



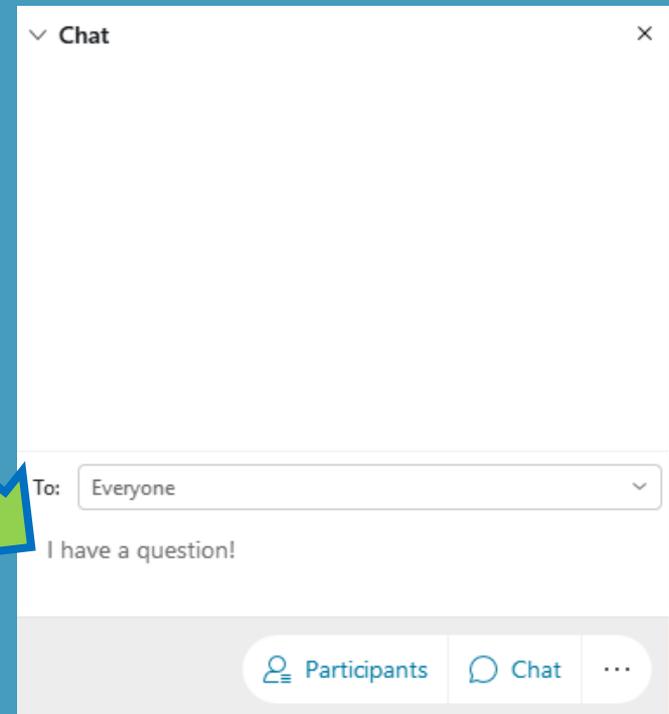
Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment 1

Public Webinar
April 15, 2021



Webinar Participation

- If you're using a phone, turn off your computer's microphone and speakers.
- At the end of the presentation, use the "Chat" box to type comments that you have for the Trustees, or to make a request to speak. Please note we will not be answering questions during today's webinar.
- Presentation will be posted on www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov.



Webinar Agenda

- Natural Resource Damage Assessment
- Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group
- Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment 1
- Public comments
- Next steps



Piping plover. Credit: USFWS



Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

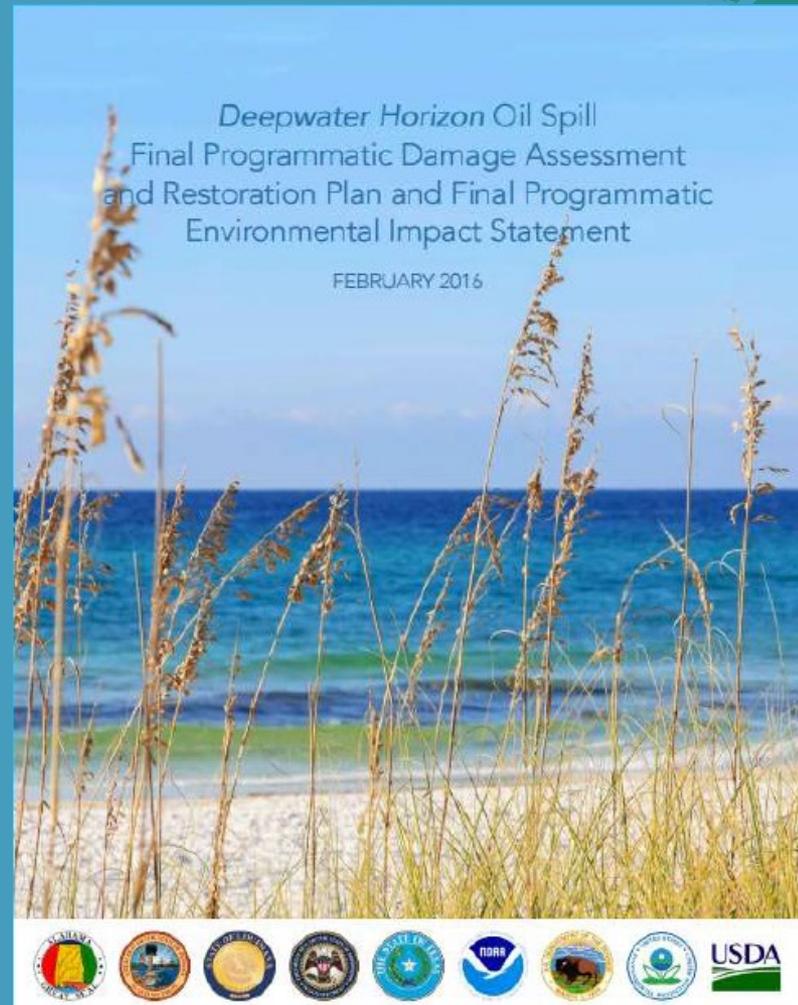
What is NRDA?

- A legal process guided by the Oil Pollution Act (OPA)
- Trustee agencies assess the degree to which natural resources and the services they provide may have been injured
- Trustees then determine how to compensate the public through restoration activities



Trustees' Programmatic Restoration Plan

- **Damage assessment:**
Injuries to natural resources and services
- **Restoration:**
Ecosystem approach and science-based adaptive management
- **Governance:**
Framework for future decision-making, including project selection & implementation



NRDA Settlement

Up to \$8.8 billion allocated to:

- Restore and Conserve Habitat: ~\$4.7 billion
- Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources: ~\$1.8 billion
- Restore Water Quality: \$410 million
- Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities: \$419 million
- Provide Monitoring, Adaptive Management: \$520 million
- Provide Administrative Oversight & Comprehensive Planning: ~\$290 million
- Future Unknown Conditions: Up to \$700 million



Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group (TIG)

Trustee Council Structure

**Trustee
Council**

**Trustee Implementation Groups
(TIGs)**

AL

FL

LA

MS

TX

OO

RW

Regionwide Restoration Area Funding

Restoration goal	Restoration Type	Regionwide Early Restoration funds	Regionwide post-settlement funds	Total restoration funding
Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources	Birds	\$1,823,100	\$70,400,000	\$72,223,100
	Marine Mammals	\$0	\$19,000,000	\$19,000,000
	Oysters	\$0	\$64,372,413	\$64,372,413
	Sea Turtles	\$29,256,165	\$60,000,000	\$89,256,165
Monitoring and Adaptive Management (MAM)	N/A	\$0	\$65,000,000	\$65,000,000
Administrative Oversight and Comprehensive Planning	N/A	\$0	\$40,000,000	\$40,000,000



Regionwide TIG Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (RP/EA) 1

Regionwide Draft RP/EA 1

- Proposes restoration for Birds, Marine Mammals, Oysters, and Sea Turtles
- Evaluates 15 restoration projects identified through robust screening
- Proposes 11 “preferred” projects (i.e., projects proposed for funding) for an estimated cost of \$99.6 million
- Public comment period: March 22 – May 6, 2021



Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group Draft Restoration Plan/ Environmental Assessment 1:

Birds, Marine Mammals, Oysters, and Sea Turtles

March 22, 2021



Summary of Screening Process

Birds:

632 projects → 4 alternatives → 3 preferred

Marine Mammals:

171 projects → 4 alternatives → 3 preferred

Oysters:

295 projects → 2 alternatives → 1 preferred

Sea Turtles:

297 projects → 6 alternatives → 5 preferred



Non-Preferred Alternatives

Non –Preferred Alternatives

- Birds- Stewardship and Habitat Creation through Beneficial Use
- Marine Mammals- Enhance Capacity, Diagnostic Capability, and Consistency of the Marine Mammal Stranding Network in the Gulf of Mexico
- Oysters- Improving Resilience for Oysters by Linking Brood Reefs and Sink Reefs (Small-scale)
- Sea Turtles- Guiding Restoration Success for Nesting Females and Hatchlings in the Northern Gulf of Mexico



Preferred Alternatives: Birds

Birds: Three Preferred Alternatives

- \$35.5M

1. Reducing Marine Debris Impacts on Birds and Sea Turtles (*Joint Project with Sea Turtles Restoration Type*)

Activities: Compile data on marine debris to identify hotspots, remove marine debris, and prevent debris via public outreach

Estimated Cost: \$3,520,000



Credit:LDWF

Birds: Three Preferred Alternatives

- \$35.5M

2. Conservation and Enhancement of Nesting and Foraging Habitat for Birds

Activities: Conduct nesting and foraging habitat conservation through habitat acquisition, creation, restoration, and enhancement

Estimated Cost: \$22,500,000



Credit: LDWF

Birds: Three Preferred Alternatives

- \$35.5M

3. Bird Nesting and Foraging Area Stewardship

Activities: Address anthropogenic stressors, protect and restore habitat, and conduct public outreach to conserve and enhance beaches that birds use for nesting, resting and foraging

Estimated Cost: \$8,510,750



Piping plovers. Credit: NOAA



Preferred Alternatives: Marine Mammals

Marine Mammals: Three Preferred Alternatives - \$7.2M

1. Voluntary Modifications to Commercial Shrimp Lazy Lines to Reduce Dolphin Entanglements

Activities: Test the performance and usability of alternative lazy line materials that would reduce dolphin entanglements

Estimated Cost: \$3,179,088



Bottlenose dolphin pod with two calves. Credit: NOAA

Marine Mammals: Three Preferred Alternatives - \$7.2M

2. Reducing Impacts to Dolphins from Hook-and-Line Gear and Provisioning through Fishery Surveys, Social Science, and Collaboration

Activities: Gather and analyze data to identify possible solution(s) to reduce interactions between dolphins and hook-and-line fishing activities

Estimated Cost: \$1,700,000



Credit: NOAA

Marine Mammals: Three Preferred Alternatives - \$7.2M

3. Enhance Marine Mammal Stranding Network Diagnostic Capabilities and Consistency across the Gulf of Mexico

Activities: Support or enhance MMSN diagnostic capabilities to improve treatment and care for live stranded cetaceans, support data collection and reporting, and increase management consistency across the Gulf of Mexico

Estimated Cost: \$2,300,000



W. Hoggard, NMFS/SEFSC

Credit: NOAA



Preferred Alternative: Oysters

Oysters: One Preferred Alternative

- \$35.8M

Improving Resilience for Oysters by Linking Brood Reefs and Sink Reefs (Large-scale)

Activities: Create a network of reefs linked through larval transport at a range of habitats and salinities, with the aim of increasing oyster population sustainability and oyster reef resilience

Estimated Cost: \$35,819,974





Preferred Alternatives: Sea Turtles

Sea Turtles: Five Preferred Alternatives - \$22.1M

1. Pilot Implementation of Automatic Identification System (AIS) in the GOM Inshore Shrimp Fishery to Inform Efforts to Reduce Sea Turtle Bycatch

Activities: Use an automatic tracking technology to provide information about the spatial and temporal movements of shrimping vessels (will inform bycatch reduction efforts)

Estimated Cost: \$2,231,124



Credit: NOAA

Sea Turtles: Five Preferred Alternatives - \$22.1M

2. Restore and Enhance Sea Turtle Nest Productivity

Activities: Implement a range of actions that would improve hatchling production (e.g. remove barriers to beaches, manage nests to protect eggs and hatchlings, monitoring beaches to prevent predation and poaching, reduce lighting near beaches, and restore beach habitat)

Estimated Cost: \$7,655,000



Credit: Dr. Matthew Godfrey

Sea Turtles: Three Preferred Alternatives - \$22.1M

3. Reducing Sea Turtle Bycatch at Recreational Fishing Sites

Activities: Assess and identify factors contributing to sea turtle bycatch at shore-based recreational fishing sites and implement voluntary angler education and other programs to reduce bycatch

Estimated Cost: \$3,649,360



Credit: NOAA

Sea Turtles: Three Preferred Alternatives - \$22.1M

4. Reducing Marine Debris Impacts on Birds and Sea Turtles (*Joint Project with Birds Restoration Type*)

Activities: Compile data on marine debris to identify hotspots, remove marine debris, and prevent debris via public outreach

Estimated Cost: \$3,520,000



Credit: NOAA

Sea Turtles: Three Preferred Alternatives - \$22.1M

5. Regionwide Enhancements to the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network and Enhanced Rehabilitation

Activities: Provide support for responding to stranding events, recovering and necropsying dead stranded sea turtles, and/or filling other gaps in STSSN response coverage. Would also support the construction of a new rehabilitation facility on the upper Texas coast

Estimated Cost: \$5,050,000



Credit: Earl Possardt, USFWS



Public Comments



Representatives of the Regionwide TIG



Florida

**Gareth
Leonard**



Alabama

**Chris
Blankenship**



Mississippi

**Chris
Wells**



Louisiana

**Jon
Wiebe**



Texas

Angela Sunley



DOI

**Debora
McClain**



EPA

**Tim
Landers**



NOAA

**Rachel
Sweeney**

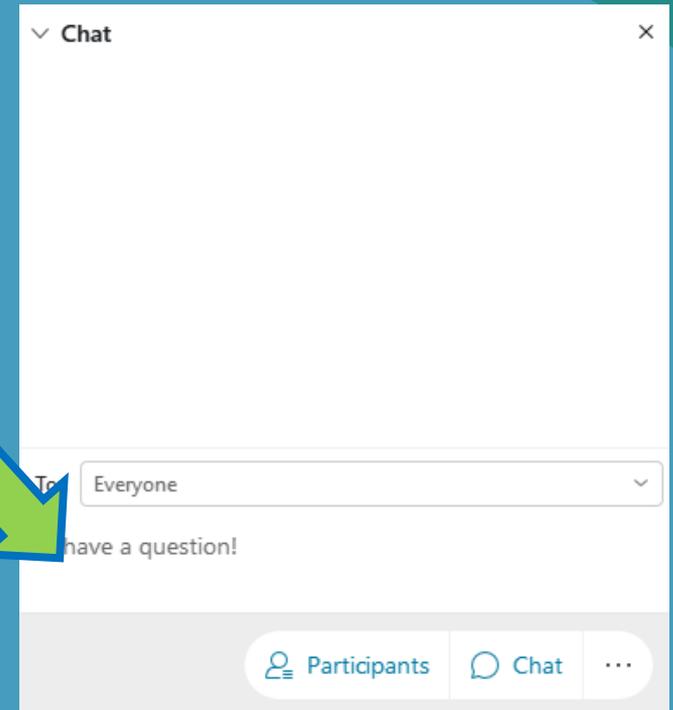


USDA

**Ronald
Howard**

Public Comments

- If you have registered to make an oral comment, we will unmute you to speak.
- If you have not registered to make an oral comment but would like to, please type your name into the “Chat” box and we will unmute you.
- If you would like to provide a written comment, please type your Comment in the “Chat” box. We will not be answering questions during today’s public meeting.



Comments can also be submitted online at:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/RWTIGRP>

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Time is up



Next Steps

How to Submit Comments

- Online: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/RWTIGRP>
- By mail (hard copy), addressed to:
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - P.O. Box 29649
 - Atlanta, GA 30345
- For more information:
www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov

Comment deadline is May 6, 2021



Thank you!

For more information:
www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/