

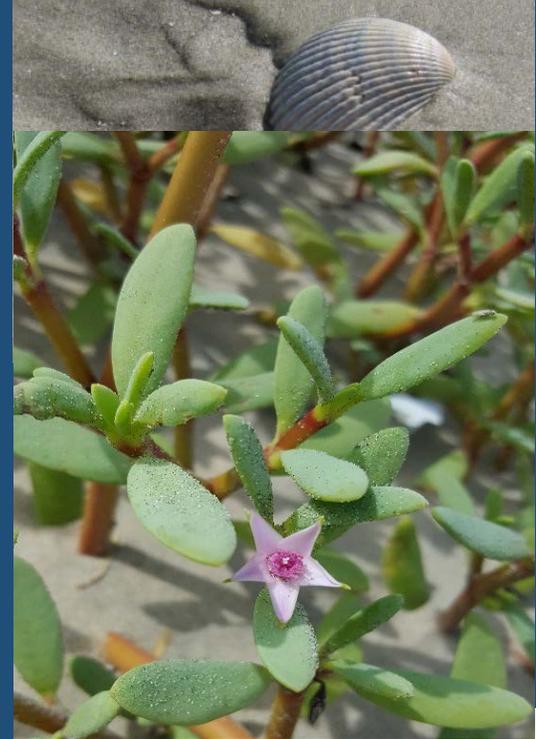
Deepwater Horizon Natural Resources Damage Assessment Texas Trustee Implementation Group

Public Meeting
December 1, 2021



Agenda

- NRDA and Deepwater Horizon
- Funding in Texas
- Restoration Planning
- Active Project Updates

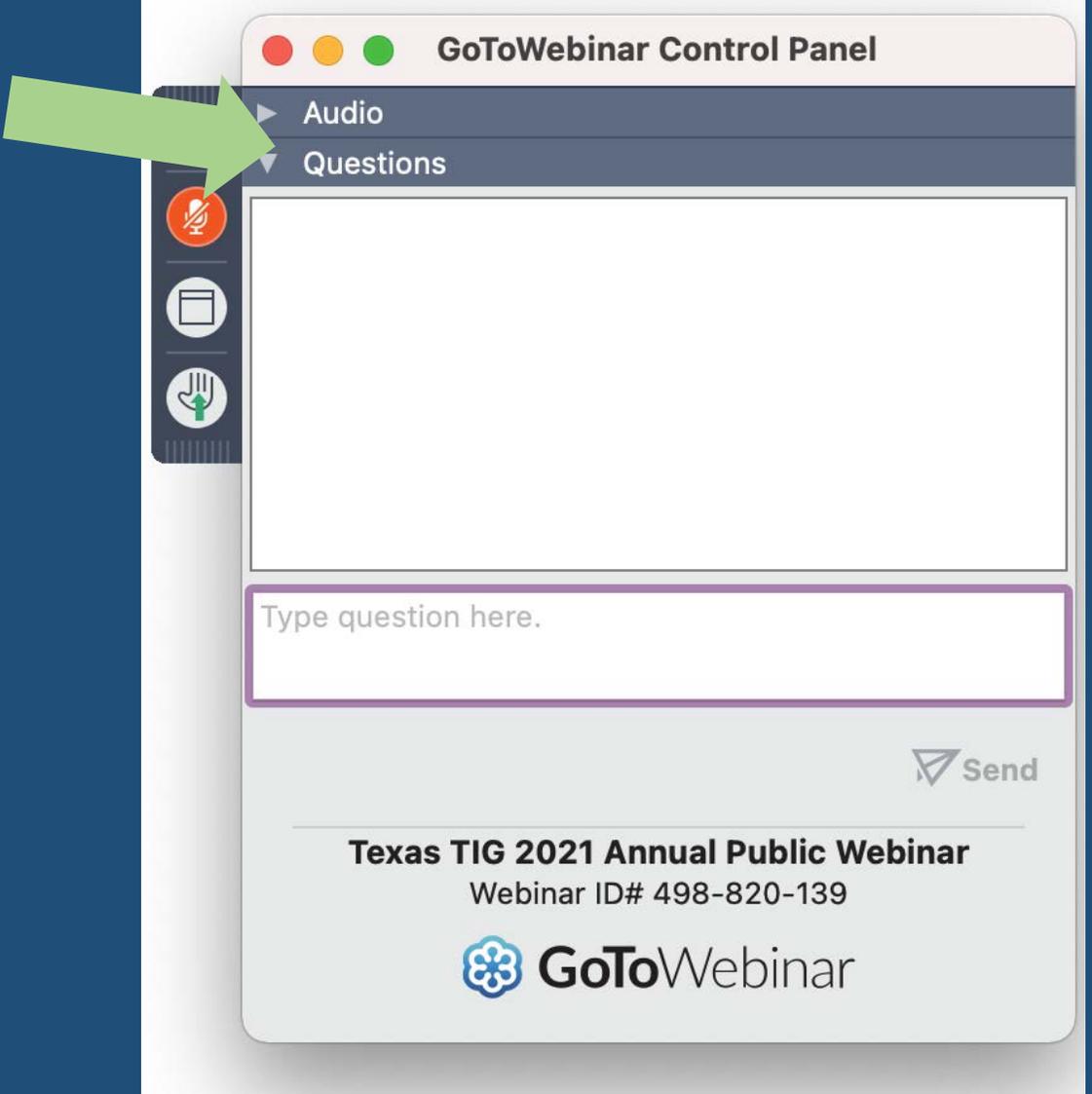


Webinar Participation

Please use the “Questions” box to type questions for the Q&A session.

We will answer as many submitted questions as possible at the end of the presentation.

The presentation will be posted on www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov.



The screenshot shows the GoToWebinar Control Panel interface. At the top, there are three colored window control buttons (red, yellow, green) followed by the title "GoToWebinar Control Panel". Below the title, there are two tabs: "Audio" and "Questions". A green arrow points to the "Questions" tab. Underneath the tabs, there is a vertical sidebar with three icons: a microphone (muted), a document, and a hand with a green arrow pointing up. The main area of the panel is a large white box. Below this box is a text input field with the placeholder text "Type question here." and a "Send" button with a paper plane icon. At the bottom of the panel, there is a footer section with the text "Texas TIG 2021 Annual Public Webinar" and "Webinar ID# 498-820-139", followed by the GoToWebinar logo and name.

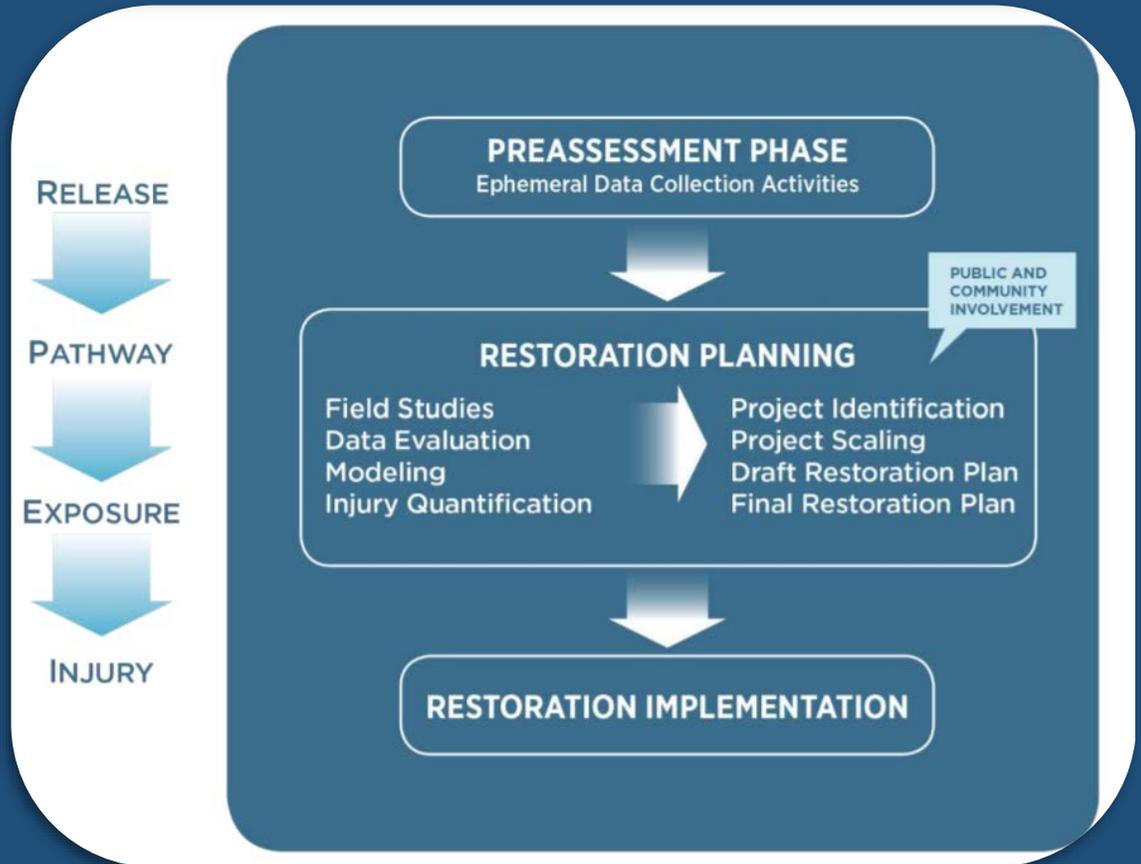
Natural Resource Damage Assessment

Authority: Oil Pollution Act of 1990

Trustees: Designated federal, state, and tribal agencies

Responsibilities:

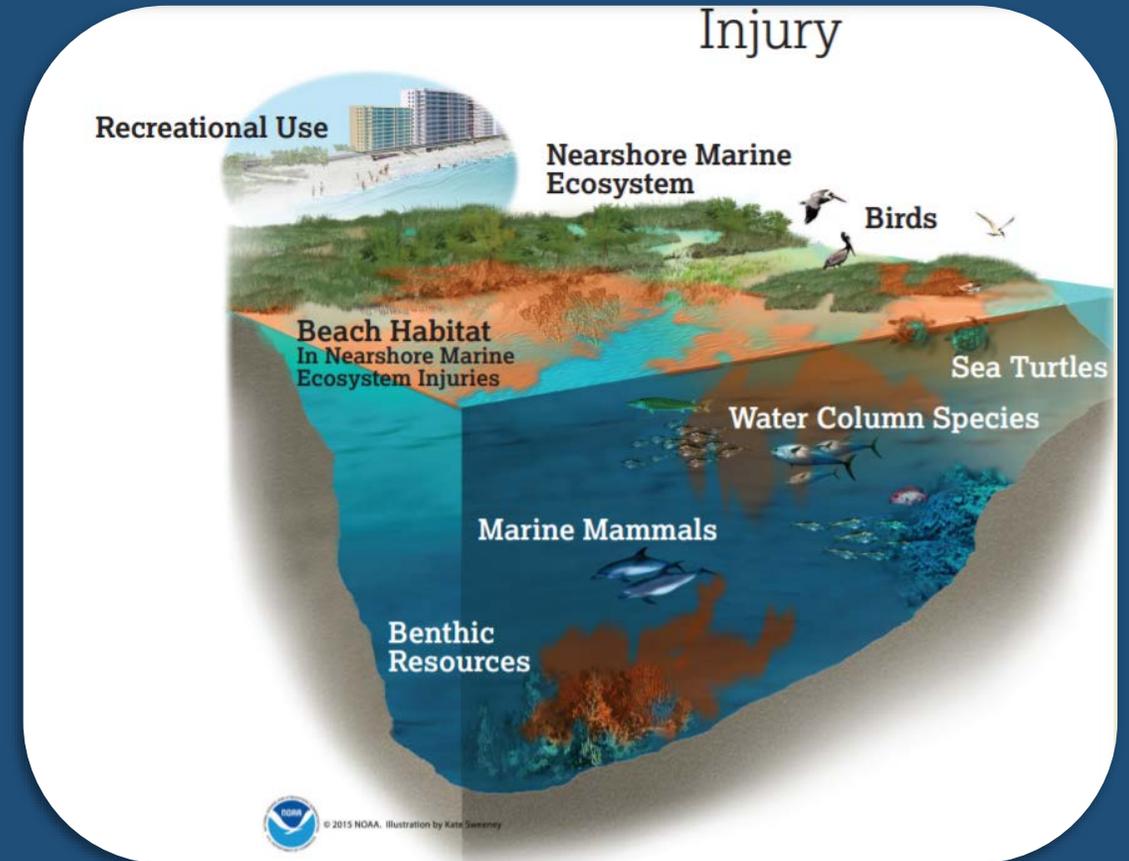
- Determine injury to natural resources and ecosystem services
- Assess damages for injuries to recover and restore natural resources and services
- Recover damages or restoration to compensate the public for those injuries



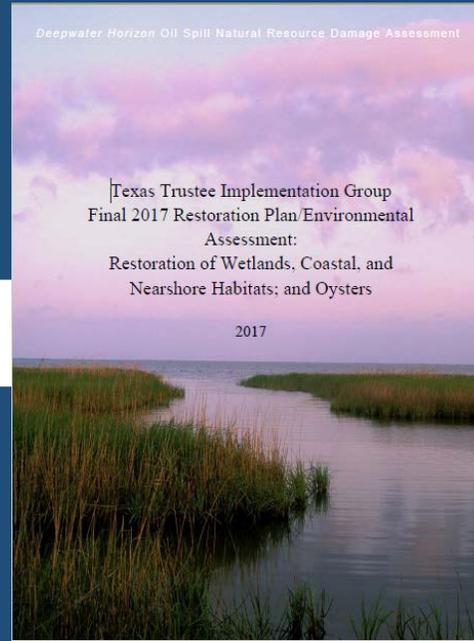
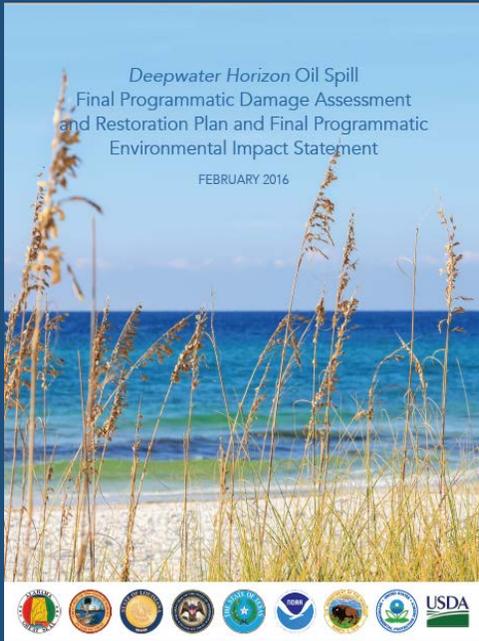
Goal: Restore injured natural resources to baseline condition and to replace ecosystem services lost while the habitat was contaminated, effectively making the environment and public whole

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

- In April 2010, the *Deepwater Horizon* exploded, caught fire, and sank
- Discharged 3.19 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico over 87 days
- Injured wildlife, habitats, and ecological functions
- Adversely effected recreational opportunities



Impacted shoreline and state waters of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, and Florida and the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico



PDARP

- Framework document for future project-specific restoration plans
- Identifies approaches and techniques for restoration

Restoration Plans

- Evaluates specific projects for restoration types established in PDARP
- Multiple restoration plans released over time
- Projects must be consistent with restoration goals, types, approaches, and techniques identified in PDARP

Restoration Projects

- Multiple restoration projects under each restoration plan
- Must be implemented in accordance with PDARP and restoration plan

2016 Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PDARP)

Injury Quantification:

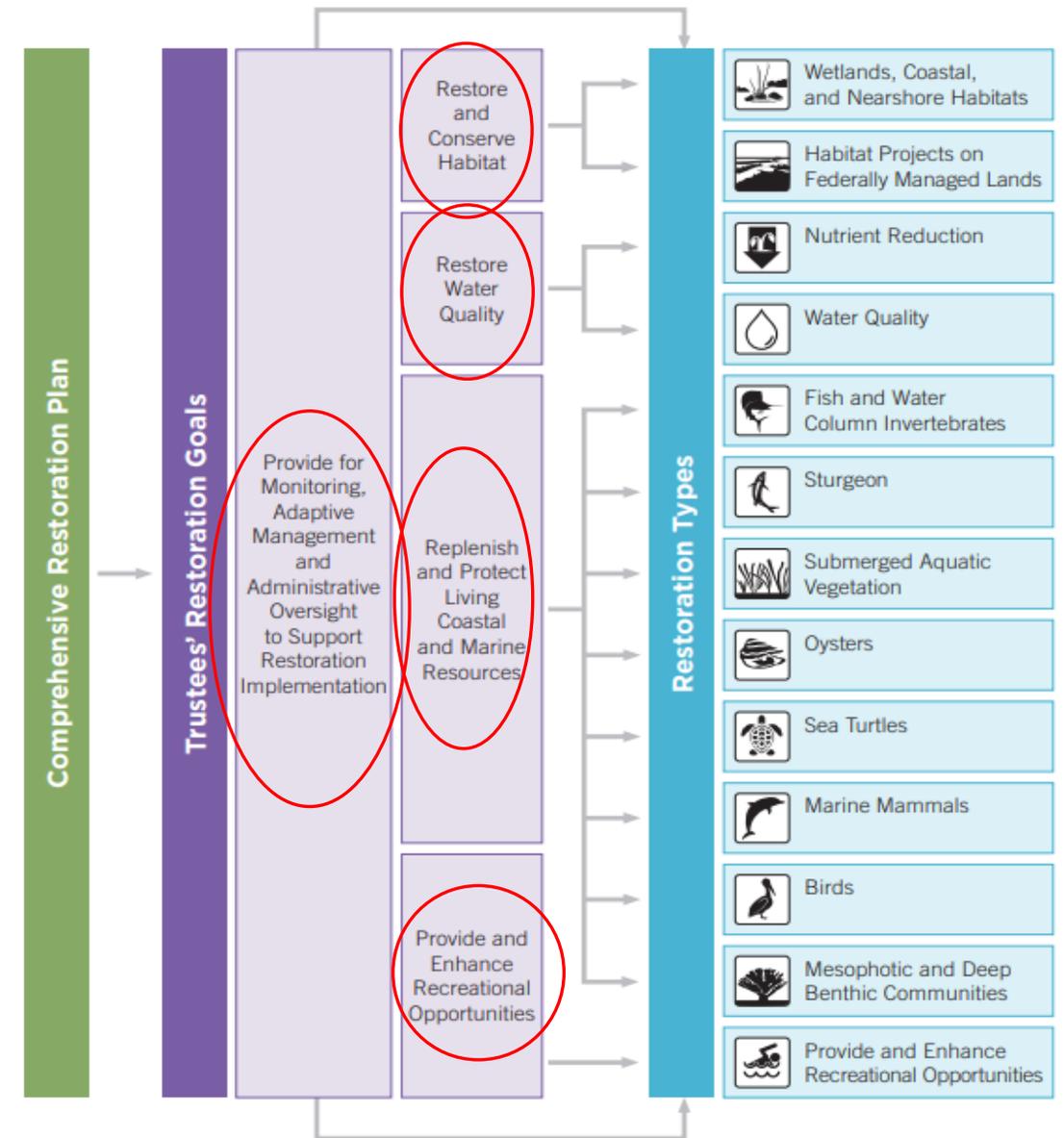
- Determines nature and extent of injuries to natural resources and services

Restoration Planning:

- Establishes restoration goals
- Identifies type and amount of restoration needed to compensate for the impacts
- Identifies approaches and techniques for restoration and monitoring

Damages:

- Allocates restoration funding for specific restoration types by geographic area



Texas Trustee Implementation Group

Responsible for planning and implementing restoration activities within the Texas Restoration Area

- Identify, develop, and evaluate project alternatives
- Draft restoration plans identifying proposed projects
- Engage the public for comment on restoration plans
- Select and implement restoration projects
- Conduct monitoring and adaptive management



Texas TIG Agencies

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Department Of the Interior

United States Department of Agriculture

United States Environmental Protection Agency

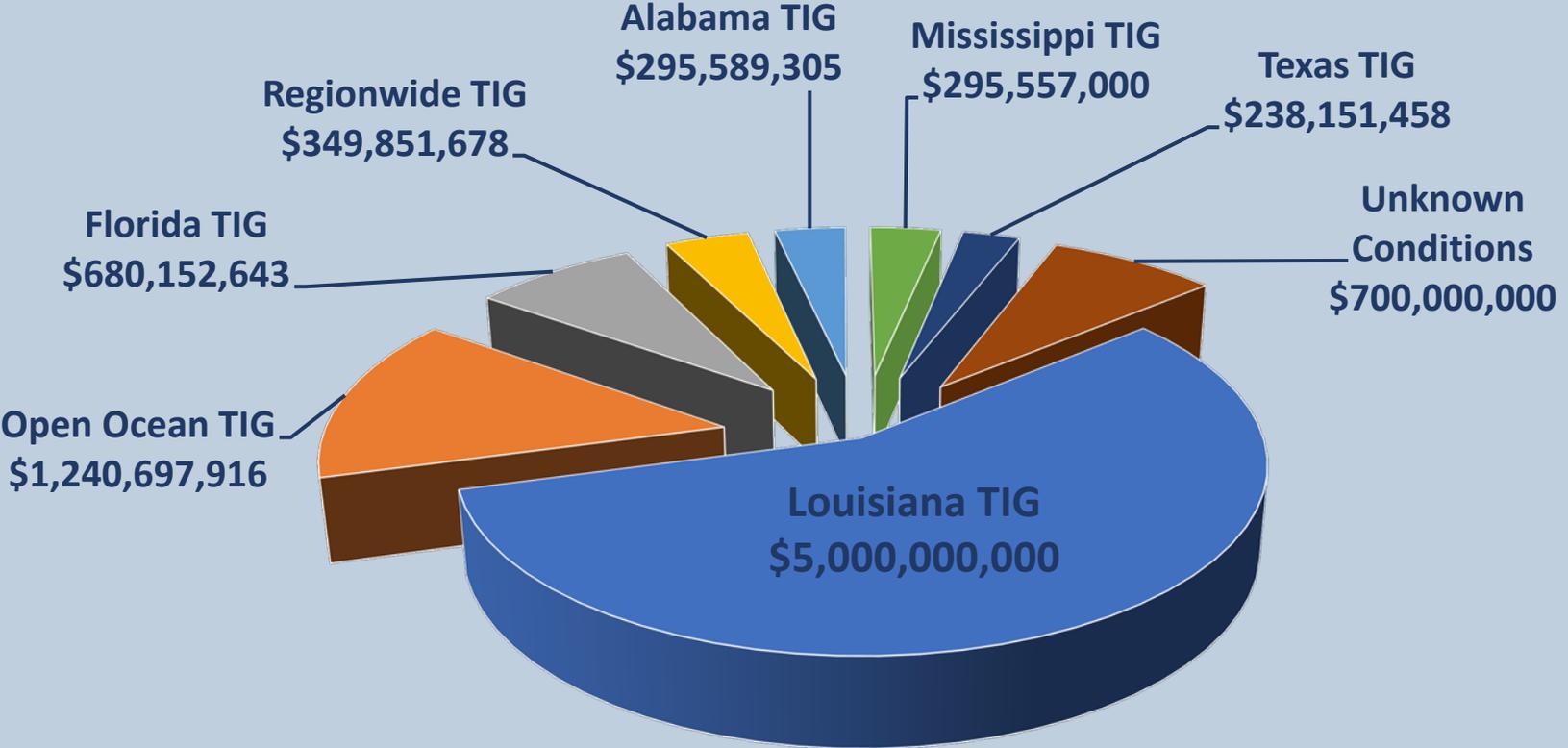
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

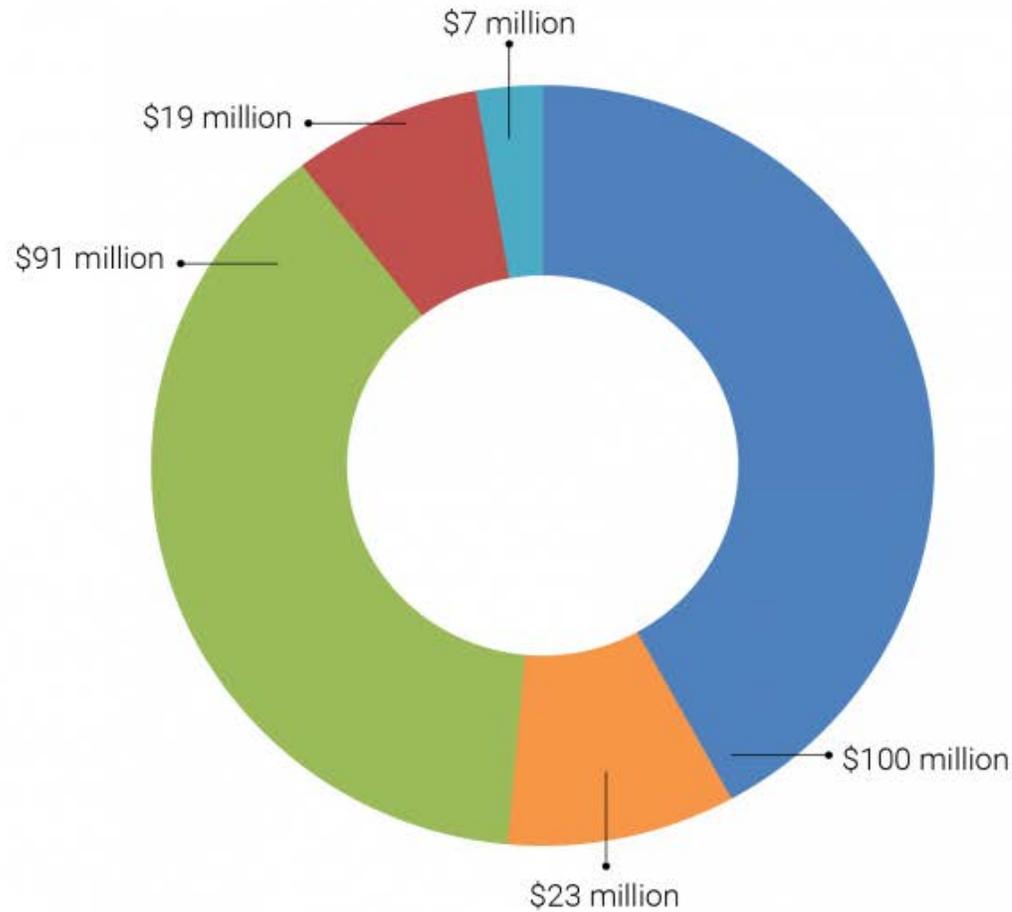
Texas General Land Office



Total Allocation



Texas Allocation of Restoration Funds

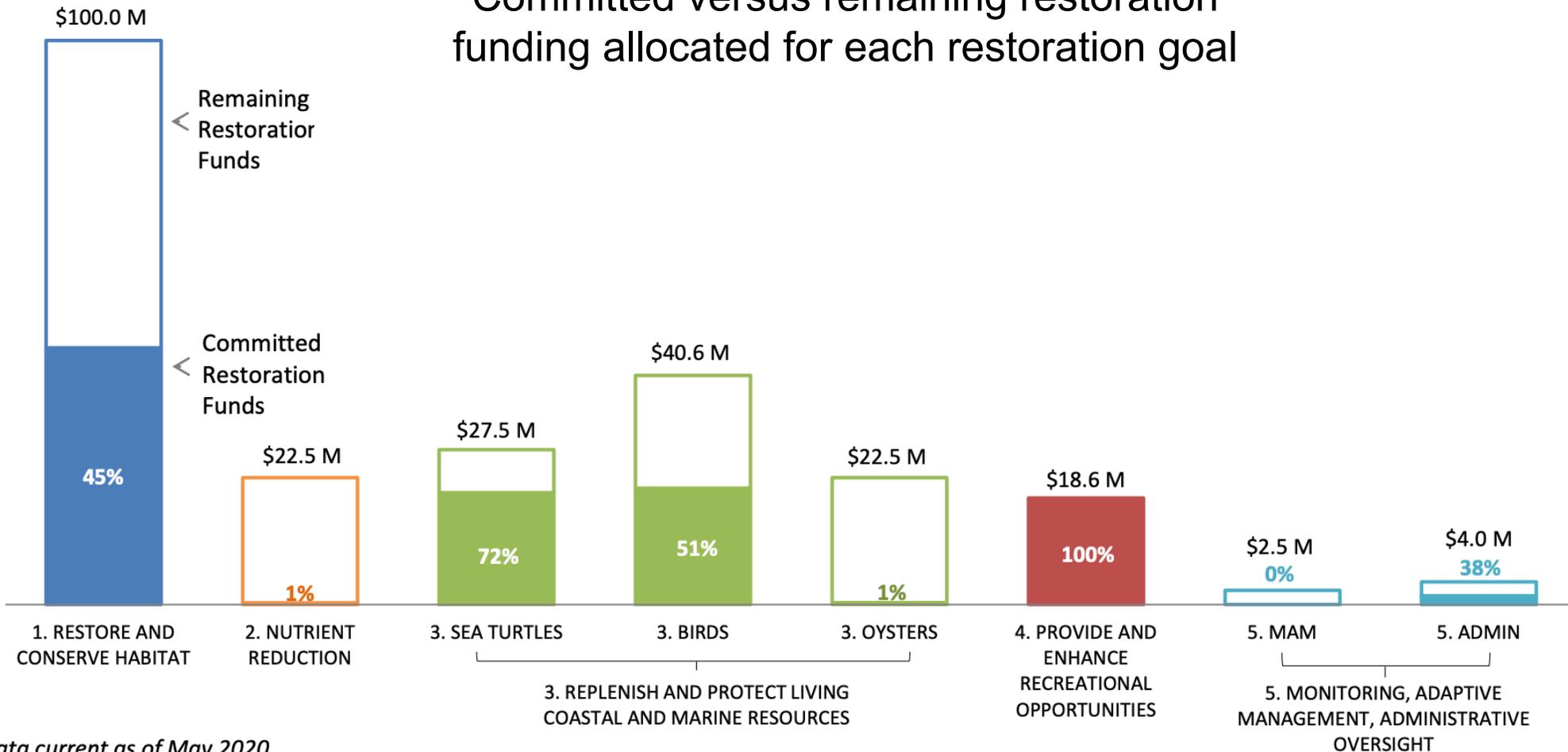


Restoration funding allocated to the Texas Restoration Area for each restoration goal

- Restore and Conserve Habitat
- Restore Water Quality
- Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
- Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities
- Monitoring, Adaptive Management, Administrative Oversight

Commitment of Restoration Funds

Committed versus remaining restoration funding allocated for each restoration goal



Data current as of May 2020

Where to find more DWH NRDA information

GULF SPILL RESTORATION



Website maintained by NOAA on behalf of the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustees

Home

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How We Restore

Restoration Areas

Data

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Texas Restoration Area

Restoration work in the Texas Restoration Area will focus on restoring wetlands and other coastal habitats and reducing nonpoint source pollution. We will also restore wildlife injured by the spill, including oysters, birds, and sea turtles.

Together, the trustees will restore natural resources—and the services they provide—that were injured by the spill. We will develop project-specific restoration plans, consistent with the **programmatic restoration plan** (see chart below). As part of the restoration planning process, we will accept restoration project ideas from the public. The public will also have the opportunity to review and comment on any proposed project-specific restoration plans for the Texas Restoration Area. Once approved, we will then begin implementation and monitoring of the selected projects.



<https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/texas>

Texas TIG Current Restoration Planning Activities

Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment 2 (RP/EA 2)

- October 1 - December 10, 2020: Solicited project ideas from the public
- January 2021: Began screening projects and drafting plan
- February 2022: Release Draft RP/EA for public comment
- March 2022: Public meeting for comment
- July 2022: Release Final RP/EA

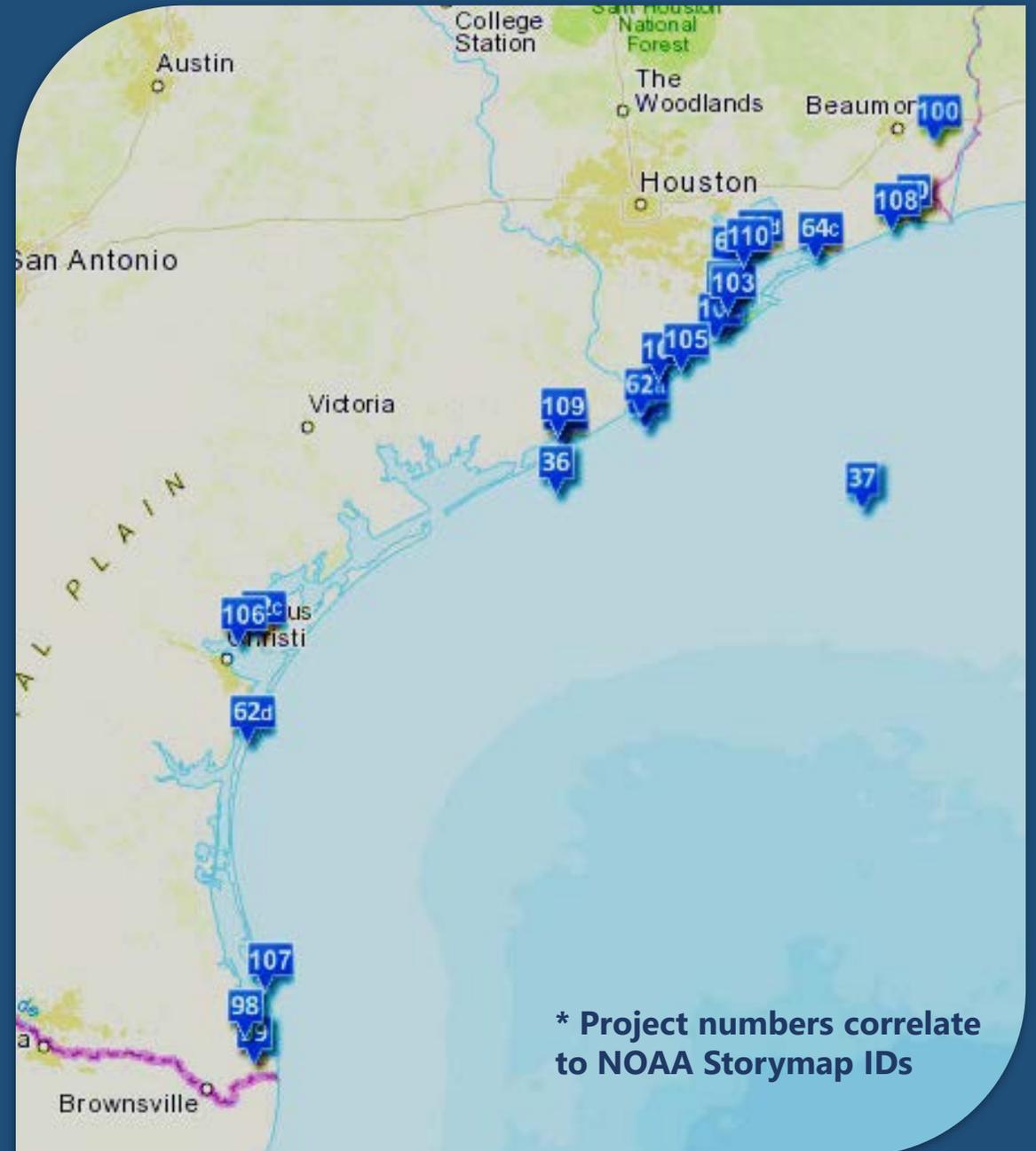
Texas Trustee Implementation Group Projects in Progress



Current Projects

Twenty (20) active projects along the Texas coast include:

- Hydrologic and wetland restoration
- Habitat acquisition
- Park redevelopment and improvements
- Oyster restoration
- Artificial reef construction
- Sea turtle restoration
- Rookery Island construction



Bahia Grande Acquisition Project



Location: Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Cameron County

Description: Acquisition and protection of important coastal habitat including tidal wetlands, thorn scrub, and coastal prairie.

Benefits: Acquired land is being managed by USFWS as part of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge and the Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor. The acquisition and protection of these habitats benefits numerous species, including wading birds, migratory birds, and ocelots.

Status: The acquisition was finalized in summer 2021, with final project reporting to be completed this year.

Dredged Material Planning for Wetlands Restoration



Location: 8 sites in Sabine Lake, Galveston Bay, Matagorda Bay, San Antonio Bay and Aransas Bay

Description: Develop engineering and design documents to restore coastal wetlands at these site using beneficial use of dredged material

Benefits: Engineering and Design documents will be used to form the basis of a future Texas TIG Restoration Plan that will focus on a subset of the eight sites. The Texas TIG is actively working with the USACE to leverage TIG funding with ongoing dredging activities to restore coastal habitats that support fish and wildlife resources.

Bahia Grande Hydrologic Restoration



Location: Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, near Port Isabel, Cameron County

Description: Enlarge and stabilize the existing Joe Gayman pilot channel, which provides tidal exchange between the Brownsville Ship Channel and the Bahia Grande

Benefits: Restore water to a tidally influenced wetland which has been impacted since the 1950s. Approximately 6,500 acres of wetland will be restored, making this one of the largest wetland restoration projects in the United States, and one of the most cost effective on a per-acre basis.

Status: Under Construction

McFaddin Beach and Dune Restoration



Location: McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge, Jefferson County

Description: Restore and enhance 17 miles of beach and dune habitat which provides protection for Salt Bayou Marsh

Benefits: Restore dune and beach barrier along ~17 miles of shoreline to protect Texas' largest system of freshwater marshes from open water transition with Gulf of Mexico. This will be the largest beach restoration project in Texas to date.

Status: Solicitation complete

Texas Rookery Islands

Dickinson Bay Island II



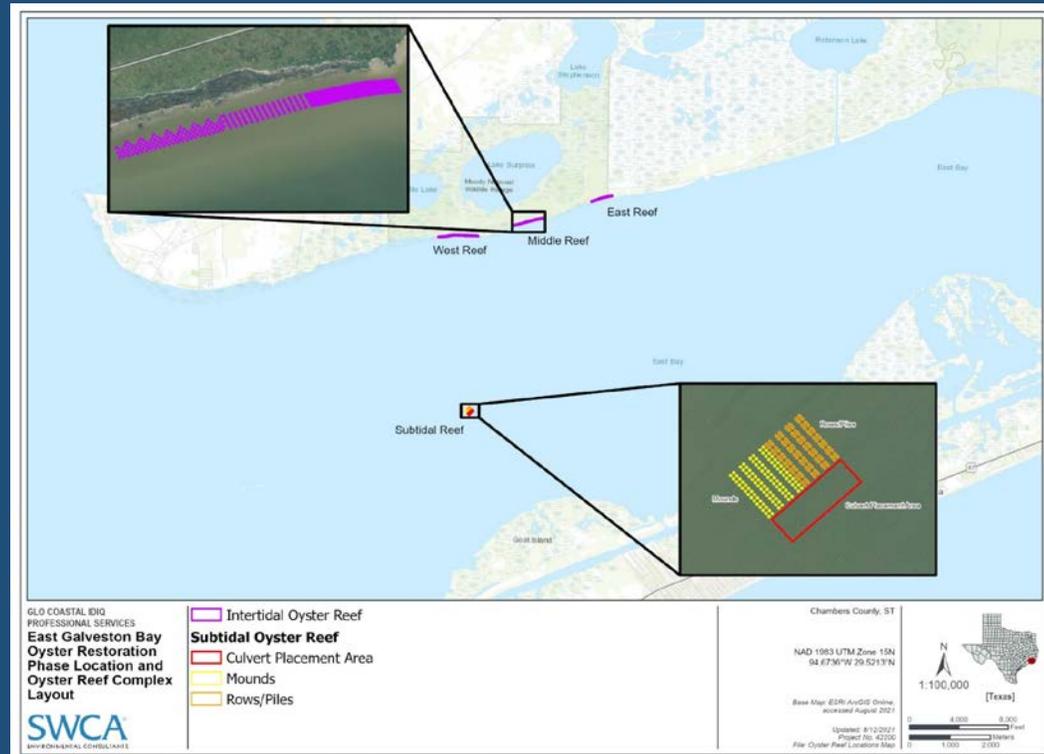
Location: Dickinson Bay, north of Texas City, TX, Galveston County

Description: Construction of a 4-acre bird rookery island in Dickinson Bay. Will involve placing fill to create new island mass, planting native scrub-shrub vegetation to enhance habitat, and building armored levees to protect the island from erosion

Benefits: Will create nesting habitat for colonial waterbirds.

Status: Under Construction

Oyster Restoration- East Galveston Bay



Location: East Bay, Galveston and Chambers County

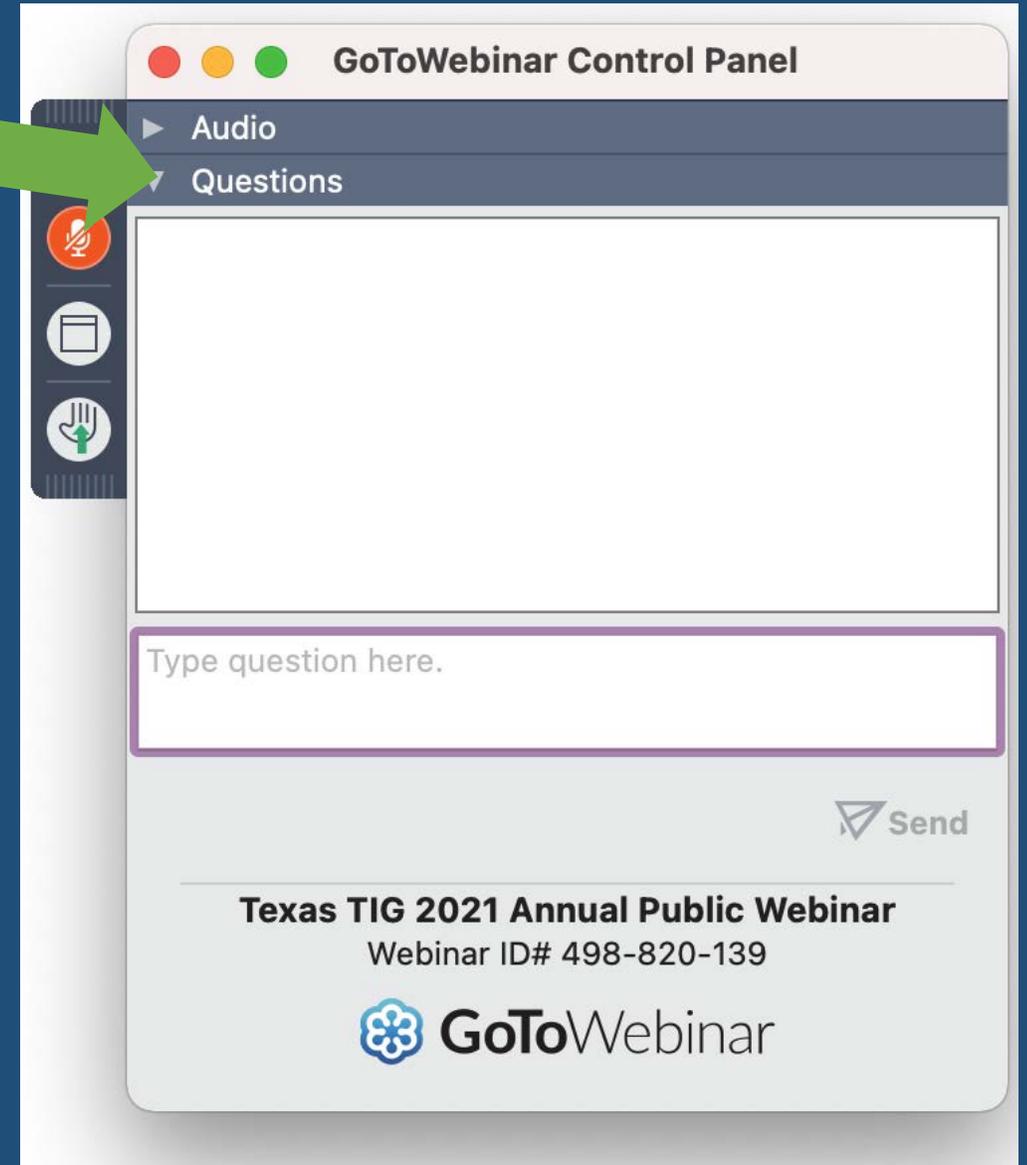
Description: Engineering and design for this project was completed via funding from the Texas TIG RP1. Project implementation funding is provided by the RW TIG as part of the Improving Resilience for Oysters by Linking Brood Reefs and Sink Reefs project funded in September 2021.

Benefits: Project will restore 6 acres of intertidal reef and 1.4 acres of subtidal oyster reef.

Questions?

Please type your questions in the “Questions” box.

We’ll do our best to answer as many as possible.



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Thank you!



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