxygen</li> <li>• Velocity (in channels, culverts)<sup>a, b</sup></li> <li>• Abundance of preferred food/prey species for targeted species</li> </ul>
Provide habitat for birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area (by targeted habitat types)</li> <li>• Bird abundance/density and species composition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bird habitat utilization (staging, loafing, feeding, etc.)</li> <li>• Bird nest density</li> <li>• Nest success</li> <li>• Nest predation rate</li> <li>• Abundance/density of predators for targeted species</li> <li>• Abundance/density of preferred food/prey species for targeted species</li> </ul>
Increase the abundance of targeted injured species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted injured species abundance/density</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reproductive capacity of targeted species</li> <li>• Abundance of preferred food/prey species for targeted species</li> <li>• Abundance/density of competing species, invasives, or predators for targeted species</li> </ul>

<sup>a</sup> If channels are included in the project design.

<sup>b</sup> If culverts are included in the project design.

## References

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016a. *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill: Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP) and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). Available: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan>.

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016b. Trustee Council Standard Operating Procedures for Implementation of the Natural Resource Restoration for the *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) Oil Spill. Originally approved May 4, 2016; revised November 15, 2016.

Harwell, M.A., J.H. Gentile, L.D. McKinney, J.W. Tunnell Jr., W.C. Dennison, and R.H. Kelsey. 2016. A New Framework for the Gulf of Mexico EcoHealth Metrics. Available: <http://www.harterresearchinstitute.org/sites/default/files/resources/Framework%20for%20the%20Gulf%20EcoHealth%20Metric.pdf>.

## E.5. Create, Restore, and Enhance Barrier and Coastal Islands and Headlands: Monitoring Guidance



*This guidance is intended to promote consistency in data collection among similar types of projects and allow for future analysis across TIGs and Restoration Types, (Section 10.6.2 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). This guidance may also assist the TIGs by providing recommended methodologies for monitoring restoration projects, saving time and money spent developing suitable monitoring protocols for individual restoration projects. If adjustments from this monitoring guidance are needed for a particular project, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). Project teams within each TIG will identify parameters applicable to the objectives for each individual restoration project when developing the project MAM Plan. In addition to the project monitoring guidance identified in this Manual, specific monitoring may be required to comply with permits granted by regulatory agencies. The TIGs are not restricted from adding additional parameters, and other project monitoring that may be needed for specific projects should be determined by the TIGs.*

*The Cross-TIG MAM developed this monitoring guidance by following the process described in the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Procedures and Guidelines Manual Version 1.0 (MAM Manual Version 1.0; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2017).*

This guidance is intended to assist the TIGs in developing MAM Plans for restoration projects, as appropriate. Specifically, it provides:

- Examples of Restoration Techniques
- Guidance on example restoration objectives, example drivers, and example uncertainties
- Guidance on core performance monitoring parameters for projects within the Restoration Approach
- Guidance on supplemental performance monitoring parameters for specific restoration objectives.

The monitoring parameters identified within a project MAM Plan should be consistent with the recommended monitoring defined within this guidance document, wherever appropriate. Depending on the nature of the restoration project, TIGs may choose not to include some of the elements described in this guidance document (e.g., drivers, uncertainties). If adjustments from the monitoring guidance are needed, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016b). The guidance provided should not be considered exhaustive. Therefore, TIGs may develop project-level objectives, drivers, uncertainties, and monitoring parameters that have not been previously identified. The TIGs will develop MAM objectives and monitoring parameters that pertain to their restoration activities; and will determine the frequency and duration of

monitoring, and the associated budget they deem appropriate. Finally, this section is subject to change as new monitoring parameters, methods, and technologies are identified and/or developed.

The monitoring parameters recommended in this guidance document are further detailed in Attachment E Section E.3, which includes a complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters identified by the Cross-TIG MAM work group and guidance on measurement unit(s) and monitoring methods. Guidance on monitoring locations, frequencies, durations of sampling and potential analyses is also provided where appropriate.

### **E.5.1. Restoration Techniques**

Restoration Techniques are specific restoration actions the Trustees identified for each of the Restoration Approaches. Restoration Techniques may be used individually or in combination. See Appendix 5.D of the PDARP/PEIS (DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a). The following are example Restoration Techniques included in the PDARP/PEIS for this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional Restoration Techniques may be developed and/or identified.

1. Restore or construct barrier and coastal islands and headlands via placement of dredged sediments
2. Plant vegetation on dunes and back-barrier marsh.

### **E.5.2. Example Project-Level Restoration Objectives**

Project-level restoration objectives should be specific to the resource injuries and clearly specify the desired outcome(s) of the restoration project (15 CFR § 990.55(b)(2)). See Section 2.4.1 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing restoration objectives. The following are example project-level restoration objectives that may apply to one or more of the above-mentioned Restoration Techniques. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional objectives may be developed and/or identified.

- Restore a barrier island that is sustained for the expected project lifespan to provide coastal habitat(s) important for the restoration of ecosystem functions and stability.
- Restore a barrier island structure to reduce potential storm damage impacts on coastal habitats.
- Promote establishment of beach dune and back-barrier marsh vegetation to:
  - Stabilize marsh and beach sediments
  - Stabilize the shoreline
  - Promote longevity of the subaerial island
  - Reduce erosion
  - Encourage sediment deposition
- Contribute to the ecosystem function (habitat for birds and native species) of dunes and back-barrier marshes.
- Increase availability of high-quality beach and/or dune habitat in support of species utilization, foraging, and/or nesting activity.
- Promote recovery of Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species.
- Improve the long-term littoral drift/sediment transport system to naturally sustain barrier systems.
- Enhance recreational use.
- Maintain a sand beach and dune system to improve the resilience and sustainability of coastal habitat by the capture or retention of sand. Reduce the rate of sediment loss and/or reduce erosion.



- Maintain beach, dune, back-barrier marsh elevation profile and area, as well as adjacent subtidal areas.
- Minimize habitat loss and fragmentation; reduce adverse human impacts (e.g., development, vehicular and pedestrian traffic) to protect the barrier or coastal island system.

### E.5.3. Example Drivers

Drivers are outside forces, natural or anthropogenic, that have the potential to influence the outcome(s) of a restoration project. Drivers tend to be large-scale, long-term forces that are not easily controlled at the scale of a single restoration project (Harwell et al., 2016). See Section 2.4.2 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing the conceptual setting for a MAM Plan, including identifying drivers. The following are example drivers that may be applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional drivers may be identified.

- Adjacent development/land use
- Sediment availability
- Wave dynamics
- Storm events
- Sea level rise.

### E.5.4. Example Uncertainties

Uncertainties or information gaps have the potential to affect adaptive management decisions for individual or multiple restoration projects. These decisions may include how to improve the likelihood of achieving favorable project outcomes or selecting corrective actions in the event a project is not performing as intended. See Section 2.4.3 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on identifying potential sources of uncertainty for a MAM Plan. The following are example uncertainties that may be applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional uncertainties may be identified.

- Natural variability in ecological and physical processes, such as wave-driven transport or vegetation growth, and in the associated barrier island response (e.g., geomorphic variability and barrier island evolution)
- Short- and long-term fate of natural and/or placed material
- Climate variability, such as tropical cyclone frequency, intensity, and timing; and the impact on redistributing natural or placed sand on vegetation types, growth, and distribution
- Future rate of local relative sea level rise (e.g., subsidence plus eustatic variability), including if the rate of rise will be relatively constant or will accelerate the ecological and geomorphic response of the island to sea level rise
- Adequate availability of appropriate borrow sources
- Availability of property
- Timeframe for recolonization of native fauna species (e.g., year-round residential species, nesting species, T&E Species, migratory species, vegetation, invertebrates)
- Sustainability of long-term project management (e.g., continued funding)
- Permitting.

### E.5.5. Guidance on Developing Parameters for Project-Level Performance

This section includes two types of monitoring parameters for consideration under the Create, Restore, and Enhance Barrier and Coastal Islands and Headlands Restoration Approach:



1. Core performance monitoring parameters applicable to projects within a Restoration Approach (core performance monitoring parameters are those used consistently across projects in order to facilitate the aggregation of project monitoring results and the evaluation of restoration progress for each Restoration Type; Appendix 5.E.4 of PDARP/PEIS; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a)
2. Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters that are only applicable to projects with a particular restoration objective.

Additional adaptive management and/or validation monitoring parameters for consideration have also been identified. These additional parameters may be helpful for resolving uncertainties, explaining outside drivers, optimizing project implementation, supporting decisions about corrective actions and other adaptive management of the project, and informing the planning of future DWH NRDA restoration projects. Tables E.5.1 and E.5.2 should not be considered exhaustive, and other parameters may be considered, as appropriate. See the complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters, Section E.3 above, for details on the core performance monitoring parameters including definitions, units, and other guidance.

**Table E.5.1. Core performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration under the Create, Restore, and Enhance Barrier and Coastal Islands and Headlands Restoration Approach**

Core performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area</li> <li>• Shoreline position</li> <li>• Elevation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Width (beach, dune, island)</li> <li>• Classification of hardbottom and submerged habitats</li> <li>• Position of hardbottom and submerged habitats</li> <li>• Substratum type</li> <li>• Relief</li> <li>• Sediment distribution within hardbottom habitats</li> <li>• Persistence or exposure of hardbottom habitats</li> <li>• Habitat connectivity</li> <li>• Wave height/energy/attenuation</li> <li>• Velocity and patterns</li> <li>• Sediment budget and transport patterns</li> <li>• Frequency and extent of overtopping and overwash</li> </ul>

**Table E.5.2. Performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration for projects with specific restoration objectives.** These would be collected in addition to the parameters listed in Table E.5.1.

Project-specific objective	Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
Stabilize marsh and/or shoreline by promoting establishment of beach, dune, and back-barrier marsh vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation density or vegetation percent cover</li> <li>• Vegetation species composition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survival/mortality</li> <li>• Height</li> </ul>

Project-specific objective	Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
Reduce sediment loss and erosion and/or reduce adverse human impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structural integrity and function of constructed features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extent of shoreline armoring</li> <li>Sediment depth data, texture, type, and consolidation rate</li> <li>Number of protected habitat sites</li> <li>Sediment budget and transport patterns</li> <li>Visitor use and access</li> <li>Vegetation density</li> <li>Vegetation percent cover</li> <li>Vegetation species composition</li> <li>Species density/abundance</li> <li>Species utilization</li> </ul>
Living coastal marine resource or T&E Species habitat, utilization, foraging, nesting, or recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bird (or targeted injured species) abundance/density</li> <li>Bird (or targeted injured) species composition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bird nest density</li> <li>Bird habitat utilization</li> <li>Bird nest success</li> <li>Nekton diversity and/or abundance</li> <li>Benthic abundance, biomass, diversity</li> <li>Targeted injured species abundance/density</li> <li>Targeted injured species utilization</li> <li>Hardbottom mapping</li> <li>Dissolved oxygen</li> <li>Turbidity</li> <li>Salinity (surface water)</li> <li>Sediment depth data, texture, type, and consolidation rate</li> </ul>
Enhance recreational use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Enhance Public Access to Natural Resources for Recreational Use Monitoring Guidance (Section E.11 of Attachment E of this manual) for core and objective-specific performance monitoring parameters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Enhance Public Access to Natural Resources for Recreational Use Monitoring Guidance (Section E.11 of Attachment E of this manual) for core and objective-specific performance monitoring parameters</li> </ul>

## References

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016a. *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill: Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP) and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). Available: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan>.

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016b. Trustee Council Standard Operating Procedures for Implementation of the Natural Resource Restoration for the *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) Oil Spill. Originally approved May 4, 2016; revised November 15, 2016.

Harwell, M.A., J.H. Gentile, L.D. McKinney, J.W. Tunnell Jr., W.C. Dennison, and R.H. Kelsey. 2016. A New Framework for the Gulf of Mexico EcoHealth Metrics. Available: <http://www.harterresearchinstitute.org/sites/default/files/resources/Framework%20for%20the%20Gulf%20EcoHealth%20Metric.pdf>.

## E.6. Restore and Enhance Dunes and Beaches: Monitoring Guidance



*This guidance is intended to promote consistency in data collection among similar types of projects and allow for future analysis across TIGs and Restoration Types, (Section 10.6.2 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). This guidance may also assist the TIGs by providing recommended methodologies for monitoring restoration projects, saving time and money spent developing suitable monitoring protocols for individual restoration projects. If adjustments from this monitoring guidance are needed for a particular project, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). Project teams within each TIG will identify parameters applicable to the objectives for each individual restoration project when developing the project MAM Plan. In addition to the project monitoring guidance identified in this Manual, specific monitoring may be required to comply with permits granted by regulatory agencies. The TIGs are not restricted from adding additional parameters, and other project monitoring that may be needed for specific projects should be determined by the TIGs.*

*The Cross-TIG MAM developed this monitoring guidance by following the process described in the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Procedures and Guidelines Manual Version 1.0 (MAM Manual Version 1.0; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2017).*

This guidance is intended to assist the TIGs in developing MAM Plans for restoration projects, as appropriate. Specifically, it provides:

- Examples of Restoration Techniques
- Guidance on example restoration objectives, example drivers, and example uncertainties
- Guidance on core performance monitoring parameters for projects within the Restoration Approach
- Guidance on supplemental performance monitoring parameters for specific restoration objectives.

The monitoring parameters identified within a project MAM Plan should be consistent with the recommended monitoring defined within this guidance document, wherever appropriate. Depending on the nature of the restoration project, TIGs may choose not to include some of the elements described in this guidance document (e.g., drivers, uncertainties). If adjustments from the monitoring guidance are needed, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016b). The guidance provided should not be considered exhaustive. Therefore, TIGs may develop project-level objectives, drivers, uncertainties, and monitoring parameters that have not been previously identified. The TIGs will develop MAM objectives and monitoring parameters that pertain to their restoration activities; and will determine the frequency and duration of monitoring, and the associated budget they deem appropriate. Finally, this section is subject to

change as new monitoring parameters, methods, and technologies are identified and/or developed.

The monitoring parameters recommended in this guidance document are further detailed in Attachment E Section E.3, which includes a complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters identified by the Cross-TIG MAM work group and guidance on measurement unit(s) and monitoring methods. Guidance on monitoring locations, frequencies, durations of sampling and potential analyses is also provided where appropriate.

### **E.6.1. Restoration Techniques**

Restoration Techniques are specific restoration actions the Trustees identified for each of the Restoration Approaches. Restoration Techniques may be used individually or in combination. See Appendix 5.D of the PDARP/PEIS (DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a). The following are example Restoration Techniques included in the PDARP/PEIS for this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional Restoration Techniques may be developed and/or identified.

1. Renourish beaches through sediment addition
2. Restore dune and beach systems through the use of passive techniques to trap sand
3. Plant vegetation on dunes
4. Construct groins and breakwaters or use sediment bypass methods
5. Protect dune systems through the use of access control.

### **E.6.2. Example Project-Level Restoration Objectives**

Project-level restoration objectives should be specific to the resource injuries and clearly specify the desired outcome(s) of the restoration project (15 CFR § 990.55(b)(2)). See Section 2.4.1 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing restoration objectives. The following are example project-level restoration objectives that may apply to one or more of the above-mentioned Restoration Techniques. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional objectives may be developed and/or identified.

- Create, stabilize, protect, restore, and/or enhance the beach and/or dune system, to improve the resilience (e.g., to storm damage) and sustainability of coastal habitats.
- Promote establishment of beach dune and marsh vegetation to stabilize sediment, stabilize shoreline, reduce erosion, encourage sediment deposition, and contribute to the ecosystem function (e.g., habitat for birds and native species) of dunes and marshes.
- Increase availability of a high-quality specific beach and/or dune habitat for species utilization, including foraging and/or nesting activity.
- Promote recovery of T&E Species.
- Improve the long-term littoral drift/sediment transport system to promote more sustainable beach and dune systems.
- Enhance recreational use.
- Maintain a sand beach and dune system to improve the resilience and sustainability of coastal habitat by the capture or retention of sand. Reduce the rate of sediment loss and/or reduce erosion.
- Minimize habitat loss/fragmentation and reduce adverse human impacts (e.g., development, vehicular and pedestrian traffic) to protect system.

### E.6.3. Example Drivers

Drivers are outside forces, natural or anthropogenic, that have the potential to influence the outcome(s) of a restoration project. Drivers tend to be large-scale, long-term forces that are not easily controlled at the scale of a single restoration project (Harwell et al., 2016). See Section 2.4.2 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing the conceptual setting for a MAM Plan, including identifying drivers. The following are example drivers that may be applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional drivers may be identified.

- Adjacent development/land use
- Sediment availability
- Wave dynamics
- Storm events
- Sea level rise.

### E.6.4. Example Uncertainties

Uncertainties or information gaps have the potential to affect adaptive management decisions for individual or multiple restoration projects. These decisions may include how to improve the likelihood of achieving favorable project outcomes or selecting corrective actions in the event a project is not performing as intended. See Section 2.4.3 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on identifying potential sources of uncertainty for a MAM Plan. The following are example uncertainties that may be applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional uncertainties may be identified.

- Natural variability in ecological and physical processes, such as wave-driven transport or vegetation growth, and in the associated dune and beach response (e.g., geomorphic variability and evolution)
- Short- and long-term fate of natural and/or placed material
- Climate change variability, such as tropical cyclone frequency, intensity, and timing; and the impact on redistributing natural and/or placed sand on vegetation types, growth, and distribution
- Future rate of local relative sea level rise (e.g., subsidence plus eustatic variability), including if the rate of rise will be relatively constant or will accelerate how the island will respond
- Adequate availability of appropriate borrow sources
- Willingness of landowners to sell property or otherwise allow restoration activities
- Timeframe for re-establishment/recolonization of native flora and fauna species (e.g., year-round resident, nesting species, migratory species, T&E Species, invertebrates/prey base, vegetation).

### E.6.5. Guidance on Developing Parameters for Project-Level Performance

This section includes two types of monitoring parameters for consideration under the Restore and Enhance Dunes and Beaches Restoration Approach:

1. Core performance monitoring parameters applicable to projects within a Restoration Approach (core performance monitoring parameters are those used consistently across projects in order to facilitate the aggregation of project monitoring results and the evaluation of restoration progress for each Restoration Type; Appendix 5.E.4 of PDARP/PEIS; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a)



2. Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters that are only applicable to projects with a particular restoration objective.

Additional adaptive management and/or validation monitoring parameters for consideration have also been identified. These additional parameters may be helpful for resolving uncertainties, explaining outside drivers, optimizing project implementation, supporting decisions about corrective actions and other adaptive management of the project, and informing the planning of future DWH NRDA restoration projects. Tables E.6.1 and E.6.2 should not be considered exhaustive, and other parameters may be considered, as appropriate. See the complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters, Section E.3 above, for details on the core performance monitoring parameters including definitions, units, and other guidance.

**Table E.6.1. Core performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration under the Restore and Enhance Dunes and Beaches Restoration Approach**

Core performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area</li> <li>• Shoreline position</li> <li>• Elevation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Width (beach, dune, island)</li> <li>• Classification of hardbottom and submerged habitat types</li> <li>• Position of hardbottom and submerged habitats</li> <li>• Substratum type</li> <li>• Relief</li> <li>• Distribution of sediment within hardbottom habitats</li> <li>• Hardbottom persistence or exposure</li> <li>• Habitat connectivity</li> <li>• Wave height/energy/attenuation</li> <li>• Flow magnitude and patterns</li> <li>• Sediment budget and transport patterns</li> <li>• Frequency and extent of overtopping and overwash</li> </ul>

**Table E.6.2. Performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration for projects with specific restoration objectives.** These would be collected in addition to the parameters listed in Table E.6.1.

Project-specific objective	Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
Promote establishment of beach dune and back-barrier marsh vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation density</li> <li>• Vegetation percent cover</li> <li>• Vegetation species composition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survival/mortality</li> <li>• Height</li> </ul>
Reduce sediment loss and erosion and/or reduce adverse human impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structural integrity and function of constructed features (beach and dune protection features, including groins, breakwater, sand fencing and/or access control)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent of shoreline armoring</li> <li>• Sediment depth data, texture, type, consolidation rate</li> <li>• Number of protected habitat sites</li> <li>• Visitor use and access</li> <li>• Vegetation density</li> <li>• Vegetation percent cover</li> <li>• Vegetation species composition</li> <li>• Species density/abundance</li> <li>• Species utilization</li> </ul>

Project-specific objective	Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
Living coastal marine resource or T&E Species habitat, utilization, foraging, nesting, or recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bird (or targeted injured species) abundance/density</li> <li>• Bird (or targeted injured) species composition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bird nest density</li> <li>• Bird habitat utilization</li> <li>• Bird nest success</li> <li>• Nekton diversity and or abundance</li> <li>• Benthic abundance, biomass, diversity</li> <li>• Targeted injured species abundance/density</li> <li>• Targeted injured species utilization</li> <li>• Hardbottom mapping</li> <li>• Dissolved oxygen</li> <li>• Turbidity</li> <li>• Salinity (surface water)</li> <li>• Sediment depth data, texture, type, and consolidation rate</li> </ul>
Enhance recreational use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Enhance Public Access to Natural Resources for Recreational Use Monitoring Guidance (Section E.11 of Attachment E of this manual) for core and objective-specific performance monitoring parameters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Enhance Public Access to Natural Resources for Recreational Use Monitoring Guidance (Section E.11 of Attachment E of this manual) for core and objective-specific performance monitoring parameters</li> </ul>

## References

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016a. *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill: Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP) and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). Available: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan>.

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016b. Trustee Council Standard Operating Procedures for Implementation of the Natural Resource Restoration for the *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) Oil Spill. Originally approved May 4, 2016; revised November 15, 2016.

Harwell, M.A., J.H. Gentile, L.D. McKinney, J.W. Tunnell Jr., W.C. Dennison, and R.H. Kelsey. 2016. A New Framework for the Gulf of Mexico EcoHealth Metrics. Available: <http://www.hartheresearchinstitute.org/sites/default/files/resources/Framework%20for%20the%20Gulf%20EcoHealth%20Metric.pdf>.



## E.7. Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats: Monitoring Guidance



*This guidance is intended to promote consistency in data collection among similar types of projects and allow for future analysis across TIGs and Restoration Types, (Section 10.6.2 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). This guidance may also assist the TIGs by providing recommended methodologies for monitoring restoration projects, saving time and money spent developing suitable monitoring protocols for individual restoration projects. If adjustments from this monitoring guidance are needed for a particular project, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). Project teams within each TIG will identify parameters applicable to the objectives for each individual restoration project when developing the project MAM Plan. In addition to the project monitoring guidance identified in this Manual, specific monitoring may be required to comply with permits granted by regulatory agencies. The TIGs are not restricted from adding additional parameters, and other project monitoring that may be needed for specific projects should be determined by the TIGs.*

*The Cross-TIG MAM work group developed this monitoring guidance by following the process described in the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Procedures and Guidelines Manual Version 1.0 (MAM Manual Version 1.0; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2017). This new guidance is being released as a supplement to MAM Manual Version 1.0.*

This guidance is intended to assist the TIGs in developing MAM Plans for restoration projects, as appropriate. Specifically, it provides:

- Examples of Restoration Techniques
- Guidance on example restoration objectives, example drivers, and example uncertainties
- Guidance on core performance monitoring parameters for projects within the Restoration Approach
- Guidance on supplemental performance monitoring parameters for specific restoration objectives.

The monitoring parameters identified within a Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine and Riparian project MAM Plan should be consistent with the recommended monitoring defined within this guidance document, wherever appropriate. Depending on the nature of the restoration project, TIGs may choose not to include some of the elements described in this guidance document (e.g., drivers, uncertainties). If adjustments from the monitoring guidance are needed, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016b). The guidance provided should not be considered exhaustive. Therefore, TIGs may develop project-level objectives, drivers, uncertainties, and monitoring parameters that have not been previously identified. The TIGs will develop MAM objectives and monitoring parameters that pertain to their restoration activities; and will determine the frequency and duration of monitoring, and the

associated budget they deem appropriate. Finally, this guidance may change as new monitoring parameters, methods, and technologies are identified and/or developed.

The monitoring parameters recommended in this guidance document are further detailed in Attachment E Section E.3, which includes a complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters identified by the Cross-TIG MAM work group and guidance on measurement unit(s) and monitoring methods. Guidance on monitoring locations, frequencies, durations of sampling and potential analyses is also provided where appropriate.

### **E.7.1. Restoration Techniques**

Restoration Techniques are specific restoration actions the Trustees identified for each of the Restoration Approaches. Restoration Techniques may be used individually or in combination. See Appendix 5.D of the PDARP/PEIS (DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a). The following are example Restoration Techniques included in the PDARP/PEIS for this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional Restoration Techniques may be developed and/or identified.

1. Acquire lands for conservation.
2. Develop and implement management actions in conservation areas and/or restoration projects.
3. Establish or expand protections for marine areas.

### **E.7.2. Example Project-Level Restoration Objectives**

Project-level restoration objectives should be specific to the resource injuries and clearly specify the desired outcome(s) of the restoration project (15 CFR § 990.55(b)(2)). See Section 2.4.1 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing restoration objectives. The following are example project-level restoration objectives that may apply to one or more of the above-mentioned Restoration Techniques. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional objectives may be developed and/or identified.

- Acquire or conserve land to conserve target habitats for fish and wildlife; create connections between natural areas; provide protective buffers for existing protected lands, sensitive habitats, and/or water bodies; and /or to facilitate habitat management.
- Acquire or conserve land to prevent threats of development.
- Establish or expand protections for marine habitat to help maintain essential ecological processes, preserve genetic diversity, and/or ensure sustainable use of species and ecosystems.
- Acquire or conserve land to provide mechanisms for protected species management.
- Develop and/or implement management actions to enhance habitats to benefit target fish, wildlife and/or ecosystem services. Example actions include debris removal, invasive species control, vegetation management, and/or visitor access.
- Implement management actions to enhance nesting and foraging habitat for birds
- Acquire or conserve land to protect critical freshwater inflows to estuaries.

### **E.7.3. Example Drivers**

Drivers are outside forces, natural or anthropogenic, that have the potential to influence the outcomes of a restoration project. Drivers tend to be large-scale, long-term forces that are not easily controlled at the scale of a single restoration project (Harwell et al., 2016). See Section 2.4.2 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing the conceptual setting for a MAM Plan, including identifying drivers. The following are example drivers that may

be applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional drivers may be identified.

- Anthropogenic development
- Sea level rise
- Regeneration of native vegetative communities
- Habitat degradation
- Storm impacts
- Ocean acidification

#### **E.7.4. Example Uncertainties**

Uncertainties or information gaps have the potential to affect adaptive management decisions for individual or multiple restoration projects. These decisions may include how to improve the likelihood of achieving favorable project outcomes or selecting corrective actions in the event a project is not performing as intended. See Section 2.4.3 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on identifying potential sources of uncertainty for a MAM Plan. The following are example uncertainties that may be applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional uncertainties may be identified.

- Availability of land for protection or conservation
- Ability to identify willing sellers that own targeted habitats
- Ability to coordinate management of target habitats with existing management plans or agencies with management authority
- Lack of understanding of the threats affecting species targeted for restoration
- Future rate of local relative sea level rise
- Present or future visitor use patterns
- Time lag between management actions and response (e.g., protection actions and system response, interval of invasive plant regeneration through seedbank)
- Opportunities for or barriers to habitat migration
- Ability to enforce management actions

#### **E.7.5. Guidance on Developing Parameters for Project-Level Performance**

This section includes two types of monitoring parameters for consideration under the Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats Restoration Approach:

1. Core performance monitoring parameters applicable to projects within a Restoration Approach (core performance monitoring parameters are those used consistently across projects in order to facilitate the aggregation of project monitoring results and the evaluation of restoration progress for each Restoration Type; Appendix 5.E.4 of PDARP/PEIS; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a)
2. Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters that are only applicable to projects with a particular restoration objective.

Additional adaptive management and/or validation monitoring parameters for consideration have also been identified. These additional parameters may be helpful for resolving uncertainties, explaining outside drivers, optimizing project implementation, supporting decisions about corrective actions and other adaptive management of the project, and informing the planning of future DWH NRDA restoration projects. Tables E.7.1 and E.7.2 should not be considered exhaustive, and other parameters may be considered, as appropriate. See the complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters for details on the core performance monitoring parameters including definitions, units, and other guidance.

**Table E.7.1. Core performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration under the Protect and Conserve Marine, Coastal, Estuarine, and Riparian Habitats Restoration Approach**

Core performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area of Project Footprint</li> <li>Terms of conservation/management plan are being met<sup>a</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elevation</li> <li>Habitat utilization by target species</li> <li>Species abundance/diversity</li> </ul>

<sup>a</sup>. If project includes a conservation/management agreement.

**Table E.7.2. Performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration for projects with specific restoration objectives.** These would be collected in addition to the parameters listed in Table E.7.1.

Project-specific objective	Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
Create connections between natural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area of Project Influence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified</li> </ul>
Management of invasive species and enhancement of native plantings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vegetation survival</li> <li>Vegetation percent cover</li> <li>Vegetation species composition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vegetation density</li> </ul>
Management, control, and removal of debris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debris</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified.</li> </ul>
Enhance habitat for targeted species (e.g. sea turtles, birds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targeted Injured Species Abundance/Density</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abundance of preferred food/prey species for targeted species</li> <li>Abundance/density of competing species, invasives, or predators for targeted species</li> <li>Reproductive capacity of targeted species</li> </ul>
Improve coastal water quality <sup>a</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dissolved oxygen (DO)</li> <li>pH</li> <li>Temperature</li> <li>Salinity (surface water)</li> <li>Specific conductance</li> <li>Discharge</li> <li>Turbidity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nutrients</li> <li>Pathogens (bacteria)</li> <li>Sediments</li> </ul>

<sup>a</sup> See the "Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watershed & Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds: Monitoring Guidance" for additional details (DWH NRDA Trustees 2017).

## References

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016a. *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill: Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP) and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). Available: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan>.

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016b. Trustee Council Standard Operating Procedures for Implementation of the Natural Resource Restoration for the *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) Oil Spill. Originally approved May 4, 2016; revised November 15, 2016.

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2017. Monitoring and Adaptive Management Procedures and Guidelines Manual Version 1.0. Appendix to the Trustee Council Standard Operating Procedures for Implementation of the Natural Resource Restoration for the DWH Oil Spill. December. Available: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/>.



## E.8. Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds & Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds: Monitoring Guidance



*This guidance is intended to promote consistency in data collection among similar types of projects and allow for future analysis across TIGs and Restoration Types, (Section 10.6.2 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). This guidance may also assist the TIGs by providing recommended methodologies for monitoring restoration projects, saving time and money spent developing suitable monitoring protocols for individual restoration projects. If adjustments from this monitoring guidance are needed for a particular project, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). Project teams within each TIG will identify parameters applicable to the objectives for each individual restoration project when developing the project MAM Plan. In addition to the project monitoring guidance identified in this Manual, specific monitoring may be required to comply with permits granted by regulatory agencies. The TIGs are not restricted from adding additional parameters, and other project monitoring that may be needed for specific projects should be determined by the TIGs.*

*The Cross-TIG MAM developed this monitoring guidance by following the process described in the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Procedures and Guidelines Manual Version 1.0 (MAM Manual Version 1.0; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2017).*

This guidance is intended to assist the TIGs in developing MAM Plans for restoration projects, as appropriate. Specifically, this document provides:

- Examples of Restoration Techniques
- Guidance on example restoration objectives, example drivers, and example uncertainties
- Guidance on core performance monitoring parameters for projects within the Restoration Approaches
- Guidance on supplemental performance monitoring parameters for specific restoration objectives.

The monitoring parameters identified within a project MAM Plan should be consistent with the recommended monitoring defined within this guidance document, wherever appropriate. Depending on the nature of the restoration project, TIGs may choose not to include some of the elements described in this guidance document (e.g., drivers, uncertainties). If adjustments from the monitoring guidance are needed, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016b). The guidance provided should not be considered exhaustive. Therefore, TIGs may develop project-level objectives, drivers, uncertainties, and monitoring parameters that have not been previously identified. The TIGs will develop MAM objectives and monitoring parameters

that pertain to their restoration activities; and will determine the frequency and duration of monitoring, and the associated budget they deem appropriate. Finally, this section is subject to change as new monitoring parameters, methods, and technologies are identified and/or developed.

The monitoring parameters recommended in this guidance document are further detailed in Attachment E Section E.3, which includes a complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters identified by the Cross-TIG MAM work group and guidance on measurement unit(s) and monitoring methods. Guidance on monitoring locations, frequencies, durations of sampling and potential analyses is also provided where appropriate.

### **E.8.1. Restoration Techniques**

Restoration Techniques are specific restoration actions the Trustees identified for each of the Restoration Approaches. Restoration Techniques may be used individually or in combination. See Appendix 5.D of the PDARP/PEIS (DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a). The following are example Restoration Techniques included in the PDARP for these Restoration Approaches. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional Restoration Techniques may be developed and/or identified.

1. Agricultural conservation practices
2. Forestry management practices
3. Low-impact development practices
4. Traditional stormwater control measures
5. Erosion and sediment control practices
6. Hydrologic restoration practices.

### **E.8.2. Example Project-Level Restoration Objectives**

Project-level restoration objectives should be specific to the resource injuries and clearly specify the desired outcome(s) of the restoration project (15 CFR § 990.55(b)(2)). See Section 2.4.1 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing restoration objectives. The following are example project-level restoration objectives that may apply to one or more of the above-mentioned Restoration Techniques. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional objectives may be developed and/or identified.

- Reduce nutrient, sediment, and/or pathogen (e.g., bacteria) concentrations and loadings
- Enhance dissolved oxygen concentration, turbidity, pH, salinity, and/or specific conductance.

### **E.8.3. Example Drivers**

Drivers are outside forces, natural or anthropogenic, that have the potential to influence the outcomes of a restoration project. Drivers tend to be large-scale, long-term forces that are not easily controlled at the scale of a single restoration project (Harwell et al., 2016). See Section 2.4.2 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing the conceptual setting for a MAM Plan, including identifying drivers. The following are example drivers that may be applicable to these Restoration Approaches. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional drivers may be identified.

- Coastal development
- Changes in land use
- Land-use practices (e.g., application of fertilizer)



- Alterations to freshwater flows.

#### **E.8.4. Example Uncertainties**

Uncertainties or information gaps have the potential to affect adaptive management decisions for individual or multiple restoration projects. These decisions may include how to improve the likelihood of achieving favorable project outcomes or selecting corrective actions in the event a project is not performing as intended. See Section 2.4.3 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on identifying potential sources of uncertainty for a MAM Plan. The following are example uncertainties that may be applicable to these Restoration Approaches. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional uncertainties may be identified.

- Willingness of landowners to participate
- Linkages between water quality improvements and ecosystem benefits
- Degree to which local improvements in water quality contribute to water quality improvements downstream
- Combination and placement of projects within a watershed to maximize benefits in receiving estuary
- Pollutant transport and freshwater flow through Gulf coastal watersheds
- Relationship between watershed pollutant loadings and occurrence of Gulf coastal ecosystem threats and human use impacts.

#### **E.8.5. Guidance on Developing Parameters for Project-Level Performance**

This section includes two types of monitoring parameters for consideration under the Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds & Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds Restoration Approaches:

1. Core performance monitoring parameters applicable to projects within a Restoration Approach (core performance monitoring parameters are those used consistently across projects in order to facilitate the aggregation of project monitoring results and the evaluation of restoration progress for each Restoration Type; Appendix 5.E.4 of PDARP/PEIS; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a)
2. Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters that are only applicable to projects with a particular restoration objective.

Additional adaptive management and/or validation monitoring parameters for consideration have also been identified. These additional parameters may be helpful for resolving uncertainties, explaining outside drivers, optimizing project implementation, supporting decisions about corrective actions and other adaptive management of the project, and informing the planning of future DWH NRDA restoration projects. Tables E.8.1 and E.8.2 should not be considered exhaustive, and other parameters may be considered, as appropriate. See the complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters, Section E.3 above, for details on the core performance monitoring parameters including definitions, units, and other guidance.

Generally, in-situ water quality parameters will be collected at the same time as chemical (nutrients, sediments, pathogens, and others) and/or ecological/biological sampling; and at the same locations, frequencies, and depths.

**Table E.8.1. Core performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration under the Reduce Nutrient Loads to Coastal Watersheds & Reduce Pollution and Hydrologic Degradation to Coastal Watersheds Restoration Approaches**

Core performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of water quality improvement practices implemented</li> <li>• Area of water quality improvement practices implemented (acres impacted)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ammonium nitrogen (NH<sub>4</sub>-N)</li> <li>• Nitrite plus nitrate nitrogen (NO<sub>2</sub>-N + NO<sub>3</sub>-N)</li> <li>• Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)</li> <li>• Loads (water level and flow)</li> </ul>

**Table E.8.2. Performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration for projects with specific restoration objectives.** These would be collected in addition to the parameters listed in Table E.8.1.

Project-specific objective	Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
Reduce nutrient concentrations and loadings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total nitrogen (TN)</li> <li>• Total phosphorus (TP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soluble Reactive P (Orthophosphate phosphorus)</li> <li>• Chlorophyll <i>a</i></li> <li>• Depth</li> <li>• Tidal cycle</li> </ul>
Reduce sediment concentrations and loadings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total suspended solids (TSS)</li> <li>• Turbidity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspended sediment concentration (SSC)</li> <li>• Loads (discharge and concentration)</li> <li>• Bedload/bed sediment</li> <li>• Water depth</li> <li>• Secchi depth</li> </ul>
Reduce pathogen concentrations and/or exposures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>E. coli</i></li> <li>• Enterococci</li> <li>• Fecal coliform</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Vibrio cholera</i></li> <li>• <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i></li> <li>• Coliphages</li> </ul>
Improve in-situ water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissolved oxygen (DO)</li> <li>• pH</li> <li>• Temperature</li> <li>• Salinity (surface water)</li> <li>• Specific conductance</li> <li>• Discharge or velocity (water flow)</li> <li>• Turbidity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chlorophyll <i>a</i> (biomass)</li> <li>• Phytoplankton (biomass and/or biovolume)</li> <li>• Pigments</li> <li>• Loading</li> </ul>
Restore natural hydrology and/or reduce hydrologic degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salinity (surface water)</li> <li>• Discharge or velocity (water flow)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water level</li> </ul>

## References

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016a. *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill: Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP) and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). Available: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan>.

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016b. Trustee Council Standard Operating Procedures for Implementation of the Natural Resource Restoration for the *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) Oil Spill. Originally approved May 4, 2016; revised November 15, 2016.

Harwell, M.A., J.H. Gentile, L.D. McKinney, J.W. Tunnell Jr., W.C. Dennison, and R.H. Kelsey. 2016. A New Framework for the Gulf of Mexico EcoHealth Metrics. Available: <http://www.harverresearchinstitute.org/sites/default/files/resources/Framework%20for%20the%20Gulf%20EcoHealth%20Metric.pdf>.

## E.9. Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation: Monitoring Guidance



*This guidance is intended to promote consistency in data collection among similar types of projects and allow for future analysis across TIGs and Restoration Types, (Section 10.6.2 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). This guidance may also assist the TIGs by providing recommended methodologies for monitoring restoration projects, saving time and money spent developing suitable monitoring protocols for individual restoration projects. If adjustments from this monitoring guidance are needed for a particular project, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). Project teams within each TIG will identify parameters applicable to the objectives for each individual restoration project when developing the project MAM Plan. In addition to the project monitoring guidance identified in this Manual, specific monitoring may be required to comply with permits granted by regulatory agencies. The TIGs are not restricted from adding additional parameters, and other project monitoring that may be needed for specific projects should be determined by the TIGs.*

*The Cross-TIG MAM work group developed this monitoring guidance by following the process described in the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Procedures and Guidelines Manual Version 1.0 (MAM Manual Version 1.0; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2017). This new guidance is being released as a supplement to MAM Manual Version 1.0.*

This guidance is intended to assist the TIGs in developing MAM Plans for restoration projects, as appropriate. Specifically, it provides:

- Examples of Restoration Techniques
- Guidance on example restoration objectives, example drivers, and example uncertainties
- Guidance on core performance monitoring parameters for projects within the Restoration Approach
- Guidance on supplemental performance monitoring parameters for specific restoration objectives.

The monitoring parameters identified within a Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation project MAM Plan should be consistent with the recommended monitoring defined within this guidance document, wherever appropriate. Depending on the nature of the restoration project, TIGs may choose not to include some of the elements described in this guidance document (e.g., drivers, uncertainties). If adjustments from the monitoring guidance are needed, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016b). The guidance provided should not be considered exhaustive. Therefore, TIGs may develop project-level

objectives, drivers, uncertainties, and monitoring parameters that have not been previously identified. The TIGs will develop MAM objectives and monitoring parameters that pertain to their restoration activities; and will determine the frequency and duration of monitoring, and the associated budget they deem appropriate. Finally, this guidance may change as new monitoring parameters, methods, and technologies are identified and/or developed.

The monitoring parameters recommended in this guidance document are further detailed in Attachment E Section E.3, which includes a complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters identified by the Cross-TIG MAM work group and guidance on measurement unit(s) and monitoring methods. Guidance on monitoring locations, frequencies, durations of sampling and potential analyses is also provided where appropriate.

### **E.9.1. Restoration Techniques**

Restoration Techniques are specific restoration actions the Trustees identified for each of the Restoration Approaches. Restoration Techniques may be used individually or in combination. See Appendix 5.D of the PDARP/PEIS (DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a). The following are example Restoration Techniques included in the PDARP/PEIS for this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional Restoration Techniques may be developed and/or identified.

1. Backfill scars with sediment
2. Revegetate SAV beds via propagation and/or transplanting
3. Enhance SAV beds through nutrient addition
4. Protect SAV beds with buoys, signage, and/or other protective measures
5. Protect and enhance SAV through wave attenuation structures

### **E.9.2. Example Project-Level Restoration Objectives**

Project-level restoration objectives should be specific to the resource injuries and clearly specify the desired outcome(s) of the restoration project (15 CFR § 990.55(b)(2)). See Section 2.4.1 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing restoration objectives. The following are example project-level restoration objectives that may apply to one or more of the above-mentioned Restoration Techniques. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional objectives may be developed and/or identified.

- Restore sea floor elevation to promote SAV
- Promote regrowth of native SAV
- Increase or maintain native SAV
- Increase or maintain site-specific nutrient levels to enhance SAV beds (e.g., bird stakes)
- Improve or maintain water quality
- Reduce current velocity and wave action to protect or restore SAV
- Provide habitat for targeted species (e.g., fish, wildlife)
- Increase abundance of targeted injured species (e.g., fish, wildlife)

### **E.9.3. Example Drivers**

Drivers are outside forces, natural or anthropogenic, that have the potential to influence the outcome(s) of a restoration project. Drivers tend to be large-scale, long-term forces that are not easily controlled at the scale of a single restoration project (Harwell et al., 2016). See Section 2.4.2 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing the conceptual setting for a MAM Plan, including identifying drivers. The following are example drivers that may

be applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional drivers may be identified.

- Hydrologic regime
- Freshwater inflow
- Precipitation
- Sediment input/load
- Burial
- Subsidence
- Nutrients
- Sea level rise
- Storms/wave energy
- Sediment accretion/erosion
- Grazing/herbivory
- Hard-freeze events
- Invasive species
- Physical impacts, including boat scarring
- Boat wakes
- Adjacent development/land use
- Chemical impacts (e.g., oil spills)

#### **E.9.4. Example Uncertainties**

Uncertainties or information gaps have the potential to affect adaptive management decisions for individual or multiple restoration projects. These decisions may include how to improve the likelihood of achieving favorable project outcomes or selecting corrective actions in the event a project is not performing as intended. See Section 2.4.3 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on identifying potential sources of uncertainty for a MAM Plan. The following are example uncertainties that may be applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional uncertainties may be identified.

- Local subsidence and accretion rates (e.g., organic, mineral)
- Optimal hydrologic conditions (e.g., turbidity, wave energy) for sustainability of the SAV bed
- Sediment and nutrient inputs
- Vegetation stress due to herbivory, disease, competition by invasive species
- Best method to revegetate SAV bed (e.g., seed, propagule)
- Appropriate habitat characteristics for targeted species, whether the habitat is a limiting factor for the species
- Use of the habitat by targeted species
- Adjacent habitat conversion, management, and restoration activities
- Presence of floating aquatic vegetation (FAV)
- Germination or general reproductive triggers
- Frequency/intensity of tropical storms

#### **E.9.5. Guidance on Developing Parameters for Project-Level Performance**

This section includes two types of monitoring parameters for consideration under the Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Restoration Approach:

3. Core performance monitoring parameters applicable to projects within a Restoration Approach (core performance monitoring parameters are those used consistently across projects in order to facilitate the aggregation of project monitoring results and the evaluation



of restoration progress for each Restoration Type; Appendix 5.E.4 of PDARP/PEIS; DWH NRDA, 2016a).

4. Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters that are only applicable to projects with a particular restoration objective.

Additional adaptive management and/or validation monitoring parameters for consideration have also been identified. These additional parameters may be helpful for resolving uncertainties, explaining outside drivers, optimizing project implementation, supporting decisions about corrective actions and other adaptive management of the project, and informing the planning of future DWH NRDA restoration projects. Tables E.9.1 and E.9.2 should not be considered exhaustive, and other parameters may be considered, as appropriate. See the complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters, Section E.3 above, for details on the core performance monitoring parameters including definitions, units, and other guidance.

**Table E.9.1. Core performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration under the Restore and Enhance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation restoration approach.**

Core performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area</li> <li>• Vegetation percent cover</li> <li>• Vegetation species composition</li> <li>• Vegetation survival<sup>a</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboveground biomass</li> <li>• Accretion</li> <li>• Belowground biomass</li> <li>• Current velocity</li> <li>• Floating aquatic vegetation (FAV) percent cover</li> <li>• Photosynthetically active radiation (PAR)</li> <li>• Salinity (surface water)</li> <li>• Secchi depth</li> <li>• Sediment nutrients</li> <li>• Sediment organic matter</li> <li>• Sediment texture</li> <li>• Shoot density</li> <li>• Temperature</li> <li>• Turbidity</li> <li>• Water level</li> <li>• Wave energy</li> </ul>

<sup>a</sup> If project is planted with vegetation.

**Table E.9.2. Performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration for projects with specific restoration objectives.** These would be collected in addition to the parameters listed in Table E.9.1.

Project-specific objective	Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
Restore sea floor elevation to promote SAV (water depth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elevation</li> <li>• Water Level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsidence</li> <li>• Currents</li> <li>• Wave energy</li> </ul>



Project-specific objective	Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
Promote regrowth of native SAV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area of Scarring (length, number, depth, and/or area of scars)<sup>a</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dissolved oxygen (DO)</li> <li>Light availability</li> <li>pH</li> <li>Salinity (surface water)</li> <li>Specific conductance</li> <li>Temperature</li> <li>TN (Total Nitrogen)</li> <li>TP (Total Phosphorus)</li> <li>Turbidity</li> <li>Water Level</li> </ul>
Increase or maintain nutrient levels to enhance SAV beds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structural integrity of constructed features (e.g., bird stakes, signage, and/or buoys)<sup>b</sup></li> <li>TN (Total Nitrogen)</li> <li>TP (Total Phosphorus)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydroperiod</li> <li>Tidal regime</li> </ul>
Increase or maintain water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dissolved oxygen (DO)</li> <li>pH</li> <li>Salinity (surface water)</li> <li>Specific conductance</li> <li>Temperature</li> <li>Turbidity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cloud cover</li> <li>Day length</li> <li>Discharge or velocity (water flow)</li> <li>Fetch</li> <li>Frequency and duration of storms</li> <li>Hydroperiod</li> <li>Tidal regime</li> </ul>
Reduce current velocity and wave action to protect or restore SAV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structural integrity and function of constructed features (e.g. oyster reefs)</li> <li>Wave height, period, and direction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currents</li> <li>Elevation</li> <li>Fetch</li> <li>Longshore drift and currents</li> <li>Sediment consolidation</li> </ul>
Increase the abundance of targeted injured species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targeted injured species abundance/density</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abundance of preferred food/prey species for targeted species</li> <li>Abundance/density of competing species, invasives, or predators for targeted species</li> <li>Reproductive capacity of targeted species</li> </ul>

<sup>a</sup> If project is addressing prop scars.

<sup>b</sup> If project includes the construction of structural features.

## References

Thayer, Gordon W., Teresa A. McTigue, Ronald J. Salz, David H. Merkey, Felicity M. Burrows, and Perry F. Gayaldo, (eds.). 2005. *Science-Based Restoration Monitoring of Coastal Habitats, Volume Two: Tools for Monitoring Coastal Habitats*. NOAA Coastal Ocean Program Decision Analysis Series No. 23. NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, Silver Spring, MD. 628 pp. plus appendices.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2017. *Effective Monitoring to Evaluate Ecological Restoration in the Gulf of Mexico*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. Doi:10.17226/23476.

## E.10. Restore Oyster Reef Habitat: Monitoring Guidance



*This guidance is intended to promote consistency in data collection among similar types of projects and allow for future analysis across TIGs and Restoration Types, (Section 10.6.2 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). This guidance may also assist the TIGs by providing recommended methodologies for monitoring restoration projects, saving time and money spent developing suitable monitoring protocols for individual restoration projects. If adjustments from this monitoring guidance are needed for a particular project, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). Project teams within each TIG will identify parameters applicable to the objectives for each individual restoration project when developing the project MAM Plan. In addition to the project monitoring guidance identified in this Manual, specific monitoring may be required to comply with permits granted by regulatory agencies. The TIGs are not restricted from adding additional parameters, and other project monitoring that may be needed for specific projects should be determined by the TIGs.*

*The Cross-TIG MAM work group developed this monitoring guidance by following the process described in the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Procedures and Guidelines Manual Version 1.0 (MAM Manual Version 1.0; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2017). This new guidance is being released as a supplement to MAM Manual Version 1.0.*

This guidance is intended to assist the TIGs in developing MAM Plans for restoration projects, as appropriate. Specifically, it provides:

- Examples of Restoration Techniques
- Guidance on example restoration objectives, example drivers, and example uncertainties
- Guidance on core performance monitoring parameters for projects within the Restoration Approach
- Guidance on supplemental performance monitoring parameters for specific restoration objectives

The monitoring parameters identified within a Restore Oyster Reef Habitat project MAM Plan should be consistent with the recommended monitoring defined within this guidance document, wherever appropriate. Depending on the nature of the restoration project, TIGs may also choose not to include some of the elements described in this guidance document (e.g., drivers, uncertainties). If adjustments from the monitoring guidance are needed, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016b). The guidance provided in this document should not be considered exhaustive. Therefore, TIGs may develop project-level objectives, drivers, uncertainties, and monitoring parameters that have not been previously identified. The TIGs will develop MAM objectives and monitoring parameters that pertain to their restoration activities, and will determine the frequency and duration of monitoring and the associated budget they

deem appropriate. This guidance may change as new monitoring parameters, methods, and technologies are identified and/or developed. Additional guidance may be found in the Strategic Framework for Oyster Restoration Activities (DWH NRDA Trustees, 2017).

The monitoring parameters recommended in this guidance document are further detailed in Attachment E Section E.3, which includes a complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters identified by the Cross-TIG MAM work group and guidance on measurement unit(s) and monitoring methods. Guidance on monitoring locations, frequencies, durations of sampling and potential analyses is also provided where appropriate.

### **E.10.1. Restoration Techniques**

Restoration Techniques are specific restoration actions the Trustees identified for each of the Restoration Approaches. Restoration Techniques may be used individually or in combination. See Appendix 5.D of the PDARP/PEIS (DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a). The following are example Restoration Techniques included in the PDARP/PEIS for this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional Restoration Techniques may be identified and/or developed.

1. Restore or create oyster reefs through placement of cultch in nearshore and subtidal areas.
2. Construct living shorelines.
3. Enhance oyster reef productivity through spawning stock enhancement projects such as planting hatchery raised oysters, relocating wild oysters to restoration sites, oyster gardening programs, and other similar projects.
4. Develop a network of oyster reef spawning reserves.

### **E.10.2. Example Project-Level Restoration Objectives**

Project-level restoration objectives should be specific to the resource injuries and clearly specify the desired outcome(s) of the restoration project (15 CFR § 990.55(b)(2)). See Section 2.4.1 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing restoration objectives. The following are example project-level restoration objectives that may apply to one or more of the above-mentioned Restoration Techniques. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional objectives may be developed and/or identified.

- Increase reef height and/or area through cultch placement
- Establish new or increase capacity of existing shell recycling programs to increase amount of shell available for restoration
- Reduce wave energy reaching the shoreline
- Create substrate for colonization by oysters and other reef organisms
- Provide shelter for reef-dwelling organisms
- Re-establish ecological connections at the land-water interface
- Increase density of spawning-size oysters
- Create spawning reserves that are protected from harvest
- Enhance survival, growth, and reproduction of oysters

### **E.10.3. Example Drivers**

Drivers are outside forces, natural or anthropogenic, that have the potential to influence the outcome(s) of a restoration project. Drivers tend to be large-scale, long-term forces that are not easily controlled at the scale of a single restoration project (Harwell et al., 2016). See Section 2.4.2 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing the conceptual setting for a MAM Plan, including identifying drivers. The following are example drivers that may be

applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional drivers may be identified.

- Salinity
- Dissolved oxygen concentration
- Temperature
- Pollution
- Phytoplankton
- Harmful algal blooms
- pH
- Disease
- Larval transport (currents)
- Bottom hardness
- Sedimentation
- Wave exposure
- Tidal position
- Sea level rise
- Subsidence of cultch
- Commercial harvest
- Predation
- Competition for space or food
- Water management practices affecting local water quality
- Natural resource management policies

#### **E.10.4. Example Uncertainties**

Uncertainties or information gaps have the potential to affect adaptive management decisions for individual or multiple restoration projects. These decisions may include how to improve the likelihood of achieving favorable project outcomes or selecting corrective actions in the event a project is not performing as intended. See Section 2.4.3 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on identifying potential sources of uncertainty for a MAM Plan. The following are example uncertainties that may be applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional uncertainties may be identified.

- Cultch availability and cost
- Freshet frequency and severity
- Illegal harvest
- Coastal acidification trends
- Adjacent land use
- Spatial (horizontal and vertical) effects from anoxia events
- Effects from local resource management, such as water or sediment diversions
- Most effective way to restore oysters

#### **Guidance on Developing Parameters for Project-Level Performance**

This section includes two types of monitoring parameters for consideration under the Restore Oyster Reef Habitat Approach:

1. Core performance monitoring parameters applicable to projects within a Restoration Approach (core performance monitoring parameters are those used consistently across projects in order to facilitate the aggregation of project monitoring results and the evaluation of restoration progress for each Restoration Type; Appendix 5.E.4 of PDARP/PEIS; DWH NRDA, 2016a).

2. Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters that are only applicable to projects with a particular restoration objective.

Additional adaptive management and/or validation monitoring parameters for consideration have also been identified. These additional parameters may be helpful for resolving uncertainties, explaining outside drivers, optimizing project implementation, supporting decisions about corrective actions and other adaptive management of the project, and informing the planning of future DWH NRDA restoration projects. Tables E.10.1 and E.10.2 should not be considered exhaustive, and other parameters may be considered, as appropriate. See the complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters for details on the core performance monitoring parameters including definitions, units, and other guidance.

**Table E.10.1. Core performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration under the Restore Oyster Habitat Restoration Approach.**

Category	Core performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
Reef dimensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project footprint (m<sup>2</sup>)</li> <li>• Reef area (m<sup>2</sup>)</li> <li>• Reef height (m)</li> <li>• Reef volume (m<sup>3</sup>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low tide exposure</li> <li>• Reef rugosity</li> <li>• Reef patchiness</li> <li>• Consolidation rate/subsidence of reef structure</li> <li>• Substrate type, amount, and condition</li> </ul>
Oyster demography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Density of live and dead oysters (# of oysters/m<sup>2</sup>)</li> <li>• Size frequency distribution (shell height, mm)</li> <li>• Mortality (%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth rates</li> <li>• Recruitment</li> <li>• Shell volume (for determination of shell budget)</li> <li>• Dermo disease prevalence and intensity</li> </ul>
Benthic predatory, pest, or competitive species		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence, density, or percent cover of predatory, pest, or competitive species</li> </ul>
Environmental conditions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water temperature</li> <li>• Salinity</li> <li>• Dissolved oxygen</li> <li>• pH</li> <li>• Turbidity</li> <li>• Total suspended solids</li> <li>• Chlorophyll <i>a</i></li> <li>• Flow rate</li> </ul>

**Table E.10.2. Performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration for projects with specific restoration objectives.** These would be measured in addition to the parameters listed in Table E.10.1.

Project-specific objective	Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
Habitat enhancement for fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species composition, density (# of individuals/m<sup>2</sup>) or catch per unit effort (CPUE), and size (length (mm), biomass (g), etc.) of target faunal species/groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified</li> </ul>
Living shorelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shoreline position</li> <li>Shoreline loss or gain (m<sup>2</sup>/year, calculated)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shoreline elevation change</li> <li>Marsh vegetation species composition, density, and percent cover</li> <li>Wave height</li> </ul>
Increased reef productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oyster larval settlement (# of spat/m<sup>2</sup> per day or # of spat/m<sup>2</sup>)</li> <li>Density of "large" (defined based on local conditions) oysters (# of large oysters/m<sup>2</sup>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gonad development status</li> <li>Sex ratio</li> </ul>

## References

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016a. *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill: Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP) and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). Available: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan>.

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016b. Trustee Council Standard Operating Procedures for Implementation of the Natural Resource Restoration for the *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) Oil Spill. Originally approved May 4, 2016; revised November 15, 2016. Available: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/TC%20SOP%202.0%20with%20appendices.pdf>

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2017. *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment: Strategic Framework for Oyster Restoration Activities. June. Available: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan>.

Harwell, M.A., J.H. Gentile, L.D. McKinney, J.W. Tunnell Jr., W.C. Dennison, and R.H. Kelsey. 2016. A New Framework for the Gulf of Mexico EcoHealth Metrics. Available: <http://www.harverresearchinstitute.org/sites/default/files/resources/Framework%20for%20the%20Gulf%20EcoHealth%20Metric.pdf>.



## E.11. Enhance Public Access to Natural Resources for Recreational Use: Monitoring Guidance



*This guidance is intended to promote consistency in data collection among similar types of projects and allow for future analysis across TIGs and Restoration Types, (Section 10.6.2 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). This guidance may also assist the TIGs by providing recommended methodologies for monitoring restoration projects, saving time and money spent developing suitable monitoring protocols for individual restoration projects. If adjustments from this monitoring guidance are needed for a particular project, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). Project teams within each TIG will identify parameters applicable to the objectives for each individual restoration project when developing the project MAM Plan. In addition to the project monitoring guidance identified in this Manual, specific monitoring may be required to comply with permits granted by regulatory agencies. The TIGs are not restricted from adding additional parameters, and other project monitoring that may be needed for specific projects should be determined by the TIGs.*

*The Cross-TIG MAM developed this monitoring guidance by following the process described in the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Procedures and Guidelines Manual Version 1.0 (MAM Manual Version 1.0; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2017).*

This guidance is intended to assist the TIGs in developing MAM Plans for restoration projects, as appropriate. Specifically, it provides:

- Examples of Restoration Techniques
- Guidance on example restoration objectives, example drivers, and example uncertainties
- Guidance on core performance monitoring parameters for projects within the Restoration Approach
- Guidance on supplemental performance monitoring parameters for specific restoration objectives.

The monitoring parameters identified within a project MAM Plan should be consistent with the recommended monitoring defined within this guidance document, wherever appropriate. Depending on the nature of the restoration project, TIGs may choose not to include some of the elements described in this guidance document (e.g., drivers, uncertainties). If adjustments from the monitoring guidance are needed, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016b). The guidance provided should not be considered exhaustive. Therefore, TIGs may develop project-level objectives, drivers, uncertainties, and monitoring parameters that have not been previously identified. The TIGs will develop MAM objectives and monitoring parameters that pertain to their restoration activities; and will determine the frequency and duration of monitoring, and the associated budget they deem appropriate. Finally, this section is subject to

change as new monitoring parameters, methods, and technologies are identified and/or developed.

The monitoring parameters recommended in this guidance document are further detailed in Attachment E Section E.3, which includes a complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters identified by the Cross-TIG MAM work group and guidance on measurement unit(s) and monitoring methods. Guidance on monitoring locations, frequencies, durations of sampling and potential analyses is also provided where appropriate.

### E.11.1. Restoration Techniques

Restoration Techniques are specific restoration actions the Trustees identified for each of the Restoration Approaches. Restoration Techniques may be used individually or in combination. See Appendix 5.D of the PDARP/PEIS (DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a). The following are example Restoration Techniques included in the PDARP/PEIS for this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional Restoration Techniques may be developed and/or identified.<sup>4</sup>

1. Acquire land to serve as public access points
2. Enhance or construct infrastructure (e.g., boat ramps, piers, boardwalks, dune crossovers, camp sites, educational/interpretive spaces, navigational channel improvements and dredging, safe harbors, navigational aids, ferry services, rebuilding of previously damaged or destroyed facilities, promenades, trails, roads and bridges to access natural resources, and marina pump out stations).

### E.11.2. Example Project-Level Restoration Objectives

Project-level restoration objectives should be specific to the resource injuries and clearly specify the desired outcome(s) of the restoration project (15 CFR § 990.55(b)(2)). See Section 2.4.1 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing restoration objectives. The following are example project-level restoration objectives that may apply to one or more of the above-mentioned Restoration Techniques. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional objectives may be developed and/or identified.

- Reduce or eliminate the potential for development to enhance access
- Increase access for recreational use through acquisition
- Enhance public access through infrastructure development
- Enhance public access by increasing visitor use of protected or enhanced lands
- Enhance public access by improving visitor satisfaction of the availability of recreational opportunities/protected lands
- Enhance public access by increasing access to wildlife-viewing opportunities by protecting wildlife habitat
- Minimize negative impacts on local community (e.g., noise, debris).

### E.11.3. Example Drivers

Drivers are outside forces, natural or anthropogenic, that have the potential to influence the outcomes of a restoration project. Drivers tend to be large-scale, long-term forces that are not easily controlled at the scale of a single restoration project (Harwell et al., 2016). See Section 2.4.2 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing the conceptual

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4. An additional technique that could be utilized under this approach is artificial reefs.

setting for a MAM Plan, including identifying drivers. The following are example drivers that may be applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional drivers may be identified.

- Development and changes in land use
- Seller motivation
- Public acceptance and use
- Frequency and intensity of hurricanes
- Infrastructure development
- Public interest or need.

#### **E.11.4. Example Uncertainties**

Uncertainties or information gaps have the potential to affect adaptive management decisions for individual or multiple restoration projects. These decisions may include how to improve the likelihood of achieving favorable project outcomes or selecting corrective actions in the event a project is not performing as intended. See Section 2.4.3 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on identifying potential sources of uncertainty for a MAM Plan. The following are example uncertainties that may be applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional uncertainties may be identified.

- Ability to acquire the land (e.g., willingness of sellers)
- Increased use of the area
- Ability to attract public use of the area
- Potential need for ecological restoration (e.g., as a result of increased use of the area)
- Potential impact on local community (e.g., noise related to having too many visitors, trash).

#### **E.11.5. Guidance on Developing Parameters for Project-Level Performance**

This section includes two types of monitoring parameters for consideration under the Enhance Public Access to Natural Resources for Recreational Use Restoration Approach:

1. Core performance monitoring parameters applicable to projects within a Restoration Approach (core performance monitoring parameters are those used consistently across projects in order to facilitate the aggregation of project monitoring results and the evaluation of restoration progress for each Restoration Type; Appendix 5.E.4 of PDARP/PEIS; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a)
2. Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters that are only applicable to projects with a particular restoration objective.

Additional adaptive management and/or validation monitoring parameters for consideration have also been identified. These additional parameters may be helpful for resolving uncertainties, explaining outside drivers, optimizing project implementation, supporting decisions about corrective actions and other adaptive management of the project, and informing the planning of future DWH NRDA restoration projects. Tables E.11.1 and E.11.2 should not be considered exhaustive, and other parameters may be considered, as appropriate. See the complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters, Section E.3 above, for details on the core performance monitoring parameters including definitions, units, and other guidance.

**Table E.11.1. Core performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration under the Enhance Public Access to Natural Resources for Recreational Use Restoration Approach**

Core performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area (for land acquisition projects)</li> <li>• Visitor use/access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connectivity</li> <li>• Economic benefit</li> </ul>

**Table E.11.2. Performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration for projects with specific restoration objectives.** These would be collected in addition to the parameters listed in Table E.11.1.

Project-specific objective	Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
Enhance access through land acquisition, if lands may be closed for a period of time during the year (for various reasons such as beach closures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right of entry</li> </ul>	None identified
Enhance access through infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure or habitat constructed and/or enhanced and completed as designed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational activities utilized by public (nature and extent)</li> </ul>
Increase visitor use of recreational activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational activities utilized by public (nature and extent)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildlife behavior response</li> </ul>
Improve visitor satisfaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor satisfaction</li> <li>• Recreational activities utilized by public (nature and extent)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildlife behavior response</li> </ul>
Enhance wildlife-viewing opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational activities utilized by public (nature and extent)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildlife behavior response</li> <li>• Physical disturbance (local)</li> </ul>
Improve local citizen satisfaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor satisfaction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic benefit</li> <li>• Physical disturbance (local)</li> </ul>

## References

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016a. *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill: Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP) and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). Available: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan>.

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016b. Trustee Council Standard Operating Procedures for Implementation of the Natural Resource Restoration for the *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) Oil Spill. Originally approved May 4, 2016; revised November 15, 2016.

Harwell, M.A., J.H. Gentile, L.D. McKinney, J.W. Tunnell Jr., W.C. Dennison, and R.H. Kelsey. 2016. A New Framework for the Gulf of Mexico EcoHealth Metrics. Available: <http://www.hartheresearchinstitute.org/sites/default/files/resources/Framework%20for%20the%20Gulf%20EcoHealth%20Metric.pdf>.

## E.12. Enhance Recreational Experiences: Monitoring Guidance



*This guidance is intended to promote consistency in data collection among similar types of projects and allow for future analysis across TIGs and Restoration Types, (Section 10.6.2 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). This guidance may also assist the TIGs by providing recommended methodologies for monitoring restoration projects, saving time and money spent developing suitable monitoring protocols for individual restoration projects. If adjustments from this monitoring guidance are needed for a particular project, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). Project teams within each TIG will identify parameters applicable to the objectives for each individual restoration project when developing the project MAM Plan. In addition to the project monitoring guidance identified in this Manual, specific monitoring may be required to comply with permits granted by regulatory agencies. The TIGs are not restricted from adding additional parameters, and other project monitoring that may be needed for specific projects should be determined by the TIGs.*

*The Cross-TIG MAM developed this monitoring guidance by following the process described in the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Procedures and Guidelines Manual Version 1.0 (MAM Manual Version 1.0; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2017).*

This guidance is intended to assist the TIGs in developing MAM Plans for restoration projects, as appropriate. Specifically, this document provides:

- Examples of Restoration Techniques
- Guidance on example restoration objectives, example drivers, and example uncertainties
- Guidance on core performance monitoring parameters for projects within the Restoration Approach
- Guidance on supplemental performance monitoring parameters for specific restoration objectives.

The monitoring parameters identified within a project MAM Plan should be consistent with the recommended monitoring defined within this guidance document, wherever appropriate. Depending on the nature of the restoration project, TIGs may choose not to include some of the elements described in this guidance document (e.g., drivers, uncertainties). If adjustments from the monitoring guidance are needed, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016b). The guidance provided should not be considered exhaustive. Therefore, TIGs may develop project-level objectives, drivers, uncertainties, and monitoring parameters that have not been previously identified. The TIGs will develop MAM objectives and monitoring parameters that pertain to their restoration activities; and will determine the frequency and duration of monitoring, and the associated budget they deem appropriate. Finally, this section is subject to



change as new monitoring parameters, methods, and technologies are identified and/or developed.

The monitoring parameters recommended in this guidance document are further detailed in Attachment E Section E.3, which includes a complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters identified by the Cross-TIG MAM work group and guidance on measurement unit(s) and monitoring methods. Guidance on monitoring locations, frequencies, durations of sampling and potential analyses is also provided where appropriate.

### E.12.1. Restoration Techniques

Restoration Techniques are specific restoration actions the Trustees identified for each of the Restoration Approaches. Restoration Techniques may be used individually or in combination. See Appendix 5.D of the PDARP/PEIS (DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a). The following are example Restoration Techniques included in the PDARP/PEIS for this Restoration Approach to enhance experiences such as swimming, boating, bird watching, hiking, beach-going, snorkeling, or scuba diving. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional Restoration Techniques may be developed and/or identified.<sup>5</sup>

1. Place stone, concrete, or permissible materials to create artificial reef structures
2. Enhance recreational fishing opportunities through aquaculture
3. Reduce and remove land-based debris.

### E.12.2. Example Project-Level Restoration Objectives

Project-level restoration objectives should be specific to the resource injuries and clearly specify the desired outcome(s) of the restoration project (15 CFR § 990.55(b)(2)). See Section 2.4.1 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing restoration objectives. The following are example project-level restoration objectives that may apply to one or more of the above-mentioned Restoration Techniques. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional objectives may be developed and/or identified.

- Enhance fishing, snorkeling, and scuba-diving opportunities and experiences
- Enhance swimming opportunities and experiences
- Enhance beach-going experiences
- Enhance hiking opportunities and experiences
- Enhance bird watching opportunities and experiences
- Enhance coastal visitors' experiences by reducing land-based debris
- Protect coastal wildlife by reducing land-based debris.

### E.12.3. Example Drivers

Drivers are outside forces, natural or anthropogenic, that have the potential to influence the outcome(s) of a restoration project. Drivers tend to be large-scale, long-term forces that are not easily controlled at the scale of a single restoration project (Harwell et al., 2016). See Section 2.4.2 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing the conceptual setting for a MAM Plan, including identifying drivers. The following are example drivers that may

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5. Due to the diverse nature of possible techniques under this Restoration Approach, we acknowledge that the specific methodologies and units used to collect monitoring information for the core parameter (i.e., visitor satisfaction surveys) may vary, and therefore visitor satisfaction surveys may not be used in all instances.



be applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional drivers may be identified.

- Infrastructure development
- Human attachment to or interest in recreational activities
- Time and resources (e.g., income, transportation) available to participate in recreational activities
- Weather and climate events that limit time recreational activities
- State of economy
- Population trends.

#### **E.12.4. Example Uncertainties**

Uncertainties or information gaps have the potential to affect adaptive management decisions for individual or multiple restoration projects. These decisions may include how to improve the likelihood of achieving favorable project outcomes or selecting corrective actions in the event a project is not performing as intended. See Section 2.4.3 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on identifying potential sources of uncertainty for a MAM Plan. The following are example uncertainties that may be applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional uncertainties may be identified.

- Ability to attract public use of the area
- Potential need for ecological restoration (e.g., as a result of increased use of the area)
- Potential negative impacts on wildlife resulting from recreational uses
- Potential impact on local community (e.g., noise related to having too many visitors, trash).

#### **E.12.5. Guidance on Developing Parameters for Project-Level Performance**

This section includes two types of monitoring parameters for consideration under the Enhance Recreational Experiences Restoration Approach:

1. Core performance monitoring parameters applicable to projects within a Restoration Approach (core performance monitoring parameters are those used consistently across projects in order to facilitate the aggregation of project monitoring results and the evaluation of restoration progress for each Restoration Type; Appendix 5.E.4 of PDARP/PEIS; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a)
2. Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters that are only applicable to projects with a particular restoration objective.

Additional adaptive management and/or validation monitoring parameters for consideration have also been identified. These additional parameters may be helpful for resolving uncertainties, explaining outside drivers, optimizing project implementation, supporting decisions about corrective actions and other adaptive management of the project, and informing the planning of future DWH NRDA restoration projects. Tables E.12.1 and E.12.2 should not be considered exhaustive, and other parameters may be considered, as appropriate. See the complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters, Section E.3 above, for details on the core performance monitoring parameters including definitions, units, and other guidance.

**Table E.12.1. Core performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration under the Enhance Recreational Experiences Restoration Approach**

Core performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor satisfaction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor use/access (especially for larger projects)</li> <li>• Economic benefit</li> <li>• Area</li> </ul>

**Table E.12.2. Performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration for projects with specific restoration objectives.** These would be collected in addition to the parameters listed in Table E.12.1.

Project-specific objective	Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
Enhancement through infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure or habitat constructed and/or enhanced and completed as designed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor use/access</li> </ul>
Enhancement through marine debris removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine debris</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor use/access</li> <li>• Area</li> </ul>

## References

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016a. *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill: Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP) and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). Available: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan>

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016b. Trustee Council Standard Operating Procedures for Implementation of the Natural Resource Restoration for the *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) Oil Spill. Originally approved May 4, 2016; revised November 15, 2016.

Harwell, M.A., J.H. Gentile, L.D. McKinney, J.W. Tunnell Jr., W.C. Dennison, and R.H. Kelsey. 2016. A New Framework for the Gulf of Mexico EcoHealth Metrics. Available: <http://www.hartheresearchinstitute.org/sites/default/files/resources/Framework%20for%20the%20Gulf%20EcoHealth%20Metric.pdf>

## E.13. Promote Environmental Stewardship, Education, and Outreach: Monitoring Guidance



*This guidance is intended to promote consistency in data collection among similar types of projects and allow for future analysis across TIGs and Restoration Types, (Section 10.6.2 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). This guidance may also assist the TIGs by providing recommended methodologies for monitoring restoration projects, saving time and money spent developing suitable monitoring protocols for individual restoration projects. If adjustments from this monitoring guidance are needed for a particular project, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016). Project teams within each TIG will identify parameters applicable to the objectives for each individual restoration project when developing the project MAM Plan. In addition to the project monitoring guidance identified in this Manual, specific monitoring may be required to comply with permits granted by regulatory agencies. The TIGs are not restricted from adding additional parameters, and other project monitoring that may be needed for specific projects should be determined by the TIGs.*

*The Cross-TIG MAM developed this monitoring guidance by following the process described in the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Procedures and Guidelines Manual Version 1.0 (MAM Manual Version 1.0; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2017).*

This guidance is intended to assist the TIGs in developing MAM Plans for restoration projects, as appropriate. Specifically, this section provides:

- Examples of Restoration Techniques
- Guidance on example restoration objectives, example drivers, and example uncertainties
- Guidance on core performance monitoring parameters for projects within the Restoration Approach
- Guidance on supplemental performance monitoring parameters for specific restoration objectives.

The monitoring parameters identified within a project MAM Plan should be consistent with the recommended monitoring defined within this guidance document, wherever appropriate. Depending on the nature of the restoration project, TIGs may choose not to include some of the elements described in this guidance document (e.g., drivers, uncertainties). If adjustments from the monitoring guidance are needed, these adjustments should be described in the project-specific MAM Plan and agreed to by the TIG (Section 10.6.3 of SOP; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016b). The guidance provided should not be considered exhaustive. Therefore, TIGs may develop project-level objectives, drivers, uncertainties, and monitoring parameters that have not been previously identified. The TIGs will develop MAM objectives and monitoring parameters that pertain to their restoration activities; and will determine the frequency and duration of monitoring, and the associated budget they deem appropriate. Finally, this section is subject to

change as new monitoring parameters, methods, and technologies are identified and/or developed.

The monitoring parameters recommended in this guidance document are further detailed in Attachment E Section E.3, which includes a complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters identified by the Cross-TIG MAM work group and guidance on measurement unit(s) and monitoring methods. Guidance on monitoring locations, frequencies, durations of sampling and potential analyses is also provided where appropriate.

### **E.13.1. Restoration Techniques**

Restoration Techniques are specific restoration actions the Trustees identified for each of the Restoration Approaches. Restoration Techniques may be used individually or in combination. See Appendix 5.D of the PDARP/PEIS (DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a). The following are example Restoration Techniques included in the PDARP/PEIS for this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional Restoration Techniques may be developed and/or identified.

1. Create or enhance natural resource-related education facilities
2. Create or enhance natural resource-related education programs.

### **E.13.2. Example Project-Level Restoration Objectives**

Project-level restoration objectives should be specific to the resource injuries and clearly specify the desired outcome(s) of the restoration project (15 CFR § 990.55(b)(2)). See Section 2.4.1 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing restoration objectives. The following are example project-level restoration objectives that may apply to one or more of the above-mentioned Restoration Techniques. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional objectives may be developed and/or identified.

- Increase access to environmental education and outreach opportunities
- Increase visitor use of educational resources and opportunities
- Improve visitors' satisfaction with the educational resources and opportunities provided
- Increase production and distribution of outreach materials
- Educate visitors about natural resources and restoration
- Increase public interest in and understanding of the natural science and environment of the Gulf coastal region.

### **E.13.3. Example Drivers**

Drivers are outside forces, natural or anthropogenic, that have the potential to influence the outcomes of a restoration project. Drivers tend to be large-scale, long-term forces that are not easily controlled at the scale of a single restoration project (Harwell et al., 2016). See Section 2.4.2 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on establishing the conceptual setting for a MAM Plan, including identifying drivers. The following are example drivers that may be applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional drivers may be identified.

- Lack of understanding of the natural science, resources, and environment of the Gulf coastal region
- Lack of understanding of marine ecosystems
- Human attachment to or interest in the environment
- Public opinion of environmental issues

- Time and resources (e.g., income, transportation) available to take advantage of educational or recreational opportunities
- State of economy
- Population trends
- Interest or need in the educational facilities and programs.

#### E.13.4. Example Uncertainties

Uncertainties or information gaps have the potential to affect adaptive management decisions for individual or multiple restoration projects. These decisions may include how to improve the likelihood of achieving favorable project outcomes or selecting corrective actions in the event a project is not performing as intended. See Section 2.4.3 of the MAM Manual Version 1.0 for guidance on identifying sources of uncertainty for a MAM Plan. The following are example uncertainties that may be applicable to this Restoration Approach. This list should not be considered exhaustive; additional uncertainties may be identified.

- Ability to attract public interest and use of the area
- Potential negative impacts on local community (e.g., noise related to having too many visitors, trash)
- Potential negative impacts to the surrounding environment
- Optimum location of outreach materials or opportunities to maximize public access or participation
- Optimum medium to communicate information (e.g., visual, written, oral materials, information)
- Weather and climate events that limit ability to travel to or access educational or recreational opportunities.

#### E.13.5. Guidance on Developing Parameters for Project-Level Performance

This section includes two types of monitoring parameters for consideration under the Promote Environmental Stewardship, Education, and Outreach Restoration Approach:

1. Core performance monitoring parameters applicable to projects within a Restoration Approach (core performance monitoring parameters are those used consistently across projects in order to facilitate the aggregation of project monitoring results and the evaluation of restoration progress for each Restoration Type; Appendix 5.E.4 of PDARP/PEIS; DWH NRDA Trustees, 2016a)
2. Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters that are only applicable to projects with a particular restoration objective.

Additional adaptive management and/or validation monitoring parameters for consideration have also been identified. These additional parameters may be helpful for resolving uncertainties, explaining outside drivers, optimizing project implementation, supporting decisions about corrective actions and other adaptive management of the project, and informing the planning of future DWH NRDA restoration projects. Tables E.13.1 and E.13.2 should not be considered exhaustive, and other parameters may be considered, as appropriate. See the complete list of core- and objective-specific monitoring parameters, Section E.3 above, for details on the core performance monitoring parameters including definitions, units, and other guidance.

**Table E.13.1. Core performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration under the Promote Environmental Stewardship, Education, and Outreach Restoration Approach**

Core performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor use and access</li> <li>• Nature and extent of educational materials or programs produced and distributed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor satisfaction</li> </ul>

**Table E.13.2. Performance monitoring parameters and additional parameters for consideration for projects with specific restoration objectives.** These would be collected in addition to the parameters listed in Table E.13.1.

Project-specific objective	Objective-specific performance monitoring parameters	Parameters for consideration (as appropriate)
Enhancement through education-related infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure or habitat constructed and/or enhanced and completed as designed</li> <li>• Right of entry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor satisfaction</li> </ul>
Increasing public's interest in and understanding of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor satisfaction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic benefits</li> </ul>

## References

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016a. *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill: Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP) and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). Available: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan>.

DWH NRDA Trustees. 2016b. Trustee Council Standard Operating Procedures for Implementation of the Natural Resource Restoration for the *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) Oil Spill. Originally approved May 4, 2016; revised November 15, 2016.

Harwell, M.A., J.H. Gentile, L.D. McKinney, J.W. Tunnell Jr., W.C. Dennison, and R.H. Kelsey. 2016. A New Framework for the Gulf of Mexico EcoHealth Metrics. Available: <http://www.hartheresearchinstitute.org/sites/default/files/resources/Framework%20for%20the%20Gulf%20EcoHealth%20Metric.pdf>.