



Open Ocean Restoration Area

Seabird Nesting Colony Re-establishment and Protection at Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge (*preferred*)



USFWS



Sooty tern
Photo by Percy Ulsamer, USFWS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project would increase seabird nesting success and productivity by expanding existing and creating new nesting colonies and enhancing existing biosecurity efforts at Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Puerto Rico. Desecheo NWR was historically an important center of biodiversity and species abundance in the Caribbean, but invasive mammals (rodents, goats, macaques) caused a near-total collapse of seabird colonies through predation and habitat destruction. These invasive species were recently eradicated from Desecheo NWR. However, seabird colonies can fail to re-establish because of nesting site fidelity or a continued perceived predation risk. This project would help re-establish seabird nesting colonies, and, in turn, maximize the return on investment from the invasive species eradication.

This project, estimated to cost \$650,000, would take approximately 5 years to complete, with up to 3 years of additional post-implementation monitoring.

RESTORATION TYPE: Birds

Project Benefits

- Increase seabird nesting success and productivity
- Prevent (re)introduction of invasive species
- Target species:
 - Brown booby
 - Brown noddy
 - Bridled tern
 - Magnificent frigatebird
 - Sooty tern



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RESTORATION TECHNIQUES



Social Attraction



Biosecurity

Existing seabird nesting colonies would be enhanced, and new colonies may be established, by attracting breeding adults to the restoration sites using social attraction tools (e.g., bird and egg decoys, mirrors, and sound systems). Existing biosecurity measures such as monitoring, vessel inspections, education and outreach, and the use of surveillance cameras near high-use areas would be augmented to prevent the re-introduction of invasive species.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Contact the Open Ocean TIG
openocean.TIG@noaa.gov

or visit

www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/open-ocean



Implementing Trustee: U.S. Department of the Interior, in partnership with several entities