
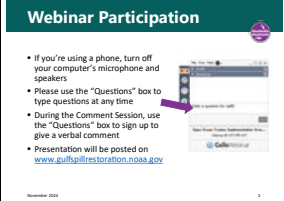
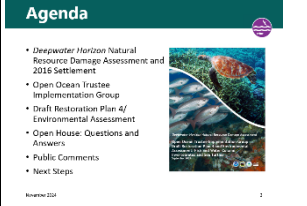





Open Ocean Restoration Area Draft Restoration Plan 4 and Environmental Assessment

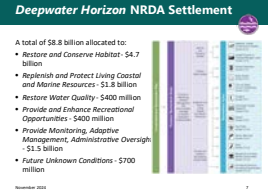
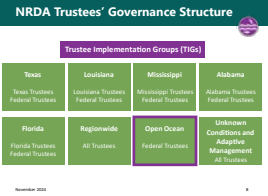













Public Webinars Presentation Script

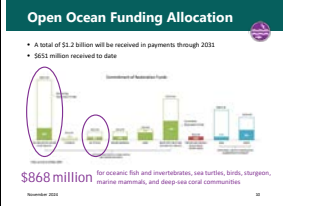


November 14 (1-2pm ET) and November 20 (5-6pm ET)


Slide #	Image	Notes
1		<p>Slide: Title</p> <p>Speaker: Lena Flannery, IEC</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Welcome to the public webinar for the Open Ocean Trustees’ Draft Restoration Plan 4 and Environmental Assessment for Fish and Water Column Invertebrates and Sea Turtles.</p> <p>My name is Lena, and I am a contractor with IEC supporting the Open Ocean Trustees as a meeting facilitator. Our other speakers will introduce themselves during the webinar.</p>
2		<p>Slide: Webinar Participation</p> <p>Speaker: Lena Flannery, IEC</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Before we begin, we will run through some webinar logistics.</p> <p>If you are logged in to the webinar, you should see the GoToWebinar control panel on the right-hand side of your screen. If you cannot see the control panel, click on the orange arrow.</p> <p>Please note that only the presenters will be able to speak during the presentation portion of the webinar; all other attendees will be muted unless they wish to give a verbal public comment.</p> <p>Everyone should see the “Questions” box at the bottom of the control panel, which is shown on the right-hand side of this slide. If you have questions about the presentation or the Draft Restoration Plan, please enter those in the “Questions” box at any time. After the presentation, during the Open House, we will answer as many questions as we can in the time allotted.</p> <p>There will also be an opportunity to submit verbal comments on the Draft Restoration Plan, but please hold these until the Public Comment portion of the webinar.</p>



Slide #	Image	Notes
		<p>Within the next few days, we will post today's presentation, including translations for Spanish and Vietnamese, to the GulfSpillRestoration.noaa.gov website.</p> <p>I will now pass the presentation over to Laurie Rounds with NOAA.</p>
3		<p>Slide: Webinar Agenda</p> <p>Speaker: Laurie Rounds, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Thank you, Lena, and thank you all for joining us today. My name is Laurie Rounds, and I am NOAA's representative for the Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group, or TIG.</p> <p>Speaking on behalf of the TIG, we are excited to share information with you today about our Draft Restoration Plan 4 and to hear your questions and comments.</p> <p>Today's presentation will start with some background, including a brief summary of the <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> oil spill, the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (or NRDA), the 2016 settlement with BP, and an introduction to the Open Ocean TIG.</p> <p>Then, you'll hear about the restoration projects proposed in the draft plan to help restore oceanic fish, invertebrates, and sea turtles that were injured by the oil spill.</p> <p>Following the presentation, we will host an Open House, when we look forward to receiving your questions. We have several members of the TIG and resource experts here to answer your questions.</p> <p>After that, we will provide an opportunity for verbal public comments before wrapping up with information about next steps in the restoration planning process. I will now turn it over to Kaitlyn Brucker with EPA to provide an overview of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the NRDA program.</p>
4		<p>Slide: <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> Oil Spill</p> <p>Speaker: Kaitlyn Brucker, EPA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Thank you, Laurie, and good afternoon, everyone. My name is Kaitlyn Brucker, and I am an EPA Biologist participating in the Open Ocean TIG.</p> <p>On April 20, 2010, the <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> drilling unit exploded, caught fire, and eventually sank. The explosion resulted in a loss of life, and, over 87 days, the well released approximately 134 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.</p>

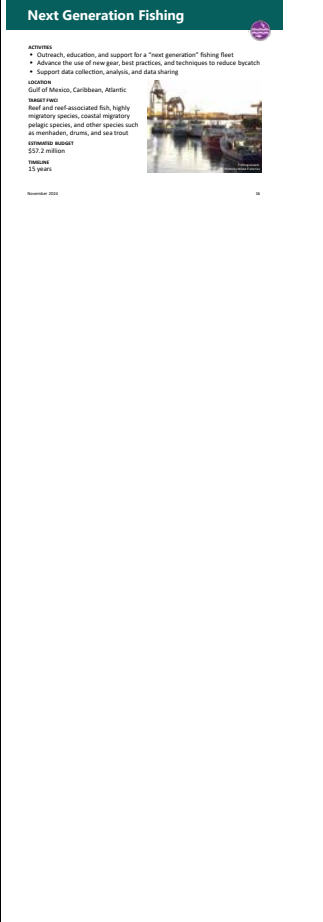
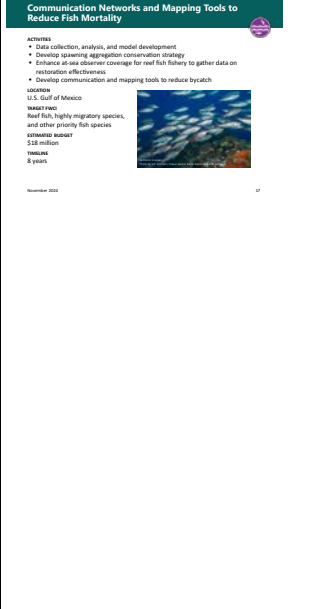
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		<p>The <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> oil spill was the largest offshore marine oil spill in U.S. history. Oil slicks were observed across over 43 thousand square miles. Oil spread from the deep ocean to the surface and nearshore environment, washing up onto more than 13 hundred miles of Gulf shoreline.</p>
5	 <p>Deepwater Horizon Incident and Response</p> <p>Data Collection to Assess Damages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thousands of trips to survey and collect data, and thousands of environmental samples collected • Sediment, air, water, tissue samples, carcasses, photos and videos, telemetry, aerial imagery, GPS data, observations • Including observations and collections of oiled sea turtles and prawns and fish sampling 	<p>Slide: <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> Incident and Response</p> <p>Speaker: Kaitlyn Brucker, EPA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Under the Oil Pollution Act, state and federal agencies are authorized to assess injuries to natural resources from oil spills and seek monetary damages to restore those resources.</p> <p>Assessing natural resource injuries from the spill required numerous trips to the field and collection of hundreds of thousands of environmental samples.</p> <p>In the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico, the oil came into contact with deep-sea corals, many species of fish, sea turtles, dolphins, whales, and other protected marine life. The spill also injured the less-visible biological communities that live in the water column such as plankton, larval fish, and invertebrates such as squid and shrimp. These resources play important ecological roles in the marine food web.</p>
6	 <p>Trustees' Programmatic Restoration Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>Slide: Trustees' Programmatic RP</p> <p>Speaker: Kaitlyn Brucker, EPA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>As part of the NRDA, the Trustees developed a damage assessment plan that documented the natural resource injuries caused by the spill. The Trustees concluded that the scale of the injury was so massive that an ecosystem approach to restoration was needed.</p> <p>To be strategic about restoration at an ecosystem level, the Trustees developed a “programmatic” restoration plan. Rather than selecting individual projects up front, the programmatic restoration plan identified goals, restoration types, and restoration approaches that would achieve the Trustees’ ecosystem approach to restoration. The plan set the framework for more detailed, project-level planning.</p> <p><i>Enter in chat box:</i></p> <p><i>The Trustees’ programmatic restoration plan can be found at https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan</i></p>

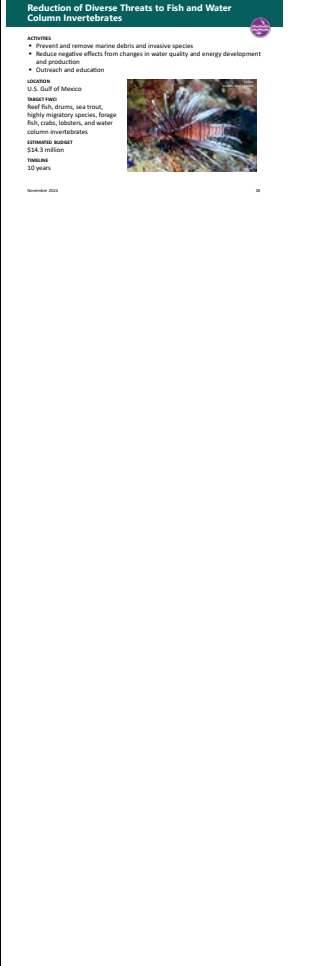
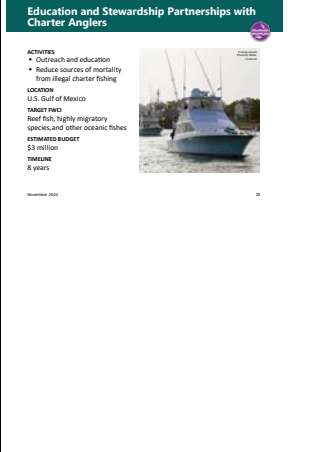
Slide #	Image	Notes								
7	 <p>Deepwater Horizon NRDA Settlement</p> <p>A total of \$8.8 billion allocated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore and Conserve Habitat: \$4.7 billion • Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources: \$1.8 billion • Restore Water Quality: \$400 million • Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities: \$400 million • Provide Monitoring, Adaptive Management, Administrative Oversight: \$1.5 billion • Future Unknown Conditions: \$700 million 	<p>Slide: <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> NRDA Settlement</p> <p>Speaker: Kaitlyn Brucker, EPA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>In 2016, the Trustees reached a legal settlement with BP of up to 8.8 billion dollars to make the public whole for injuries to natural resources and their services.</p> <p>Based on the resources and extent of injuries caused by the spill, the settlement dollars were allocated among the Trustees’ five broad restoration goals as indicated on this slide. Restoration for fish and invertebrates and sea turtles falls under the Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources Restoration Goal.</p> <p>Next, Erin Chandler with the Department of the Interior will provide information about the Trustees and Open Ocean TIG.</p>								
8	 <p>NRDA Trustees’ Governance Structure</p> <p>Trustee Implementation Groups (TIGs)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Texas Texas Trustees Federal Trustees</td> <td>Louisiana Louisiana Trustees Federal Trustees</td> <td>Mississippi Mississippi Trustees Federal Trustees</td> <td>Alabama Alabama Trustees Federal Trustees</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Florida Florida Trustees Federal Trustees</td> <td>Regionwide All Trustees</td> <td>Open Ocean Federal Trustees</td> <td>Unknown Conditions and Adaptive Management All Trustees</td> </tr> </table>	Texas Texas Trustees Federal Trustees	Louisiana Louisiana Trustees Federal Trustees	Mississippi Mississippi Trustees Federal Trustees	Alabama Alabama Trustees Federal Trustees	Florida Florida Trustees Federal Trustees	Regionwide All Trustees	Open Ocean Federal Trustees	Unknown Conditions and Adaptive Management All Trustees	<p>Slide: NRDA Trustees’ Governance Structure</p> <p>Speaker: Erin Chandler, DOI</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Thanks, Kaitlyn, and hello everyone, my name is Erin Chandler. I am a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I represent DOI on the Open Ocean TIG.</p> <p>Following the settlement, the Trustees created an implementation group for each restoration area outlined in the programmatic restoration plan: one for each of the five Gulf states, Regionwide, Open Ocean, and an implementation group for Unknown Conditions and Adaptive Management that may be formed in the future.</p> <p>The Open Ocean TIG is responsible for planning and implementing restoration for the Open Ocean Restoration Area.</p>
Texas Texas Trustees Federal Trustees	Louisiana Louisiana Trustees Federal Trustees	Mississippi Mississippi Trustees Federal Trustees	Alabama Alabama Trustees Federal Trustees							
Florida Florida Trustees Federal Trustees	Regionwide All Trustees	Open Ocean Federal Trustees	Unknown Conditions and Adaptive Management All Trustees							
9	 <p>Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>  U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Erin Chandler Marc Anne Blanchard </td> <td>  National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Lucas Rouse Chris Doty </td> <td>  U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Danny Wilgand Gale Baranco </td> <td>  U.S. Department of Agriculture Ben Batts Ben Howard </td> </tr> </table>	 U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Erin Chandler Marc Anne Blanchard	 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Lucas Rouse Chris Doty	 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Danny Wilgand Gale Baranco	 U.S. Department of Agriculture Ben Batts Ben Howard	<p>Slide: Open Ocean TIG Agencies and Representatives</p> <p>Speaker: Erin Chandler, DOI</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>The Open Ocean TIG includes the Trustee agency representatives identified on this slide.</p> <p>The Open Ocean Trustees work together to restore wide-ranging and migratory species injured by the spill. We coordinate with state Trustees, especially when proposed restoration projects overlap with their jurisdictions.</p> <p>It is important to note that the restoration conducted by this TIG focuses on the most effective approaches for restoring migratory species throughout their geographic ranges. As is the case in Draft Restoration Plan 4, restoration for these species may involve</p>				
 U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Erin Chandler Marc Anne Blanchard	 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Lucas Rouse Chris Doty	 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Danny Wilgand Gale Baranco	 U.S. Department of Agriculture Ben Batts Ben Howard							



Slide #	Image	Notes
		project activities, where these species occur, outside the Gulf of Mexico.
10	 <p>Open Ocean Funding Allocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of \$1.2 billion will be received in payments through 2031 \$651 million received to date <p>\$868 million for oceanic fish and invertebrates, sea turtles, birds, sturgeon, marine mammals, and deep-sea coral communities</p>	<p>Slide: Open Ocean Funding Allocation</p> <p>Speaker: Erin Chandler, DOI</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>The Open Ocean Restoration Area was allocated 1.2 billion dollars, which is being paid over 15 years. This slide shows how the funding has been divided across three categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The blue portion, on the far right, is for Monitoring, Adaptive Management, and Administrative Oversight, 2. The red portion is for Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities, which we have already committed to approved projects in the Gulf, 3. And the green portion is for Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources. This portion of the allocation is 868 million dollars and is further divided into allocations to restore oceanic fish and invertebrates, sea turtles, marine mammals, birds, sturgeon, and deep-sea coral communities. Of that, shown in the purple circles, 400 million dollars is allocated to restoration for oceanic fish and invertebrates, and 55 million dollars is allocated to restoration for sea turtles. <p>This Draft Restoration Plan 4 proposes to commit approximately 210 million dollars from three funds: the Open Ocean Fish and Water Column Invertebrates Restoration Type, the Sea Turtles Restoration Type, and the Monitoring and Adaptive Management allocation.</p> <p>I will now pass the presentation back to Laurie.</p>
11	 <p>Open Ocean Restoration Plan 4 Development</p>	<p>Slide: Open Ocean Draft Restoration Plan 4 Development Cover</p> <p>Speaker: Laurie Rounds, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Thank you, Erin. Now I would like to go over the process the Open Ocean Trustees used to develop Draft Restoration Plan 4.</p>
12	 <p>Restoration Planning Process and Timeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 1, 2023: Call for project ideas June 25, 2023: Notice of restoration plan development October 30, 2023: Notice of availability of Draft RPA/EA November 14 & 20, 2024: Draft RPA/EA public webinars December 16, 2024: End of Draft RPA/EA comment period 	<p>Slide: Restoration Planning Process and Timeline</p> <p>Speaker: Laurie Rounds, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>As you can see on this slide, public participation is an important part of the Deepwater Horizon restoration planning process. The Open Ocean Trustees began planning for our fourth Restoration Plan in June 2023 with a call for restoration project ideas for the</p>


Slide #	Image	Notes
		<p>Fish and Water Column Invertebrates and Sea Turtles Restoration Types. We reviewed those ideas and used them to develop the range of projects proposed in the draft plan.</p> <p>On October 30, we released Draft Restoration Plan 4 which we are presenting to you today. This is an important step in our planning process when we seek public review and input on the Draft Plan. We hope that you will consider providing your comments.</p> <p>After considering and incorporating public input, we will finalize the Plan and, if a Finding of No Significant Impact is made, we will begin project implementation, monitoring, and reporting for the selected projects.</p>
13		<p>Slide: Open Ocean Draft Restoration Plan 4 Overview</p> <p>Speaker: Laurie Rounds, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Next, I'd like to share a little more about the screening process we used to identify a reasonable range of alternatives to restore oceanic fish, invertebrates, and sea turtles proposed in the plan. You can also read more about the screening process in Chapter 2 of the draft plan.</p> <p>Through our call for projects, 87 ideas were submitted to the Trustees. We prioritized project ideas that would address the high-priority species and objectives from our <i>Fish and Water Column Invertebrates Strategic Plan</i>. For sea turtles, we prioritized project ideas that would improve response to threats and emergency events; reduce risk of vessel strikes; improve awareness or use of bycatch reduction devices; and conserve sea turtle nesting habitat.</p> <p>Overall, only the project ideas that were consistent with the Trustees' Programmatic Restoration Plan and the restoration priorities for fish, invertebrates, and sea turtles were considered further through the screening process.</p> <p>In the Draft Plan, we evaluated 12 projects under the required laws and regulations and determined that 10 of those would best contribute to restoring injured resources. The 10 projects proposed for implementation would cost approximately 210 million dollars.</p> <p>The public comment period began on October 30 with the release of the Draft Plan, and comments will be accepted through December 16.</p>


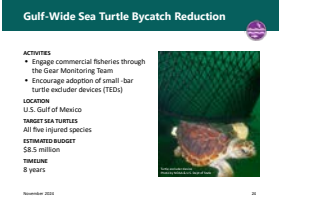
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		I will now pass the presentation to Jamie Reinhardt with NOAA to provide an overview of the Fish and Water Column Invertebrate restoration projects.
14		<p>Slide: Fish and Water Column Invertebrate Restoration Alternatives Cover</p> <p>Speaker: Jamie Reinhardt, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Thank you, Laurie. Hello. My name is Jamie Reinhardt, and I serve as the <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> Fish and Water Column Invertebrates Restoration Coordinator for NOAA.</p> <p>The next few slides outline the Fish and Water Column Invertebrate Restoration Type projects proposed in the draft plan. In this Draft Plan, the Trustees evaluated seven restoration projects, six of which are proposed for implementation.</p> <p>We encourage you to submit questions about the projects at any time, and we will try to answer your questions during the Open House.</p> <p>Additional information on the proposed projects is available in project factsheets, located on the Trustees’ website.</p>
15		<p>Slide: Return ‘Em Right: Species and Area Expansion</p> <p>Speaker: Jamie Reinhardt, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>The first project proposed for implementation is <i>Return ‘Em Right: Species and Area Expansion</i>. This project would build upon the successful ‘Return ‘Em Right’ program, which was approved in our second Restoration Plan and launched in May 2022.</p> <p>The project was initially implemented to reduce post-release mortality of reef fish injured by the oil spill. The program currently provides education about best release practices and distributes release gear for reef fish to recreational anglers across the Gulf.</p> <p>This proposed project would continue the efforts of Return ‘Em Right and expand the methods and scope of the program to address post-release mortality of additional species, in more areas of the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, and U.S. Atlantic, over 15 years. For example, this project would expand efforts to include best release practices and release gear for highly migratory species, coastal migratory pelagic species, and other reef fish. Best release practices would include using appropriate hooks, tackle, and landing tools; minimizing fight time; reducing depredation of hooked fish; and using descending devices to reduce barotrauma.</p>


Slide #	Image	Notes
		This project would be implemented for 15 years at an estimated budget of 66.2 million dollars.
16		<p>Slide: Next Generation Fishing</p> <p>Speaker: Jamie Reinhardt, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>The second project proposed for implementation is <i>Next Generation Fishing</i>.</p> <p>This project seeks to restore injured fish by helping commercial fishing fleets adopt conservation techniques that reduce sources of fish mortality. Changing environmental conditions impact the distribution of fish species, including spawning and feeding grounds. As fleets adapt to these conditions, interactions with fish populations may contribute to increased bycatch.</p> <p>Project activities would involve engagement and outreach with fleets to increase awareness of best practices, conservation techniques, and stewardship principals to reduce bycatch. New gear, best practices, and techniques that reduce bycatch would be advanced within the commercial fishing community through voluntary actions, including participation in gear trials and demonstrations. Systems for collecting and sharing fishery-dependent data would also be supported, which could include sharing information on fishing effort, catch, and environmental conditions to inform restoration efforts and fisheries science and management.</p> <p>This project would be implemented for 15 years at an estimated budget of 57.2 million dollars.</p>
17		<p>Slide: Communication Networks and Mapping Tools to Reduce Fish Mortality</p> <p>Speaker: Jamie Reinhardt, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>The third project proposed for implementation is <i>Communication Networks and Mapping Tools to Reduce Fish Mortality</i>.</p> <p>This project would build on a previously funded Open Ocean TIG project approved in our second restoration plan that explored bycatch hotspot mapping and communication networks and a NOAA RESTORE Science Program-funded project that identified important fish spawning areas in the Gulf of Mexico. The goal of this proposed project is to help fishers minimize bycatch, depredation, and interactions with spawning aggregations of reef fish, highly migratory species, and other priority fish species.</p> <p>Specifically, this project would develop analytical models, maps, and voluntary communication networks with interested fisheries.</p>

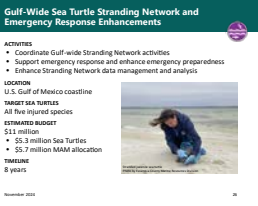
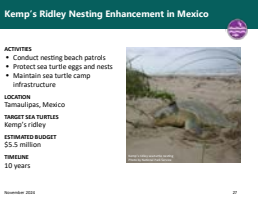
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		<p>The project would also work with fishing communities to enhance the conservation of spawning aggregations.</p> <p>This project would be implemented for 8 years at an estimated budget of 18 million dollars.</p>
18	 <p>Reduction of Diverse Threats to Fish and Water Column Invertebrates</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and remove marine debris and invasive species • Reduce negative effects from changes in water quality and energy development and production • Outreach and education <p>LOCATION U.S. Gulf of Mexico</p> <p>TARGET FISH Reef fish, shrimp, sea hares, highly migratory species, forage fish, crabs, lobsters, and water column invertebrates.</p> <p>ESTIMATED BUDGET \$14.3 million</p> <p>TIMELINE 10 years</p> <p>November 2015</p>	<p>Slide: Reduction of Diverse Threats to Fish and Water Column Invertebrates</p> <p>Speaker: Jamie Reinhardt, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>The fourth project proposed for implementation is <i>Reduction of Diverse Threats to Fish and Water Column Invertebrates</i>.</p> <p>This project seeks to restore fish and invertebrates injured by the oil spill by reducing mortality from diverse threats, including marine debris, invasive species, changes to water quality such as eutrophication and harmful algal blooms, and energy development and production. Addressing these threats would improve environmental conditions in the Gulf.</p> <p>Project activities would include a planning phase to prioritize areas for implementation that can provide the greatest benefit to fish and invertebrates. Implementation would include a range of activities such as marine debris prevention and removal, water quality enhancement, invasive species removal, and development of voluntary conservation practices for energy development and production activities.</p> <p>Implementation would include partnering with Gulf communities, organizations, resource managers, and subject matter experts to target activities that would provide the greatest benefit to marine resources.</p> <p>This project would be implemented for 10 years at an estimated budget of 14.3 million dollars.</p>
19	 <p>Education and Stewardship Partnerships with Charter Anglers</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach and education • Reduce sources of mortality from illegal charter fishing <p>LOCATION U.S. Gulf of Mexico</p> <p>TARGET FISH Reef fish, highly migratory species, and other oceanic fishes</p> <p>ESTIMATED BUDGET \$3 million</p> <p>TIMELINE 5 years</p> <p>November 2015</p>	<p>Slide: Education and Stewardship Partnerships with Charter Anglers</p> <p>Speaker: Jamie Reinhardt, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>The fifth project proposed for implementation is <i>Education and Stewardship Partnerships with Charter Anglers</i>.</p> <p>This project seeks to reduce illegal charter fishing that contributes to fish mortality. The project would provide education and outreach to industry partners and the public on the benefits of permitted charters. Media campaigns, informational signage, translated materials, multi-lingual liaisons, and partner organizations would be used to communicate the negative</p>


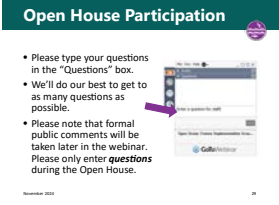
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		<p>impacts of illegal charter fishing on fish resources, increase awareness, and deter unpermitted charter fishing. Information would also be gathered to evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies and rates of change in legal fishing effort following project implementation.</p> <p>This project would be implemented for 8 years at an estimated budget of 3 million dollars.</p>
20		<p>Slide: Communication, Adaptive Management, Planning, and Integration</p> <p>Speaker: Jamie Reinhardt, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>The last project proposed for implementation is <i>Communication, Adaptive Management, Planning, and Integration</i>.</p> <p>Broadly, this project would support and enhance projects across the Fish and Water Column Invertebrates Restoration Type by addressing information needs of injured high-priority fish and invertebrate species. This project would provide information to improve resource restoration and management, facilitate coordination among ongoing and proposed restoration projects, and help expand outreach to fishing communities to raise awareness of and engagement with restoration activities.</p> <p>Specifically, this project seeks to improve understanding of species’ spatial distribution, abundance, habitat characteristics, food web dynamics, and the threats they face. The project would implement various data collection methods such as tagging and collecting observational data, mapping, and predictive modeling.</p> <p>This project would be implemented for 15 years at an estimated budget of 23.3 million dollars. The TIG proposes committing 8 million dollars from the Open Ocean Fish and Water Column Invertebrates Restoration Type allocation and 15.3 million dollars from the Open Ocean Monitoring and Adaptive Management allocation.</p>
21		<p>Slide: Reduction in Fish Post-Release Mortality from Depredation</p> <p>Speaker: Jamie Reinhardt, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>The final project is <i>Reduction in Fish Post-Release Mortality from Depredation</i>. This project is not proposed for implementation at this time.</p> <p>This project seeks to reduce fish mortality in commercial and charter fishing fleets associated with depredation of reef fish,</p>



Slide #	Image	Notes
		<p>highly migratory species, and other commercially and recreationally important fish species. This project would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enhance data collection and analysis efforts to evaluate depredation in the Gulf and the extent to which it affects fish mortality; - identify, test, and evaluate strategies to reduce depredation; and - advance the use of new measures through education, outreach, and collaborative partnerships. <p>This project would be implemented for up to 10 years at an estimated budget of 5.1 million dollars.</p> <p>This project is not proposed for implementation at this time. There is currently a relatively high level of uncertainty surrounding the causes of depredation and the efficacy of methods or tools to reduce it. The Open Ocean TIG has concluded that additional data collection and gear testing are needed to better understand depredation interactions and to assess the efficacy, cost-effectiveness, and safety of emerging depredation-deterrent strategies and technologies.</p> <p>I will now pass the presentation to Sara Wissmann with NOAA to provide an overview of the Sea Turtle restoration projects.</p>
22		<p>Slide: Sea Turtles Restoration Alternatives</p> <p>Speaker: Sara Wissmann, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Thank you, Jamie, and hello, everyone.</p> <p>My name is Sara Wissmann. I am an ecologist with NOAA and I serve as the <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> Sea Turtle Restoration Coordinator for NOAA. I'm very excited to share our proposed sea turtle projects with you.</p> <p>The next few slides outline the proposed Sea Turtle Restoration Type projects. We evaluated five Sea Turtle restoration projects and are proposing four for implementation. As I walk through, you will notice that many of the proposed projects build on existing successful restoration efforts for sea turtles.</p> <p>As a reminder, you can enter your questions about any of the projects at any time, and we will answer as many questions as we can during the Question-and-Answer session.</p>




Slide #	Image	Notes
23		<p>Slide: Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat Protection Expansion in Florida (Long Term Nesting Habitat Protection for Sea Turtles)</p> <p>Speaker: Sara Wissmann, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>The first project proposed for implementation is <i>Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat Protection Expansion in Florida</i>. This project would build on our <i>Long Term Nesting Habitat Protection for Sea Turtles</i> project, which we approved in our second Restoration Plan. The proposed project would continue successful nesting habitat acquisition efforts at Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge and expand these activities to Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge along the Atlantic Coast of Florida.</p> <p>We would acquire nesting beach parcels from willing sellers. If the parcels include derelict structures that pose risks to nesting sea turtles or hatchlings (such as seawalls, old buildings, or parking lots), this project would remove those structures.</p> <p>These acquisition efforts will provide benefits to loggerhead, green, and leatherback sea turtles and will protect important sea turtle nesting habitat in perpetuity.</p> <p>This project would be implemented for 6 years at an estimated budget of 5 million dollars.</p>
24		<p>Slide: Gulf-Wide Sea Turtle Bycatch Reduction</p> <p>Speaker: Sara Wissmann, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>The second project proposed for implementation is <i>Gulf-Wide Sea Turtle Bycatch Reduction</i>.</p> <p>This project would build on existing Regionwide and Open Ocean projects, and would continue successful efforts to reduce sea turtle bycatch in Gulf commercial fisheries.</p> <p>This project includes 2 major components. The first would continue to expand NOAA’s Gear Monitoring Team, or GMT, to engage with commercial fishing communities. The GMT currently works with the shrimp fishery, providing outreach to individual captains to help them comply with existing turtle excluder device, or TED, requirements. Through this project, the GMT would continue to conduct courtesy dockside and at-sea inspections of TEDs and provide assistance with maintaining proper TED installation. This project would also allow the GMT to expand their outreach efforts to include commercial hook-and-line</p>

Slide #	Image	Notes
		<p>fisheries, assisting fishers with sea turtle resuscitation, dehooking, and safe handling and release requirements.</p> <p>The second component of this project would encourage the voluntary adoption of newly tested TED designs, with a narrower bar spacing. The new narrow or small-bar TEDs were tested in a prior Open Ocean project and have been shown to successfully exclude small juvenile sea turtles while retaining target catch. The project would purchase the small-bar TEDs and install them on willing volunteer vessels.</p> <p>This project is expected to benefit loggerhead and Kemp's ridley sea turtles and would be implemented for 8 years at an estimated budget of 8.5 million dollars.</p>
25	 <p>Gulf-Wide Sea Turtle Vessel Strike Reduction</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 – complete data analysis Phase 2 – evaluate potential hotspots Phase 3 – implement site-specific, voluntary measures <p>LOCATION U.S. Gulf of Mexico coastline</p> <p>TARGET SEA TURTLES All five injured species</p> <p>ESTIMATED BUDGET \$3.5 million</p> <p>TIMELINE 8 years</p> <p>November 2015</p>	<p>Slide: Gulf-Wide Sea Turtle Vessel Strike Reduction</p> <p>Speaker: Sara Wissmann, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>The third project proposed for implementation is <i>Gulf-Wide Sea Turtle Vessel Strike Reduction</i>. This project seeks to reduce the risk of boat strikes by first identifying hotspots, determining key risk factors, and then implementing site-specific interventions and boater outreach at a few selected locations.</p> <p>The project would include several phases. Phase 1 would be an analysis of existing datasets to identify hotspots around the Gulf. Phase 2 would include field studies at a handful of selected sites to observe sea turtle behavior, boater behavior, and boater demographics. The goal of this phase would be to identify risk factors and potential strategies to minimize interactions between sea turtles and boats. In Phase 3, we would use the information collected to develop site-specific voluntary measures that could be implemented at a particular site. Public outreach and education would be a significant portion of this phase, as we want to work collaboratively with the local boating community to reduce risks to sea turtles.</p> <p>This project is expected to primarily benefit loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, and green sea turtles, and would be implemented for 8 years at an estimated budget of 3.5 million dollars.</p>

Slide #	Image	Notes
26	 <p>Gulf-Wide Sea Turtle Stranding Network and Emergency Response Enhancements</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate Gulf-wide stranding network activities • Support emergency response and enhance emergency preparedness • Enhance stranding network data management and analysis <p>LOCATION U.S. Gulf of Mexico coastline</p> <p>TARGET SEA TURTLES All five injured species</p> <p>ESTIMATED BUDGET \$11 million</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5.3 million Sea Turtles • \$5.7 million MAM allocation <p>TIMELINE 8 years</p> <p>November 2015</p>	<p>Slide: Gulf-Wide Sea Turtle Stranding Network and Emergency Response Enhancements</p> <p>Speaker: Sara Wissmann, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>The fourth project proposed for implementation is <i>Gulf-Wide Sea Turtle Stranding Network and Emergency Response Enhancements</i>. This project would build on existing efforts from a Regionwide TIG project, which has enhanced stranding response coordination and capacity, improved data management and analytical tools, and improved preparedness and response efforts during emergency events.</p> <p>The proposed project would maintain those key components of the Gulf-wide Stranding Network, while also improving training materials, coordination, and communication. The project would support response activities and preparedness for emergency events by providing equipment or staff. In addition to these restoration activities, the project would include monitoring and adaptive management-focused activities, including maintaining and improving the Stranding Network database, synthesizing data, and investigating causes of sea turtle mortalities.</p> <p>This project is expected to benefit all 5 Gulf of Mexico sea turtle species and would be implemented for 8 years at an estimated budget of 11 million dollars. Of this budget, the TIG proposes to commit 5.3 million dollars from the Open Ocean Sea Turtles Restoration Type allocation and 5.7 million dollars from the Open Ocean Monitoring and Adaptive Management allocation.</p>
27	 <p>Kemp's Ridley Nesting Enhancement in Mexico</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct nesting beach patrols • Protect sea turtle eggs and nests • Maintain sea turtle camp infrastructure <p>LOCATION Tamaulipas, Mexico</p> <p>TARGET SEA TURTLES Kemp's ridley</p> <p>ESTIMATED BUDGET \$5.5 million</p> <p>TIMELINE 10 years</p> <p>November 2015</p>	<p>Slide: Kemp's Ridley Nesting Enhancement in Mexico</p> <p>Speaker: Sara Wissmann, NOAA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>The final project is <i>Kemp's Ridley Nesting Enhancement in Mexico</i>. This project is not proposed for implementation at this time.</p> <p>This project would build on existing Kemp's ridley nest protection efforts in Mexico, already funded through two Regionwide TIG projects.</p> <p>This proposed project would conduct beach patrols along the Tamaulipas, Mexico coastline to locate sea turtles, tracks, and nests, and then protect those nests and eggs by marking the nests on the beach or transferring eggs to a corral. The nest patrol infrastructure would also be maintained or replaced.</p> <p>This project would be implemented for 10 years at an estimated budget of 5.5 million dollars.</p>

Slide #	Image	Notes
		<p>As previously mentioned, this project is not proposed for implementation at this time as the activities are currently funded for the near term under a Regionwide TIG project, and the Open Ocean TIG would prefer to prioritize projects with more immediate funding needs.</p> <p>Thank you for listening to our proposed project descriptions and I look forward to hearing your questions and comments on these projects.</p> <p>I will now pass it over to Ben Battle with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to lead us into the Open House portion of the webinar.</p>
28		<p>Slide: Open House: Q&A Cover</p> <p>Speaker: Ben Battle, USDA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Thank you, Sara and Jamie for those overviews of the proposed projects. More information and evaluation of each project is provided in the Draft Restoration Plan. The public is encouraged to ask questions or provide comments on any of the preferred and non-preferred alternatives. Additional information on these projects can be found in the factsheets available on the Trustees' website.</p> <p>We would now like to provide you with an opportunity to ask questions about the Draft Restoration Plan 4, the proposed projects, or the comment process and next steps.</p> <p>As we described at the beginning of the webinar, this is an opportunity to ask questions, and we will answer as many questions as we can over the next 10 minutes or so. We hope that this question/answer period will help you with the development of public comments on the Draft Restoration Plan. Please continue to hold any verbal public comments that you would like to provide until we begin the public comment session of the webinar.</p> <p>We will also post a summary of this Open House session to our website after the webinar. Lena will now provide a reminder about how to enter your questions and the process we will use during Open House period.</p>
29	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please type your questions in the "Questions" box. • We'll do our best to get to as many questions as possible. • Please note that formal public comments will be taken later in the webinar. Please only enter questions during the Open House. 	<p>Slide: Open House Participation</p> <p>Speaker: Lena Flannery, IEC</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>We have been compiling your questions throughout the webinar. In the interest of time, we may paraphrase some or combine others with similar themes to try to answer as many questions as</p>

Slide #	Image	Notes
		<p>possible. Remember, if you still have a question at this point, you can type it into the “Questions” box at the bottom of the GoToWebinar control panel (shown on this slide).</p> <p>We will pause for a moment to give you time to enter any additional questions before we begin.</p> <p><i>*Notice of time remaining at halfway point and with only 2 minutes remaining.</i></p>
30		<p>Slide: Public Comment</p> <p>Speaker: Lena Flannery, IEC</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Thank you for your questions. That concludes the Open House. We will now move into the formal Public Comment Session.</p> <p>Verbal comments given during this portion of the webinar will be included as part of the formal public comments for the Draft Restoration Plan.</p> <p>Please keep your comments to 3 minutes or less to ensure all who wish to speak may have an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>If you have a lengthier comment, please consider using the online portal or mailing your comment.</p> <p>As a reminder, the Trustees will not be responding to verbal questions during this session.</p>
31		<p>Slide: Public Comment Participation</p> <p>Speaker: Lena Flannery, IEC</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>If you would like to provide a verbal comment, please type your name into the “Questions” box. When it is your turn to speak, we will call your name and you will be unmuted. You will have three minutes to give your comment.</p> <p>We will now begin public comments. First up we will have ____, followed by ____.</p> <p>Please state your name, and if you are representing an organization, please state the name of the organization prior to making your comments</p> <p>____, we have unmuted you and you can begin your comment.</p> <p>[CONTINUE AS NEEDED]</p>

Slide #	Image	Notes
		<p>Are there any others who would like to make verbal comment at this time? If so, please use the Questions box to provide your name. We'll pause for a minute to see if anybody else would like to make a comment.</p> <p>Ok, we have no more comments.</p>
32-36		<p>Slide: Public Comment Timer Slides</p> <p>Speaker: Lena Flannery, IEC</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>** Timer will count down 3 minutes.</p>
37		<p>Slide: Next Steps</p> <p>Speaker: Lena Flannery, IEC</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>That concludes the public comment portion of today's webinar. Before wrapping up, Ben will briefly remind you of a few other ways you can submit public comments.</p>
38		<p>Slide: How to Submit Comments</p> <p>Speaker: Ben Battle, USDA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Comments may be submitted via our online portal or by U.S. mail at the address provided on this slide and on the Trustees' website.</p> <p>Your comments must be submitted no later than December 16 for consideration in the Final Plan.</p> <p>After the close of the public comment period, the Open Ocean TIG will consider all input received during the public comment period and then finalize the Restoration Plan.</p> <p>Enter into chat box:</p> <p>Information on how to submit public comments can be found at https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2024/10/open-ocean-trustees-seek-public-comment-draft-restoration-plan-4</p>
39		<p>Slide: Thank you</p> <p>Speaker: Ben Battle, USDA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Thank you for your time and interest in <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> Gulf Restoration. We look forward to receiving comments on the Draft Restoration Plan 4.</p>

Slide #	Image	Notes
		<p>We will post the presentation from this webinar to the Trustee's website after the Thanksgiving holiday.</p> <p>We will now conclude this meeting. Thank you.</p>

Open House Summary

Question: Where can I track progress of these restoration projects?

Response [Kaitlyn Brucker, EPA]: The TIG will consider all comments received through the end of the public comment period and respond to comments in the final restoration plan. The Final Plan will detail the TIG's decisions on which projects we select for funding and implementation. If a Finding of No Significant Impact is made, we will begin project implementation. Progress will be tracked and reported in the Deepwater Horizon restoration portal. You can access project records and reports on the Trustees' website, www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov.

Additional information provided: As a reminder, you can access the draft restoration plan, the factsheets, and those factsheets are available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese, and other information on the public comment process. That's all on the Trustee's website, www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov. And the Trustees will post this presentation and a summary of this Q&A session after Thanksgiving holiday. Also, in addition to the verbal public comment session that's going to follow this open house, you can submit your formal comments on the draft plan online or via mail. And again, information on those commenting options is all available on the Trustees' website. We'll also put the link in the mailing address towards the end of the webinar in case you missed it.

Question: Do you know how money will be allocated by region for the Return 'Em Right expansion?

Response [James Reinhardt, NOAA]: Presently, the precise allocation of funding by region has not yet been determined for the project. Implementation Planning during early phases of the project will be used to help fine tune the budgets and determine more specific allocations to the injured resources and areas in the regions that they occupy. Ultimately funding decisions will be determined based on the opportunities that best restore for those injured resources. Thank you for the question.

Question: What are the limitations for NMFS and other federal agencies proposing projects for funding? Also, state agencies, what are their limitations as well for funding?

Response [Laurie Rounds, NOAA]: NMFS, which stands for National Marine Fisheries Service, which is part of NOAA, NOAA Fisheries. We appreciate the question on if there are any limitations and how we will move forward with implementation of the projects that are ultimately selected. So, for those projects that are ultimately selected following our public input process, the Trustees will select a lead Implementing Trustee Agency, and that lead agency will be responsible for beginning the implementation phase for selected projects. They will follow their agency requirements for things like developing contracts or agreements to be able to implement the approved activities. The Trustees will also offer opportunities and seek partnerships and provide the opportunity for communities and organizations to provide input and participate in project activities. So, we encourage everybody to either

sign up to receive updates or be sure to check in on the projects that ultimately get selected and learn a little bit more about as we move into implementation how you can learn more information.