

OPEN OCEAN TRUSTEE IMPLEMENTATION GROUP ANNUAL MEETING WEBINAR – PRESENTATION SCRIPT, NOVEMBER 14, 2018

[\(See associated presentation slides\)](#)

Slide 1: Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group Annual Meeting, November 14, 2018

Welcome to the Open Ocean Restoration Trustee Implementation Group's Annual Meeting. My name is Laurie Rounds. I'm the NOAA representative for the Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group. Thank you for joining us today. We are happy to see that over 150 people have registered for today's webinar. We are excited to talk with you today about our progress and next steps in meeting our restoration goals for the Open Ocean Restoration Area. We are also looking forward to answering your questions following our presentation. Before we start, I'd like to ask Stephen Heverly with NOAA to go over the webinar tools that you may want to use today.

Slide 2: Webinar Participation:

Thank you Laurie.

Hi, everyone. This is Stephen Heverly with NOAA's Restoration Center, I'd like to quickly run through some webinar logistics with you. Hopefully everyone's logged in to the webinar by now. You should be able to see the control panel on the right hand side of your screen.

If you're using a phone for audio, you should all be dialing in using the phone number provided by GoToWebinar—that's the number and access code listed under "Audio" in the control panel. Please note that only presenters will be heard over the phone during the webinar; attendees will be muted.

Take a look at the "Questions" box at the bottom of the control panel (shown on this slide). If you have questions about the presentation along the way, please enter those in the "Questions" box. You'll also have an opportunity to submit questions at the end of the presentation.

After our presentation, we'll answer as many questions as we can in the time allotted. We'll also post the presentation slides and a transcript of the webinar to the GulfSpillRestoration.noaa.gov website in a few days.

Now back to Laurie to go through our agenda for today.

Slide 3: Today's Agenda

Thank you Stephen. Today we'll provide an overview of the *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Damage Assessment Settlement, including the Trustees' programmatic restoration plan. We'll also provide an update on the Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group, the restoration projects we're implementing, our restoration planning work for the first and second Open Ocean Draft Restoration Plans, as well as an update on Monitoring and Adaptive Management planning for the Open Ocean Restoration Area. At the end of the presentation we'll show you how you can find more information about the Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group, our current restoration projects, and our Draft Restoration Plans. And finally, we'll take your questions following the presentation.

Slide 4: Welcome to the Open Ocean TIG

Before we provide an overview of the BP settlement, I'd like to introduce the members of the Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group. The Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group, referred to as a TIG, is one of seven Gulf of Mexico Restoration Areas established to conduct restoration for the *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Damage Assessment. The four federal natural resource trustees are the members of this TIG, and we work together to plan and implement restoration for fish, sturgeon, sea turtles, marine mammals, birds, and deep sea communities injured by the 2010 BP oil spill. All of our work will be consistent with the programmatic restoration plan finalized by the Trustee Council in April 2016, which we'll talk about later in the presentation. The Open Ocean TIG will also coordinate with the five Gulf state trustees, especially when restoration will overlap state jurisdictions.

The representatives for the Open Ocean TIG are Chris Doley and Laurie Rounds for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or NOAA; Ron Howard and Mark Defley for the U.S. Department of Agriculture; Gale Bonanno and Treda Grayson for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and Kevin Reynolds and Ashley Mills for the Department of the Interior.

Slide 5: DWH Natural Resource Damage Assessment and BP Settlement

Next, Gale Bonanno with the US EPA will provide an overview of the *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Damage Assessment and BP Settlement.

Slide 6: BP NRDA Settlement

Thank you, Laurie. In 2016, the *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Trustees reached a settlement resulting from the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process (abbreviated NRDA) to resolve BP's liability for natural resource injuries caused by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. Part of the settlement requires BP to pay \$8.8 billion dollars to federal and state trustees for the purposes of restoring natural resources and the services they provide that were injured by the spill.

The settlement will be paid out incrementally 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 \$8.8 billion has been allocated among the Trustees' five broad restoration goals as indicated in the slide. These goals are to restore and conserve habitat, replenish and protect coastal and marine resources, restore water quality, provide and enhance recreational opportunities, and support monitoring, adaptive management, and administrative oversight across the TIGs.

Slide 7: Programmatic Restoration Plan

In advance of the final settlement, the federal and state trustees developed the programmatic restoration plan. The plan provides a detailed description of the injury assessment which concluded that the scale of the injury was so massive, an ecosystem approach to restoration is needed.

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

The plan also establishes a governance structure – basically, how the Trustees will work together and with the public to develop and implement projects over time.

Slide 8: Overview of Programmatic Restoration Plan

This diagram shows the programmatic plan's broad restoration goals, in purple in the middle section of the slide, including habitat, water quality, living coastal and marine resources, restoration for lost recreational uses, and two foundational goals for adaptive management and administrative oversight. The plan breaks these goal areas down into 13 restoration types, shown in blue on the right side of the slide, with defined approaches for restoration for each of these types. The approaches selected for the programmatic plan were subject to rigorous screening and analysis.

The programmatic plan specifically allocates funding for the broad restoration goals to each of the seven restoration areas and to each of the 13 restoration types within those restoration areas. There are also allocations for adaptive management and administrative oversight in each restoration area. The allocation amounts account for the restoration needed for each restoration type and takes into consideration the restoration needed to address ecosystem-level injuries caused by the spill.

The Open Ocean TIG works together to restore the following restoration types: fish, sturgeon, sea turtles, marine mammals, birds, and mesophotic and deep benthic communities. We'll conduct restoration of these wide-ranging and migratory species throughout their life stages and geographic ranges, including inland, coastal, and offshore areas. Because some of these species are highly migratory, we may conduct some restoration outside of the Gulf of Mexico region.

Slide 9: Open Ocean Restoration Area Funding

This diagram shows the restoration funding allocations for the Open Ocean Restoration Area, including \$868.3M to protect and replenish living coastal and marine resources. The funding allocations are a result of the programmatic restoration planning effort and are defined in the Consent Decree.

Each TIG will develop 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 our goals for Monitoring and Adaptive Management.

Slide 10: Open Ocean TIG Funding Update

I'll now provide an Open Ocean TIG funding update. We have committed approximately \$70 million dollars or about 6% of our total allocation of \$1.2 billion dollars. These funds have been committed to implement 5 early restoration projects, conduct restoration planning and stakeholder outreach, and to develop restoration plans for six restoration types in the Open Ocean Restoration Area. In addition, this funding was committed to provide oversight and comprehensive planning by the federal trustees serving on all seven of the trustee implementation groups.

Slide 11: Open Ocean TIG Funding Distribution

This graphic describes how those funds were spent as of June 2018. For example, \$868 million dollars is allocated to the goal of Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources, which is divided between the open ocean restoration types shown in green. A small percentage of funds for each restoration type have been committed to develop restoration projects that will be proposed in two draft restoration plans to be released for public comment. We'll talk more about these plans with the next slide.

In addition, approximately \$42 million dollars has been committed to implement Early Restoration Projects. We'll provide an update for these projects later in this presentation. The Open Ocean TIG also has committed approximately 16% of the \$150 million dollars allocated to support comprehensive

planning and oversight by the federal trustees for all the TIGs and lastly, a small percentage of the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Allocation has been committed to support our efforts to identify and prioritize information and monitoring needed for restoration.

Slide 12: Restoration Implementation

Next, Ashley Mills, with the Department of the Interior, will provide an update for the Open Ocean Early Restoration projects.

Slide 13: Open Ocean Early Restoration Projects

The Open Ocean TIG is conducting engineering and design, implementation, or monitoring for 5 Early Restoration projects.

This includes building 2 new passenger ferries and enhancing beaches that are part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore in Florida, also conducting engineering and design work for bike and pedestrian enhancements for the Gulf Islands National Seashore in Mississippi and improving a trail at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge in Alabama.

This also includes implementing a program in which pelagic longline fishermen voluntarily refrain from fishing for a repose period and test new gear to reduce bycatch through the Oceanic Fish Restoration Project.

We'll provide an update on these 5 projects in the next few slides. At the end of this presentation we'll show you where you can find more information on each of these projects.

And just a note here that none of these projects were impacted by the recent Hurricane Michael.

Slide 14: Beach Enhancement Project at Gulf Islands National Seashore

The Beach Enhancement project removes asphalt and other road material scattered by storms and hurricanes over the Fort Pickens, Santa Rosa, and Perdido Key areas of Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District.

The fragments of asphalt and road material range from quarter-inch pea size to 10-foot large slabs to brick. In sensitive areas, removal is done by hand.

This project is currently in progress, in its third full year. We anticipate one more year of clean up after this one. Dune restoration work is anticipated for 2019 and 2020.

The estimated cost of this project is \$10.8 million dollars.

The Department of the Interior is the lead implementing Trustee for this project.

Slide 15: Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry Project

The Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry Project funded 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. Ferries were delivered to Pensacola, stored in dry dock last winter and were in operation over the summer months this year.

This project cost \$4 million dollars.

The Department of the Interior is the lead implementing Trustee for this project, in coordination with the City of Pensacola and Escambia County.

Slide 16: Bike & Pedestrian Use Enhancements Project, Davis Bayou, MS District, Gulf Islands National Seashore

The Bike and Pedestrian Use Enhancements Project enhances bike and pedestrian use in the Davis Bayou Area of Gulf Islands National Seashore, in Mississippi, to improve the safety of roadway users via construction of multiple-use trails.

The project widens the existing road surface on Park Road for 2.17 miles to accommodate multiple-use bicycle-pedestrian trails.

Work is currently in progress, in the Engineering and Design phase. The 95% design is expected by the end of this year. Construction is expected to begin around September 2019, so in a little less than a year from now.

The estimated cost of this project is \$7 million dollars.

The Department of the Interior is the lead implementing Trustee.

Slide 17: Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Trail Enhancement Project

The Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Trail Enhancement Project repaired and enhanced the Jeff Friend Trail on the refuge. An aged boardwalk and gravel trail was repaired and improved to meet the standards of the American with Disabilities Act, to ensure safe public access and to enhance the quality of visitor experience.

The project also included construction of an observation platform along the trail, and the widening of two parking spaces to better accommodate visitors who have physical disabilities.

This project cost \$545 thousand dollars.

The Department of the Interior is the lead implementing Trustee for this project.

I'd like to now turn it over to Amy Piko of NOAA, to provide an update on the Oceanic Fish Restoration Project.

Slide 18: Oceanic Fish Restoration Project

Thank you. This is Amy Piko with the NOAA Restoration Center.

The Oceanic Fish Restoration Project restores for pelagic fish biomass by reducing fish mortality from bycatch and regulatory discards in the pelagic longline fishery that operates in the Gulf of Mexico.

NOAA and our partner, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, are working with longline fishermen to accomplish this goal.

This project has two main actions:

The first is the repose. The repose is a six-month period where the fishermen refrain from fishing with pelagic longline gear. The repose is temporary and participation is voluntary and compensated.

The second action is the use of alternative fishing gear. Alternative gear is gear that catches pelagic fish but has a much lower bycatch rate. The purpose of fishing with alternative gear is to help maintain the fishery & the shoreside support economy during the repose.

Restoration goals depend on participation. Our goal is to have an average of 10 participants per year for six years. So far we've had:

- In 2017, there were 7 participants from Louisiana.
- In 2018, there were 7 participants from Louisiana and 3 from Florida, for a total of 10.
- In 2019, there will be 8 participants from Louisiana and 2 from Florida, for a total of 10.

The estimated cost of this project is \$20 million dollars.

NOAA is the lead implementing Trustee for this project.

Slide 19: Restoration Planning

Next, Ashley Mills with the Department of the Interior will provide an overview of the Open Ocean TIG's restoration planning activities.

Slide 20: TIG Restoration Planning Cycle

Thanks Amy. The Restoration Planning process generally follows the familiar planning cycle of plan, do, monitor, and adjust. The public is involved at specific steps in the process.

We start this cycle at Project Identification there in the upper left when we call for project ideas from the public and agency staff. Everyone enters project ideas into the Deepwater Horizon Trustees online portal. Restoration project ideas have been collected since 2010 when the project portal was opened. In Open Ocean TIG, we made our first call for project ideas in Spring 2017.

After project ideas are gathered, we then apply screening criteria to evaluate each of the project ideas during the Restoration Planning step. In Fall 2017, we completed our review of projects for the first two restoration plans.

The project ideas that rise to the top through screening are then included as alternatives proposed in a Draft Restoration Plan. In early winter 2018, we began drafting our first two restoration plans. We'll talk more about these two restoration plans next.

After considering and incorporating public input on the Draft Restoration Plan the TIG will then finalize the Restoration Plan and begin to implement it. During implementation, the progress and effectiveness of the restoration projects will be monitored and reported to the public. We'll use this information to update the status of our restoration goals and it may influence our restoration planning priorities. As these priorities evolve, the public and TIG will explore new project ideas that reflect the monitoring information we've collected, and this continues the Restoration Planning Cycle, which will keep going until we've fully invested our allocation from the settlement.

Slide 21: Draft Restoration Plan 1 and Environmental Assessment: Birds & Sturgeon

In spring 2017, we initiated public engagement by calling for restoration project ideas for the six Restoration Types identified in the Open Ocean Restoration Area.

We reviewed each project idea and developed the Draft Restoration Plan 1 and Environmental Assessment for Birds and Sturgeon. The draft plan was released on October 9, 2018 with a 30 day public comment period that just closed last Friday, November 9, 2018. We are now starting to review comments received and will soon begin preparing our responses to those comments, as part of finalizing the restoration plan. The draft plan proposed funding three projects, two for birds and one for Gulf sturgeon, listed on this slide.

The objective of the Common Loon restoration project is to reduce mortality and increase reproductive success of common loons at breeding, nesting, and migration staging locations in Minnesota by focusing on restoration activities that include:

- acquisition and/or easements of lakeshore loon nesting habitat,
- enhancement of loon productivity by providing artificial nesting platforms in targeted lakes and engaging Minnesota lake associations in loon conservation activities, and,
- reducing exposure to lead-based fishing tackle.

This proposed black tern restoration project would protect 2,000 acres of wetland habitat and 1,000 acres of adjacent upland grassland habitat to enhance and improve breeding site selection and foraging conditions for black terns in more than 30 counties in North and South Dakota located in the Prairie Pothole Region. Conservation easement agreements would be implemented on a voluntary basis with participating landowners as part of ongoing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conservation programs in those states.

The third proposed project is for Gulf sturgeon. This project would identify and characterize potential sturgeon spawning habitat in the Pearl and Pascagoula River systems; describe habitat accessibility and patterns of habitat use during spawning periods; determine the river of origin for juvenile sturgeon, and synthesize data needed to evaluate and prioritize Gulf sturgeon spawning habitat restoration projects such as in-stream barrier removal, spawning reef creation, or riparian restoration.

Those are the three projects proposed for funding in the first Open Ocean Restoration Plan.

Next, Laurie Rounds with NOAA will provide an overview of our work to develop the second Open Ocean Restoration plan.

Slide 22: Draft Restoration Plan 2 and Environmental Assessment

Thank you Ashley. The Open Ocean TIG's second restoration plan will propose restoration for Fish, Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities, Sea Turtles, and Marine Mammals. We anticipate releasing the draft plan and starting a 45-day public comment period in early 2019. During the comment period, you will be able to learn more about the proposed projects by attending our webinars and in-person meetings. We will also make the plan and other information available on the Trustee's website.

Next, I'd like to share some of the restoration priorities being considered for the second draft plan; however, it's important to know that this plan is still being developed as the Open Ocean TIG continues its process to select projects to propose for public comment.

Slide 23: Restoration Plan 2 Priorities

The large and continuous release of *Deepwater Horizon* oil resulted in injuries to many oceanic species. To restore for these injuries to fish and other species that live in the Gulf's waters, the Open Ocean TIG prioritized restoration for coastal migratory pelagic fish species such as mahi-mahi and mackerels; reef fish such as snappers and groupers, and highly migratory fish species such as tunas and swordfish. Consistent with the Trustees' programmatic restoration plan, we'll prioritize restoration alternatives to decrease fishing mortality, with a focus on improving bycatch reduction devices; working with

commercial fishermen to enhance fishing practices and tools that reduce bycatch and improve fishing efficiency; and enhancing the use of fishing tools to reduce mortality of reef fish caused by barotrauma. Barotrauma is a condition which can occur when reef fish are brought to the surface resulting in serious injuries or death because upon release they are unable to swim or dive back to depth.

The second restoration plan will also include the mesophotic and deep benthic communities restoration type. These communities include hard and soft ground habitats as well as the many species that make up these communities. Rare corals, fish, crabs, and other small animals and microbes live in these habitats on the sea floor and are part of the foundation of food webs in the northern Gulf of Mexico. The *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill severely affected these long-lived and slow growing corals. Unfortunately, restoration for these resources is complicated by a limited understanding of their key biological functions and limited experience conducting restoration in the deep waters where they occur. Therefore, the Open Ocean TIG will prioritize activities to meet these challenges and inform adaptive decision-making while also advancing innovative restoration techniques, management, protection, and education about these habitats.

Slide 24: Restoration Plan 2 Priorities

During our assessment of natural resource damages, the Trustees were able to confirm injury to four of the five species of sea turtles that inhabit the Gulf of Mexico: loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, green, and hawksbill turtles. The injury to sea turtles occurred in open ocean, nearshore, and shoreline environments, and resulting mortalities spanned multiple life stages from hatchlings to adult sea turtles. Sea turtles spend the vast majority of their lives at sea and one of the most significant threats in the marine environment is bycatch in fishing gear. While on land, sea turtles also face a variety of threats, in particular, the loss of sea turtle nesting habitat. Therefore, the Open Ocean TIG will prioritize restoration for our second plan to reduce sea turtle bycatch in commercial and recreational fishing, conserve nesting beach habitat, and to fill data gaps and provide tools for data integration to improve restoration decision-making and evaluation.

The *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill also had an unprecedented impact on a diverse number of marine mammal species across their geographic range in the Gulf of Mexico such as Sperm whales, bottlenose dolphins, and Byrdes' whales. Marine mammals are long-lived, slow to reproduce, and they have an important role in the food web as apex predators. All these factors affect the recovery of marine mammals. Consistent with the Trustees' programmatic restoration plan, the Open Ocean TIG will prioritize restoration to reduce stressors that cause death and illness to marine mammals. For the second restoration plan, the Open Ocean TIG will prioritize restoration to reduce the risk of vessel collisions, reduce the impacts of noise in the ocean environment, and enhance our ability to respond to natural and man-made disasters affecting marine mammals. In addition, activities to collect and share marine mammal data will be prioritized to improve future restoration decision-making and evaluation.

That summarizes the restoration priorities that emerged from our review of submitted restoration project ideas and which are being developed as restoration alternatives for public comment in our second draft restoration plan. We anticipate its release in early 2019.

Slide 25: Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Next, Eric Weissberger with NOAA will provide an overview of the Open Ocean TIG's Monitoring and Adaptive Management work.

Slide 26: Monitoring and Adaptive Management

In the programmatic restoration plan the trustees committed to a robust monitoring and adaptive management framework (we call it MAM for short). Adaptive management is a form of decision making where adjustments are made to management actions based on observed outcomes. To promote consistent, coordinated, and compatible monitoring across all TIGs, the Trustee Council Established a Cross-TIG MAM work group. Members of the Open Ocean TIG participate in this work group. The Cross-TIG MAM work group developed the MAM Manual, which contains guidance for consistency in project monitoring.

The Open Ocean TIG is responsible for several aspects of monitoring and adaptive management. First, the TIG reviews monitoring and adaptive management plans for each project and ensures consistency with the MAM manual. Second, the TIG identifies monitoring and adaptive management priorities. These are data needed for planning and evaluating restoration, especially across projects. Third, the TIG ensures that project monitoring data are consistent with the MAM manual monitoring guidance and uploaded in a timely fashion. Fourth, the TIG provides aggregated monitoring data to the Trustee Council and implementing trustees for use in programmatic evaluations. Fifth, the TIG updates the Trustee Council annually on project implementation and monitoring.

Slide 27: Framework for Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Monitoring and adaptive management are important at all levels (project, resource, and cross-resource) for planning, implementation, and evaluation. At the project level, data are used to plan the project, evaluate performance, and improve implementation of future projects. At the resource level, data are used to plan and implement multiple projects targeted at a specific resource and evaluate resource restoration progress. At the cross-resource level, data are used to inform planning across resources to increase efficiency, characterize previously unknown conditions, and evaluate overall restoration progress.

Slide 28: Open Ocean Monitoring & Adaptive Management Strategy

The TIG will be releasing several documents related to monitoring and adaptive management. The first document will explain the processes the TIG will use to identify data needed to facilitate effective and efficient restoration planning, implementation, and evaluation, as well as the processes to develop activities to fill these data gaps specific to open ocean resources.

The second document will detail the first activities the TIG will undertake to collect data to inform restoration planning and evaluation.

The third document will detail the TIG's priorities for monitoring adaptive management resulting from the processes specified in the first document. This document may be updated over time to reflect the TIG's monitoring and adaptive management priorities and as we evaluate our progress towards meeting our restoration goals.

Slide 29: For More Information

And now I'll turn it over to Mark Defley with US Department of Agriculture to tell us where to find more information about Open Ocean restoration.

Slide 30: Where to find DWH NRDA information

The *Deepwater Horizon* Trustee Council website, which is gullspillrestoration.noaa.gov, serves as the primary source of information for *Deepwater Horizon* NRDA restoration information.

There, you'll find the latest updates on planning for all of the restoration areas, a portal to submit project ideas, detailed data on ongoing projects, restoration plans, and more.

Be aware that the home page photos change depending on the latest news updates, but the website's navigation remains the same.

Slide 31: How to Submit Project Ideas

Although the Open Ocean TIG is not currently requesting restoration project ideas, the restoration portal is always open for submitting project ideas to any of the TIGs. So, how can you submit project ideas? Go to the website shown in the previous slide. Scroll down towards the bottom of the home page to three green boxes, shown here on the left side. In the center box, "Suggest a restoration project for consideration," click on the "Share your idea" button indicated here by the blue arrow. This takes you to the online form shown on the right side. To share your project ideas with the Trustees, fill in and submit the online form.

Again, it is on this page that you may submit a new project idea, or revise a project idea you previously submitted. From time to time, the TIG disseminates a request for project ideas. There is not a request at this time. However, you may submit a project idea at any time for future consideration.

Please note this is a different process than submitting a project idea under the RESTORE Act or other grant programs. The information you provide to the NRDA Trustees is a "get started" type of submittal. It is not a grant proposal process or a request for proposal (RFP) process.

Slide 32: How to Access Open Ocean Project Information

Also from the home page, in the "Projects Near You Box" you can click the "View Project Details" button, shown here with the blue arrow, to explore our interactive map to see details on restoration projects. This tool provides a map of all the projects approved by the NRDA Trustees and allows you to search by Restoration Area and open or download project data. Once you locate a project you would like to read more about, you can select it to easily access project specific information.

Slide 33: Example Open Ocean Project Information

Here is an example project page. For each project, you can access information using the tabs at the top including contacts and an overview of the project as well as annual project reports on activities, outcomes, environmental compliance, monitoring and adaptive management, and project budget information

Slide 34: Where to Find Project Data and Information

You can also search for project data in DIVER Explorer. From the home page, click the Data tab, shown here by the blue arrow. DIVER, which stands for Data Integration, Visualization, Exploration, and Reporting, integrates data from many sources including the Trustees and BP, as well as historical information. The DIVER Explorer query tool can be used to filter, map, and download data and results.

During the course of the damage assessment, we collected a large amount of data to document the location and extent of the ecosystem injuries. Now that restoration implementation has begun, we are collecting information on our restoration projects and will provide regular updates on project activities. Once projects are complete, we'll provide monitoring data, too.

We'll also make available all other data that are collected to support restoration. Assessment and restoration data are available through the tools below. Available data include injury assessment sample and observation data, restoration project status and financial information, and restoration monitoring data.

Slide 35: Questions?

I'll now turn back over to Stephen Heverly with NOAA to guide us through the Q&A.

Slide 36: Open Ocean TIG Frequently Asked Questions

Before we switch to the Question and Answer portion of today's meeting, I'd like to highlight one additional source of information. The Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group developed answers to several questions that have been frequently received over time. You can find the link to the FAQ on the Open Ocean Restoration Area web page. We'll update the FAQ over time and in response to some of the questions we receive today.

Slide 37: Questions

Ok. We've been collecting your questions along the way and we're going to paraphrase some of them, or combine similar themes to try to answer as many questions as possible.

Remember, if you still have a question at this point, you can plug it into the "Questions" box at the bottom of the GoToWebinar control panel (shown on this slide).

We'll take a few minutes to give you time to enter any additional questions before we begin. Please be as concise as possible.

Next, we'll pass them on to someone on our team that can best respond, and they'll provide an answer if they can.

We may not get to all of the questions, but we'll try to get to as many as possible.

[\(See the question and answer transcript for this portion of the webinar\)](#)

Slide 38: Thank you

Thank you for your time and interest in Open Ocean Restoration.

We'll post the presentation and written transcript from today's webinar to the Trustee's website in the next few days.

To find the meeting materials, please go to gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov, and click on the Open Ocean icon, which is shown in the upper right of this slide.

Finally, if you're not signed up for our email blasts, please consider signing up. Aside from visiting the website, it's the best way to stay up to date on all of the *Deepwater Horizon* NRDA restoration activities. You can easily do that on our home page by scrolling down to the green boxes and clicking the 'sign up now' button.

We'll now conclude our annual meeting webinar. Thank you all very much for participating.