

Oyster Reef Restoration in Mobile County Alabama

Phase III Proposed Early Restoration Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project would restore historic oyster reefs in the estuarine waters of Mobile Bay and Mississippi Sound. The project will be implemented by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and will result in the placement of approximately 30,000 to 40,000 cubic yards of suitable oyster shell cultch over approximately 319 acres of subtidal habitat within the footprint of historical oyster reefs and located near other oyster reefs currently managed by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The objective of this project is to enhance oyster biomass through the selective placement of oyster cultch in Alabama's estuarine waters. Cultch placement promotes the settling and growth of oyster spat. It has been used successfully for many decades in Alabama waters to restore the productivity of oyster reefs. Specific locations for placement of cultch material within Mobile Bay and Mississippi Sound will be selected based on surveys designed to determine favorable environmental conditions for spat settlement and survival.

ESTIMATED COST \$3.2 million



Oysters from the estuarine waters of Mobile Bay and Mississippi Sound

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Proposed location for Oyster Reef Restoration in Mobile County, Alabama



Cultch Planting with Water Cannon to Efficiently Spread Cultch Material



Winter 2013/2014

www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov