



OPEN OCEAN RESTORATION AREA Education and Stewardship Partnerships with Charter Anglers *(preferred)*



Fishing vessels
Photo by NOAA Fisheries

RESTORATION TYPE: Fish and Water Column Invertebrates

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project would restore priority fish species by reducing sources of mortality from illegal charter fishing. Activities would include the development and implementation of a communication plan, conducting outreach and education on the impacts of illegal charter fishing on fish and invertebrate resources, and evaluating rates of change in legal fishing effort following project outreach over time.

This project, estimated to cost \$3 million, would be implemented over approximately 8 years.



PROJECT BENEFITS

- Reduces illegal charter fishing through education, outreach, and communication
- Activities would benefit injured species including reef fish, highly migratory species, and other oceanic fishes such as snapper and grouper species

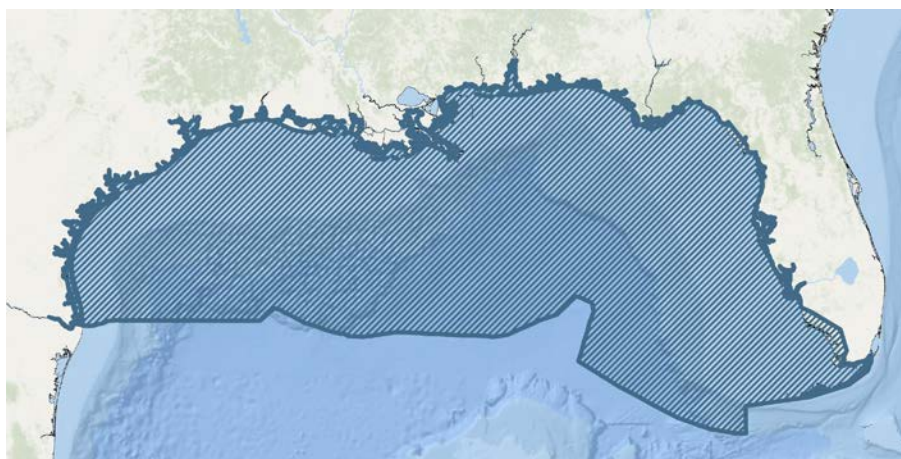


Education and Stewardship Partnerships with Charter Anglers (*preferred*)

This project would promote best fishing practices by providing education and outreach for industry partners and the public. These efforts would aim to reduce illegal fishing charters and educate the public on the benefits of legally permitted charters. Initial project planning would include developing implementation and communication plans for project activities. Project partners would participate in planning and coordination.

Outreach and education activities would be conducted to enhance awareness of illegal charter fishing activities and the negative impacts to fish and invertebrate resources. For example, informational signage, translated materials, multi-lingual liaisons, and partner organizations would be used in key locations where illegal charter fishing is found to be prevalent. Media campaigns including web stories, articles in fishing magazines, and media in other appropriate platforms would be used to communicate the negative impacts of illegal charter fishing on fish resources, increase awareness, and to deter unpermitted charter fishing. Further, the effectiveness of education and outreach campaigns and the rates of change in legal fishing practices would be evaluated over time to improve project outreach and education.

Project activities would occur in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/open-ocean



Illegal charter fishing practices contribute to overfishing, increase bycatch and post-release mortality, and damage habitat. Harvest from illegal fishing is unreported; thus, not accounted for by fishery managers in tracking quotas and setting limits.