

Monitoring and Adaptive Management



WHO WE ARE

The Cross-TIG Monitoring and Adaptive Management work group has representation on behalf of all members of the Trustee Council. We will encourage compatibility of monitoring and data procedures and serve as a forum to address monitoring and adaptive management topics.

Activities for 2016-2017 will include:

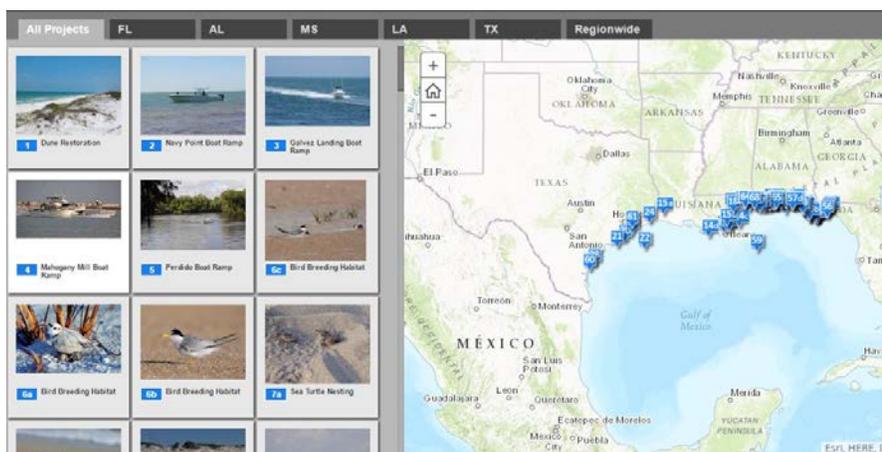
- Drafting the Trustee Council Monitoring and Adaptive Management Procedures and Guidelines Manual
- Establishing external coordination with other Gulf restoration programs on monitoring topics
- Developing an approach for integrating restoration monitoring data into the DIVER database
- Identifying and compiling assessment data relevant to restoration monitoring

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. We will learn over time which restoration approaches are most effective for different resources and environmental settings.

We will design monitoring efforts to evaluate restoration outcomes and benefits to injured resources. We might need additional ecological monitoring and other scientific activities to address information gaps and improve restoration planning and implementation. This process of “learning as we go” will allow us to proceed with restoration now, without waiting to resolve every scientific question first.

Data Management



WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR

A large effort was undertaken this past year to upgrade and modify the DIVER system to accommodate the post-settlement project tracking and reporting needs of the Trustee Council and Trustee Implementation Groups.

The Cross-TIG Monitoring and Adaptive Management work group will use DIVER to synthesize and evaluate monitoring information across projects and Trustee Implementation Groups.

We've also updated the interactive project map on the Trustee Council's website, which provides access to project updates.

DIVER: <https://dwhdiver.orr.noaa.gov/explore-the-data>

ERMA: <https://gomex.erma.noaa.gov/erma.html>

Interactive map: www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov

WHAT WE DO

During the damage assessment, we collected environmental data to document the location and extent of ecosystem injuries. We collected tens of thousands of samples and observations to determine the oil's impact.

We are collecting information on our restoration projects, including monitoring data, and will continue to provide regular updates on project activities and monitoring.

Assessment and restoration information and data are available through the Data Integration, Visualization, Exploration, and Reporting (DIVER) and Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA®) tools. DIVER integrates data from many sources, which is a key feature of the system as we work with data partners across the Gulf.