**Deepwater Horizon-related**

**Gulf of Mexico Restoration Funds Pertinent to Florida**

*Not all funds/funding agencies mentioned are unique to Gulf restoration*

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**RESTORE Act (**[**Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act**](http://eli-ocean.org/gulf/files/RESTORE-Act-2012.pdf)) $5.2 billion total (82% BP, 18% Transocean. Transocean amount available now, BP amount available over 15 years – lumped together below)

* **Direct Component/Pot 1** – in Florida, funding decisions made by each Florida Gulf coastal county Board of County Commissioners
  + **Eligible activities**
    - Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region
    - Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources
    - Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring
    - Workforce development and job creation
    - Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill
    - Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure
    - Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure
    - Planning assistance
    - Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing
    - Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf
  + For natural resource projects, the projects must be based on “best available science”:
    - maximizes the quality, objectivity, and integrity of information, including statistical information;
    - uses peer-reviewed and publicly available data; and
    - clearly documents and communicates risks and uncertainties in the scientific basis for such projects
  + **Amount**: approximately $1.82 billion Gulf-wide ($1.54B BP, $280M Transocean), $364 million divided unequally among Florida’s 23 Gulf coastal counties - over 15 years
* **Gulf Coastal Ecosystem Restoration Council (aka Gulf RESTORE Council)/Pot 2** – projects are nominated by Council members (one representative from each of the five Gulf coastal states and six federal agencies) and funding decisions are made by the Council
  + **Goals**
    1. Restore and Conserve Habitat – Restore and conserve the health, diversity and resilience of key coastal, estuarine and marine habitats
    2. Restore Water Quality – Restore and protect water quality of the Gulf Coast region’s fresh, estuarine and marine waters
    3. Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and marine Resources – Restore and protect healthy, diverse and sustainable living coastal and marine resources
    4. Enhance Community Resilience – Build upon and sustain communities with capacity to adapt to short- and long-term changes
    5. Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy - Enhance the sustainability and resiliency of the Gulf economy
  + **Amount**: approximately $1.56 billion Gulf-wide over 15 years
  + <http://restorethegulf.gov/>
* **Oil Spill Impact Allocation/Pot 3** – in FL, State Expenditure Plan prepared by the Gulf Consortium (one representative from each of the 23 FL Gulf coastal counties plus six non-voting Gov. appointees), funds will come through the Gulf RESTORE Council to the state
  + **Eligible activities** the same as for Pot 1, with a limitation on infrastructure costs
  + Preparation of the State Expenditure Plan will include the establishment and direction of two adjunct advisory committees – the Technical Advisory Committee and the Economic Advisory Committee. Projected to be a two-year planning process.
  + **Amount**: approximately $1.56 billion Gulf-wide, estimated $286 million for FL - over 15 years (Alabama 20.40%; Florida 18.36%; Louisiana 34.59%; Mississippi 19.07%; and Texas 7.58%).
  + <http://www.fl-counties.com/advocacy/gulf-consortium>
* **NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program (formal name Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring & Technology Program)/Pot 4** – The NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program will generally use peer‐reviewed competitive approaches when selecting projects for funding and rely most heavily on grants and/or cooperative agreements to make awards. The Program may also use other means, including contracts, to ensure the flexibility needed to do the work required and involve appropriate partners.
  + **Purpose**: to carry out research, observation, and monitoring to support, to the maximum extent practicable, the long-term sustainability of the ecosystem, fish stocks, fish habitat, and the recreational, commercial, and charter fishing industry in the Gulf of Mexico.
    - Amounts may be expended for:

1. marine and estuarine research;
2. marine and estuarine ecosystem monitoring and ocean observation;
3. data collection and stock assessments;
4. pilot programs for—
   1. fishery independent data; and
   2. reduction of exploitation of spawning aggregations; and
5. cooperative research.
   * + Amounts may be transferred to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission to establish a fisheries monitoring and research program, with respect to the Gulf of Mexico.
     + **Research priorities** —In distributing funding under this subsection, priority shall be given to integrated, long-term projects that
       - build on, or are coordinated with, related research activities; and
       - address current or anticipated marine ecosystem, fishery, or wildlife management information needs.
     + NOAA and USFWS shall develop a plan for the coordination of projects and activities between the program and other existing Federal and State science and technology programs in the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, as well as between the centers of excellence.
     + Funds may not be used
       - for any existing or planned research led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, unless agreed to in writing by the grant recipient;
       - to implement existing regulations or initiate new regulations promulgated or proposed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; or
       - to develop or approve a new limited access privilege program (as that term is used in section 303A of the Magnuson- Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1853a)) for any fishery under the jurisdiction of the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England, or Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils.
   * **Amount**: approximately $130 million Gulf-wide over 15 years
   * <http://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/>
   * <http://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/funding>
   * <http://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/contact/sub-form>

* **Gulf coastal states Centers of Excellence/Pot 5** – in FL, FL Institute of Oceanography coordinates the funding effort - Florida RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence Program (FLRACEP). An ad hoc team of science and technology experts not involved in any FLRACEP proposals, from in and outside Florida, is responsible for technical review of CE grant proposals. Next RFP cycle expected in 2016.
  + **Purpose**: focus on science, technology, and monitoring in at least 1 of the following disciplines:
    1. Coastal and deltaic sustainability, restoration and protection, including solutions and technology that allow citizens to live in a safe and sustainable manner in a coastal delta in the Gulf Coast Region.
    2. Coastal fisheries and wildlife ecosystem research and monitoring in the Gulf Coast Region.
    3. Offshore energy development, including research and technology to improve the sustainable and safe development of energy resources in the Gulf of Mexico.
    4. Sustainable and resilient growth, economic and commercial development in the Gulf Coast Region.
    5. Comprehensive observation, monitoring, and mapping of the Gulf of Mexico.
  + **Amount**: approximately $130 million for all five Gulf States Centers of Excellence, approximately $26 million for FL - over 15 years
  + <http://fio.marine.usf.edu/research/flracep>
  + <http://fio.marine.usf.edu/opportunities-flracep>
  + <http://fio.marine.usf.edu/research/fio-block-award-gri-year-1-funds>

**Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) –** some funds under control of the State of Florida, some by other Gulf states, some by federal agencies

* **Purpose**: to recover the natural resources damaged by the spill (including loss of use), and to reimburse the costs of conducting the assessment
* Early Restoration - $1 billion available Gulf-wide, most has been committed, some controlled by federal agencies still uncommitted. Voluntary process in advance of completion of the NRDA analysis process.
* NRDA – Trustees have proposed a comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem restoration plan for the Gulf of Mexico. The **draft plan** is based on a thorough assessment of impacts to the Gulf’s natural resources—and the services they provide—following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The plan does not identify specific projects for each restoration type, but lays out a framework for developing future project-specific restoration plans.
  + The five goals of the draft plan are to: 1) restore and conserve habitat; 2) restore water quality; 3) replenish and protect living coastal and marine resources; 4) provide and enhance recreational opportunities; and 5) provide for monitoring, adaptive management, and administrative oversight to support restoration implementation.
* The 13 proposed restoration types are:

1. Wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats  
2. Habitat projects on federally managed lands  
3. Nutrient reduction  
4. Water quality  
5. Fish and water column invertebrates  
6. Sturgeon  
7. Submerged aquatic vegetation  
8. Oysters  
9. Sea turtles  
10. Marine mammals  
11. Birds  
12. Mesophotic and deep benthic (lowlight and ocean floor) communities  
13. Provide and enhance recreational opportunities

* **Amount**: up to $8.8 billion Gulf-wide, including $1 billion in Early Restoration funds. Estimated $680 million for FL, plus $350 million region-wide and $1.24 billion open ocean, all over 15 years
* <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2015/10/trustees-propose-comprehensive-restoration-plan-for-the-gulf-of-mexico/>
* <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan/>
* <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/>

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund –** for Florida, recommendations made by FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and FL Dept. of Environmental Protection, with decisions resting with the board of NFWF

* **Purpose**: to support projects that remedy harm and reduce the risk of future harm to natural resources (habitats, species) where there has been injury to, or destruction of, loss of, or loss of use of those resources resulting from the oil spill. Projects are expected to occur within reasonable proximity to where the impacts occurred, as appropriate.
* Consistent with the terms of the plea agreements, funding priorities include, but are not limited to, projects that contribute significantly to the following natural resource outcomes:
  + Restore and maintain the ecological functions of landscape-scale coastal habitats, including barrier islands, beaches and coastal marshes, and ensure their viability and resilience against existing and future threats;
  + Restore and maintain the ecological integrity of priority coastal bays and estuaries; and
  + Replenish and protect living resources including oysters, red snapper and other reef fish, Gulf Coast bird populations, sea turtles and marine mammals.
* **Status**: some projects have already been funded. FWC is preparing a restoration strategy to guide use of most of the remaining funds. In related efforts, the Northwest Florida and Suwanee River Water Management Districts are updating the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plans for panhandle estuaries. These plans outline projects necessary to improve the health of the estuaries.
* **Amount**: $356 million for FL over 5 years, about $50 million already committed
* <http://www.nfwf.org/gulf/Pages/GEBF-Florida.aspx>
* <http://www.nfwf.org/gulf/Pages/home.aspx>

**National Academy of Sciences Gulf Research Program –** Program planning and oversight is led by a volunteer group of experts called the Advisory Board. Oversight is provided by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Funding opportunities are advertised and applications are evaluated by the Program.

* **Purpose**: “Over its 30-year duration, the Gulf Research Program works to enhance oil system safety and the protection of human health and the environment in the Gulf of Mexico and other U.S. outer continental shelf areas by seeking to improve understanding of the region’s interconnecting human, environmental, and energy systems and fostering application of these insights to benefit Gulf communities, ecosystems, and the Nation.”
* **Six overarching strategies** that can steer the Program toward producing lasting benefit:
  + Long-term, cross boundary perspective
  + Science to advance understanding
  + Science to serve community needs
  + Synthesis and integration
  + Coordination and partnerships
  + Leadership and capacity building
* **Amount**: $500 million Gulf-wide over 30 years
* <http://www.nationalacademies.org/gulf/index.html>
* <http://www.nationalacademies.org/gulf/funding/index.htm>

**North American Wetlands Conservation Fund - Gulf of Mexico –** administered through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act Standard and Small Grants Program

* **Purpose**: to fund “wetlands restoration and conservation projects” located in the Gulf or projects that would “benefit migratory bird species and other wildlife and habitat affected by” the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
* **Amount**: $100 million Gulf-wide, anticipated all to be paid by 2018
* <http://www.fws.gov/gulfrestoration/nawca.html>

**Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) -** GoMRI uses National Science Board peer evaluation protocols to select funded research

* **Purpose**: to “… investigate the impacts of the oil, dispersed oil, and dispersant on the ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico and affected coastal States in a broad context of improving fundamental understanding of the dynamics of such events and their environmental stresses and public health implications. The GoMRI will also develop improved spill mitigation, oil and gas detection, characterization and remediation technologies.”
* **Amount**: $500 million Gulf-wide over 10 years, starting in 2010. Year 1 funding totaled $45 million, with $10 million going to the FL Institute of Oceanography. Approximately $130 million more has been awarded.
* <http://gulfresearchinitiative.org/>
* <http://gulfresearchinitiative.org/request-for-proposals/>

**Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.** – funding decisions made by the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. board, five unpaid private citizens (including Allan Bense, unofficial chair)

* **Purpose**: make awards for projects in the eight coastal counties from Escambia to Wakulla for projects or programs that meet the priorities **for economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement**
* **Amount**: projected to be about $50 million/year for 30 years
* Awards may be provided for:

(a) Ad valorem tax reduction within disproportionately affected counties;

(b) Payment of impact fees adopted pursuant to s. 163.31801 and imposed within disproportionately affected counties;

(c) Administrative funding for economic development organizations located within the disproportionately affected counties;

(d) Local match requirements of ss. 288.0655, 288.0659, 288.1045, and 288.106 for projects in the disproportionately affected counties [see list below]

* Rural Infrastructure Fund
* Local Government Distressed Area Matching Grant Program
* Qualified defense contractor and space flight business tax refund program
* Tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses

(e) **Economic development projects** in the disproportionately affected counties;

(f) Infrastructure projects that are shown to enhance economic development in the disproportionately affected counties;

(g) Grants to local governments in the disproportionately affected counties to establish and maintain equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of response to respond to disasters, such as plans created for the Coastal Impacts Assistance Program;

(h) **Grants to support programs of excellence that prepare students for future occupations and careers at K-20 institutions that have home campuses in the disproportionately affected counties**. Eligible programs include those that increase students’ technology skills and knowledge; encourage industry certifications; provide rigorous, alternative pathways for students to meet high school graduation requirements; strengthen career readiness initiatives; **fund high-demand programs of emphasis at the bachelor’s and master’s level designated by the Board of Governors**; and, similar to or the same as talent retention programs created by the Chancellor of the State University System and the Commission of Education, **encourage students with interest or aptitude for science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medical disciplines to pursue postsecondary education at a state university within the disproportionately affected counties**; and

(i) Grants to the tourism entity created under s. 288.1226 [Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation] for the purpose of advertising and promoting tourism, Fresh From Florida, or related content on behalf of one or all of the disproportionately affected counties.

(2) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall establish an application procedure for awards and a scoring process for the selection of projects and programs that have the potential to generate increased economic activity in the disproportionately affected counties, giving priority to projects and programs that:

(a) **Generate maximum estimated economic benefits**, based on tools and models not generally employed by economic input-output analyses, including cost-benefit, return-on-investment, or dynamic scoring techniques to determine how the long-term economic growth potential of the disproportionately affected counties may be enhanced by the investment.

(b) Increase household income in the disproportionately affected counties above national average household income.

(c) Expand high growth industries or establish new high growth industries in the region.

1. Industries that are supported must have strong growth potential in the disproportionately affected counties.

2. An industry’s growth potential is defined based on a detailed review of the current industry trends nationally and the necessary supporting asset base for that industry in the disproportionately affected counties region.

(d) **Leverage or further enhance key regional assets, including educational institutions, research facilities,** and military bases.

(e) Partner with local governments to provide funds, infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project.

(f) Have investment commitments from private equity or private venture capital funds.

(g) Provide or encourage seed stage investments in start-up companies.

(h) **Provide advice and technical assistance to companies on restructuring existing management, operations, or production to attract advantageous business opportunities**.

(i) Benefit the environment in addition to the economy.

(j) Provide outcome measures for programs of excellence support, including terms of intent and metrics.

(k) **Partner with K-20 educational institutions or school districts located within the disproportionately affected counties**.

(l) Partner with convention and visitor bureaus, tourist development councils, or chambers of commerce located within the disproportionately affected counties.

(3) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., may make awards as applications are received or may establish application periods for selection. Awards may not be used to finance 100 percent of any project or program

* <http://uwf.edu/offices/oede/funding-opportunities/triumph-gulf-coast-inc/>

**Recommended information sources**

<http://eli-ocean.org/gulf/>

<http://eli-ocean.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/2/files/Funding-DH-Restoration-Recovery.pdf>

<http://eli-ocean.org/gulf/consent-decree/>

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/default.htm>