Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group

Draft Restoration Plan & Environmental Assessment #5: *Living Coastal and Marine Resources – Marine Mammals and Oysters*

Public Webinar

April 8, 2020

Today's Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction
- Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group Update
- Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #5
- Public Comment

Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group Update

Louisiana Restoration Area Representatives

Brady Carter
State of Louisiana

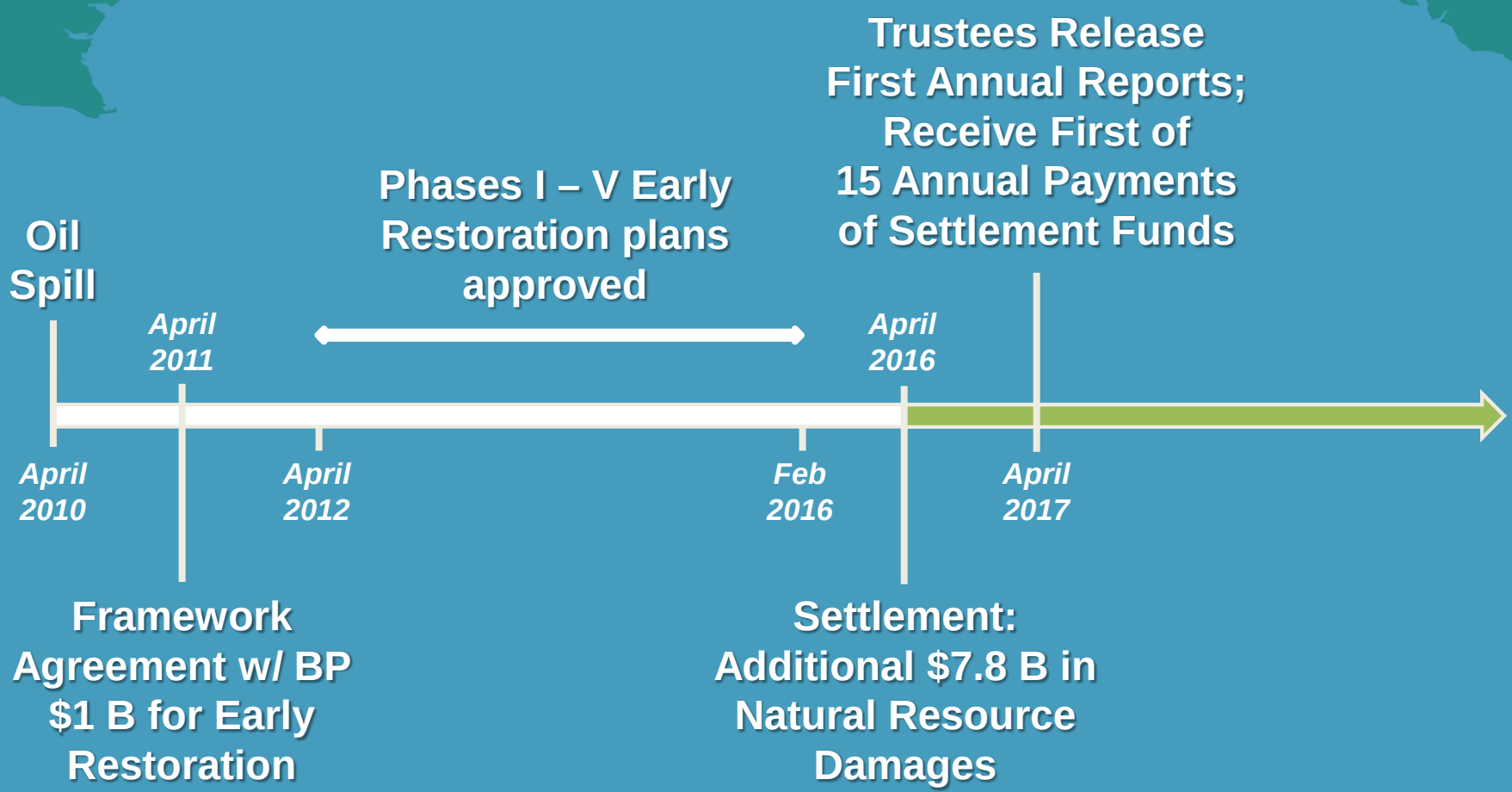
John Tirpak
Department of the Interior

Mel Landry
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Doug Jacobson
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ron Howard
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Timeline of Key Events



Governance

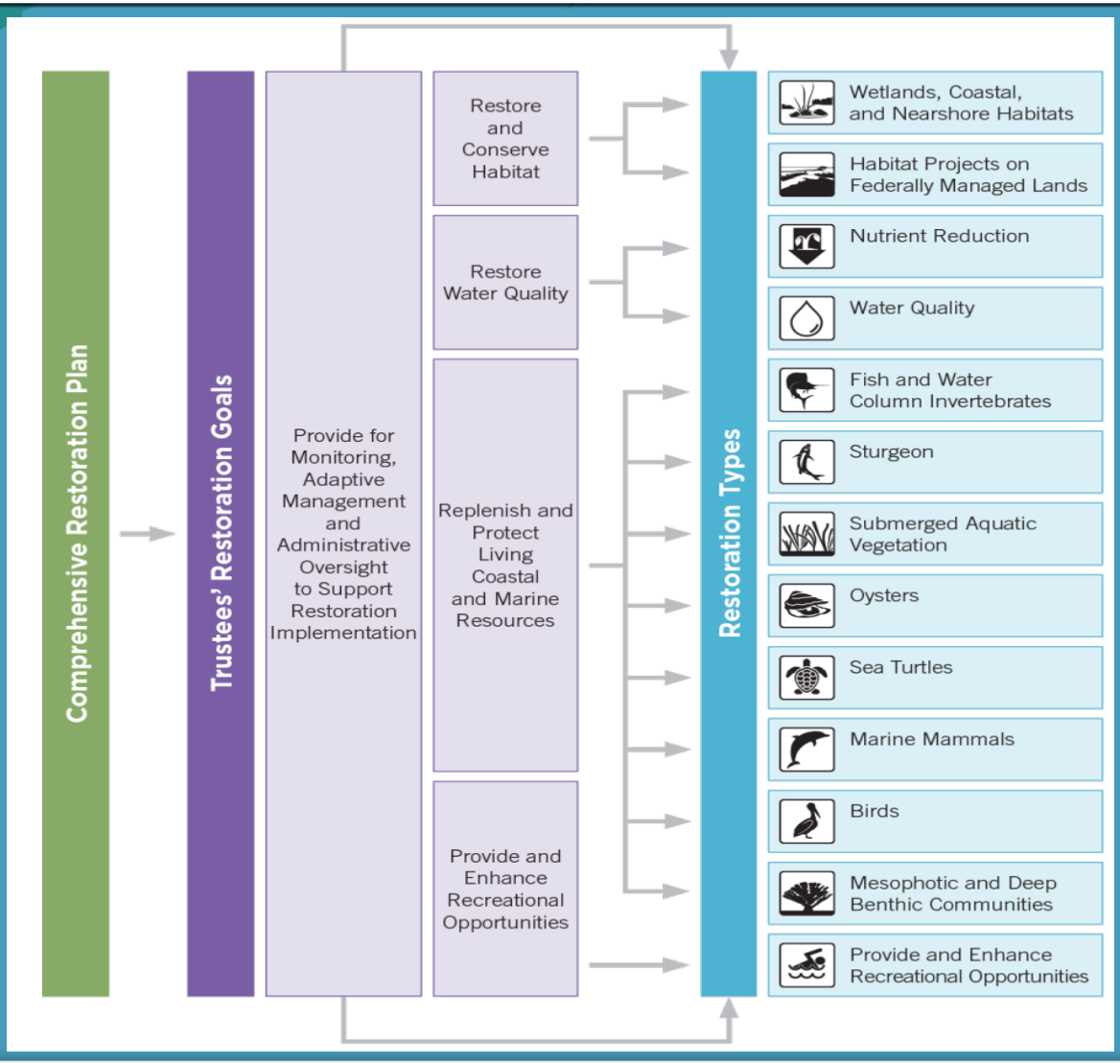
Trustee Council

Trustee Implementation Groups

Texas	Louisiana	Mississippi	Alabama	Florida	Region-wide	Open Ocean	Adaptive Management and Unknown Conditions
Trustees for Texas	*Trustees for Louisiana*	*Trustee for Mississippi*	*Trustees for Alabama*	*Trustees for Florida*	*All Trustees*	*Federal Trustees*	*All Trustees*
Federal Trustees	*Federal Trustees*	*Federal Trustees*	*Federal Trustees*	*Federal Trustees*			

Individual Trustee Agencies

Programmatic Damage Assessment & Restoration Plan

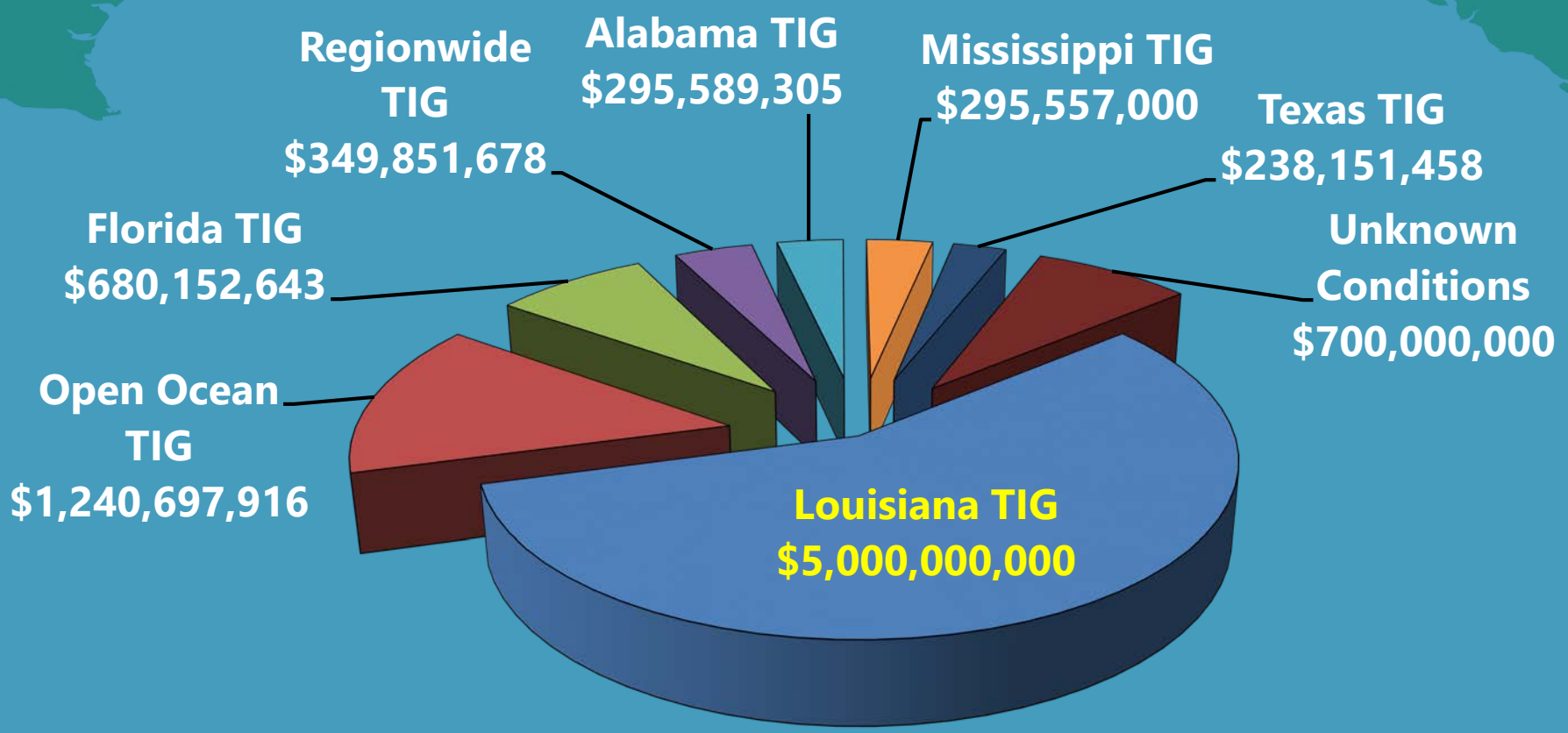


Allocation of Restoration Funds

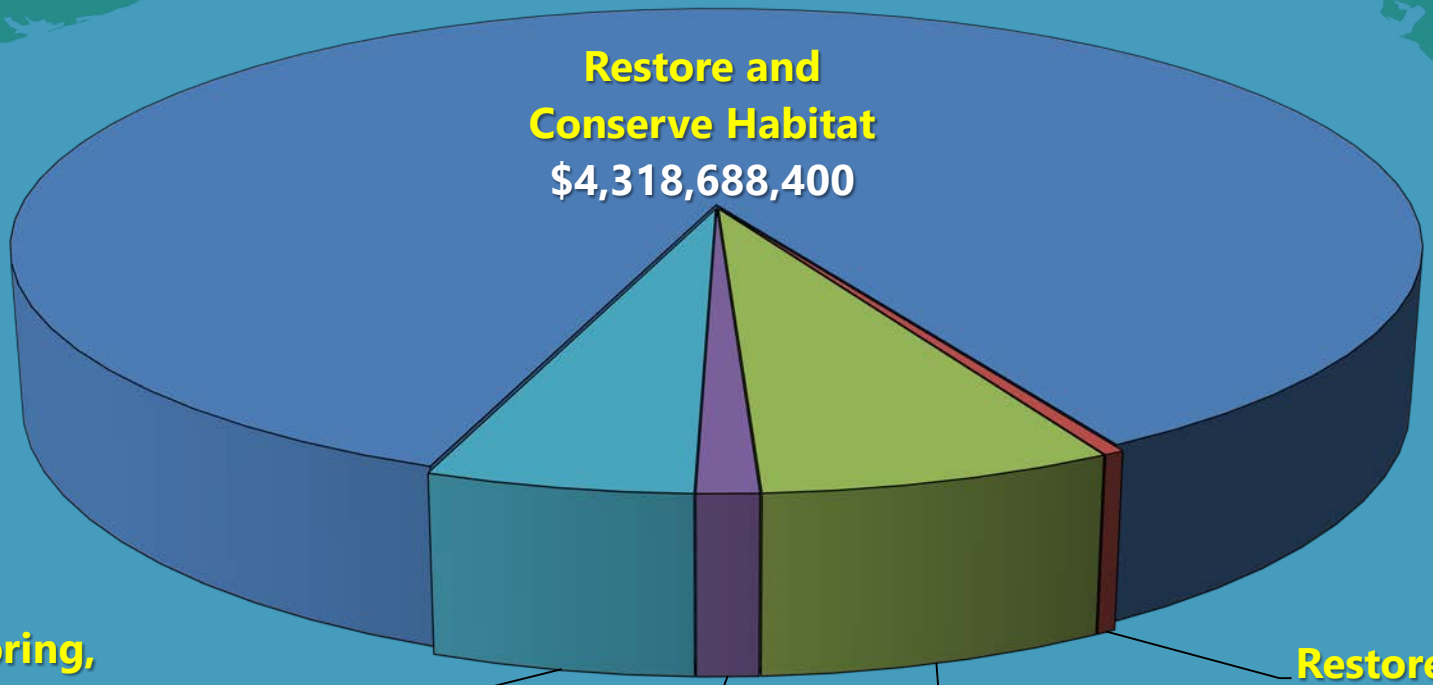
Restoration Funding in Dollars

Major Restoration Categories	Unknown Conditions	Region-wide	Open Ocean	Alabama	Florida	Louisiana	Mississippi	Texas	Total Restoration Funding[a]
1. RESTORE AND CONSERVE HABITAT									
Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats				65,000,000	5,000,000	4,009,062,700	55,500,000	100,000,000	4,234,562,700
Habitat Projects on Federally Managed Lands				3,000,000	17,500,000	50,000,000	5,000,000		75,500,000
Early Restoration Projects (through Phase IV)				28,110,000	15,629,367	259,625,700	80,000,000		383,365,067
2. RESTORE WATER QUALITY									
Nutrient Reduction (Nonpoint Source)				5,000,000	35,000,000	20,000,000	27,500,000	22,500,000	110,000,000
Water Quality (e.g. Stormwater Treatments, Hydrologic Restoration, Reduction of Sedimentation, etc.					300,000,000				300,000,000
3. REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES									
Fish and Water Column Invertebrates			380,000,000						380,000,000
Early Restoration Fish and Water Column			20,000,000						20,000,000
Sturgeon			15,000,000						15,000,000
Sea Turtles		60,000,000	55,000,000	5,500,000	20,000,000	10,000,000	5,000,000	7,500,000	163,000,000
Early Restoration Sea Turtles		29,256,165						19,965,000	49,221,165
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation						22,000,000			22,000,000
Marine Mammals		19,000,000	55,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	50,000,000	10,000,000		144,000,000
Birds		70,400,000	70,000,000	30,000,000	40,000,000	148,500,000	25,000,000	20,000,000	403,900,000
Early Restoration Birds		1,823,100		145,000	2,835,000	71,937,300		20,603,770	97,344,170
Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities			273,300,000						273,300,000
Oysters		63,372,413		10,000,000	20,000,000	26,000,000	20,000,000	22,500,000	162,872,413
Early Restoration Oysters				3,329,000	5,370,596	14,874,300	13,600,000		37,173,896
4. PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES									
Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities				25,000,000	63,274,513	38,000,000	5,000,000		131,274,513
Early Restoration of Recreational Loss			23,397,916	85,505,305	120,543,167	22,000,000	18,957,000	18,582,688	287,986,076
5. MONITORING, ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT, AND ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT									
Monitoring and Adaptive Management		65,000,000	200,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	225,000,000	7,500,000	2,500,000	520,000,000
Administrative Oversight and Comprehensive Planning		40,000,000	150,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	33,000,000	22,500,000	4,000,000	289,500,000
Adaptive Management NRD Payment for Unknown Conditions	700,000,000								700,000,000
TOTAL NRD FUNDING	$700,000,000	$349,851,678	$1,240,697,916	$295,589,305	$680,152,643	$5,000,000,000	$295,557,000	$238,151,458	

Total Allocation



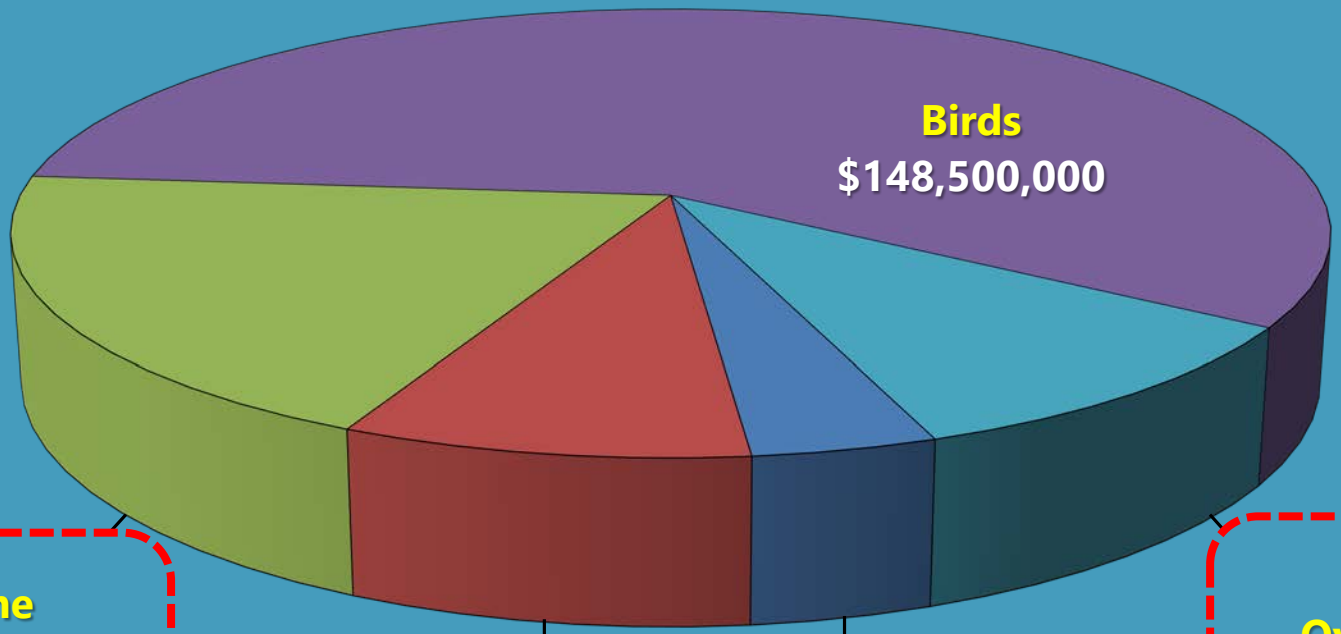
Total Allocation:
Louisiana Restoration Categories



Recent LA TIG Activities

- **Final Restoration Plan & Environmental Assessment (RP/EA) #1:** ***Restoration of Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats; Habitat Projects on Federally Managed Lands***
  - ***Final Phase II RP/EA #1.1:*** *Queen Bess Island Restoration*
  - ***Draft Phase II RP/EA #1.2:*** *Spanish Pass Ridge and Marsh Creation Project and Lake Borgne Marsh Creation Project*
  - ***Final RP/EA #1.3:*** *Rabbit Island Restoration & Shoreline Protection at Jean Lafitte Historical National Park and Preserve*
- **Final RP/EA #2:** ***Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities***
- **Final Strategic RP/EA #3:** ***Restoration of Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats in the Barataria Basin***
  - **Draft RP/EA #3.3:** *Phase 2 Large-scale Barataria Marsh Creation: Upper Barataria Component*
- **Final RP/EA #4:** ***Nutrient Reduction (Nonpoint Source) and Recreational Use***
- **Draft RP/EA #6:** ***Restore and Conserve Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitat***

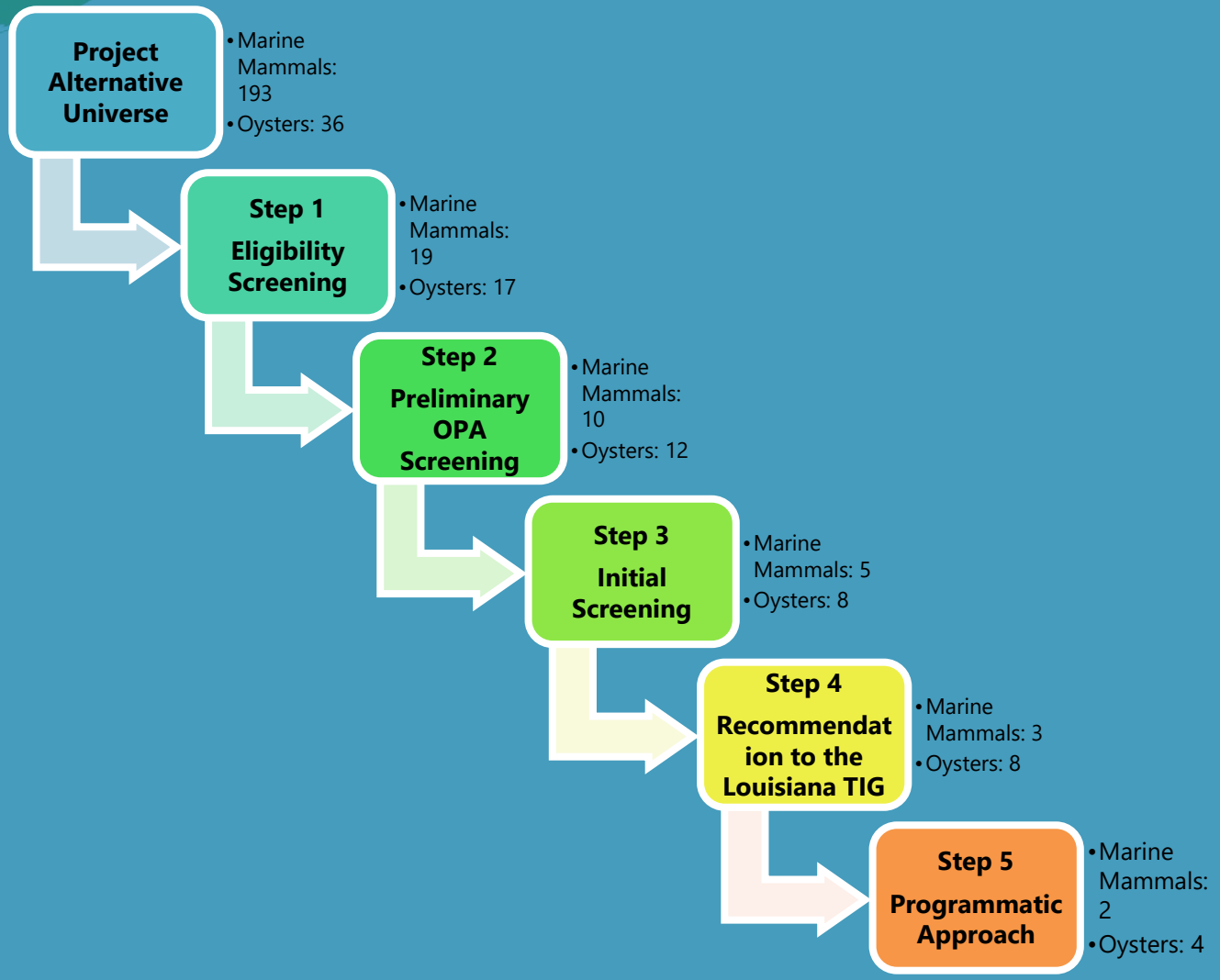
Louisiana Allocation:
Living Coastal and Marine Resources



Draft RP/EA #5: *Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources*

The alternatives address the programmatic restoration goal of replenishing and protecting Living Coastal and Marine Resources in the Louisiana Restoration Area, focusing on the marine mammal and oyster restoration types.

Draft RP/EA #5: *Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources*



Marine Mammal Restoration Approaches

Increase marine mammal survival through better understanding of causes of illness and death as well as early detection and intervention for anthropogenic and natural threats.
Reduce commercial fishery bycatch through collaborative partnerships
Reduce injury and mortality of bottlenose dolphins from hook-and-line fishing gear
Measure noise to improve knowledge and reduce impacts of anthropogenic noise on marine mammals
Reduce injury, harm, and mortality to bottlenose dolphins by reducing illegal feeding and harassment activities
Reduce marine mammal takes through enhanced state enforcement related to the MMPA
Reduce injury and mortality of marine mammals from vessel collisions
Protect and conserve marine, coastal, estuarine, and riparian habitats

Increasing Capacity for LA Marine Mammal Stranding Response

Increasing Capacity and Expanding Partnerships along the Louisiana Coastline for Marine Mammal Stranding Response to Inform Future Restoration Efforts

Stranding response

Credit: Audubon Nature Institute's Coastal Wildlife Network

$3.1 Million

This project is preferred for implementation.

Increasing Capacity for LA Marine Mammal Stranding Response

Marine Mammal Stranding Networks

- Nationwide Marine Mammal Stranding Network (1992)
- Increased strandings in 2019
  - Bottlenose dolphins (86%)
- Authorized LA agency:
  - Audubon Nature Institute

Stranding response *Credit: LDWF*

Increasing Capacity for LA Marine Mammal Stranding Response

Project Objectives

- Enhance capacity for marine mammal stranding response
- Improve capabilities to collect, store, and analyze samples from stranded cetaceans
- Increase reporting of stranded marine mammals

Stranding response *Credit: Audubon Nature Institute's Coastal Wildlife Network*

Region-wide Marine Mammal Conservation Medicine and Health Program

Project Objective:

Develop and implement a conservation medicine and health program to identify risks for illness and death in marine mammal species.

$6.3 million

Health Assessment *Credit: NOAA*

Region-wide Marine Mammal Conservation Medicine and Health Program

Project Components:

- Expert working group
- Assessment and implementation of health intervention techniques
- Trainings and workshops
- Capture and release study plan

This project is not preferred for implementation.

Oyster Restoration Approaches

Restore or create oyster reefs through placement of cultch in nearshore and subtidal areas
Construct living shorelines
Enhance oyster reef productivity through spawning stock enhancement projects such as planting hatchery-raised oysters
Develop a network of oyster spawning reef reserves

Total Cost of Preferred Projects: *$25.6 Million*

Enhancing Oyster Recovery Using Brood Reefs

Oyster recruitment *Credit: LDWF*

Project Objective

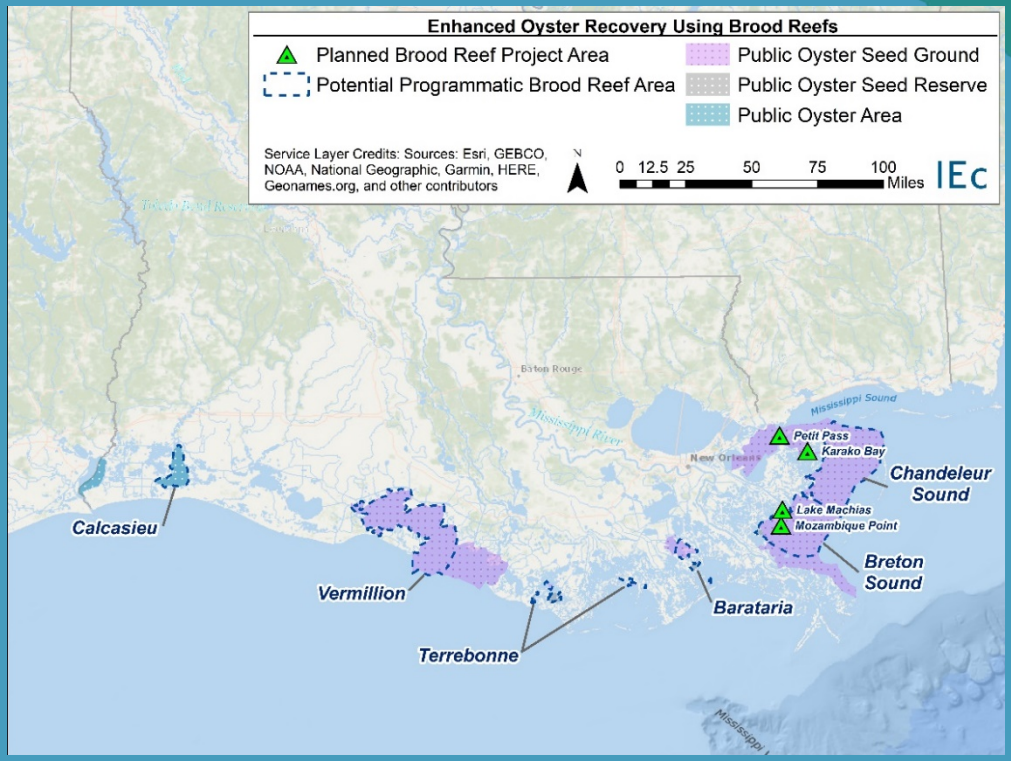
Construct a network of spawning stock oyster reefs to increase spawning oyster populations.

$9.7 Million

Enhancing Oyster Recovery Using Brood Reefs

Project Elements

- Four planned brood reefs
  - Composed of cultch and vertical artificial reef material
  - Closed to harvest
- Potential for future programmatic brood reefs in Chandeleur Sound and on POSG/POSR



This project is preferred for implementation.

Cultch Plant Oyster Restoration

Barge and oyster gabions *Credit: LDWF*

Project Objective

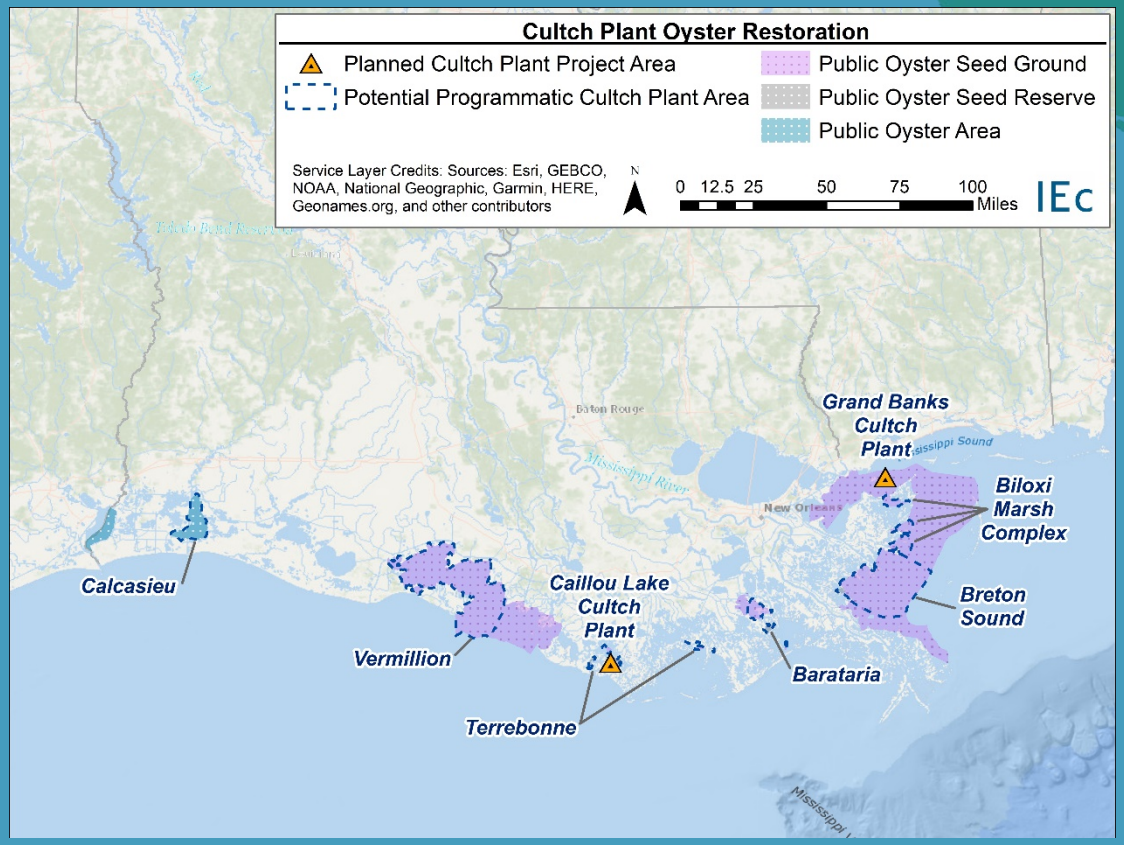
Create oyster reefs through the placement of cultch to increase oyster abundance and spawning stocks

$10.1 Million

Cultch Plant Oyster Restoration

Project Elements

- Two planned sites
  - Composed of cultch material (limestone, shell)
- Potential for future programmatic cultch plants on POSG/POSR



This project is preferred for implementation.

Hatchery-based Oyster Restoration

Michael C. Voisin Hatchery facility *Credit: NOAA*

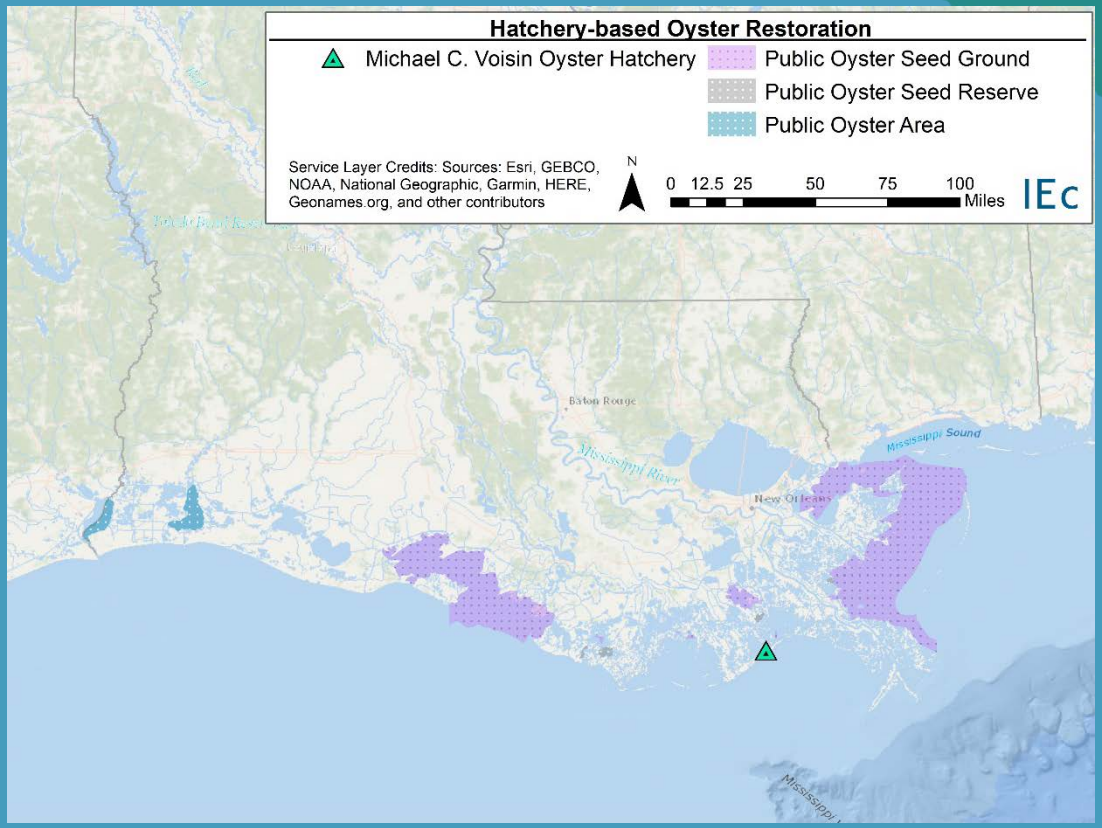
Project Objective:
Enhance Louisiana oyster reef productivity and spawning stock

$5.8 million

Hatchery-based Oyster Restoration

Project Elements

- Funding for Michael C. Voisin hatchery in Grand Isle
- Production of at least 500 million diploid oyster larvae per year
- Deployment of larvae on POSG/POSR



This project is preferred for implementation.

Caillou Lake Artificial Oyster Reef

Artificial oyster reef *Credit: The Nature Conservancy*

Project Objective

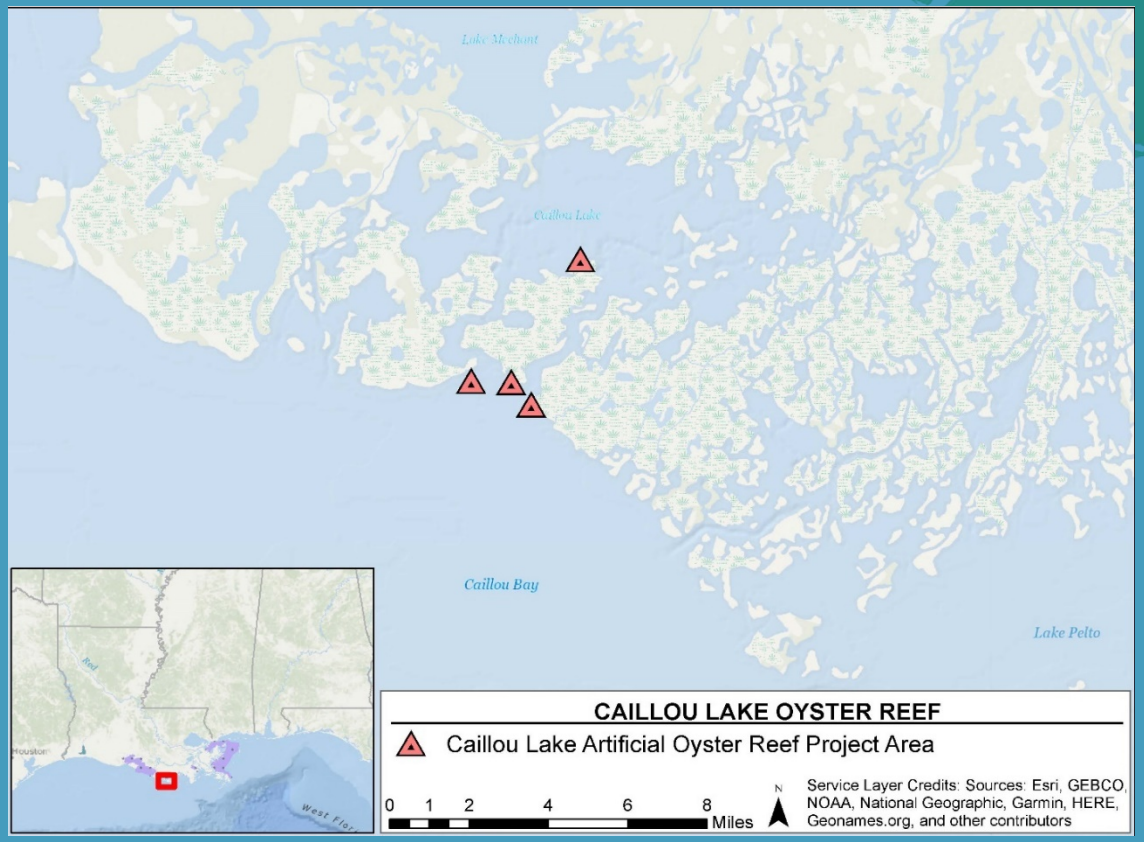
Create an artificial oyster reef in Caillou Lake to armor the shoreline and support oyster populations.

$21.5 million

Caillou Lake Artificial Oyster Reef

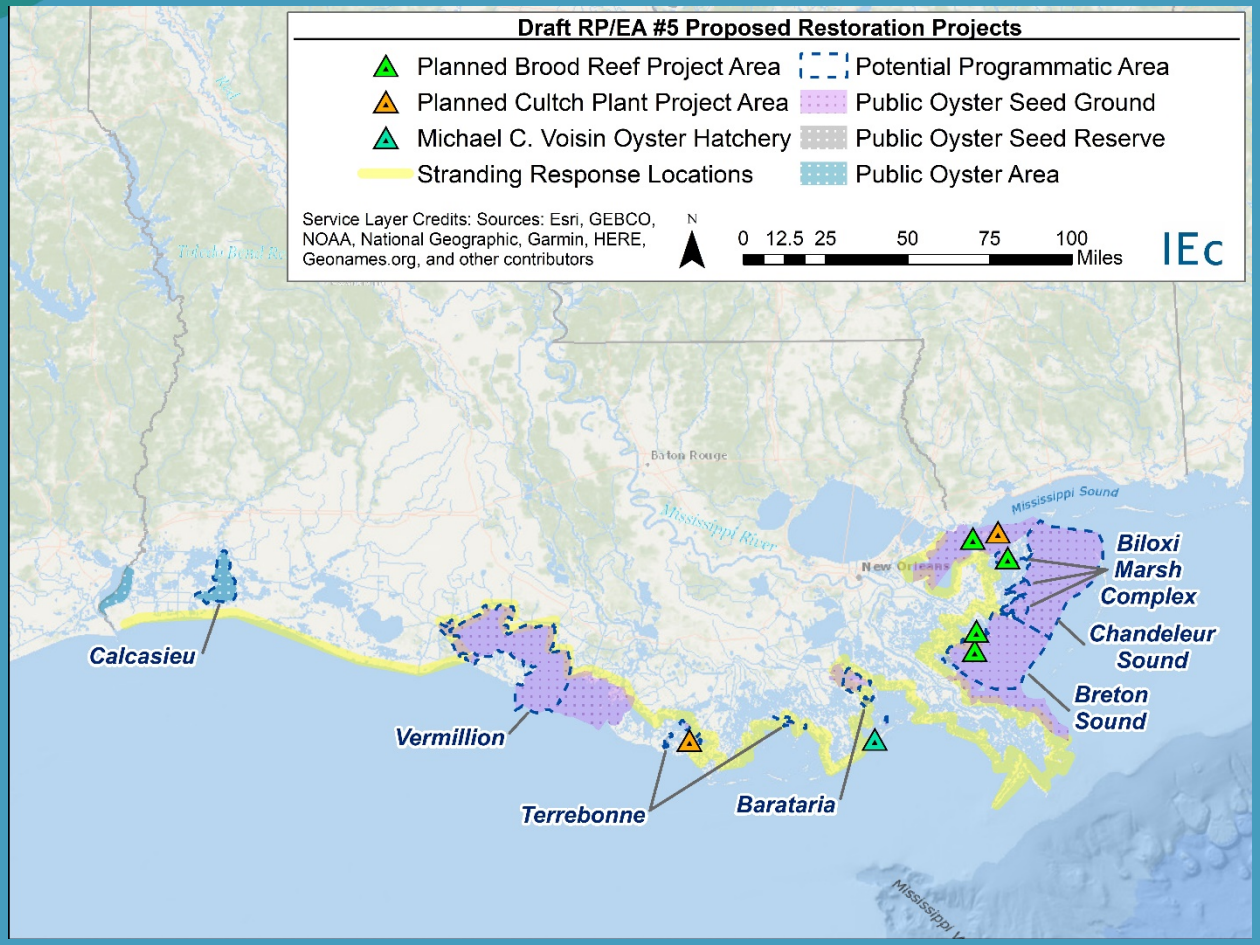
Project Elements

- Construct 21 miles of reef near Caillou Lake land bridge
  - Phase I: seven miles
  - Phase II: seven miles
  - Phase III: seven miles



This project is not preferred for implementation.

Proposed Restoration Projects



Total Cost: $28.7 Million

Submit Your Comments

Via the chat box feature on this public webinar

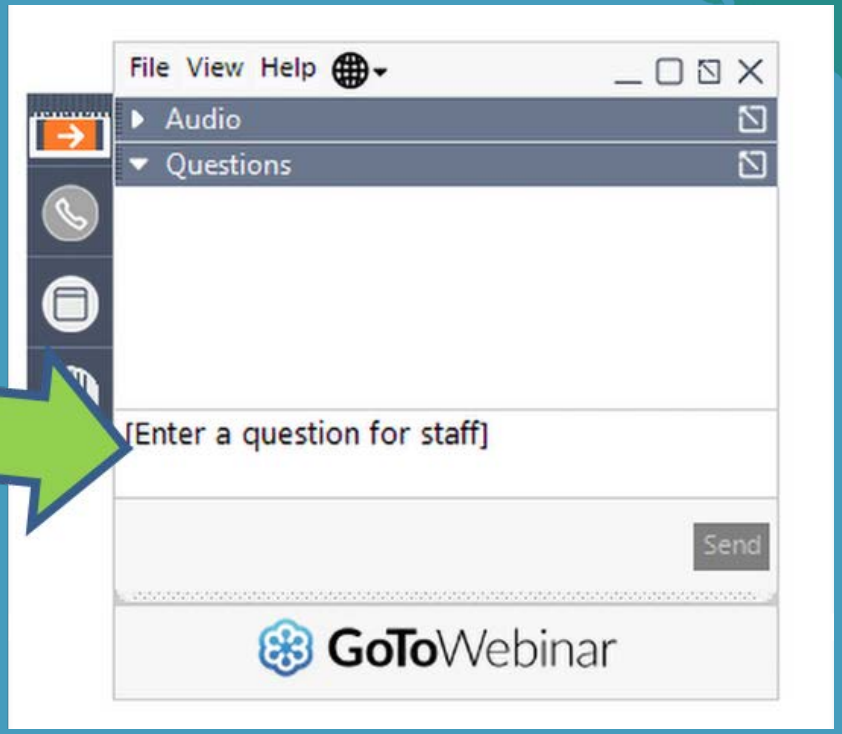
Online:
https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana

Mail to:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 49567
Atlanta, GA 30345

Comment deadline is April 20, 2020

Public Comment Instructions

Use the "Questions" box to type comments for Trustee staff.



Comments will be read on the webinar as time allows

Thank you