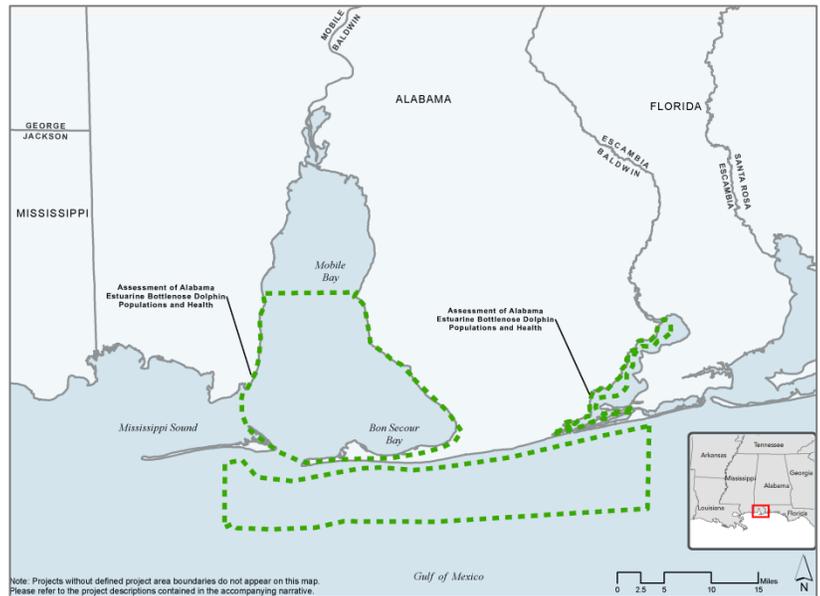


# Alabama Restoration Area Marine Mammals Restoration Type Draft Restoration Plan II

The projects selected for inclusion in the Marine Mammals reasonable range of alternatives utilize one or more of the following restoration approaches identified in the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement:

- Reduce commercial fishery bycatch through collaborative partnerships.
- Reduce injury and mortality of bottlenose dolphins from hook-and-line fishing gear.
- Increase marine mammal survival through better understanding of the causes of illness and death as well as early detection and intervention for anthropogenic and natural threats.
- Reduce injury, harm and mortality to bottlenose dolphins by reducing illegal feeding and harassment activities.
- Reduce marine mammal takes through enhanced state enforcement related to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).
- Reduce injury and mortality of marine mammals from vessel collisions.



In screening projects for Draft Restoration Plan II under this Restoration Type, Alabama Trustee Implementation Group (AL TIG) Trustees considered whether projects, at a minimum, would:

1. Make direct contributions to reducing mortality or morbidity of Alabama marine mammal populations caused by direct anthropogenic stressors or threats; or
2. Reduce natural stressors or take other actions that support the ecological needs of marine mammals that result in increased resilience of Alabama populations; or
3. Play a significant role in the collection and/or analysis of data that would improve the AL TIG's ability to restore marine mammal populations.

# Alabama Restoration Area

## Marine Mammals Projects Proposed for Implementation in Draft Restoration Plan II

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST
<b>REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES – MARINE MAMMALS</b>		
<b>Enhancing Capacity for the Alabama Marine Mammal Stranding Network</b>	This project would enhance the capacity of the Alabama Marine Mammal Stranding Network (ALMMSN) by providing funding for staff time, equipment and supplies, and sample analyses and would address the ending of the current funding source. ALMMSN is operated out of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab on Dauphin Island, Alabama. This project would allow ALMMSN to use and expand on its existing infrastructure for cetacean stranding response and communications and data management to enhance the ALMMSN's operations. It would also allow ALMMSN to better respond to stranded cetaceans, necropsy animals, and analyze samples collected from cetaceans stranded in Alabama. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) would be the implementing Trustee.	\$2,432,389
<b>Assessment of Alabama Estuarine Bottlenose Dolphin Populations &amp; Health</b>	This project would assess the status of bottlenose dolphins using Alabama waters by collecting data on dolphin distribution, habitat use, mortality rates, and feeding habits. The project is a data collection effort to: (1) investigate stock structure across Mobile Bay, Perdido Bay, and nearshore Alabama waters and the seasonal (summer/winter) abundance, distribution, and habitat use of common bottlenose dolphins on the Alabama coast using capture-mark-recapture and photo-ID surveys; and (2) assess dolphin condition following the DWH oil spill using field observation and remote biopsy sampling, both of which would inform future restoration planning. The ADCNR would be the implementing Trustee.	\$3,059,229 (This is proposed to be funded out of AL TIG's Monitoring and Adaptive Management allocation.)
<b>Alabama Estuarine Bottlenose Dolphin Protection: Enhancement &amp; Education</b>	This project would work to reduce injury and mortality in Alabama estuarine bottlenose dolphins by: (1) increasing resources for MMPA-related activities and increasing patrol hours; (2) increasing awareness and understanding of the MMPA; (3) conducting social science studies to help characterize the nature and extent of the illegal feeding of dolphins, vessel-based harassment, and interactions with hook-and-line fishing gear in Alabama; (4) conducting systematic fishery surveys to help characterize the nature and extent of dolphin interactions with commercial fishing vessels and hook-and-line gear in Alabama; and (5) developing and implementing a comprehensive and targeted outreach plan based on the results. The ADCNR would be the implementing Trustee.	\$686,374

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