

Monitoring and Adaptive Management

July 2020



WHO WE ARE

The Cross-Trustee Implementation Group (Cross-TIG) Monitoring and Adaptive Management work group consists of representatives of all members of the Trustee Council. The work group encourages compatibility of monitoring and data procedures across all TIGs and serves as a forum to address monitoring and adaptive management topics in *Deepwater Horizon* restoration. Activities for 2020-2021 will include:

- Developing project-level monitoring and adaptive management guidelines for birds, sea turtles, marine mammals, and other living coastal and marine resources.
- Supporting the Trustee Council's programmatic review that evaluates restoration efforts across TIGs and Restoration Types.
- Efforts to continue to improve the structure for restoration monitoring data in DIVER (the project information database).
- Coordinating with other Gulf restoration programs on monitoring and adaptive management matters.

WHAT WE DO

Adaptive management involves fine-tuning the restoration program over time, based on monitoring results and improved scientific understanding. We recognize the need for a robust monitoring and adaptive management framework within all the Restoration Areas. The process creates an expanding base of knowledge that supports current and future restoration decision-making and further refines which restoration approaches are most effective for different resources and environmental settings.

We are developing guidance for monitoring to evaluate restoration outcomes and benefits to injured resources. We also identify additional ecological monitoring needs and other scientific activities to address any information gaps and improve restoration planning and implementation.

Monitoring and Adaptive Management Manual

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WHAT IS THE MAM MANUAL?

In the Programmatic Restoration Plan, the Trustees committed to develop a set of guidelines for monitoring and adaptive management practices that support implementation and evaluation of restoration projects.

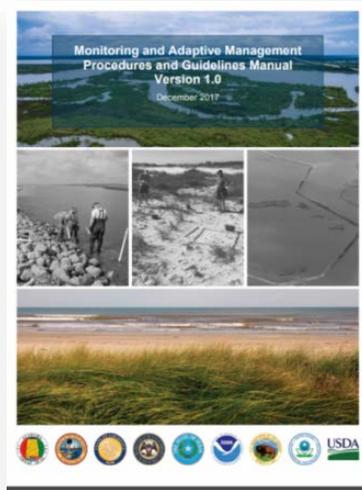
The Trustee Council released an update to the Monitoring and Adaptive Management (MAM) Procedures and Guidelines Manual Version 1.0 (pdf) in August 2019. The update provides additional monitoring guidance for the Trustee Implementation Groups.

The MAM Manual includes recommended procedures and guidelines that build upon the monitoring frameworks and conceptual monitoring plans developed for Early Restoration. The Trustees will revise the MAM Manual periodically as they develop monitoring guidance for additional restoration approaches, and evaluate restoration progress, and learn more about the best ways to measure restoration progress for different resources and environmental settings.

The MAM Manual provides guidelines for the monitoring of restoration projects that benefit the natural resources and services injured by the oil spill.

The MAM Manual is available at

<http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/monitoring-and-adaptive-management>.



WHAT IS IN THE MAM MANUAL?

MAM Manual Version 1.0 includes guidance for:

- Monitoring for wetlands, beaches and dunes, barrier islands, oysters, submerged aquatic vegetation, water quality, and recreational use restoration approaches, and projects that protect and conserve habitats.
- Implementing project adaptive management, when appropriate.
- Data management.

Future versions of the MAM Manual could include guidance for:

- Monitoring for additional restoration approaches.
- Evaluation of progress towards restoration goals.
- Reviewing existing information to identify emerging “unknown conditions.”