Louisiana TIG Draft Restoration Plan/ Environmental Assessment #5

Living Coastal and Marine Resources – Marine Mammals and Oysters

Credit: NOAA Under MMPA Permit No 14450

Credit: LDWF

PLAN DESCRIPTION

The *Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment (RP/EA) #5 Living Coastal and Marine Resources – Marine Mammals and Oysters* describes the *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) oil spill restoration planning process, evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, and identifies four preferred alternatives that would best help compensate the public for injuries to oysters and marine mammals caused by the DWH oil spill in the Louisiana restoration area. The preferred alternatives include brood reef, cultch plant, and hatchery-based oyster restoration projects, as well as support of the Louisiana Marine Mammal Stranding Network. These preferred alternatives are described in detail in the Draft RP/EA #5 and are summarized on page 2 of this factsheet.

The public is encouraged to review and comment on the Draft RP/EA #5 by submitting comments online, by mail, or in person at the public meeting.

- Online: http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana.
- By mail (hard copy), addressed to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 29649, Atlanta, GA 30345.
- During the public webinar on April 8th.

ESTIMATED COSTS

The estimated total cost for the four preferred alternatives is approximately $28,717,075. Specific project costs are summarized on page 2 of this factsheet.

PROPOSED RESTORATION PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST
Increasing Capacity and Expanding Partnerships along the Louisiana Coastline for Marine Mammal Stranding Response	The objective of this alternative is to enhance the capacity of the Louisiana Marine Mammal Stranding Network (MMSN). This alternative would expand the MMSN's response capabilities along the Louisiana coastline, improve the ability to rapidly diagnose causes of marine mammal morbidity and mortality, and develop and increase the infrastructure needed to respond to major stranding events or disasters.	$3,095,628
Enhancing Oyster Recovery Using Brood Reefs	The objective of this alternative is to develop a network of non-harvestable brood reefs to increase spawning oyster populations. The alternative entails constructing multiple brood reefs in the Lake Machais/Mozambique Point area, Petit Pass/Bay Boudreaux area, and Chandeleur Sound. Funding is included for construction of brood reefs at other sites on Public Oyster Seed Grounds (POSG) and Public Oyster Seed Reservations (POSR) within Louisiana in the future.	$9,701,447
Cultch Plant Oyster Restoration	The objective of this alternative is to create oyster reefs through the placement of cultch, thereby increasing oyster abundance and spawning stocks. This alternative entails placing cultch at several Louisiana locations with relic reefs, targeting sites on POSG in the Grand Banks area of Mississippi Sound, POSR in Caillou Lake (i.e., Sister Lake) in Terrebonne Parish. Funding is included for additional cultch plants within the Biloxi Marsh Complex in St. Bernard Parish and other POSGs or POSRs in the future.	$10,070,000
Hatchery-based Oyster Restoration	The objective of this alternative is to enhance Louisiana oyster reef productivity and spawning stock through hatchery production of oyster larvae, planting hatchery-raised oysters, and relocating oysters to restoration sites. This alternative would provide 10 years of operational funds for the Michael C. Voisin Oyster Hatchery in Grand Isle, Louisiana and would provide larvae and seed resources for restoration and water-based oyster culture in Louisiana. Twenty-five percent of annual hatchery production would be dedicated to non-harvestable restoration efforts.	$5,850,000