



*Deepwater Horizon*  
Natural Resource Damage Assessment & Restoration  
Texas Trustee Implementation Group  
Annual Public Meeting

December 2023

# Agenda



- Introduction and background
- Texas Rookery Islands – Dickinson Bay Island II
- Galveston Island Habitat Acquisition
- Sea Turtle Early Restoration
- McFaddin Beach and Dune Restoration
- Pierce Marsh Wetland Restoration
- Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (BUDM) planning and the next restoration plan



# Natural Resource Damage Assessment

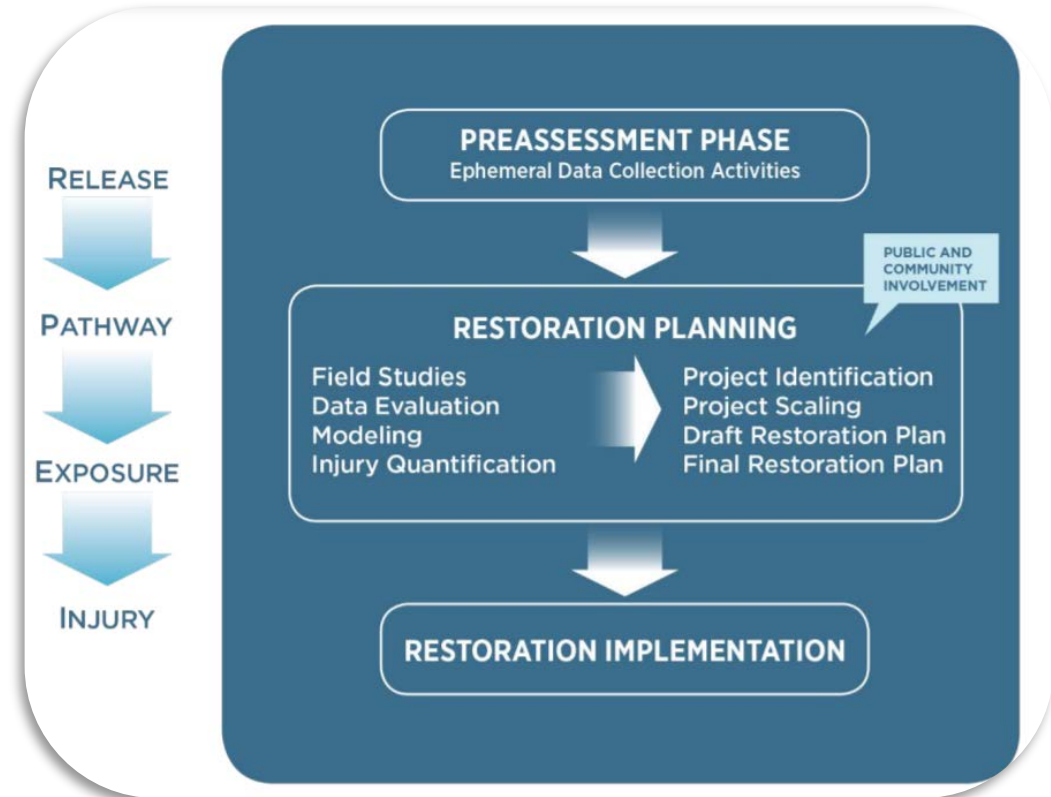


**Authority:** Oil Pollution Act of 1990

**Trustees:** Designated federal, state, and tribal agencies

**Responsibilities:**

- Determine injury to natural resources and ecosystem services
- Assess damages for injuries to recover and restore natural resources and services
- Recover damages or restoration to compensate the public for those injuries

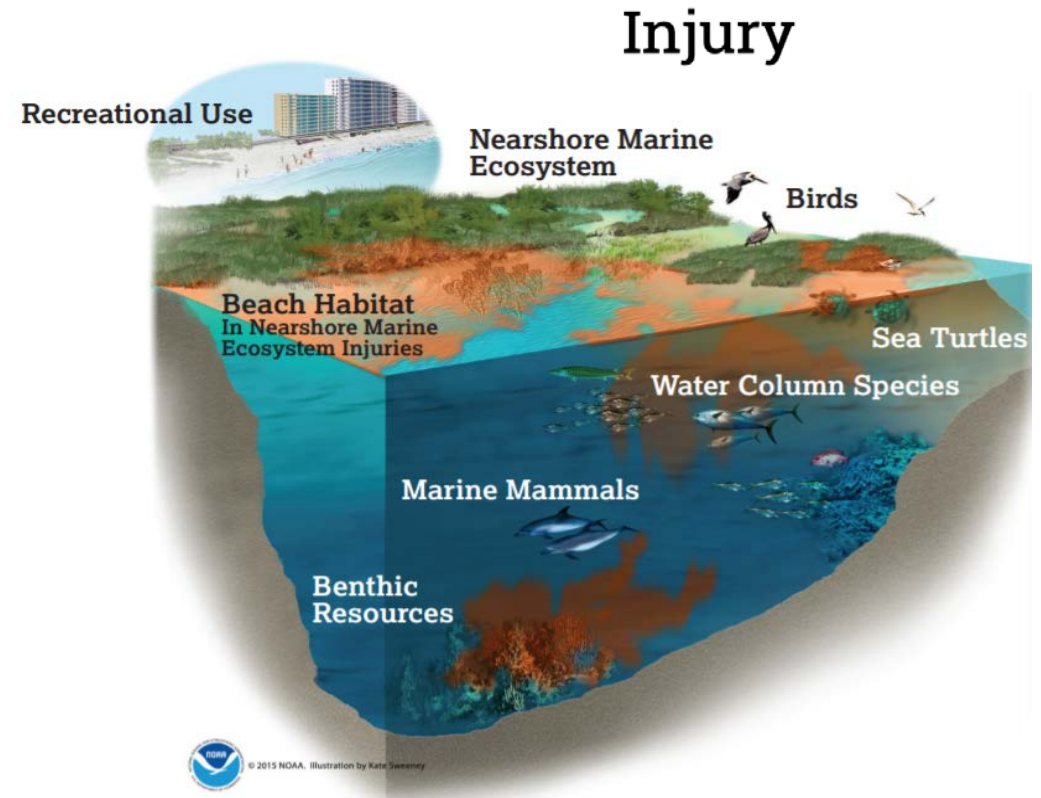


**Goal:** Restore injured natural resources to baseline condition and replace ecosystem services lost while the habitat was contaminated, effectively making the environment and public whole

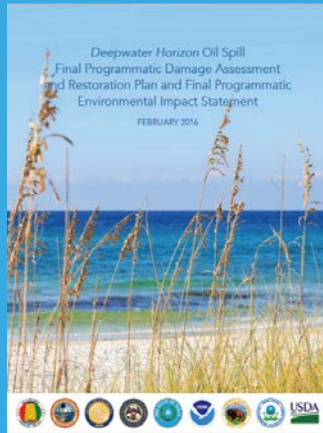
# Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill



- In April 2010, the Deepwater Horizon exploded, caught fire, and sank
- Discharged 3.19 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico over 87 days
- Injured wildlife, habitats, and ecological functions
- Adversely effected recreational opportunities



# Restoration Planning Process



## PDARP

- Framework document for future project-specific restoration plans
- Identifies approaches and techniques for restoration



## Restoration Plans

- Evaluates specific projects for restoration types established in PDARP
- Multiple restoration plans released over time
- Projects must be consistent with restoration goals, types, approaches, and techniques identified in PDARP



## Restoration Projects

- Multiple restoration projects under each restoration plan
- Must be implemented in accordance with PDARP and restoration plan

# Texas Trustee Implementation Group



Responsible for planning and implementing restoration activities within the Texas Restoration Area

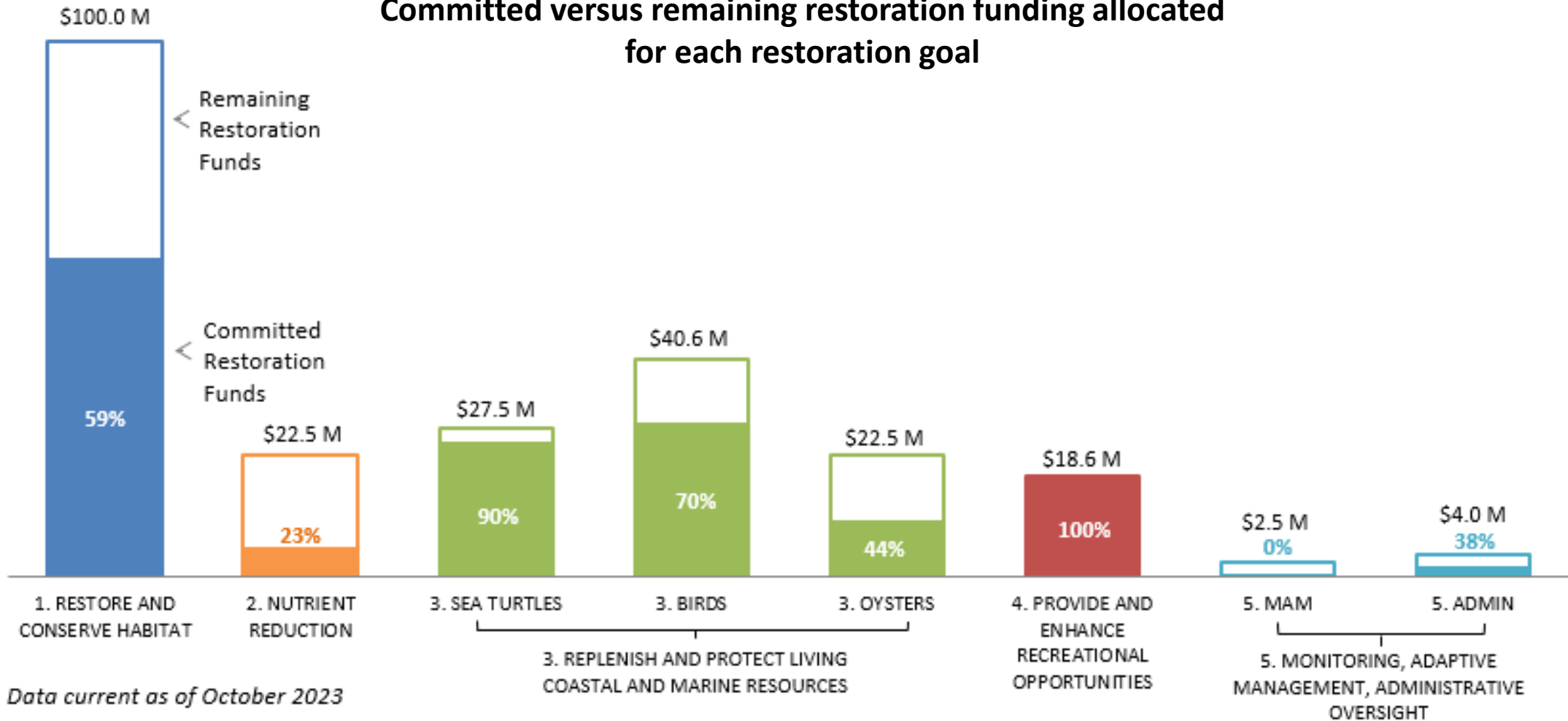
- Identify, develop, and evaluate project alternatives
- Draft restoration plans identifying proposed projects
- Engage the public for comment on restoration plans
- Select and implement restoration projects
- Conduct monitoring and adaptive management



# Commitment of Restoration Funds



Committed versus remaining restoration funding allocated for each restoration goal



# Texas Trustee Implementation Group



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
United States Department of the Interior  
United States Department of Agriculture  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Texas General Land Office





# Texas Rookery Islands - Dickinson Bay Island II



**Location:** Dickinson Bay, north of Texas City, TX, Galveston County

**Description:** Construction of a 4-acre bird rookery island

**Status:** Construction completed 2022. Planting completed 2023. Birds observed nesting on island in 2023.

# Texas Rookery Islands - Dickinson Bay Island II



## Adaptive Management



# Texas Rookery Islands - Dickinson Bay Island II



Species	Planted
Coral Bean	177
Texas Ebony	431
Carolina Wolfberry	491
Red Mulberry	507
Sugarberry	414
Lime Prickly Ash	2



Species	Est. Breeding Pairs
Brown Pelican	4
Laughing Gull	4320
Caspian Tern	29
Royal Tern	315
Sandwich Tern	20
Black Skimmer	4



# Galveston Island Habitat Acquisition



- **Location:** Galveston Island, adjacent to Starvation Cove and Mentzel Bayou
- **Description:** Acquire and preserve 142 acres of mixed coastal marsh and estuarine habitat currently planned for residential development



# Sea Turtle Early Restoration Project



Photo by: TPWD, Heather Podlipny

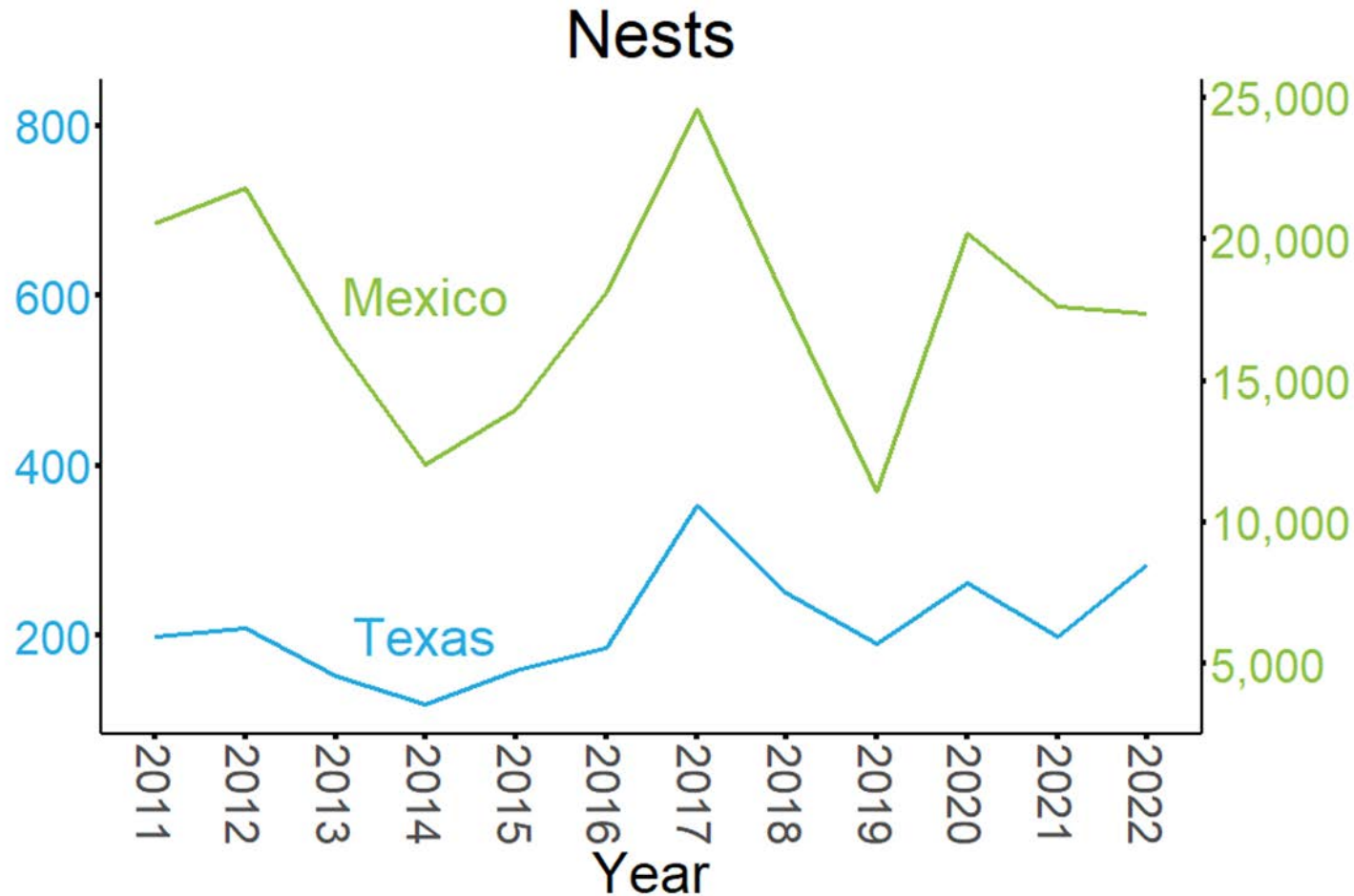
- Nest detection and enhancement, stranding and salvage network enhancement, and enhanced fisheries bycatch enforcement
- Sea turtle species occurring in Texas and Mexico include Kemp's ridley, green, loggerhead, leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles

# Sea Turtle Early Restoration Project

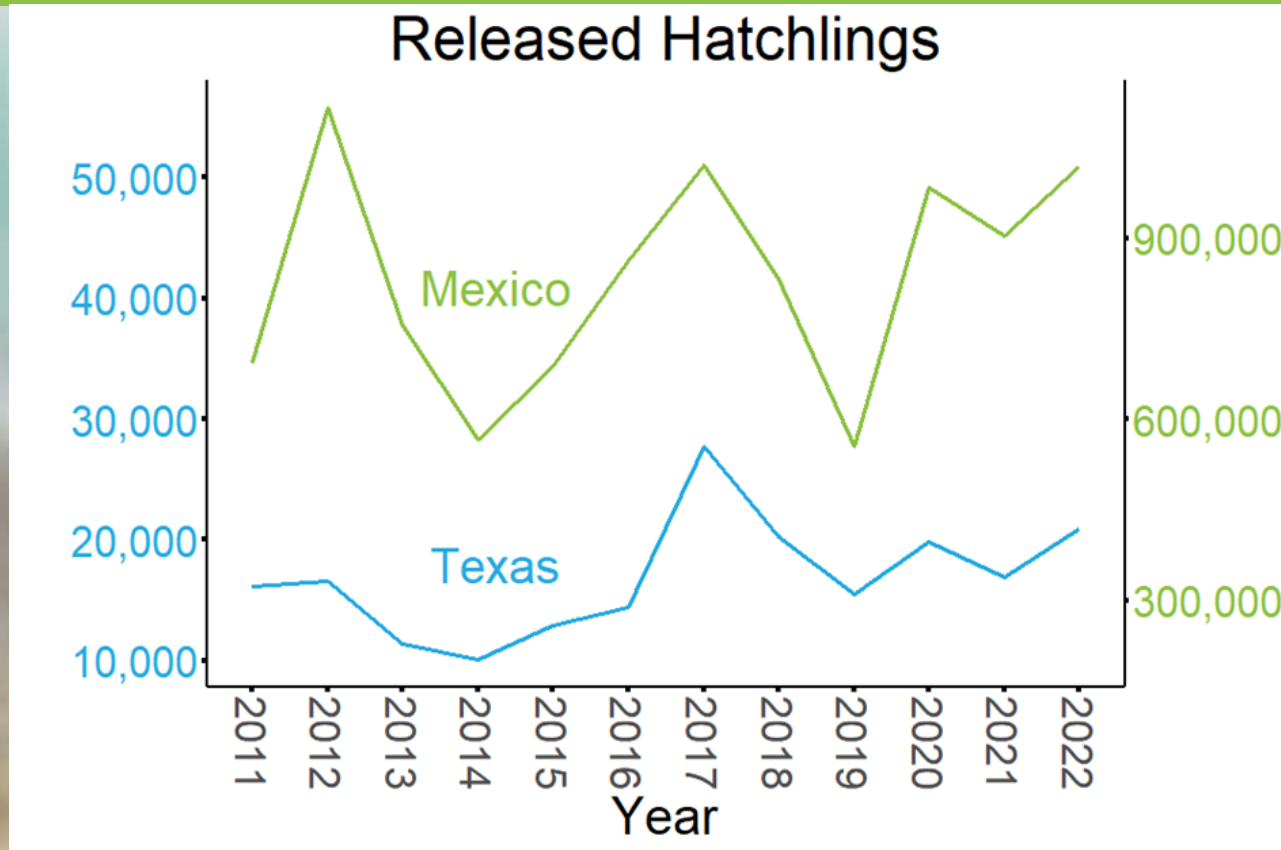


National Park Service base camp at Padre Island National Seashore

# Sea Turtles – Kemp’s Ridley Sea Turtle Nest Detection and Enhancement - Nests



# Sea Turtles - Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle Nest Detection and Enhancement - Hatchlings





# Sea Turtles - Strandings



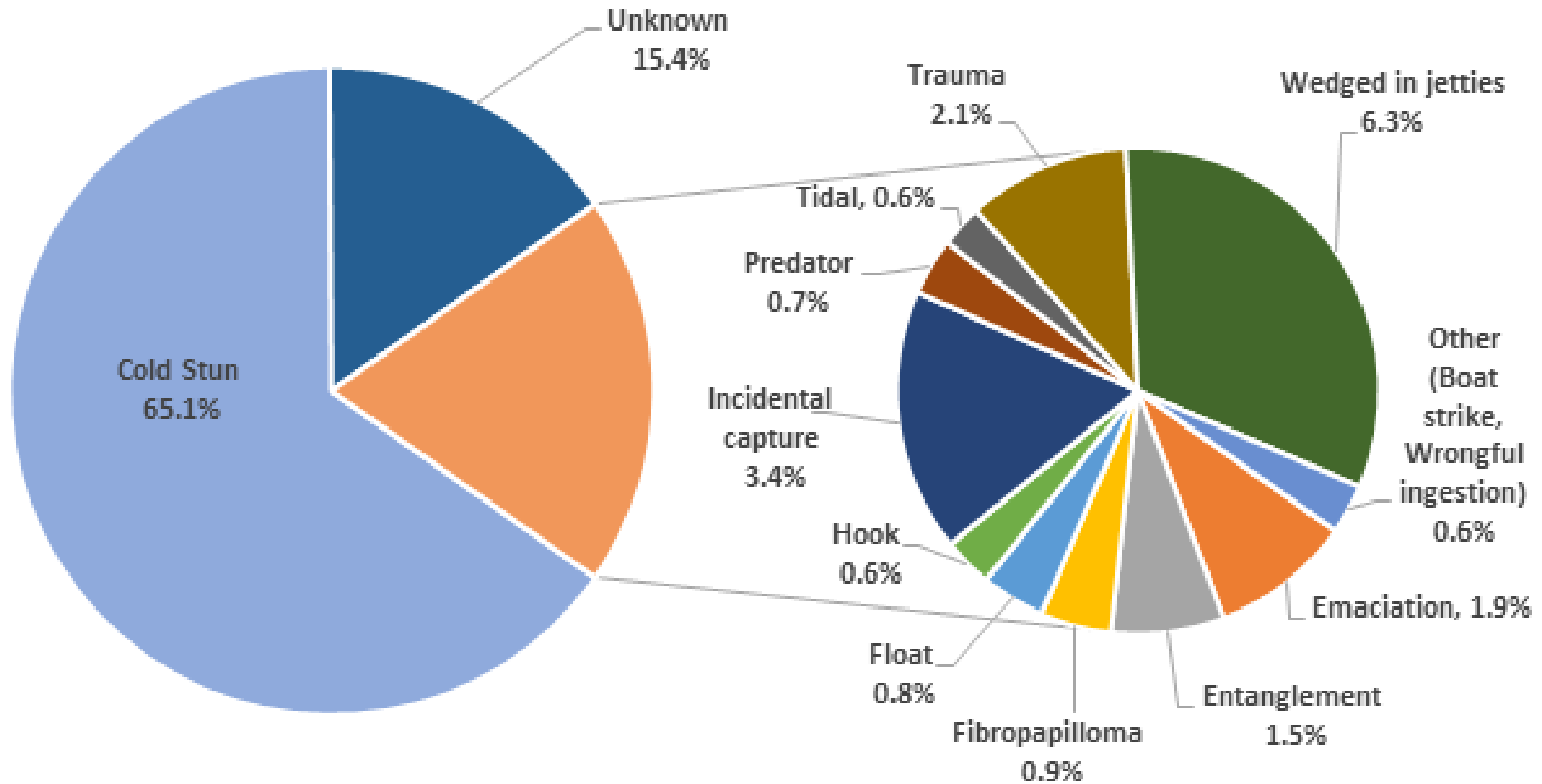
Sea Turtle Inc, 2021



# Sea Turtles – Stranding and Rehabilitation



Injuries associated with sea turtle strandings in 2022



# Sea Turtles - Bycatch Reduction and TED Enforcement



Photo by: TPWD Law Enforcement Division

- Turtle Excluder Device (TED) patrols are conducted by TPWD-Law Enforcement staff
- Increases in compliance with TED regulations seen, likely due to law enforcement presence



Photo by: TPWD Law Enforcement Division

# McFaddin Beach and Dune Restoration



- **Location:** McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge, Jefferson County
- **Description:** Restore and enhance ~17 miles of beach and dune habitat which provides protection for Salt Bayou Marsh



# McFaddin Beach and Dune Restoration



- **Benefits:**

- Restore beaches and sand dunes which protect Texas' largest estuarine marsh system.
- This will be the largest beach restoration project in Texas to date.

- **Status:**

- Construction in progress.
- Nourished and planted over half of the 17-mile-long project.



# Pierce Marsh Restoration



- **Location:** West Galveston Bay
- **Description:** The TIG is partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ducks Unlimited and the Galveston Bay Foundation to restore 120 acres of intertidal marsh with sediments dredged from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway
- **\$3.095 M**

# Pierce Marsh Wetland Restoration



- Initial phase occurred March 2022
- Ducks Unlimited provided construction oversight for the TIG
- The USACE constructed 9,800 feet of levees and pumped 190k cubic yards Pierce Marsh to restore intertidal marsh



# Pierce Marsh Wetland Restoration



- Post-construction elevation surveys were conducted six months post placement
- Surveys indicated that at least one additional dredge cycle would be needed to complete the project
- In December 2023, the USACE will pump approximately 138K cubic yards





# BUDM Planning



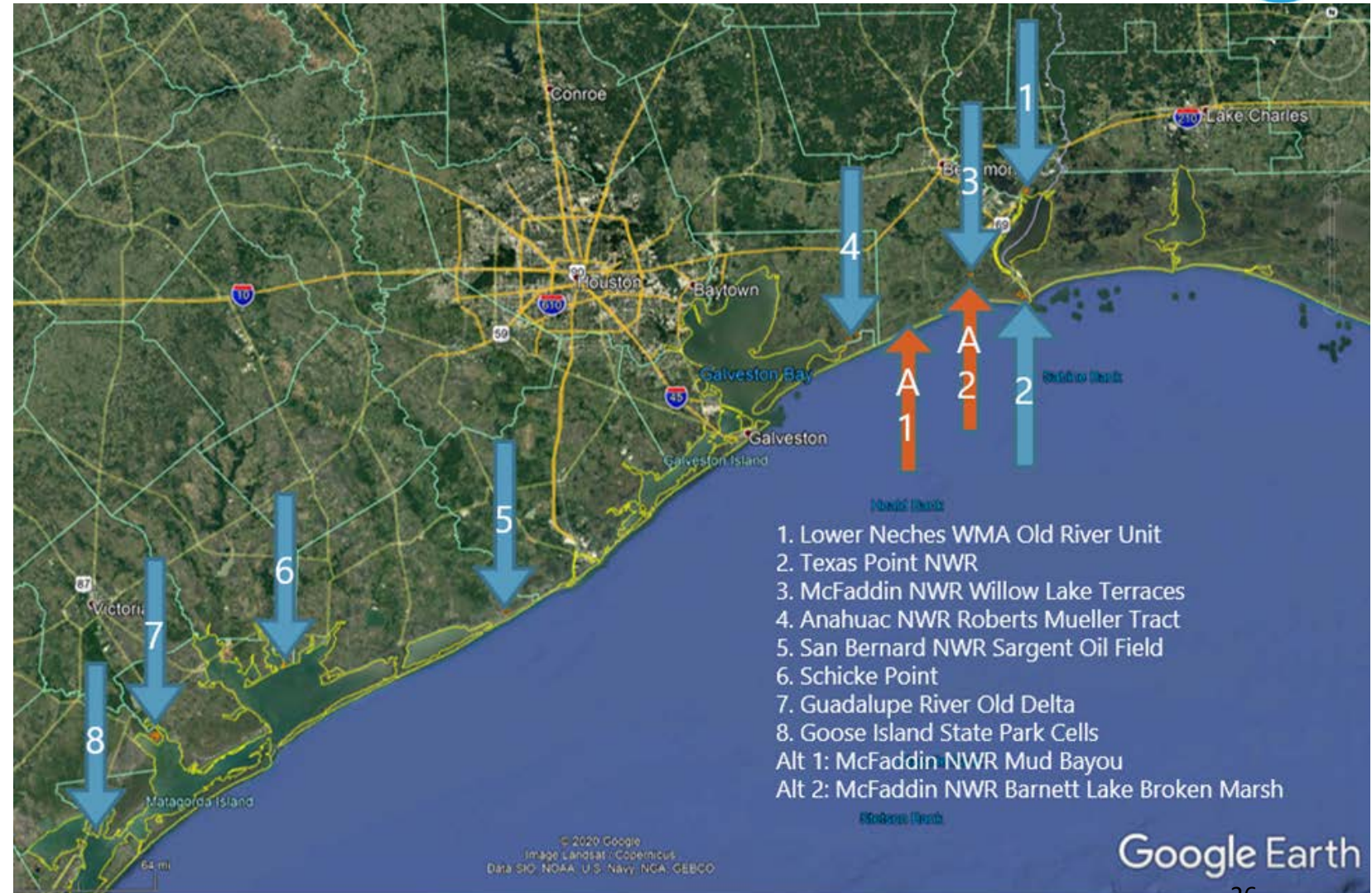
- In 2017, the Texas TIG funded a project to identify and complete engineering and design for marsh restoration sites on the Texas Coast
- The project focused on using sediments dredged from navigation channels to beneficially restore coastal marsh



# BUDM Planning



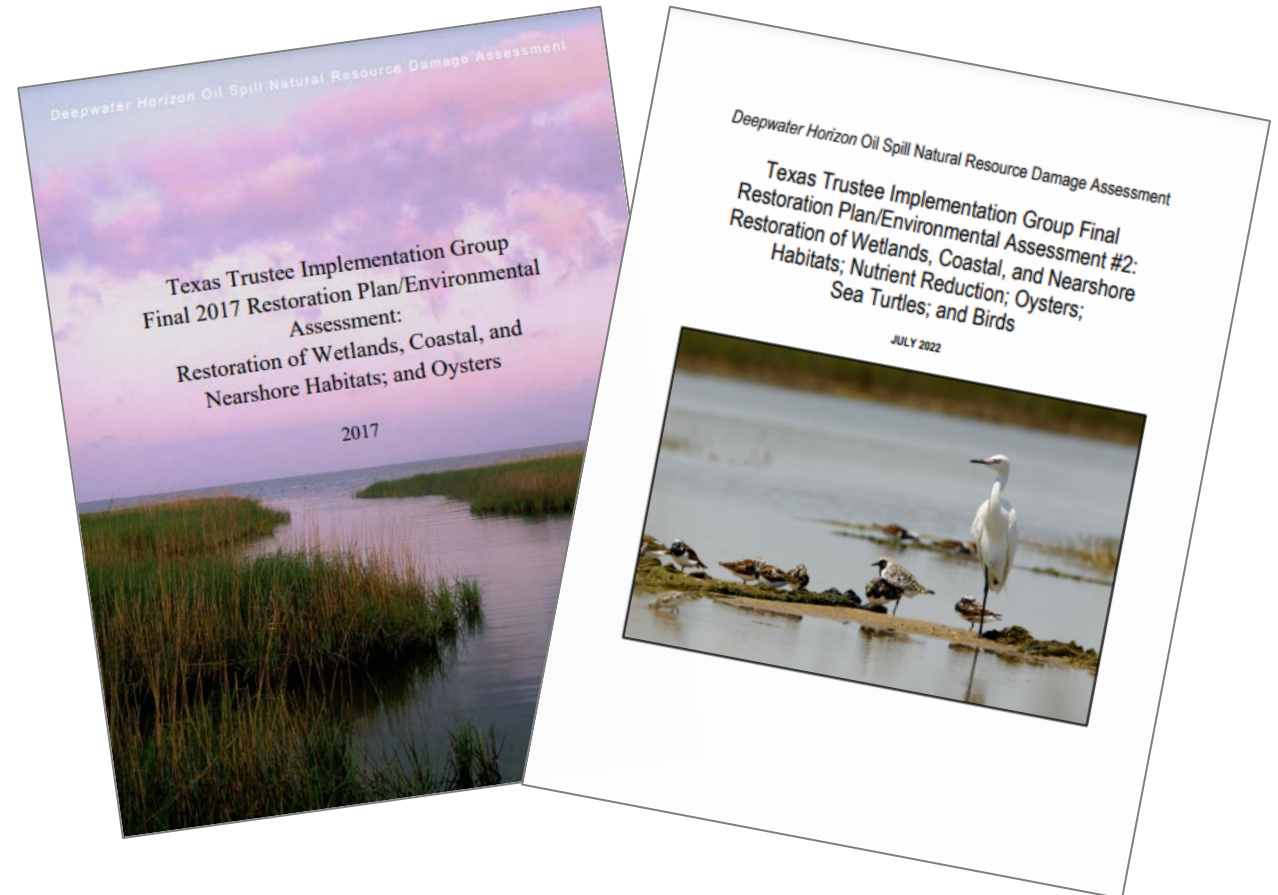
- Ducks Unlimited led the project team and stakeholders
  - Selected 8 sites
  - Prepared designs and specifications



# BUDM Planning and New Restoration Plan



- Initiate Phase II BUDM Marsh Restoration Implementation for the BUDM 8 sites
  - Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment
  - Public will be asked to provide input
- The Plan is the next step needed to move towards construction



# Where to find more DWH NRDA information



## GULF SPILL RESTORATION

Website maintained by NOAA on behalf of the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustees



Home

About Us

How We Restore

Restoration Areas

Data

Media & News

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## Texas Restoration Area

Restoration work in the Texas Restoration Area will focus on restoring wetlands and other coastal habitats and reducing nonpoint source pollution. We will also restore wildlife injured by the spill, including oysters, birds, and sea turtles.

Together, the trustees will restore natural resources—and the services they provide—that were injured by the spill. We will develop project-specific restoration plans, consistent with the **programmatic restoration plan** (see chart below). As part of the restoration planning process, we will accept restoration project ideas from the public. The public will also have the opportunity to review and comment on any proposed project-specific restoration plans for the Texas Restoration Area. Once approved, we will then begin implementation and monitoring of the selected projects.



<https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/texas>



Photo by: Woody Woodrow, USFWS

# Comments



- Please submit questions and comments to: [txdwhnrda@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:txdwhnrda@tpwd.texas.gov)
- The comment period for this meeting is open from December 4-8, 2023
- This presentation will be available to watch in the future and will be posted here: [www.youtube.com/@GulfSpillRestoration](https://www.youtube.com/@GulfSpillRestoration)



**Thank you!**

**<https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/texas>**