

Open Ocean Restoration Area

June 2019



WHO WE ARE

The Trustee representatives for the Open Ocean Restoration Area are:

- Ashley Mills, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Laurie Rounds, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Ron Howard, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Gale Bonanno, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

RECENT ACTIVITIES

In the past year, we have been busy overseeing the continued engineering, design, and construction of restoration projects approved during Early Restoration. We also developed and, after considering public comments, finalized Restoration Plan 1 in March 2019, which selects two projects for birds and one project for Gulf sturgeon. Draft Restoration Plan 2, released for public comment on May 15, 2019, proposes restoration projects for fish, sea turtles, marine mammals, and mesophotic and deep benthic communities. We also developed our strategy for efficient and effective use of Monitoring and Adaptive Management (MAM) funds, described in the OO MAM Strategy.

WHAT WE DO

The Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group, comprised of the federal trustees, works on restoring wide-ranging and migratory species; including birds, Gulf sturgeon, fish and water column invertebrates, sea turtles, marine mammals, and mesophotic and deep benthic communities. We address these species throughout their life stages and geographic ranges, including inland, coastal, and offshore areas. Therefore, we may use some funds for restoration outside of the Gulf of Mexico. We coordinate with state trustees especially when proposed projects overlap their jurisdictions.

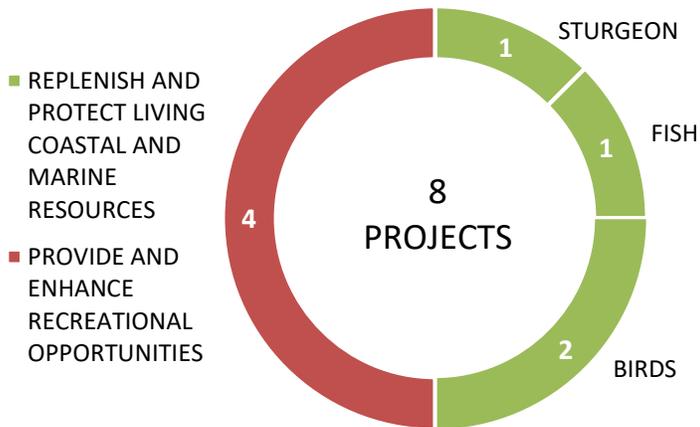


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RESTORATION OVERVIEW

For more information, visit www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/open-ocean

Projects by Restoration Goal



\$58 million approved for projects

PROJECT UPDATE // The Oceanic Fish Restoration Project held its third season partnering with fishermen to restore fish species that can be incidentally caught during pelagic longline fishing. By voluntarily refraining from fishing and using alternative fishing gear, this partnership is restoring species such as bluefin tuna, marlin, sharks, and other fish. "I am very invested in helping make alternative gear more effective for future generations of fishermen" one 2018 participant said.

RECENT NEWS // Anchors Aweigh! The *Turtle Runner* and *Pelican Perch* ferries are in their second season of scenic sailing between Gulf Islands National Seashore, Pensacola Beach and the City of Pensacola.

Restoration Projects by Goal and Type

REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES – FISH, BIRDS, STURGEON

- Characterizing Gulf Sturgeon Spawning Habitat, Habitat Use, and Origins of Juvenile Sturgeon in the Pearl and Pascagoula River Systems (🔄 \$2.2M)
- Oceanic Fish Restoration Project (🔄 \$20M)
- Restoration of Common Loons in Minnesota (🔄 \$7.5M)
- Restoration of Black Terns in North Dakota and South Dakota (🔄 \$6.3M)

PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Beach Enhancement Project at Gulf Islands National Seashore (🔄 \$10.8M)
- Bike and Pedestrian Use Enhancements Project, Davis Bayou, Mississippi District, Gulf Islands National Seashore (🔄 \$7M)
- Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Trail Enhancement Project (🔄 \$545K)
- Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry Project (✅ \$4M)

🔄 In progress 🟢 Monitoring/O&M ✅ Complete