



Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment 1

Public Webinar
April 15, 2021



Slide 1:

Speaker: Facilitator: #Jamie Schubert#

Objective: Call meeting to order; format overview

General Talking Points:

Welcome to the public webinar for the Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment 1 for Birds, Marine Mammals, Oysters, and Sea Turtles.

Today/tonight we have the *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Damage Assessment Regionwide Trustees, subject matter experts, and other staff participating. My name is Jamie Schubert and I'm NOAA's representative for the Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group. Our other speakers will introduce themselves during the webinar.

Slide 2:

Speaker: # Jamie Schubert#

Objective: Describe the webinar participation

General Talking Points:

Before we begin the webinar, #Sarah Chadwick# with the firm Abt Associates will quickly run through some webinar logistics with you.

#Sarah# - Hopefully everyone's logged in to the webinar by now. You should be able to see the chat function on the right-hand side of your screen. If it is not visible to you, please click the Chat button in the bottom right-hand corner of your screen so that it is visible.

If you're using a phone for audio, you should use the WebEx "Call me" feature or dial in using the phone number provided by WebEx—that's the number and access code listed under "Meeting information" at the top of your screen. Please note that only presenters will be heard over the phone during the webinar; attendees will be muted.

Please note that we will not be answering questions during today's webinar. However, at the end of the presentation, we've set aside time for comments. If you have registered to make an oral comment, we will unmute you to speak.

If you have not registered to make an oral comment but would like to, please type your name into the "Chat" box and we will unmute you.

If you would like to provide a written comment, please type your comment for the Regionwide Draft Restoration Plan into the Chat box and we will read your comment out loud during the comment period.

Webinar Participation

- If you're using a phone, turn off your computer's microphone and speakers.
- At the end of the presentation, use the "Chat" box to type comments that you have for the Trustees, or to make a request to speak. Please note we will not be answering questions during today's webinar.
- Presentation will be posted on www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov.

You may also use the chat box to request technical help. One of our IT specialists on the line will assist you.

We'll also post the presentation to the GulfSpillRestoration.noaa.gov website in a few days.

Now back to #Jamie Schubert# to go through our agenda for today.



Webinar Agenda

- Natural Resource Damage Assessment
- Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group
- Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment 1
- Public comments
- Next steps



Piping plover. Credit: USFWS

Slide 3:
Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#
Objective: Meeting Agenda
General Talking Points:
 Thank you #Sarah#. The purpose of this presentation is to provide information about the Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group's Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment 1. Today/tonight we'll provide brief overviews of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and settlement with BP, the Trustees' programmatic restoration plan and the Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group. We will also provide an overview of the Draft Restoration Plan and the restoration projects proposed and take formal comments using the webinar tools. Then we'll close with describing the next steps in the restoration planning process.



Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment
 Regionwide Restoration Area

Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

Slide 4:
Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#
Objective: NRDA
General Talking Points:
 Natural Resource Damage Assessment, or NRDA.



What is NRDA?

- A legal process guided by the Oil Pollution Act (OPA)
- Trustee agencies assess the degree to which natural resources and the services they provide may have been injured
- Trustees then determine how to compensate the public through restoration activities



Slide 5
Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#
Objective: Explain a Natural Resource Damage Assessment
General Talking Points:
 The Oil Pollution Act makes the parties responsible for an oil spill liable for the costs of response, injury assessment, and restoration needed to compensate the public for damages to natural resources.

Under the Oil Pollution Act (OPA), a council of federal and state "trustees" was established soon after the Deepwater Horizon oil

spill to assess the natural resource injuries and develop and implement plans for restoring the natural resources that were damaged. This process is referred to as NRDA.

The Deepwater Horizon Trustees are the federal Department of Interior, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Environmental Protection Agency, and US Department of Agriculture and state agencies for each Gulf State.

Slide 6
Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#
Objective: Explain trustees programmatic restoration plan
General Talking Points:

As part of NRDA, the Trustees developed the programmatic damage assessment and restoration plan. The plan documents the natural resource injuries caused by the spill and concludes that the scale of the injury is so massive, that an ecosystem approach to restoration is needed.

The Trustees' plan is called a "programmatic plan" because, rather than identifying individual projects, it identifies goals, restoration types and restoration approaches to achieve the trustees' ecosystem approach to restoration that set the course for more detailed, project-level planning.

In addition, the plan provides a framework for how the trustees will implement restoration and work together to achieve our long-term goals.

Slide 7
Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#
Objective: Explain natural resource damage assessment settlement
General Talking Points:

In 2016, the Trustees reached a settlement of \$8.1 billion to resolve BP's liability for natural resource injuries caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This includes \$1 billion dollars committed for early restoration conducted by the trustees prior to the settlement. In addition, the Consent Decree establishes up to an additional \$700 million to respond to currently unknown and changing natural resource conditions that may affect restoration.

The settlement provided for incremental payments over the course of 15 years – the first payment was made in 2017. Based on the kind and extent of injuries caused by the spill, the \$8.1 billion was allocated among the Trustees' five broad restoration goals as indicated in the slide and up to \$700 million made available for future unknown conditions.

Deepwater Horizon NRDA
Regionwide Restoration Area



Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group (TIG)

Slide 8

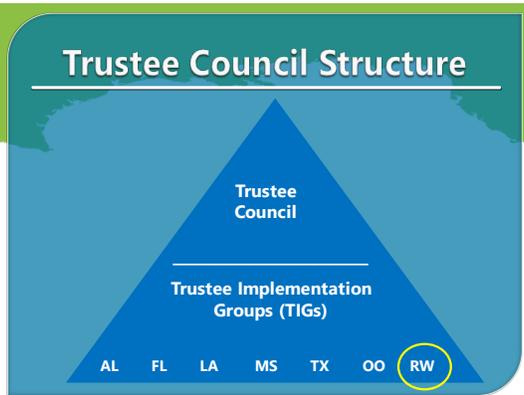
Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#

Objective: Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group

General Talking Points:

Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group.

Trustee Council Structure



Slide 9

Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#

Objective: Describe trustee council structure

General Talking Points:

The Deepwater Horizon Settlement also formally established the Trustee Council Structure. This graphic shows the post-settlement structure of the Deepwater Horizon NRDA Trustee Council, which now serves in an oversight role.

The settlement, and associated legal documents, established Restoration Areas, one for each Gulf state as well as for the Open Ocean and Regionwide Restoration Areas, which are represented by OO and RW on the figure.

Restoration Area-specific TIGs conduct the work to develop restoration plans and implement approved projects within their respective Restoration Areas.

Regionwide Restoration Area Funding

| Restoration goal | Restoration Type | Regionwide Early Restoration funds | Regionwide post-settlement funds | Total restoration funding |
|---|------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources | Birds | \$1,823,100 | \$70,400,000 | \$72,223,100 |
| | Marine Mammals | \$0 | \$19,000,000 | \$19,000,000 |
| | Oysters | \$0 | \$64,372,413 | \$64,372,413 |
| | Sea Turtles | \$29,256,165 | \$60,000,000 | \$89,256,165 |
| Monitoring and Adaptive Management (MAM) | N/A | \$0 | \$65,000,000 | \$65,000,000 |
| Administrative Oversight and Comprehensive Planning | N/A | \$0 | \$40,000,000 | \$40,000,000 |

Slide 10

Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#

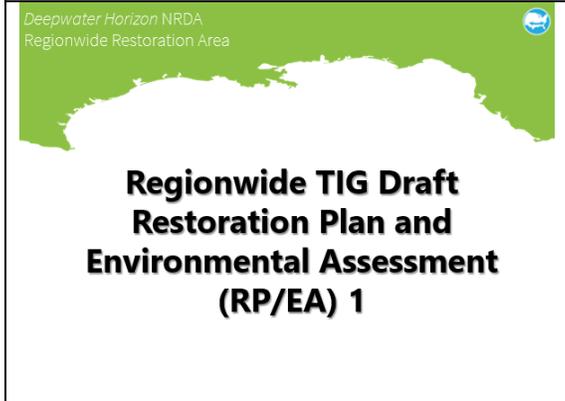
Objective: Describe Regionwide restoration area funding

General Talking Points:

This table provides the final settlement allocation for the Regionwide Restoration Area. The funding allocations are a result of the programmatic restoration planning effort and are defined in the Consent Decree.

Each TIG develops project-specific restoration plans for their respective restoration area, consistent with the funding allocations. A series of payments will be available to each TIG over the course of 15 years, proportional to the total amount allocated to each restoration area. Each TIG also identifies their priorities to meet its goals for Monitoring and Adaptive Management.

The draft restoration plan we are discussing today focuses on the four restoration types highlighted and includes approximately \$31 million for birds, \$7 million for marine mammals, \$36 million for oysters, \$19 million for sea turtles, and one project for \$7 million that will help restore both birds and sea turtles.



Slide 11
Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#
Objective: Regionwide TIG Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment
General Talking Points:
 Regionwide TIG Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment



Slide 12
Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#
Objective: Describe Regionwide Draft Restoration Plan Overview
General Talking Points:
 In developing the draft restoration plan, we used a robust screening process to determine a reasonable range of alternatives to restore Birds, Marine Mammals, Oysters and Sea Turtles. I'd like to note here that in this presentation and in the draft restoration plan, the terms "project" and "alternative" are used interchangeably.

In the draft plan, we evaluated 15 alternatives under the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) to identify projects that would best contribute to restoring injured resources. These alternatives were also evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to consider any potential environmental effects that may result from proposed restoration actions.

Based on this evaluation, the trustees propose 11 preferred alternatives across the plan's four restoration types for an estimated total cost of approximately \$99.6 million dollars.

The public comment period began on March 22nd with the release of the Draft plan and will be accepted through May 6th.

Summary of Screening Process

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| Birds: | 632 projects | → 4 alternatives | → 3 preferred |
| Marine Mammals: | 171 projects | → 4 alternatives | → 3 preferred |
| Oysters: | 295 projects | → 2 alternatives | → 1 preferred |
| Sea Turtles: | 297 projects | → 6 alternatives | → 5 preferred |

Slide 13
Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#
Objective: Describe summary screening process
General Talking Points:
 This slide summarizes the number of projects that were received and considered and how many made it through the screening process resulting in the reasonable range of alternatives described in the Draft Restoration Plan. For example, following the initial screening step, our bird restoration screening team reviewed approximately 632 project ideas through the remaining screening steps. This included combining or modifying some activities from across multiple ideas to develop projects that have a high technical feasibility and that could result in the greatest restoration benefit in light of the available funding.

The reasonable range of alternatives developed includes the 4 bird restoration alternatives described in the plan. These alternatives were then evaluated under OPA and NEPA. Based on these evaluations, the Regionwide Trustees are recommending 3 bird restoration projects for implementation at this time, including 1 that is shared with the sea turtles restoration type because the project would benefit both birds and sea turtles.

A more detailed description of this process for all the restoration types is provided in the Draft RP/EA 1.

Deepwater Horizon NRD
Regionwide Restoration Area

Non-Preferred Alternatives

Slide 14
Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#
Objective: Introduce non-preferred alternatives
General Talking Points:
 Next, we provide an overview of the non-preferred alternatives proposed in the Draft restoration plan.

Non –Preferred Alternatives

- **Birds-** Stewardship and Habitat Creation through Beneficial Use
- **Marine Mammals-** Enhance Capacity, Diagnostic Capability, and Consistency of the Marine Mammal Stranding Network in the Gulf of Mexico
- **Oysters-** Improving Resilience for Oysters by Linking Brood Reefs and Sink Reefs (Small-scale)
- **Sea Turtles-** Guiding Restoration Success for Nesting Females and Hatchlings in the Northern Gulf of Mexico

Slide 15
Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#
Objective: Introduce non-preferred alternative
 Both the OPA and NEPA analysis resulted in four projects (one per restoration type) that were not recommended as Preferred alternatives by the Regionwide TIG. These were not recommended as preferred alternatives for multiple reasons including but not limited to not providing benefits across the Regionwide Restoration area and budgetary constraints. Additional details are available in the Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment.



Preferred Alternatives: Birds

Slide 16

Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#

Objective: Introduce Bird preferred alternatives

General Talking Points:

Next, we provide an overview of the preferred alternatives proposed in the Draft restoration plan. We will begin with the Birds restoration type.

Slide 17

Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#

Objective: Describe preferred bird alternatives

General Talking Points:

3 projects have been proposed as preferred alternatives for the Bird Restoration Type with a total estimated budget of \$35.5M. Short summary of bird preferred alternatives-

Birds: Three Preferred Alternatives - \$35.5M

1. Reducing Marine Debris Impacts on Birds and Sea Turtles (Joint Project with Sea Turtles Restoration Type)

Activities: Compile data on marine debris to identify hotspots, remove marine debris, and prevent debris via public outreach

Estimated Cost: \$3,520,000



Credit:LDWF

Reducing Marine Debris Impacts on Birds and Sea Turtles

This alternative would reduce the threat and impacts (e.g., entanglement, entrapment, and/or ingestion) of marine debris to DWH-injured bird and sea turtle species across the Gulf of Mexico. This would be accomplished by identifying and prioritizing marine debris hotspots that could negatively affect birds and sea turtles across the Gulf of Mexico. This is intended to reduce marine debris-related mortalities with birds and sea turtles through implementation of site-specific restoration techniques that could include removing marine debris, improving collection and disposal of debris, and conducting public outreach.

Slide 18

Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#

Objective: Describe preferred bird alternatives (continued)

General Talking Points:

Conservation and Enhancement of Nesting and Foraging Habitat for Birds

This alternative would conduct nesting and foraging habitat conservation for bird species regionwide by restoring habitats across four sites in the Gulf of Mexico. It would also conduct E&D for an additional site. The overall objective for this project is to conduct nesting and foraging habitat conservation, including creation, restoration, and enhancement activities, for the benefit of multiple bird species across a range of habitats.

The specific components in this project include:

Birds: Three Preferred Alternatives - \$35.5M

2. Conservation and Enhancement of Nesting and Foraging Habitat for Birds

Activities: Conduct nesting and foraging habitat conservation through habitat acquisition, creation, restoration, and enhancement

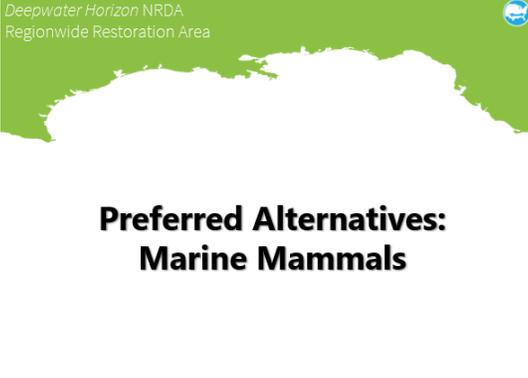
Estimated Cost: \$22,500,000



Credit:LDWF

| | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 1: Chandeleur Islands, LA. This component proposes E&D and planning activities for a conceptual project that, upon further planning, may be proposed in a future restoration plan. • Component 2: Pilot Town/Little Dauphin Island, AL. This component includes the acquisition of two parcels near the Bon Secour NWR • Component 3: San Antonio Bay Bird Island, TX. This component includes the creation of an 8-acre bird rookery island • Component 4: Matagorda Bay Bird Island (Chester Island), TX. This component includes E&D and construction to reduce erosion and improve habitat on Chester Island • Component 5: Round Island, MS. This component includes habitat and nesting enhancements, predator control, and debris removal |
|--|--|

| | |
|--|--|
|  <p>Birds: Three Preferred Alternatives - \$35.5M</p> <p>3. Bird Nesting and Foraging Area Stewardship</p> <p><u>Activities:</u> Address anthropogenic stressors, protect and restore habitat, and conduct public outreach to conserve and enhance beaches that birds use for nesting, resting and foraging</p> <p><u>Estimated Cost:</u> \$8,510,750</p> <p><small>Piping plovers. Credit: NOAA</small></p> | <p>Slide 19</p> <p>Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#</p> <p>Objective: Describe preferred bird alternatives (continued)</p> <p>General Talking Points:</p> <p>Bird Nesting and Foraging Area Stewardship</p> <p>This project would utilize various activities at multiple locations along the GOM coast and on the NE coast of Florida to conserve and enhance nesting and foraging habitats for birds. The activities proposed would directly address anthropogenic stressors, protect and restore habitat, and reduce other stressors that impact birds that use beaches for nesting, rearing, foraging, resting and refueling during migratory stopovers, and overwintering. It would also increase public awareness of bird conservation issues.</p> |
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| | |
|--|--|
|  <p>Deepwater Horizon NRDA Regionwide Restoration Area</p> <p>Preferred Alternatives: Marine Mammals</p> | <p>Slide 20</p> <p>Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#</p> <p>Objective: Introduce marine mammals preferred alternatives</p> <p>General Talking Points:</p> <p>Next we will describe our preferred marine mammals alternatives.</p> |
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Slide 21

Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#

Objective: Describe preferred marine mammals alternatives

General Talking Points:

3 projects have been proposed as preferred alternatives for the marine mammal Restoration Type with a total estimated budget of \$7.2M.

**Short summary of marine mammal preferred alternatives-
Voluntary Modifications to Commercial Shrimp Lazy Lines to Reduce Dolphin Entanglements**

This alternative focuses on testing the performance and usability of previously identified alternative materials for shrimp trawl lazy lines, which would decrease the number of entanglements and associated mortality of dolphins in commercial shrimp trawl lazy lines. The alternative would be carried out in two phases. Phase I would include planning activities, conducting collaborative in-water gear testing with researchers and industry members, and developing a plan for voluntary gear modification throughout the Gulf of Mexico fleet. Phase II of the alternative would involve working collaboratively with stakeholders, including interested members of the shrimp trawl fleet, to adopt broader use of the alternative lazy line material that most effectively reduces the occurrence of lethal entanglements of bottlenose dolphins.

Marine Mammals: Three Preferred Alternatives - \$7.2M

1. Voluntary Modifications to Commercial Shrimp Lazy Lines to Reduce Dolphin Entanglements

Activities: Test the performance and usability of alternative lazy line materials that would reduce dolphin entanglements

Estimated Cost \$3,179,088



Bottlenose dolphin pod with two calves. Credit: NOAA

Slide 22

Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#

Objective: Describe preferred marine mammals alternatives (continued)

General Talking Points:

Reducing Impacts to Dolphins from Hook-and-Line Gear and Provisioning through Fishery Surveys, Social Science, and Collaboration

This alternative would reduce the number of injuries and mortalities of bottlenose dolphins from interactions with hook-and-line fishing gear and fishing activities, as well as those associated with illegally feeding dolphins. The alternative would implement Phase I of a two-phased project. Phase I would characterize the nature and magnitude of interactions between dolphins and hook-and-line gear through systematic fishery surveys, social science studies and evaluation of stranding data and then use this information to collaboratively identify possible solution(s) to reduce interactions. Phase II (not proposed for funding in this RP/EA) would collaboratively develop and test the effectiveness of those solution(s), implement identified solution(s), and systematically repeat fishery surveys and social science studies from Phase I to evaluate success.

Marine Mammals: Three Preferred Alternatives - \$7.2M

2. Reducing Impacts to Dolphins from Hook-and-Line Gear and Provisioning through Fishery Surveys, Social Science, and Collaboration

Activities: Gather and analyze data to identify possible solution(s) to reduce interactions between dolphins and hook-and-line fishing activities

Estimated Cost \$1,700,000



Credit: NOAA

Marine Mammals: Three Preferred Alternatives - \$7.2M

3. Enhance Marine Mammal Stranding Network Diagnostic Capabilities and Consistency across the Gulf of Mexico

Activities: Support or enhance MMSN diagnostic capabilities to improve treatment and care for live stranded cetaceans, support data collection and reporting, and increase management consistency across the Gulf of Mexico

Estimated Cost: \$2,300,000



Credit: NOAA

Slide 23
Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#
Objective: Describe preferred marine mammals alternatives (continued)
General Talking Points:
Enhance Marine Mammal Stranding Network Diagnostic Capabilities and Consistency across the Gulf of Mexico
 This alternative focuses on activities that would support or enhance MMSN diagnostic capabilities and consistency across the Gulf of Mexico. This project would provide diagnostic equipment to MMSN partners along the Gulf of Mexico, conduct training, provide a data manager, and fund analyses of samples collected from stranded cetaceans. As a result, this project would improve diagnoses of illnesses and causes of death in stranded cetaceans, allowing the MMSN to make better rehabilitation/release decisions for live stranded animals, and increasing understanding of regionwide cetacean population health. Activities would be implemented throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

Deepwater Horizon NRDA
 Regionwide Restoration Area



**Preferred Alternative:
 Oysters**

Slide 24
Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#
Objective: Introduce oyster preferred alternatives
General Talking Points:
 Next, we will describe our preferred oyster alternative.

Oysters: One Preferred Alternative - \$35.8M

Improving Resilience for Oysters by Linking Brood Reefs and Sink Reefs (Largescale)

Activities: Create a network of reefs linked through larval transport at a range of habitats and salinities, with the aim of increasing oyster population sustainability and oyster reef resilience

Estimated Cost: \$35,819,974



Oyster Reef Credit: NOAA

Slide 25
Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#
Objective: Describe preferred oyster alternative
General Talking Points:
 1 project has been proposed as a preferred alternative for the oyster Restoration Type with a total estimated budget of \$35.8M.
Improving Resilience for Oysters by Linking Brood Reefs and Sink Reefs (Large-scale)
 This alternative would increase oyster abundance and resilience at multiple Gulf of Mexico locations by creating a network of brood and sink reefs (up to 30 acres at each of the five sites) over a range of habitats (intertidal to subtidal) and salinities. The constructed reefs would be designed to facilitate larval transport from one site to another. If conditions at one site are not favorable for oyster larvae settlement and growth at a particular time, conditions at another reef site may be favorable, increasing the likelihood of larval settlement and helping to maintain the

resilience of the reef network over time. In addition, some sites may use high-vertical relief reefs to help increase the resilience of the reefs to storms.

The project would occur at five sites across the Gulf of Mexico:

- East Galveston Bay, TX;
- Biloxi Marsh, LA;
- Heron Bay, MS;
- Mid-lower Mobile Bay, AL; and
- Suwannee Sound, FL.



**Preferred Alternatives:
Sea Turtles**

Slide 26
Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#
Objective: Introduce sea turtle preferred alternatives
General Talking Points:
 Next we will be providing you with information on our Sea Turtle preferred alternatives.

Sea Turtles: Five Preferred Alternatives - \$22.1M

1. Pilot Implementation of Automatic Identification System (AIS) in the GOM Inshore Shrimp Fishery to Inform Efforts to Reduce Sea Turtle Bycatch

Activities Use an automatic tracking technology to provide information about the spatial and temporal movements of shrimping vessels (will inform bycatch reduction efforts)

Estimated Cost \$2,231,124

Credit: NOAA

Slide 27
Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#
Objective: Describe preferred sea turtle alternatives
General Talking Points:
 5 projects will be proposed as preferred alternatives for the sea turtle Restoration Type with a total estimated budget of \$22.1M.

Pilot Implementation of Automatic Identification System (AIS) in the GOM Inshore Shrimp Fishery to Inform Efforts to Reduce Sea Turtle Bycatch

This alternative would develop and test an electronic monitoring voluntary pilot program for inshore shrimp vessels using AIS Class B devices (electronic monitoring devices). The alternative would use the devices to collect data on the spatial and temporal patterns of inshore and nearshore shrimp fishing, which is poorly understood, to inform future restoration planning, and inform and guide training, education, and outreach activities of NOAA’s Gear Monitoring Team to reduce sea turtle bycatch and mortality. Projects would be implemented throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

Slide 28

Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#

Objective: Describe preferred sea turtle alternatives (continued)

General Talking Points:

Restore and Enhance Sea Turtle Nest Productivity

The goal of this alternative is to develop and implement restoration actions to improve hatchling production for loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, and green sea turtles on key nesting beaches across the Northern Gulf of Mexico, the Archie Carr NWR on the east coast of Florida, and northern Mexico. The alternative would identify the highest priority threats to key nesting beaches, and then would implement appropriate restoration actions to help nesting females secure access to suitable habitat, successfully excavate nests, and return to the water after nesting; complete successful nest incubations; and achieve high hatch, emergence, and hatchling seaward migrations. Key restoration actions could include removing barriers to sea turtle beach access, managing nests to protect eggs and hatchlings where necessary and appropriate, monitoring beaches to manage predation and poaching, reducing lighting near beaches, and restoring beach habitat.

Sea Turtles: Five Preferred Alternatives - \$22.1M

2. Restore and Enhance Sea Turtle Nest Productivity

Activities: Implement a range of actions that would improve hatchling production (e.g. remove barriers to beaches, manage nests to protect eggs and hatchlings, monitoring beaches to prevent predation and poaching, reduce lighting near beaches, and restore beach habitat)

Estimated Cost: \$7,655,000

Credit: Dr. Matthew Godfrey

Slide 29

Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#

Objective: Describe preferred sea turtle alternatives (continued)

General Talking Points:

Reducing Sea Turtle Bycatch at Recreational Fishing Sites

The goal of this alternative is to identify factors contributing to sea turtle bycatch at shore-based recreational fishing sites (e.g., piers, bridges, jetties, and other shoreline structures). Activities would include gathering data through assessment and mining of STSSN and existing angler survey data as well as a compilation of existing information on Gulf of Mexico shore-based fishing sites; conducting surveys and local assessments to better understand angler fishing practices and potential co-factors influencing sea turtle bycatch; and implementing angler education and other pilot programs to reduce sea turtle bycatch and bycatch injury.

Sea Turtles: Three Preferred Alternatives - \$22.1M

3. Reducing Sea Turtle Bycatch at Recreational Fishing Sites

Activities: Assess and identify factors contributing to sea turtle bycatch at shore-based recreational fishing sites and implement voluntary angler education and other programs to reduce bycatch

Estimated Cost: \$3,649,360

Credit: NOAA

Sea Turtles: Three Preferred Alternatives - \$22.1M

4. Reducing Marine Debris Impacts on Birds and Sea Turtles (Joint Project with Birds Restoration Type)

Activities: Compile data on marine debris to identify hotspots, remove marine debris, and prevent debris via public outreach

Estimated Cost: \$3,520,000



Credit: NOAA

Slide 30

Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#

Objective: Describe preferred sea turtle alternatives (continued)

General Talking Points:

Reducing Marine Debris Impacts on Birds and Sea Turtles

This alternative would be jointly implemented (would share costs) with the Birds Restoration Type, and would implement the same types of activities as the Birds preferred alternative described earlier in this presentation.

Sea Turtles: Three Preferred Alternatives - \$22.1M

5. Regionwide Enhancements to the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network and Enhanced Rehabilitation

Activities: Provide support for responding to stranding events, recovering and necropsying dead stranded sea turtles, and/or filling other gaps in STSSN response coverage. Would also support the construction of a new rehabilitation facility on the upper Texas coast

Estimated Cost: \$5,050,000



Credit: Eiril Possardt, USFWS

Slide 31

Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#

Objective: Describe preferred sea turtle alternatives (continued)

General Talking Points:

Regionwide Enhancements to the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network and Enhanced Rehabilitation

This alternative would enhance STSSN response, coordination, preparedness, and response and rehabilitation capacity through two main components.

The first component would enhance the capabilities of project partners conducting stranding and rehabilitation activities in the Gulf of Mexico by supporting critical enhancement needs for STSSN response efforts. Project funding would provide support for equipment and supply needs (e.g., additional tanks, water filtration equipment, medical equipment) for existing sea turtle rehabilitation facilities. The project could provide support for responding to stranding events, recovering, and necropsying dead stranded sea turtles to better understand mortality sources, or filling other identified gaps in STSSN response coverage where sea turtles would benefit from increased response effort and/or capacity. Specific activities could include education and outreach, transporting live sea turtles for rehabilitation, implementing stranding patrols, and providing veterinary services.

The second component would support the construction of a new rehabilitation facility on the upper Texas coast to address a gap in the STSSN by replacing lost rehabilitation capacity due to the impending closure of an existing facility.



Public Comments

Slide 32

Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#

Objective: Introduce Public Comments Section

General Talking Points:

We will now move into the Public Comments Session of the webinar to accept your comments on the Regionwide Draft RP/EA 1.

Comments submitted during this portion of the webinar will be included as part of the formal public comments for the draft restoration plan.

The Trustees will not respond to comments at this time. Instead, a summary of comments received, the Trustees' responses, and any changes made to the Draft plan will be included in the Final restoration plan.

Slide 33

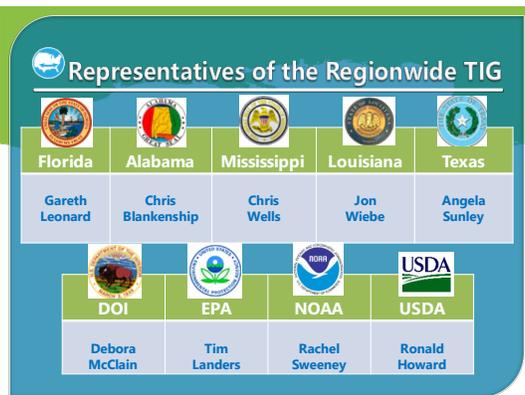
Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#

Objective: Introduce Regionwide Trustee Representatives

General Talking Points:

The Regionwide TIG is comprised of five state and four federal natural resource trustees that work together to plan and implement restoration for birds, marine mammals, oysters and sea turtles injured by the 2010 BP oil spill. All of our work is consistent with the programmatic restoration plan finalized by the Trustee Council in April 2016.

For today's meeting, we have a panel of trustee representatives to hear your comments on the Regionwide Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment. The members of the Listening Panel are provided on this slide and each member will introduce themselves now. We'll start with the representative from Florida.



Gareth-Introduce himself-Name, Title, then pass to the Representative of Alabama

Chris Blankenship-Name, Title, pass to representative from MS

Chris Wells- Name, Title, pass to rep from LA

Jon Wiebe-Name, Title, Co-Chair RW TIG-pass to Rep from Tx

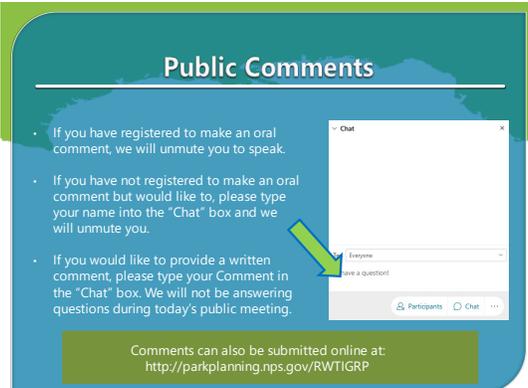
Angela Sunley- Name, Title, Pass to DOI Rp

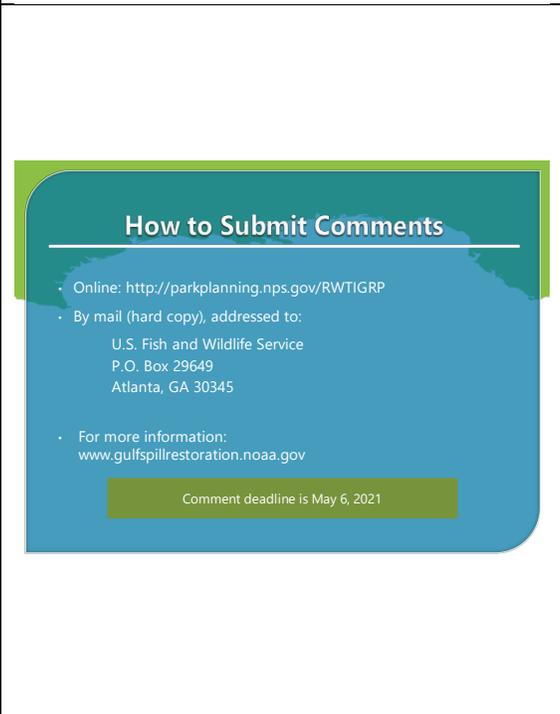
Debora McClain-Name, Title, pass to EPA rep

Tim Landers-Name, Title, pass to NOAA

Rachel Sweeney-Name, title, and finally to the USDA

Ron Howard -Name, Title

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|---|--|
| | <p>#Jamie# Thank you to our panel for being here. Next, #Sarah Chadwick# will go over the public comment session</p> |
|  <p>Public Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have registered to make an oral comment, we will unmute you to speak. If you have not registered to make an oral comment but would like to, please type your name into the "Chat" box and we will unmute you. If you would like to provide a written comment, please type your Comment in the "Chat" box. We will not be answering questions during today's public meeting. <p>Comments can also be submitted online at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/RWTIGRP</p> | <p>Slide 34 Speaker: #Sarah Chadwick# Objective: Introduce the public comment session General Talking Points:</p> <p>If you have registered to make an oral comment, we will unmute you to speak. If you have not registered to make an oral comment but would like to, please type your name into the "Chat" box and we will unmute you. If you would like to provide a written comment, please type your comment for the Regionwide Draft Restoration Plan into the Chat box. We'll take a few minutes to give you time to enter any comments before we begin to read them so that participants can hear your comment. Comments submitted during this portion of the webinar will be included as part of the formal public comments on the Regionwide Draft Restoration Plan. <i>*Notice of time remaining at halfway point and with only 2 minutes remaining.</i></p> |
|  <p>30 seconds left</p> | <p>Slide 35 Speaker: #Sarah Chadwick# Objective: Time reminder</p> |

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|  | <p>Slide 36 Speaker: #Sarah Chadwick# Objective: Time reminder</p> |
|  | <p>Slide 37 Speaker: #Jamie Schubert# Objective: Next Steps General Talking Points: Thank you for your comments. Before closing tonight’s meeting, I’ll briefly remind everyone how to submit comments online or through the mail and the next steps in the restoration planning process specific to this restoration plan.</p> |
|  | <p>Slide 38 Speaker: #Jamie Schubert# Objective: Explain how to submit comments General Talking Points: Comments may be submitted via our online comment portal or by U.S. mail at addresses provide on this slide and in the materials available tonight. There will be another opportunity to submit comments at the 6PM webinar later tonight.</p> <p>Public comments will be throughout the comment period ending on May 6, 2021. Comments sent by USPS must be postmarked by May 6.</p> <p>After the close of the public comment period on May 6th, the Regionwide TIG will consider all input received during the public comment period and address them in the final RP/EA.</p> <p>A summary of comments received and the Regionwide TIG’s responses would be included in the Final RP/EA 1.</p> |

Deepwater Horizon NRDA
Regionwide Restoration Area



Thank you!

For more information:
www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/

Slide 39

Speaker: #Jamie Schubert#

Objective: Thank you

General Talking Points:

Thank you for your time and interest in Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration. We look forward to receiving comments on the draft restoration plan.

We will post the presentation from today's/tonight's webinar to the Trustee's website in the next few days.

We will now conclude this meeting. Thank you.