

Open Ocean Restoration Area



WHO WE ARE

The Trustee representatives for the Open Ocean Restoration Area are:

- Ashley Mills, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Kristopher Benson, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Michele Laur, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Gale Bonanno, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

WHAT WE DO

The federal trustees will work together on restoration for wide-ranging and migratory species. They will coordinate with appropriate state trustees when proposed projects overlap their jurisdictions. This will include water column and ocean bottom fish and invertebrates, sea turtles, birds, marine mammals, sturgeon, and deep-sea corals. We will address species throughout their life stages and geographic ranges, including inland, coastal, and offshore areas. We may use some funds for restoration outside of the Gulf of Mexico.



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EARLY RESTORATION PROJECTS

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ESTIMATED COST
REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES			
Pelagic Longline Bycatch Reduction Project	The Gulf pelagic longline (PLL) fishery targets yellowfin tuna and swordfish. This project will reduce the number of fish accidentally caught and killed in fishing gear by compensating PLL fishers to refrain from PLL fishing during an annual six- month period; instead they will use alternative gear so they can continue to harvest yellowfin tuna and swordfish. NOAA is the lead implementing Trustee for this project.		\$20M
PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES			
Beach Enhancement Project at Gulf Islands National Seashore	This project will remove asphalt and other road material scattered over the Fort Pickens, Santa Rosa, and Perdido Key areas of Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District, by storms and hurricanes. The fragments of asphalt and road material range from quarter-inch pea size to 10-foot large slabs to brick. In sensitive areas, removal will be done by hand. The Department of the Interior is the lead implementing Trustee for this project.		\$10.8M
Bike and Pedestrian Use Enhancements Project, Davis Bayou, Mississippi District, Gulf Islands National Seashore	This project includes bike and pedestrian use enhancements in the Davis Bayou Area of Gulf Islands National Seashore to improve the safety of roadway users via construction of multiple-use trails. The project will widen the existing road surface on Park Road for 2.17 miles to accommodate multiple-use bicycle- pedestrian trails. The Department of the Interior is the lead implementing Trustee for this project.		\$7M
Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Trail Enhancement Project	This project will repair and enhance the Jeff Friend Trail. An aged boardwalk and gravel trail will be repaired and improved to meet American with Disabilities Act standards, to ensure safe public access and to enhance the quality of visitor experience. An observation platform will also be constructed along the trail, and two handicapped parking spaces will be widened to better accommodate visitors. The Department of the Interior is the lead implementing Trustee for this project.		\$545K
Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry Project	This project will fund the purchase of two pedestrian visitor ferries for use between the City of Pensacola, Pensacola Beach, and the Fort Pickens area of Gulf Islands National Seashore in Florida. The Department of the Interior is the lead implementing Trustee for this project, in coordination with the City of Pensacola and Escambia County.		\$4M

 In progress  Monitoring  Complete