



Mississippi Restoration Area

Maintaining Enhanced Sea Turtle Stranding Network Capacity and Diagnostic Capabilities

June 2022

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will focus on maintaining the Mississippi Sea Turtle Network's capacity for three years to provide an enhanced ability to respond to stranded, sick, injured, or dead sea turtles. The Mississippi Sound provides essential habitat for several endangered and threatened sea turtle species including Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), and green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*).

Specific goals under this project include continuing the enhanced response and data collection efforts to further understand mortality, inform population studies, as well as enhance potential for species conservation, recovery, and rehabilitation. Additionally, assessments will be conducted to maintain the timeliness, efficiency, and number of strandings evaluated to provide more cause of death information. The project will also maintain the increased capacity to rehabilitate sea turtles and ultimately return them to the Mississippi Sound.

IMPLEMENTING TRUSTEES AND PROJECT PARTNERS

The Implementing Trustee for this proposed project will be the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

LEVERAGING

This project will build upon the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund Mississippi Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation, Recovery, and Monitoring Program - Phase I that is anticipated to be completed in 2022.

ALLOCATION

\$2,500,000

CHRIS WELLS

Executive Director

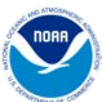
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