Monitoring and Adaptive Management
June 2022

Photo courtesy of TPWD

WHO WE ARE

The Cross-Trustee Implementation Group (Cross-TIG) Monitoring and Adaptive Management work group consists of representatives of all members of the Trustee Council. The work group encourages compatibility of monitoring and data procedures across all TIGs and serves as a forum to address monitoring and adaptive management topics in *Deepwater Horizon* restoration. Activities for 2022-2023 will include:

- Documenting procedures for synthesizing monitoring information and restoration results across TIGs and Restoration Types for the MAM Manual.

- Revising the MAM Report and MAM Plan Templates, as needed.

- Continuing to improve the structure for restoration monitoring data in DIVER (the project information database).

- Coordinating with other Gulf restoration programs on monitoring and adaptive management matters.
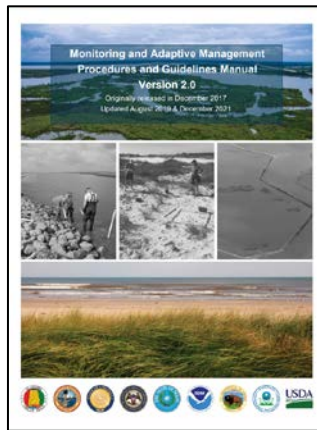
WHAT WE DO

Adaptive management involves fine-tuning the restoration program over time, based on monitoring results and improved scientific understanding. The process creates an expanding base of knowledge that supports current and future restoration decision-making and further refines which restoration approaches are most effective for different resources and environmental settings.

We developed monitoring guidance to evaluate restoration outcomes and benefits to injured resources. We also identify additional ecological monitoring needs and other scientific activities to address any information gaps and improve restoration planning and implementation. A monitoring and adaptive management plan is developed for each restoration project.

Monitoring and Adaptive Management Manual

June 2022

WHAT IS THE MAM MANUAL?

In the Programmatic Restoration Plan, the Trustees committed to develop a set of guidelines for monitoring and adaptive management practices that support implementation and evaluation of restoration projects.

The Trustee Council released an update to the Monitoring and Adaptive Management (MAM) Procedures and Guidelines Manual Version 2.0 in December 2021. The update provides additional monitoring guidance for the Trustee Implementation Groups.

The MAM Manual builds upon the Trustees' Programmatic Restoration Plan and MAM framework by providing recommended procedures and guidelines for planning monitoring efforts across restoration projects. The MAM Manual provides guidance on implementing MAM, monitoring parameters by Restoration Approach, and includes templates and guidance for developing MAM Plans and other relevant monitoring documents. The MAM Manual provides guidelines for the monitoring of restoration projects that benefit the natural resources and services injured by the oil spill.

The MAM Manual is available at www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/monitoring-and-adaptive-management.

WHAT IS IN THE MAM MANUAL?

MAM Manual Version 2.0 includes guidance for:

- Monitoring for wetlands, beaches and dunes, barrier islands, oysters, submerged aquatic vegetation, water quality, recreational use, and living coastal and marine resources restoration approaches, and projects that protect and conserve habitats.

- Implementing project adaptive management, when appropriate.

- Data management.

Future versions of the MAM Manual could include guidance for:

- Evaluation of progress towards restoration goals.

- Reviewing existing information to identify emerging "unknown conditions."