
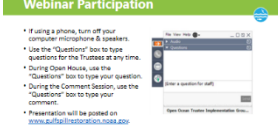



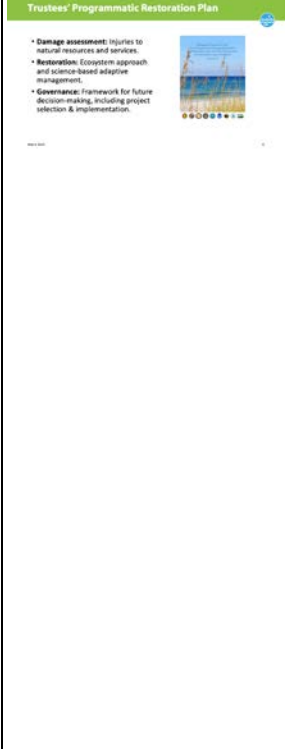




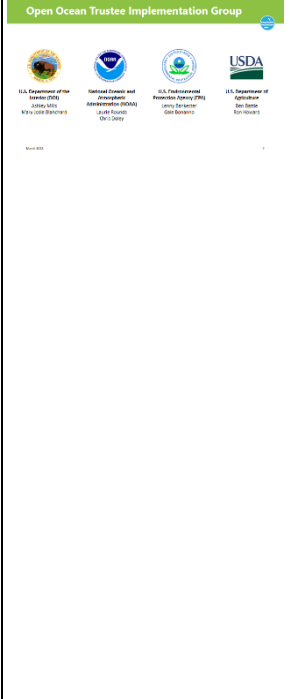
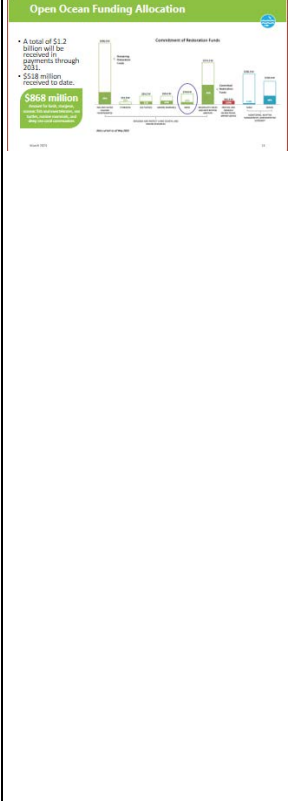
Open Ocean Restoration Area Draft Restoration Plan 3 and Environmental Assessment Public Webinar Script and Q&A Summary  
 March 28 and April 4, 2023




Slide #	Image	Script
1		<p><b>Slide:</b> Title</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Lena Flannery, IEC</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>Welcome to the public webinar for the Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group Draft Restoration Plan 3 and Environmental Assessment for Birds.</p> <p>My name is Lena, and I am a contractor supporting the Open Ocean Trustees as a meeting facilitator. Our other speakers will introduce themselves during the webinar.</p> <p><u>Message in the chat:</u></p> <p><i>Si desea seguirlo en español, la presentación traducidos del seminario web están disponibles en el panel "Documents".</i></p> <p><i>Si vous souhaitez suivre en français, la présentation traduits du webinaire sont disponibles dans le volet "Documents".</i></p>
2		<p><b>Slide:</b> Webinar Participation</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Lena Flannery, IEC</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>Before we begin, we will run through some webinar logistics.</p> <p>If you are logged in to the webinar, you should see the GoToWebinar control panel on the right-hand side of your screen. If you cannot see the control panel, click on the orange arrow to show the panel.</p> <p>If you are using a phone for audio, you should have dialed in using the phone number provided by GoToWebinar—that is the number and access code listed under “Audio” in the control panel.</p> <p>Please note that only the presenters will be able to speak during the presentation portion of the webinar; all other attendees will be muted.</p> <p>Everyone should see the “Questions” box at the bottom of the control panel (shown on this slide). If you have questions about the presentation or the Draft Restoration Plan, please enter those in the “Questions” box at any time. After the presentation, during the Open House, we will answer as many questions as we can in the time allotted.</p>


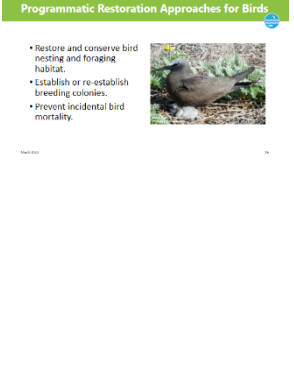
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		<p>There will also be an opportunity to submit comments on the Draft Restoration Plan, but please hold these until the Public Comment portion of the webinar, which will be announced after the Open House.</p> <p>Within the next few days, we will post today’s presentation to the GulfSpillRestoration.noaa.gov website.</p> <p>I will now pass the presentation over to Ashley Mills with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.</p>
3		<p><b>Slide:</b> Webinar Agenda</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ashley Mills, DOI</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>Thanks, Lena, and thank you for joining us today for the public webinar. My name is Ashley Mills, and I am the U.S. Department of the Interior’s representative for the Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group.</p> <p>The purpose of today’s webinar is to provide information about the Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group’s Draft Restoration Plan 3 and Environmental Assessment, and receive public comments on the plan.</p> <p>The presentation will start with a brief summary of the <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> Oil Spill, the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (or NRDA), the 2016 settlement with BP, and an introduction to the Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group.</p> <p>Most of the webinar will highlight the Open Ocean Trustees’ Draft Restoration Plan 3 focused on seabirds, the restoration techniques proposed to be used, and the projects proposed for implementation.</p> <p>Following the presentation, we will host an Open House. During that time participants may ask questions, which the Trustees and subject matter experts will answer.</p> <p>After that, we will host a formal public comment session. We will provide additional details on the Open House and Public Comment session later in the presentation.</p> <p>Following the Public Comment session there will be a brief wrap-up, and we will describe the next steps in the restoration planning process.</p> <p>I will now turn it over to Gale Bonanno with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide an overview of the Deepwater Horizon Oil spill and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment program.</p>


Slide #	Image	Script
4	 <p><b>Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tragic loss of 11 workers and largest marine oil spill in U.S. history.</li> <li>• 3.19 million barrels (134 million gallons) of oil released into the ocean over 87 days.</li> <li>• 43,300 square miles: Cumulative extent of surface slick during the spill – an area almost the size of Virginia.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Slide:</b> <i>Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill</i></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Gale Bonanno, EPA</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Ashley, and good afternoon, everyone. My name is Gale Bonanno, and I am the Environmental Protection Agency’s representative for the Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group.</p> <p>On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon drilling unit exploded, caught fire, and eventually sank. For 87 days, BP’s well released an average of more than 1.5 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.</p> <p>The Deepwater Horizon oil spill was the largest offshore marine oil spill in U.S. history.</p> <p>Oil slicks were observed across an area measuring over 43,000 square miles.</p> <p>Oil spread from the deep ocean to the surface and nearshore environment, washing up onto more than 1,300 miles of Gulf shoreline.</p>
5	 <p><b>Deepwater Horizon Incident and Response</b></p> <p><b>Data Collection to Assess Damages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thousands of trips to survey and collect data, and thousands of environmental samples collected.</li> <li>• Equipment: air, water, biotic samples, cameras, photos and videos, telemetry, aerial imagery, GPS data, observations.</li> <li>• Including observations and collections of oiled birds.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Slide:</b> <i>Deepwater Horizon Incident and Response</i></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Gale Bonanno, EPA</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>Under the applicable regulatory authorities, state and federal agencies are authorized to assess injuries to natural resources from oil spills and seek monetary damages to restore those resources.</p> <p>Assessing natural resource injuries from the oil spill required numerous trips to the field for collection of over 100,000 environmental samples.</p> <p>Across the Gulf of Mexico, a diverse assemblage of biological organisms was injured by the oil spill, including deep-sea corals, fish, sea turtles, dolphins, whales, and birds.</p> <p>At least 93 species of birds, both resident and migratory, were exposed to oil in multiple habitats across the northern Gulf of Mexico, including open water, islands, beaches, bays, and marshes. Birds were exposed through physical contact with oil and by ingesting oil.</p> <p>Many species of birds injured by the spill nest outside of the Gulf of Mexico, which is why we propose projects in some areas outside of the Gulf.</p>

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6	 <p><b>Trustees' Programmatic Restoration Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Damage assessment:</b> Injuries to natural resources and services.</li> <li>• <b>Restoration:</b> Ecosystem approach and science-based adaptive management.</li> <li>• <b>Governance:</b> Framework for future decision-making, including project selection &amp; implementation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Slide:</b> Trustees' Programmatic RP</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Gale Bonanno, EPA</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>As part of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment, the Trustees developed a programmatic restoration plan that documented the natural resource injuries caused by the spill and concluded that the scale of the injury was so massive that an ecosystem approach to restoration was needed.</p> <p>To be strategic about restoration at an ecosystem level, the Trustees developed a "programmatic restoration plan." Instead of selecting individual projects up front, the programmatic restoration plan identified goals, restoration types, and restoration approaches that would achieve the Trustees' ecosystem approach to restoration. The plan set the framework for more detailed, project-level planning.</p> <p><i>Message in the chat:</i></p> <p>The Trustees' programmatic restoration plan can be found at <a href="https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan">https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan</a></p>										
7	 <p><b>Deepwater Horizon NRDA Settlement</b></p> <p>A total of \$8.8 billion allocated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore and Enhance Habitat - \$4.7 billion.</li> <li>• Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources - \$1.8 billion.</li> <li>• Restore Water Quality - \$485 million.</li> <li>• Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities - \$485 million.</li> <li>• Provide Monitoring, Adaptive Management, Administrative Oversight - \$1.8 billion.</li> <li>• Future Unknown Conditions - \$700 million.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Slide:</b> Deepwater Horizon NRDA Settlement</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Gale Bonanno, EPA</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>In 2016, the Trustees reached a settlement of \$8.8 billion with BP under applicable regulations to make the public whole for injuries to natural resources and their services.</p> <p>Based on the resources and extent of injuries caused by the spill, the \$8.8 billion was allocated among the Trustees' five broad restoration goals as indicated on this slide. Restoration for birds falls under the Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources restoration goal.</p>										
8	 <p><b>NRDA Trustees' Governance Structure</b></p> <p>Trustees Implementation Design (TID) 2016</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>• <b>Branch</b> Trustees Gulf States</td> <td>• <b>Locations</b> Trustees Gulf States</td> <td>• <b>Multi-Goal</b> Trustees Gulf States</td> <td>• <b>Activities</b> Trustees Gulf States</td> <td>• <b>Priority</b> Trustees Gulf States</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• <b>Regionwide</b> Trustees</td> <td>• <b>Open Ocean</b> Trustees</td> <td>• <b>Unknown Conditions and Adaptive Management</b> Trustees</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	• <b>Branch</b> Trustees Gulf States	• <b>Locations</b> Trustees Gulf States	• <b>Multi-Goal</b> Trustees Gulf States	• <b>Activities</b> Trustees Gulf States	• <b>Priority</b> Trustees Gulf States	• <b>Regionwide</b> Trustees	• <b>Open Ocean</b> Trustees	• <b>Unknown Conditions and Adaptive Management</b> Trustees			<p><b>Slide:</b> NRDA Trustees' Governance Structure</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Gale Bonanno, EPA</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>The Trustees created an implementation group for each of the 8 restoration areas outlined in the programmatic restoration plan: one for each of the five Gulf states, Regionwide, Open Ocean, and an implementation group for Unknown Conditions and Adaptive Management that may be formed in the future.</p>
• <b>Branch</b> Trustees Gulf States	• <b>Locations</b> Trustees Gulf States	• <b>Multi-Goal</b> Trustees Gulf States	• <b>Activities</b> Trustees Gulf States	• <b>Priority</b> Trustees Gulf States								
• <b>Regionwide</b> Trustees	• <b>Open Ocean</b> Trustees	• <b>Unknown Conditions and Adaptive Management</b> Trustees										

Slide #	Image	Script
		<p>The Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group is responsible for planning and implementing restoration for the Open Ocean Restoration Area.</p>
9		<p><b>Slide:</b> Open Ocean TIG Agencies and Representatives</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Gale Bonanno, EPA</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>The Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group representatives include Ashley Mills and Mary Josie Blanchard for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Laurie Rounds and Chris Doley for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Lenny Bankester and me for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Ben Battle and Ron Howard for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.</p> <p>The Open Ocean Trustees work together to restore wide-ranging and migratory species injured by the spill. We coordinate with the state Trustees, especially when proposed restoration projects overlap with their jurisdictions.</p> <p>It is important to note that the restoration conducted by this TIG focuses on the most effective approaches for restoring migratory species throughout their geographic ranges. As is the case in Draft Restoration Plan 3, restoration for Gulf species may involve project activities outside the Gulf of Mexico region.</p>
10		<p><b>Slide:</b> Open Ocean Funding Allocation</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Gale Bonanno, EPA</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>The Open Ocean Restoration Area was allocated \$1.2 billion, which is divided up across three categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The blue portion, on the far right, is for Monitoring, Adaptive Management, and Administrative Oversight,</li> <li>2. The red portion is for Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities, which we have already committed to approved projects in the Gulf,</li> <li>3. And the green portion is for Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources. This portion of the allocation is \$868 million, and is further divided into allocations to restore birds, sturgeon, oceanic fish and invertebrates, sea turtles, marine mammals, and deep-sea coral communities. Of that, \$70 million is allocated to restoration for birds (shown in the purple circle).</li> </ol> <p>This Draft Restoration Plan 3 proposes to allocate approximately \$26 million of the Open Ocean Birds Restoration Type funds.</p> <p>I will now pass the presentation back to Ashley Mills.</p>




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11		<p><b>Slide:</b> Open Ocean Draft Restoration Plan 3 Planning Cover</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ashley Mills, DOI</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>Thanks, Gale. Now we will describe the Open Ocean Trustees' planning process for this Draft Restoration Plan.</p>
12		<p><b>Slide:</b> Restoration Planning Process and Timeline</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ashley Mills, DOI</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>The Open Ocean Trustees initiated the restoration planning process for their third Restoration Plan in March 2021 by releasing a call for restoration project ideas for the Sturgeon and Birds Restoration Types.</p> <p>Seventy-six submissions were received and screened. We initially screened project ideas for birds and sturgeon. The Trustees decided not to include sturgeon projects in this Draft Restoration Plan in order to complete the ongoing Open Ocean TIG's sturgeon restoration project and Monitoring and Adaptive Management activities before proceeding with additional sturgeon restoration.</p> <p>On March 14, we released our Draft Restoration Plan which we are presenting to you today. We are currently seeking the public's review and input on the Draft Plan. The orange box highlights where we are in the process for RP3.</p> <p>After considering and incorporating public input on this Draft Restoration Plan, we will finalize the Restoration Plan and, if a Finding of No Significant Impact is made, we will begin project implementation, monitoring, and reporting.</p>
13		<p><b>Slide:</b> Open Ocean Draft Restoration Plan 3 Overview</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ashley Mills, DOI</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>In developing the Draft Restoration Plan 3, we used a thorough screening process to identify a reasonable range of alternatives to restore seabirds.</p> <p>The focal seabird species in the plan include the common tern, northern gannets, great shearwaters, and Caribbean-nesting seabirds including Audubon's shearwaters.</p> <p>While these species were documented as having been injured within the northern Gulf during the spill, they breed and spend substantial time outside of the Gulf. Reducing bycatch and improving nesting conditions in known breeding areas outside the Gulf are effective ways to restore these species.</p>

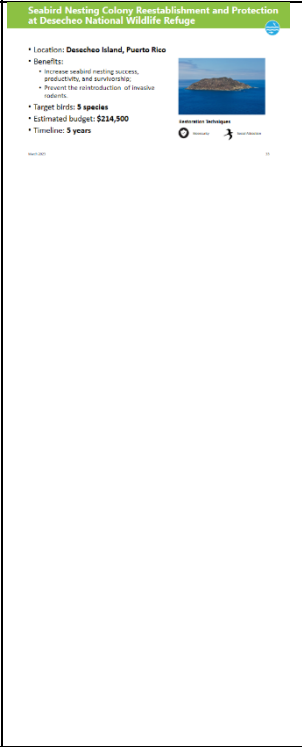
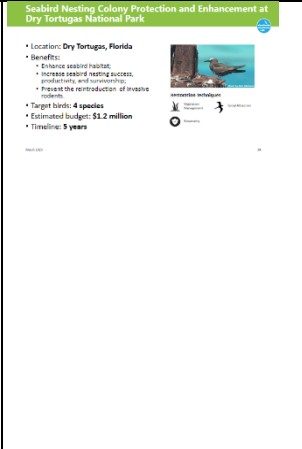
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		<p>I would like to note here that throughout this presentation and in the Draft Restoration Plan, the terms “project” and “alternative” are used interchangeably.</p> <p>As I mentioned on the previous slide, for this plan, a total of 76 project ideas were submitted by the public. The Trustees’ process for screening project ideas is described in detail in the Draft Plan. Only the projects that were consistent with the Trustees’ programmatic restoration plan and targeted restoration for birds were further considered.</p> <p>In the Draft Plan, we evaluated 11 alternatives under the required laws and regulations to identify projects that would best contribute to restoring injured resources and to consider any potential environmental effects that may result from proposed restoration actions.</p> <p>Based on this evaluation, the Trustees propose to implement the 7 preferred alternatives for an estimated total cost of approximately \$26 million dollars.</p> <p>The public comment period began on March 14 with the release of the Draft Plan, and comments will be accepted through April 28.</p> <p>I will now pass the presentation to Amy Mathis with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide an overview of the restoration approaches and techniques proposed in the plan.</p>
14		<p><b>Slide:</b> Restoration Approaches and Techniques Cover</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ashley Mills, DOI</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>Thank you, Ashley, and hello, everyone. My name is Amy Mathis, and I serve as DOI’s National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator across all Trustee Implementation Groups.</p> <p>The next few slides outline the Restoration Approaches and Restoration Techniques proposed in the draft plan.</p>
15	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore and conserve bird nesting and foraging habitat.</li> <li>• Establish or re-establish breeding colonies.</li> <li>• Prevent incidental bird mortality.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Slide:</b> Programmatic Restoration Approaches for Birds</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Amy Mathis, DOI</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>The Open Ocean TIG addresses restoration for a wide range of resources, including migratory species at important points during their life cycles and across their geographic ranges, including inland, coastal, and offshore areas.</p> <p>The Trustees may use funds in the Open Ocean Restoration Area for restoration outside coastal Gulf of Mexico habitats, and these funds may be used for resource-level planning, prioritization,</p>

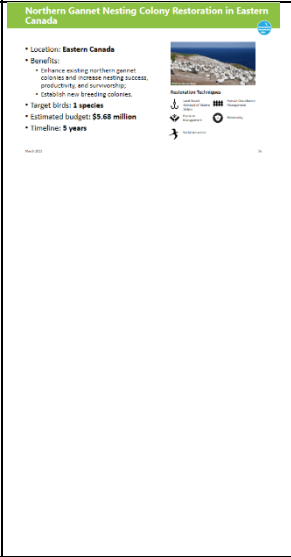
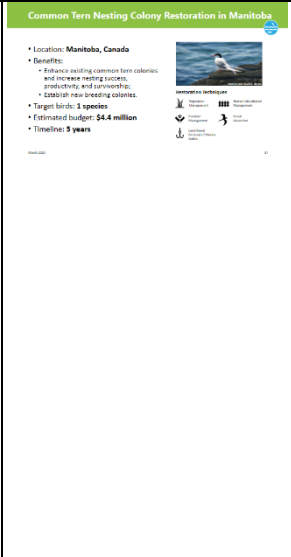
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		<p>implementation, and monitoring for resource recovery, among other activities.</p> <p>This Draft Restoration Plan evaluates projects that focus on seabird restoration by improving nesting success at known breeding sites outside of the northern Gulf and by reducing the risk of mortality resulting from bycatch in fisheries.</p> <p>While screening project ideas, the TIG considered the three Bird Restoration Approaches listed on this slide.</p> <p>For the purposes of this request for project ideas, “seabird species” included all species in the Trustees’ Programmatic Restoration Plan seabird guild, as well as brown noddy and some tern species. We did not include inland or nearshore species, such as black skimmers.</p>
16		<p><b>Slide:</b> Restoration Techniques Summary</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Amy Mathis, DOI</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>Now I will give an overview of the 9 restoration techniques proposed in this draft plan. Additional details on each are provided in the Restoration Techniques factsheet. See the chat box for a link to the factsheet.</p> <p>Rodents introduced to island ecosystems eat seabird eggs and chicks, negatively impacting local populations and potentially leading to nesting colony failure. The <b>Rodent Removal</b> technique would use rodenticide to eradicate rat populations. As a poison, rodenticide can negatively impact non-target species that consume bait pellets. Avoidance and minimization measures such as captive holding, provision of veterinary services, and avoiding applications when non-target species are present would be employed to reduce potential impacts.</p> <p><b>Predator Management</b> would employ lethal and non-lethal forms of control, such as hunting or trapping, for predators other than rodents. Invasive predators such as feral cats, pigs, or coyotes would be lethally removed using humane methods. Native predators such as foxes, mink, or other birds would primarily be managed using non-lethal methods to help avoid population-level impacts to native predators.</p> <p>Feral goats introduced to Battowia and the Pillories Islands in St. Vincent and the Grenadines have consumed much of the vegetation on the islands, decreasing the quality of seabird nesting habitat and disturbing seabirds. <b>Invasive Goat Removal</b> would involve capturing live goats and offering them to local communities.</p> <p><b>Biosecurity</b> measures are actions that help prevent the introduction or reintroduction of invasive species into ecosystems. Such</p>





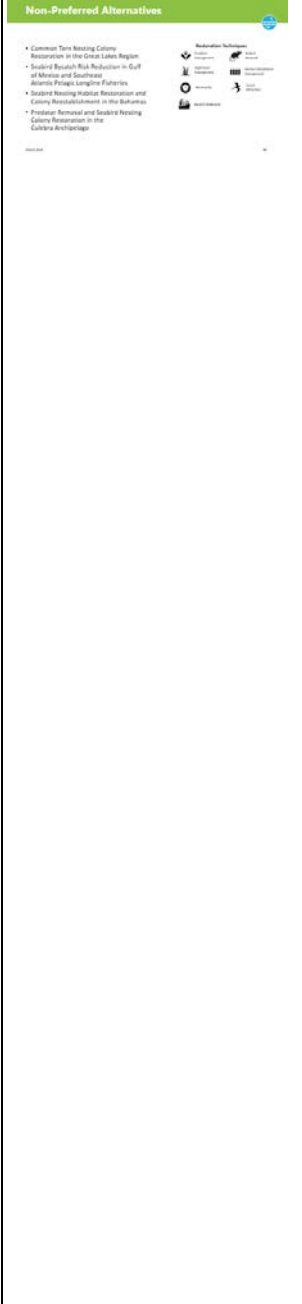

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		<p>measures may include vessel inspections, education and outreach, use of surveillance cameras, and deployment of chew tags or traps.</p> <p>Invasive plants can outcompete native vegetation and negatively impact seabird nesting habitat and nesting success. <b>Vegetation management</b> would include the planting of native vegetation or removal of invasive vegetation to restore plant communities for seabird nesting.</p> <p>Seabirds key in on the sights and sounds of nesting birds at colonies to locate suitable nesting sites. To encourage establishment or re-establishment of nesting colonies, <b>social attraction</b> would be used to mimic seabirds and their sounds using bird and egg decoys, mirrors, and acoustic playback.</p> <p><b>Marine debris</b> such as fishing gear and plastic materials can cause entanglement of seabirds and their chicks. Projects proposed in this draft plan would remove fishing debris that has washed ashore or debris that is affecting nesting areas.</p> <p>Seabird colonies can be disturbed by humans and result in birds abandoning their nests. <b>Human Disturbance Management</b> would include installing signs and fencing around nesting colonies, supporting staff who manage protected areas, and educating the public on safe wildlife viewing practices.</p> <p>And finally, restoration options can be limited for seabirds that spend most of their lives in the marine environment and nest at a small number of remote locations. Reducing incidental mortality of birds at sea, such as <b>bycatch</b> in commercial fisheries, can help restore these injured species.</p> <p>These techniques are proposed individually and in combination in the projects that will be described later in this presentation. I will now pass it back to Ashley to discuss the projects evaluated in this draft plan.</p> <p><i>Message in the chat box:</i></p> <p><i>The factsheets can be found at:</i>  <a href="https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2023/03/open-ocean-trustees-seek-public-comment-draft-restoration-plan-3">https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2023/03/open-ocean-trustees-seek-public-comment-draft-restoration-plan-3</a></p> <p>Las fichas técnicas se pueden encontrar en:  <a href="https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2023/03/open-ocean-trustees-seek-public-comment-draft-restoration-plan-3">https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2023/03/open-ocean-trustees-seek-public-comment-draft-restoration-plan-3</a></p> <p>Les fiches sont consultables sur:  <a href="https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2023/03/open-ocean-trustees-seek-public-comment-draft-restoration-plan-3">https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2023/03/open-ocean-trustees-seek-public-comment-draft-restoration-plan-3</a></p>



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17		<p><b>Slide:</b> Preferred Alternatives Cover</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ashley Mills, DOI</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>Thanks, Amy. Now that we have provided a summary of the different restoration techniques, the next several slides provide a summary of the alternatives evaluated in this draft plan. Each slide highlights which restoration techniques would be included in the alternative.</p> <p>This is a lot of information, so please feel free to submit any questions you have throughout the presentation into the “Questions” box and we will try to address them during the Open House Q&amp;A Session. Also, note that we have factsheets available with additional information on the preferred alternatives as well as the restoration techniques we just discussed.</p>
18		<p><b>Slide:</b> Preferred and Non-Preferred Project Locations</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ashley Mills, DOI</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>This map shows the approximate location of the 11 project alternatives, spanning from Canada to the Caribbean. The preferred alternatives are shown in bold and discussed further in the next slides. The non-preferred alternatives are not bolded and will be summarized as well.</p>
19		<p><b>Slide:</b> Predator Removal and Seabird Nesting Colony Restoration at Mona Island Natural Reserve</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ashley Mills, DOI</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>The first preferred alternative we will discuss is Predator Removal and Seabird Nesting Colony Restoration at Mona Island.</p> <p>This project would increase seabird nesting success and productivity by enhancing seabird colonies on Mona Island, Puerto Rico through vegetation management, predator eradication and management, expanding and creating new nesting colonies, and development and implementation of biosecurity measures. Mona Island is a haven of biodiversity and is home to several endemic and threatened and endangered species. The introduction of invasive rodents, feral cats, and pigs has severely impacted seabird nesting colonies through direct predation on chicks, eggs, and adults, and destruction of nesting habitat.</p> <p><b>Predator management and rodent removal activities</b> would include a full eradication of invasive rodents through large-scale</p>



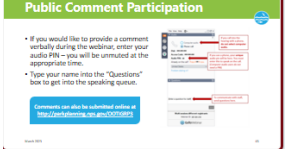
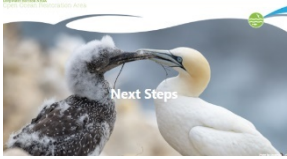
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		<p>aerial rodenticide application, and eradication of feral cats and pigs through trapping and hunting by trained personnel.</p> <p>The project is intended to benefit 8 species of nesting seabirds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audubon’s shearwater</li> <li>• Sooty tern</li> <li>• Magnificent frigatebird</li> <li>• Bridled tern</li> <li>• Masked booby</li> <li>• Brown noddy</li> <li>• White-tailed tropicbird, and</li> <li>• Brown booby</li> </ul>
20		<p><b>Slide:</b> Seabird Nesting Colony Reestablishment and Protection at Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ashley Mills, DOI</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>The next preferred alternative is Seabird Nesting Colony Reestablishment and Protection at Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge in Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Historically, Desecheo Island was known as an important center of biodiversity and species abundance in the Caribbean. However, invasive mammals, including rodents, cats, goats, and macaques, caused a near-total collapse of seabird colonies. These invasive mammals were recently eradicated from Desecheo, and seabirds are slowly starting to nest again on the island.</p> <p>This project would increase nesting success and productivity of five Caribbean-nesting seabirds - sooty tern, bridled tern, brown booby, magnificent frigatebird, and brown noddy - by expanding existing and creating new nesting colonies. Restoration activities would include social attraction and augmentation of the National Wildlife Refuge’s existing biosecurity program.</p>
21		<p><b>Slide:</b> Seabird Nesting Colony Protection and Enhancement at Dry Tortugas National Park</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ashley Mills, DOI</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>Next is Seabird Nesting Colony Protection and Enhancement at Dry Tortugas National Park in Florida.</p> <p>The Park recently eradicated invasive black rats from multiple islands where seabirds nest. This project would evaluate historic and current population sizes of nesting seabirds following this eradication to inform restoration actions through vegetation management, social attraction, and biosecurity measures.</p>

Slide #	Image	Script
		<p>This project would be conducted in two phases. Phase 1 consists of compiling existing monitoring data, conducting additional seabird monitoring, and enhancing existing biosecurity measures. Phase 2 consists of expanding existing or creating new seabird nesting colonies and nesting habitat enhancement through vegetation management.</p> <p>The project is intended to benefit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sooty tern</li> <li>• Brown noddy</li> <li>• Masked booby, and</li> <li>• Magnificent frigatebird</li> </ul>
22		<p><b>Slide:</b> Northern Gannet Nesting Colony Restoration in Eastern Canada</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ashley Mills, DOI</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>The next preferred alternative is Northern Gannet Nesting Colony Restoration in Eastern Canada.</p> <p>This project would increase nesting success, survival, and productivity of northern gannets at their nesting locations in eastern Canada through stewardship, habitat enhancement at existing colony locations, and re-establishment of existing and establishment of new breeding colonies using social attraction techniques. All northern gannets in North America nest at six breeding colonies in eastern Canada, where they face threats such as predation, disturbance, and entanglement with marine debris.</p>
23		<p><b>Slide:</b> Common Tern Nesting Colony Restoration in Manitoba</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ashley Mills, DOI</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>The next preferred alternative is Common Tern Nesting Colony Restoration in Manitoba.</p> <p>This project would increase nesting success, survival, and productivity of common terns at nesting locations in Manitoba by implementing stewardship activities and establishing new nesting colonies in protected locations using social attraction techniques. It would restore and establish nesting colonies throughout Manitoba's extensive boreal forest, where common terns nest in large numbers. This project would develop Indigenous-led wildlife conservation infrastructure and capacity that could be a model for similar programs across Canada.</p>

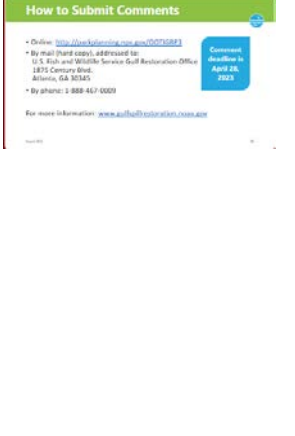
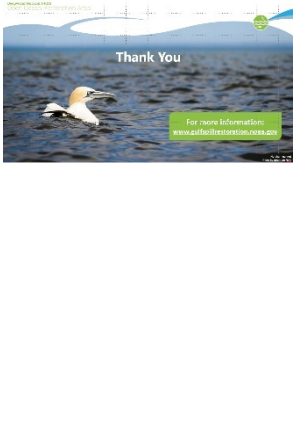
Slide #	Image	Script
24	 <p><b>Invasive Goat Removal to Restore Seabird Nesting Habitat in St. Vincent and the Grenadines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: St. Vincent and the Grenadines</li> <li>• Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance habitat quality through goat eradication, monitoring, and encouraging environmental stewardship through public outreach activities.</li> <li>• Increase nesting success.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Target birds: 6 species</li> <li>• Estimated budget: \$231,000</li> <li>• Timeline: 5 years</li> </ul>	<p><b>Slide:</b> Invasive Goat Removal to Restore Seabird Nesting Habitat in St. Vincent and the Grenadines</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ashley Mills, DOI</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>The next preferred alternative is Invasive Goat Removal to Restore Seabird Nesting Habitat in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.</p> <p>This project would increase seabird nesting success and productivity through conservation actions to restore nesting habitat in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Islands in St. Vincent and the Grenadines support high concentrations of nesting seabirds, leading to designations of multiple globally and regionally Important Bird Areas.</p> <p>This project involves eradicating invasive goats through hunting and live-capture, specifically on Battowia and Pillories islands. Goats have eliminated much of the vegetation on Battowia and the Pillories, increased erosion, and cause disturbance to nesting seabirds. Other restoration activities include compiling available baseline biodiversity information; monitoring for rodent presence; and conducting a public outreach campaign.</p> <p>The project is intended to benefit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridled tern</li> <li>• Brown booby</li> <li>• Brown noddy</li> <li>• Magnificent frigatebird</li> <li>• Sooty tern, and</li> <li>• Red-billed tropicbird</li> </ul>
25	 <p><b>Seabird Bycatch Reduction in Northeast U.S. and Atlantic Canada Fisheries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: Atlantic Ocean offshore of Cape Cod, Massachusetts and Newfoundland, Canada</li> <li>• Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop bycatch reduction strategies.</li> <li>• Education, training, and outreach with fishery partners.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Target birds: 2 species</li> <li>• Estimated budget: \$5 million</li> <li>• Timeline: 6 years</li> </ul>	<p><b>Slide:</b> Seabird Bycatch Reduction in Northeast U.S. and Atlantic Canada Fisheries</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ashley Mills, DOI</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>And the last preferred alternative is Seabird Bycatch Reduction in Northeast U.S. and Atlantic Canada Fisheries.</p> <p>This project would reduce the bycatch of seabirds in commercial fisheries of the northeastern United States and Atlantic Canada by using a partnership approach. The Trustees would work cooperatively with fishermen and other partners to implement bycatch reduction strategies and improve understanding of marine bird bycatch.</p> <p>Northern gannets, great shearwaters, and other seabirds are attracted by concentrations of fish, frequently interacting with commercial fishing operations, and leading to direct mortality through interactions with fishing gear. The proposed project would</p>

Slide #	Image	Script
		<p>work with specific fisheries to identify areas and times when seabird interactions are most intense and test voluntary fishing practice modifications to reduce bycatch.</p>
26		<p><b>Slide:</b> Non-preferred Alternatives</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ashley Mills, DOI</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>In addition to the 7 preferred alternatives just described, the Draft Restoration Plan includes these 4 projects that are non-preferred. As described earlier, the Trustees screened project ideas based on the criteria in applicable regulations, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cost-effectiveness of the project</li> <li>• The project goals and objectives</li> <li>• The likelihood of success of the project</li> <li>• The extent to which the project avoids collateral injury</li> <li>• The anticipated restoration benefits; and</li> <li>• The extent to which the project could impact public health and safety</li> </ul> <p>The Trustees determined that these four projects are not preferred for funding at this time, though they may be considered for implementation in another Restoration Plan in the future. These four projects would include restoration techniques similar to those proposed for the preferred alternatives, including vegetation or predator management, social attraction, biosecurity, and bycatch reduction.</p> <p>There are several reasons that a project may be non-preferred. In this Draft Restoration Plan, for example, if another project would provide similar benefits or benefits for the same species or suite of seabird species, AND the project is further along in the planning process, the Trustees prefer to implement the project that is shovel ready.</p> <p>More information and evaluation of each non-preferred alternative is provided in the Draft Restoration Plan. The public is encouraged to comment on any of the preferred and non-preferred alternatives.</p> <p>I will now pass it over to Laurie Rounds with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to lead us into the Open House portion of the webinar.</p>
27		<p><b>Slide:</b> Open House: Q&amp;A Cover</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Laurie Rounds, NOAA</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p>

Slide #	Image	Script
		<p>Thank you, Ashley. We would now like to provide you all with an opportunity to ask questions about the Draft Restoration Plan, the proposed projects, or the comment process and next steps.</p> <p>As we described at the beginning of the webinar, this is an opportunity to ask questions, and the Trustees will answer as many questions as we can over the next 10 to 15 minutes. On the line to answer questions are me, Ashley Mills, and Gale Bonanno, who you've heard from today. We also have Caleb Spiegel, a seabird expert with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.</p> <p>We hope that this question/answer period will assist with the development of formal public comments on the Draft Restoration Plan. Please continue to hold any comments that you would like to submit until we begin the formal public comment session of the webinar next.</p> <p>We have translators on hand if you would like to ask questions in Spanish or French. We will also post a summary of this Q&amp;A session to our website after the webinar, which will be translated into French and Spanish. Lena will now provide a reminder about how to enter your questions and the process we will use during this Q&amp;A period.</p>
28	 <p>The slide contains the following text: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please type your questions in the "Questions" box.</li> <li>• We may not get to them all.</li> <li>• Please note that formal public comments will be taken at a later time during the webinar. Please only enter questions during the Open House.</li> </ul> </p>	<p><b>Slide:</b> Open House Participation</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Lena Flannery</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>We have been compiling your questions throughout the webinar. In the interest of time, we may paraphrase some or combine others with similar themes to try to answer as many questions as possible. Remember, if you still have a question at this point, you can type it into the "Questions" box at the bottom of the GoToWebinar control panel (shown on this slide).</p> <p>I will now pause and give our translators a moment to provide the instructions.</p>
29	 <p>The slide contains the following text: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please type your questions in the "Questions" box.</li> <li>• We may not get to them all.</li> <li>• Please note that formal public comments will be taken at a later time during the webinar. Please only enter questions during the Open House.</li> </ul> </p>	<p><b>Slide:</b> Participación Durante la Sesión Abierta</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Spanish Translator</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p><b>[in Spanish]</b> We would now like to provide you all with an opportunity to ask questions about the Draft Restoration Plan, the proposed projects, or the comment process and next steps. The Trustees will answer as many questions as they can over the next 10 to 15 minutes.</p>

Slide #	Image	Script
		<p>If you have any questions in Spanish, you can type it into the “Questions” box at the bottom of the GoToWebinar control panel (shown on this slide).</p>
30		<p><b>Slide:</b> La Participation aux Portes Ouvertes  <b>Speaker:</b> French Translator  <b>Script:</b>  [in French] We would now like to provide you all with an opportunity to ask questions about the Draft Restoration Plan, the proposed projects, or the comment process and next steps. The Trustees will answer as many questions as they can over the next 10 to 15 minutes.</p> <p>If you have any questions in French, you can type it into the “Questions” box at the bottom of the GoToWebinar control panel (shown on this slide).</p>
31		<p><b>Slide:</b> Open House Participation  <b>Speaker:</b> Lena Flannery  <b>Script:</b>  Thank you to our translators. We will pause for a moment to give you time to enter any additional questions before we begin.</p>
32		<p><b>Slide:</b> Public Comment Cover  <b>Speaker:</b> Lena Flannery  <b>Script:</b>  Thank you for your questions, that concludes the Open House. We will now move into the formal Public Comment Session.</p> <p>Verbal comments given during this portion of the webinar will be included as part of the formal public comments for the Draft Restoration Plan.</p> <p>Please keep your comments to 3 minutes to ensure all who wish to speak may have an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>If you have a lengthier comment, please consider using the online portal or mail your comment.</p> <p>As a reminder, the Trustees will not respond to verbal comments during this session.</p>
33		<p><b>Slide:</b> Public Comment Participation  <b>Speaker:</b> Lena Flannery  <b>Script:</b>  If you would like to provide a verbal comment, please type your name into the “Questions” box. When it is your turn to speak, we</p>



Slide #	Image	Script
		<p>will call your name and you will be unmuted. You will have three minutes to give your comment.</p> <p>We have translators on hand if you would like to provide your comment in Spanish or French. I will now pause and give our translators a moment to provide the instructions.</p>
34		<p><b>Slide:</b> Participación Durante los Comentarios del Público</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ofelia Diaz-Soto</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p><b>[in Spanish]</b> If you would like to provide a verbal comment, please type your name into the “Questions” box and indicate that you would like to speak in Spanish. When it is your turn to speak, we will call your name and you will be unmuted.</p> <p>I am on hand to help translate your public comment. During your comment, please say one to two sentences, then pause to allow me to translate the sentences into English. You will be given additional time to allow for translations.</p>
35		<p><b>Slide:</b> La Participation aux Commentaires du Public</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Severine Tournadre</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p><b>[in French]</b> If you would like to provide a verbal comment today, please type your name into the “Questions” box and indicate you would like to speak in French. When it is your turn to speak, we will call your name and you will be unmuted.</p> <p>I am on hand to help translate your public comment. During your comment, please say one to two sentences, then pause to allow me to translate the sentences into English. You will be given additional time to allow for translations.</p>
36		<p><b>Slide:</b> Public Comment Participation</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Lena Flannery, IEC</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>Thank you, translators. We will now begin public comments. First up we will have ____, followed by ____.</p> <p>Please state your name, and if you are representing an organization, please state the name of the organization prior to making your comments</p> <p>____, we have unmuted you and you can begin your comment.</p> <p>Are there any others who would like to make verbal comment at this time? If so, please use the Questions box to provide your name.</p>

Slide #	Image	Script
		<p>We'll pause for a minute to see if anybody else would like to make a comment.</p> <p>Ok, we have no more comments.</p>
37-40		<p><b>Slide:</b> Public Comment Timer Slides</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b></p> <p><b>Script:</b> [None]</p>
42		<p><b>Slide:</b> Next Steps</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Lena Flannery, IEC</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>That concludes the public comment portion of today's webinar. Before wrapping up, we will briefly remind you of a few other ways you can submit public comments.</p>
43		<p><b>Slide:</b> How to Submit Comments</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Lena Flannery, IEC</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p> <p>Comments may be submitted via our online portal, by U.S. mail at the address provided on this slide, or by phone.</p> <p>Your comments must be submitted no later than April 28 for consideration in the Final Plan.</p> <p>After the close of the public comment period, the Open Ocean TIG will consider all input received during the public comment period and then finalize the Restoration Plan.</p> <p><i>Message in the chat:</i></p> <p><i>Information on how to submit public comments can be found at <a href="https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2023/03/open-ocean-trustees-see-public-comment-draft-restoration-plan-3">https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2023/03/open-ocean-trustees-see-public-comment-draft-restoration-plan-3</a></i></p> <p><i>Puede encontrar información sobre cómo enviar comentarios públicos en: <a href="https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2023/03/open-ocean-trustees-see-public-comment-draft-restoration-plan-3">https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2023/03/open-ocean-trustees-see-public-comment-draft-restoration-plan-3</a></i></p> <p><i>Des informations sur la manière de soumettre des commentaires publics sont disponibles sur : <a href="https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2023/03/open-ocean-trustees-see-public-comment-draft-restoration-plan-3">https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2023/03/open-ocean-trustees-see-public-comment-draft-restoration-plan-3</a></i></p>
44		<p><b>Slide:</b> Thank you</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Lena Flannery, IEC</p> <p><b>Script:</b></p>

Slide #	Image	Script
		<p>Thank you for your time and interest in <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> Gulf Restoration. We look forward to receiving comments on the Draft Restoration Plan.</p> <p>We will post the presentation from this webinar to the Trustee’s website in the next few days.</p> <p>We will now conclude this meeting. Thank you.</p>

### Summary of Questions and Answers

**Question:** Why is the TIG proposing restoration in other countries when the oil spill occurred in the Gulf?

**Response [Gale Bonanno, EPA]:** In the Open Ocean Restoration Area, we target restoration of wide-ranging migratory species at important points throughout their life cycles and vast geographic ranges. So, there’s flexibility in our work to conduct restoration where the restoration benefits would be the greatest. The bird species targeted in this plan were injured within the northern Gulf of Mexico during the spill, primarily at sea, but they breed and spend substantial time outside of the Gulf. As such, reducing bycatch and improving nesting conditions in known nesting areas outside the Gulf are effective ways to restore these species.

**Question:** Where can I track progress of these restoration projects?

**Response [Laurie Rounds, NOAA]:** The TIG will consider all comments received through the end of the public comment period and respond to comments in the final restoration plan. The Final Plan will detail the TIG's decisions on which projects we select for funding and implementation. If a Finding of No Significant Impact is made, we will begin project implementation. Progress will be tracked and reported in the *Deepwater Horizon* restoration portal. You can access project records and reports on the Trustees' website, [www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov).

**Question:** Who are the individuals that do the front-line rodent removal and other project activities? Is there an actual company that conducts this piece?

**Response [Ashley Mills, DOI]:** We will partner with local Puerto Rico agencies, conservation organizations, and other partners who specialize in the kind of rodent removal we are proposing. The rodent removal activities will be conducted by trained personnel from those partner agencies and organizations.

**Question:** Do you see much opportunity for knowledge sharing among projects that might increase the overall impact as more people and organizations learn the techniques of bird restoration?

**Response [Dave Hewitt, DOI]:** Given the use of similar techniques across a number of projects proposed in this draft restoration plan, there should be plenty of opportunity for shared learning that benefits all

projects. The Trustees will work with project implementation partners to make those connections throughout implementation. It is our hope that our successes and lessons learned will benefit others doing important work for seabird restoration as well.

**Question:** Is there any link to share on social media for donations to the project? Do you accept donations?

**Response [Laurie Rounds, NOAA]:** The Open Ocean TIG is not able to accept donations. We are looking forward to working with several local organizations and engaging local communities during project implementation so there will be opportunities to engage and follow progress of the restoration projects. Thank you for your interest in and support for seabird restoration.

**Question:** Has the TIG funded previous projects that propose to aerial broadcast rodenticide over an entire island? If so, where can the results and incidental mortalities data be found?

**Response [Ashley Mills, DOI]:** The TIG has not previously proposed or implemented rodent eradications for the *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Damage Assessment program. Aerial applications of rodenticide have occurred across a number of island ecosystems. Large-scale rodent eradications proposed in this plan would incorporate proven strategies and approaches utilized in past successful rodent eradications completed for similar restoration projects. Analyses from these previous projects are incorporated by reference into the National Environmental Policy Act analyses in Chapter 4 of the draft plan.

**Question:** How did the Trustees decide on the relative allocations of funds within the Open Ocean TIG (e.g., birds versus marine mammals, turtles, etc.)?

**Response [Laurie Rounds, NOAA]:** The relative allocations for all Trustee Implementation Groups were identified in the legal settlement with BP outlined in the Consent Decree and based on the injury from the oil spill. The Open Ocean Restoration Area's allocation focuses on the oceanic species injured in the spill, which are highly migratory and wide-ranging species. More information about both the injury and the allocation of funding can be found in the Trustees' Programmatic Restoration Plan.

**Question:** Would you talk a bit about project opportunities in the Bahamas and why none are recommended at this time?

**Response [Ashley Mills, DOI]:** The proposed Seabird Nesting Habitat Restoration and Colony Reestablishing in the Bahamas project would seek to increase seabird nesting success and productivity through a variety of colony stewardship and protection techniques as well as establishment of new colonies. Proposed restoration techniques include collection and compilation of baseline data, training of management staff, enhancement of nesting sites through vegetation management and predator management, and establishment of nesting colonies through social attraction. However, this project is estimated to have fewer benefits relative to the cost compared to other projects evaluated in the draft plan, due to the need for capacity building prior to implementation of project activities.