Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group
Draft Restoration Plan 1 and Environmental Assessment: Birds and Sturgeon

Public Webinar
October 16 and 17, 2018
www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov
Webinar Participation

- Make sure to turn off your computer’s microphone and speakers.
- Use the “Question” box if you are having technical issues hearing or seeing the material.
- We are not taking questions or comments on the Draft Restoration Plan through this webinar.
Today’s Agenda

- Open Ocean TIG
- DWH NRDA settlement and programmatic restoration plan
- Draft Open Ocean TIG RP1/EA: Birds and Sturgeon
- Next steps
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NOAA</th>
<th>USDA</th>
<th>EPA</th>
<th>DOI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Names</td>
<td>Laurie Rounds</td>
<td>Ron Howard</td>
<td>Gale Bonanno</td>
<td>Ashley Mills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BP Settlement

• Civil Settlement: 2016
• NRDA Portion of Settlement: $8.8 billion
  – Restore and Conserve Habitat: $4.7 billion
  – Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources: $1.8 billion
  – Restore Water Quality: $0.4 billion
  – Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities: $0.4 billion
  – Monitoring, Adaptive Management, Administrative Oversight: $1.5 billion
Trustees’ Programmatic Restoration Plan

• Damage assessment: injuries to natural resources and services

• Restoration: ecosystem approach and science-based adaptive management
Open Ocean Restoration Area Funding Allocation

- $350 million
- Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
- $400 million (fish)
- Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities
- $22 million
- Monitoring, Adaptive Management, Administrative Oversight
- $273 million (mesophotic and deep benthic)
- $15 million (sturgeon)
- $55 million (sea turtles)
- $55 million (marine mammals)
- $70 million (birds)
TIG Restoration Planning Cycle

1. Project Identification
2. Restoration Planning
3. Draft Restoration Plan
4. Final Restoration Plan
5. Implement Restoration
6. Progress Monitoring and Reporting
7. Return to Project Identification
Draft Restoration Plan 1 and Environmental Assessment: Birds and Sturgeon
Focus - birds and sturgeon restoration types

Robust screening to determine reasonable range of alternatives

Evaluates alternatives under both OPA and NEPA

Proposes funding 2 bird alternatives and 1 sturgeon alternative
Restoration Goals for Birds

- Facilitate additional production and/or reduced mortality
- Restore or protect habitats on which injured birds rely
- Restore injured bird species where actions provide the greatest benefits
Restoration Goals for Sturgeon

- Restoring and protecting Gulf sturgeon by improving access to spawning areas
- Increasing the reproductive success of Gulf sturgeon
## Project Screening Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage of Screening</th>
<th>Criteria/Factors Considered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial Screening</td>
<td>Project ideas removed if:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• had insufficient information for evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• are required by local, state or federal law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• are already funded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• duplicate other project idea(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consistency Screening</td>
<td>Project ideas moved forward if consistent with:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• one or more PDARP Programmatic Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• one or more PDARP restoration types in draft RP1/EA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Birds Strategic Framework</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Project Screening Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage of Screening</th>
<th>Criteria/Factors Considered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Oil Pollution Act Screening | • Cost  
• Meets Trustees’ goals and objectives of returning injured natural resources and services to baseline and/or compensating for interim losses  
• Likelihood of success  
• Prevents future injury and avoids collateral injury  
• Benefits more than one natural resource and/or service  
• Effect on public health and safety |
| Additional OO TIG criteria  | • Complies with applicable laws and regulations  
• Supports existing regional or local conservation efforts or plans  
• Is capable of providing long-term, sustainable ecological or public benefits without continuous funding into the future  
• Is time critical  
• Offers opportunities for external funding and/or collaboration |
Reasonable Range of Alternatives

**Birds**
- Restoration of Common Loons in Minnesota
- Restoration of Black Terns in North Dakota and South Dakota
- Restoration of American White Pelicans on the Upper Mississippi River
- Restoration of Black Terns in the Upper Midwest

**Sturgeon**
- Characterizing Gulf Sturgeon Spawning Habitat, Habitat Use, and Origins of Juvenile Sturgeon in the Pearl and Pascagoula River Systems
- Riparian and Coastal Conservation to Restore Spawning and Juvenile Habitat for Gulf Sturgeon
OO TIG Draft RP 1/EAD
Three preferred alternatives

Restoration of Common Loons in Minnesota

Restoration of Black Terns in North and South Dakota

Characterizing Gulf Sturgeon Spawning Habitat, Habitat Use, and Origins of Juvenile Sturgeon in the Pearl and Pascagoula River Systems
Reduce mortality and increase reproductive success through:

- Acquisition/easements of lakeshore nesting habitat
- Providing artificial nesting platforms in targeted lakes
- Reducing exposure to lead-based fishing tackle

Estimated Cost
$7.52 M
Waterbody Location in Cass and Itasca Counties, MN.

Cass County, MN Lakes
Restoration of Black Terns in North and South Dakota

- Protect wetland and grassland habitat to enhance and improve breeding site selection and foraging conditions for black terns in North and South Dakota Prairie Pothole Region.

- Establish conservation easements on a voluntary basis with participating landowners.

Estimated Cost
$6.25 M
Restoration of Black Terns in North and South Dakota

Prairie potholes in North Dakota

Map: Example of HAPET Predicted Use of Landscapes by Black Tern in ND and SD.
Characterizing Gulf Sturgeon Habitat in the Pearl and Pascagoula River Systems

- Identify and characterize potential spawning habitat
- Describe habitat accessibility and patterns of habitat use during spawning periods
- Determine river of origin for juvenile sturgeon
- Synthesize data needed to evaluate and prioritize sturgeon spawning habitat restoration

Estimated Cost
$2.15 M

Wildlife biologists weigh an adult sturgeon
Characterizing Gulf Sturgeon Habitat in the Pearl and Pascagoula River Systems

Map: Project area highlighting reaches targeted for spawning habitat mapping (yellow areas within blue river systems) that encompass roughly 1,500 stream kilometers in both the Pearl and Pascagoula river systems.
Next Steps
Submit Your Comments

Comments may be submitted these two ways:

**Online**
www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/open-ocean

**By U.S. Mail to**
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 49567, Atlanta, GA 30345

Comment deadline is November 9, 2018
Upcoming Events

The OO TIG Annual public webinar will be held in November 2018.

The OO TIG Draft Restoration Plan 2 and Environmental Assessment is anticipated to be released in early 2019.

OO TIG information is available at: www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov
Thank you