

Deepwater Horizon Florida Trustee Implementation Group 2020 Annual Meeting

December 8, 2020 Webinar – Public Comment Period Summary

Comment: Hi, it's Janet Bowman with the Nature Conservancy in Tallahassee, and thank you for this opportunity to provide comments. It's really great to see so much progress for those of us who have been following the various restoration plans, and that many of the projects are now providing benefits to the public in terms of recreation opportunities, and also some of the natural system restoration projects. I noticed in looking at the list, that I visited and have actually benefitted from some of the projects personally, so it's really great to see that. Looking ahead, to the next RP2, which really focuses more on living marine resources, this has certainly been a point that's been brought up a number of times, but we hope that these projects really complement the projects that were identified for the next round of restoration and also that will be complementary to the slate of the Regionwide TIG's projects that will also come out next year. So, thanks again for all of your work and I look forward to the next round. Thank you.

Comment: Hi there, this is Jessica Bibza, and I'm with National Wildlife Federation, and like Janet, have been following things from the beginning, so it's really terrific to see so much progress being made, to see so many projects that are already being completed. I know your team has been very busy and working very hard, and I don't really want to make any more work for you, but I do have two suggestions/recommendations/requests.

One is, I really appreciated you presenting the results from the projects that have already been funded, including those from the Early Restoration as well as those in RP1. These high-level overviews are definitely helpful, but on numerous occasions I have looked for more detailed information on the projects that are underway, both project progress and performance, and I found it difficult. The information on gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov website is limited. I mean, the progress reports that are there, it seems like all they do are give budgets. So, it's been difficult to understand how far along projects are, as well as how the completed projects are actually performing. The information on the NOAA DIVER and Deepwater Horizon project tracker have likewise not really provided much detail so it would be terrific if results and information on funded projects and efforts underway was more accessible and informative.

Another place where I'd love to see a little more information made available is the DEP project portal and the NRDA project portal. Actually, it's great that those portals exist and the public can go see which projects have been submitted. I know those portals are just massive, but as I look through them periodically, I see a lot of projects that I know have already been funded or vetted because they've been submitted for consideration for one funding source or another. It would be really helpful to see the results of those investments, if they've been vetted, maybe add a column that says "this project has been funded through this source" or "this project was vetted for consideration under this funding source but we're thinking it might be more appropriate for the Open Ocean TIG rather than the Florida TIG" or something like that. But again, I know there are a

lot of projects in there, and I know that you've looked at a lot of projects, but it would be great to maybe remove some of the duplicates and remove those that have been funded. Thank you!

Comment: My name is Drew Martin, I'm a representative for the Florida Sierra Club and the Loxahatchee Group of the Sierra Club. My concerns primarily have to do with the damage that may still exist from the *Deepwater Horizon* spill and the continuing damage to various fish and seafood populations such as oysters and other animals along the bottom, and some of this funding should be used to continue to study these reactions and mitigate any potential damage to these species. Also, I'm also concerned about marine mammals that may have long-term impacts from pollution in the water, particularly dolphins, and I'm concerned that they may be impacted by pollution and residual pollution from *Deepwater Horizon*. Thank you.