Open Ocean
Trustee Implementation Group

Annual Meeting
December 12, 2019
• If you’re using a phone, turn off your computer’s microphone and speakers.

• When the Q&A session starts later, use the “Questions” box to type questions that you have for the Trustees.

• Presentation will be posted on www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov.
Today’s Agenda

• The Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group (TIG).
• Open Ocean TIG Activities Update.
• Restoring Open Ocean Resources.
• How to Find More information.
• Questions and Answers.
# Open Ocean Trustee Representatives

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<th>NOAA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Doley</td>
<td>Ron Howard</td>
<td>Gale Bonanno</td>
<td>Debora McClain</td>
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<td>Laurie Rounds</td>
<td>Mark Defley</td>
<td>Treda Grayson</td>
<td>Ashley Mills</td>
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Open Ocean Restoration Area Funding

- Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources: $350 million
- Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities:
  - $22 million
- Monitoring, Adaptive Management, Administrative Oversight:
  - $15 million (sturgeon)
  - $273 million (mesophotic and deep benthic)
  - $70 million (birds)
  - $55 million (sea turtles)
  - $55 million (marine mammals)
Open Ocean Activities Update
Overview of 2019 Activities

- Completed restoration plans for all six restoration types approving a total of 21 projects.
- Released the Open Ocean Monitoring & Adaptive Management (MAM) Strategy and conducted outreach.
- Approved three MAM Activities.
- Continued implementation of Early Restoration Projects.
Open Ocean Funding Update

Commitment of Restoration Funds

- Remaining Restoration Funds: $400.0 M
- Committed Restoration Funds: $150.0 M

3. Fish and Water Column Invertebrates: $15.0 M (35%)
3. Sturgeon: $55.0 M (43%)
3. Sea Turtles: $55.0 M (20%)
3. Marine Mammals: $70.0 M (46%)
3. Birds: $273.3 M (100%)
3. Mesophotic Reefs and Deep Benthic Habitats: $22.4 M (3%)
5. MAM: $200.0 M (16%)
5. Admin: $150.0 M (16%)

3. Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
Monitoring & Adaptive Management Strategy

- Open Ocean Monitoring and Adaptive Management (MAM) Strategy
  - Processes to identify MAM priorities.
  - Priority MAM needs for restoration planning and evaluation.
  - Strategy documents will be released over time.

- Developing MAM Priorities
• Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Ecosystem and Science Conference (GoMOSES)
• Open Ocean Restoration Plan 2 Draft Public Meeting

2020 upcoming
• GoMOSES Conference: February
Goal: Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities
Enhancing Recreational Opportunities

- Gulf Islands Beach Enhancement, $10.8M (in progress).
- Gulf Islands Bike & Pedestrian Use Enhancement, $7M (in progress).
- Bon Secour NWR Trail Enhancement, $545K (monitoring).
- Gulf Islands Ferry Project, $4M (complete).
Project Highlight: Gulf Islands Ferry Project

- Purchased two pedestrian visitor ferries for use between Pensacola, Pensacola Beach and Fort Pickens area in Florida.

- Status: Complete; Ferries in operation.
Open Ocean Restoration

Goal: Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
Reducing Bycatch and Mortality

- Oceanic Fish Restoration Project, $20M (in progress).
- Restoring for Bluefin Tuna via Fishing Depth Optimization, $6.1M (approved in RP2).
- Better Bycatch Reduction Devices, $17.1M (approved in RP2).
- Reduction of Post-release Mortality from Barotrauma, $30M (approved in RP2).
- Communication Networks and Mapping Tools to Reduce Bycatch—Phase 1, $4.4M (approved in RP2).

Photo: © Jay Fleming
Reducing Bycatch and Mortality

- Identifying Methods to Reduce Sea Turtle Bycatch in the Reef Fish Bottom Longline Fishery, $290K *(approved in RP2).*

- Reducing Juvenile Sea Turtle Bycatch Through Development of Reduced Bar Spacing in Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs), $2.2M *(approved in RP2).*
Improved and increased fisheries stakeholder engagement:

- Project: Reducing Juvenile Sea Turtle Bycatch Through Development of Reduced Bar Spacing in Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs).

- Project: Better Bycatch Reduction Devices for the Gulf of Mexico Commercial Shrimp Trawl Fishery.
Addressing Restoration Planning Needs

- Gulf of Mexico Sea Turtle Atlas, $5.7M (approved in RP2).
- Developing a Gulf-wide Comprehensive Plan for In-water Sea Turtle Data Collection, $655K (approved in RP2).
- Developing Methods to Observe Sea Turtle Interactions in Gulf of Mexico Menhaden Purse Seine Fishery, $3M. (approved in RP2).
- Compilation of Environmental, Threats, and Animal data for Cetacean Population Health Analyses, $5.8M (approved in RP2).
Reducing Impacts from Stressors

• Reduce Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise, $8.9M (approved in RP2).

• Reduce and Mitigate Vessel Strike Mortality, $3.8M (approved in RP2).

• Reducing Impacts to Cetaceans during Disasters by Improving Response Activities, $4.2M (approved in RP2).
**Habitat Protection and Management**

- Mapping, Ground-truthing, and Predictive Habitat Modeling, $35M (approved in RP2).
- Habitat Assessment and Evaluation, $52.6M (approved in RP2).
- Coral Propagation Technique Development, $16.9M (approved in RP2).
- Active Management and Protection, $20.6M (approved in RP2).
Project Phasing

- Initial 1-2 year implementation planning period.
  - Strategic Planning.
  - Coordinated management of cross-cutting project requirements.
  - Public Engagement Plan.
- 5 year implementation
- Final year reporting
Habitat Protection & Management

- Restoration of Common Loons in MN, $7.5M (in progress).
- Restoration of Black Terns in N & S Dakota, $6.2M (in progress).
- Long-term Nesting Beach Habitat Protection for Sea Turtles, $7M (approved in RP2).
Project Highlight: Sea Turtle Long-term Nesting Habitat Protection
Open Ocean Restoration

Goal: Monitoring and Adaptive Management
Addressing Monitoring & Adaptive Management Needs

- Evaluating the Cumulative Impact of Multiple Stressors on Cetaceans, $3.5M (in progress).
MAM Activity Highlight: Juvenile Sturgeon

- Identifying important estuarine and riverine habitats (7 river systems).
- Revealing trends in recruitment, growth, and survival.
- Examining genetics and kinship.
Compiling historical and ongoing Gulf sturgeon monitoring data.

Estimating Gulf sturgeon abundance, population change, and extinction probability.

Developing a standardized data collection and storage program for Gulf sturgeon.
For More Information

Website, Interactive Map
Where to Find More Information

www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov
Questions?
• Please type your questions in the “Questions” box.

• We may not get to them all.
Thank you

www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov