

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring and Technology Program

NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program

Opportunities for Science and Management Partnerships in the Gulf of Mexico

April 5, 2017



Program Overview

Legislative Mission: 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.

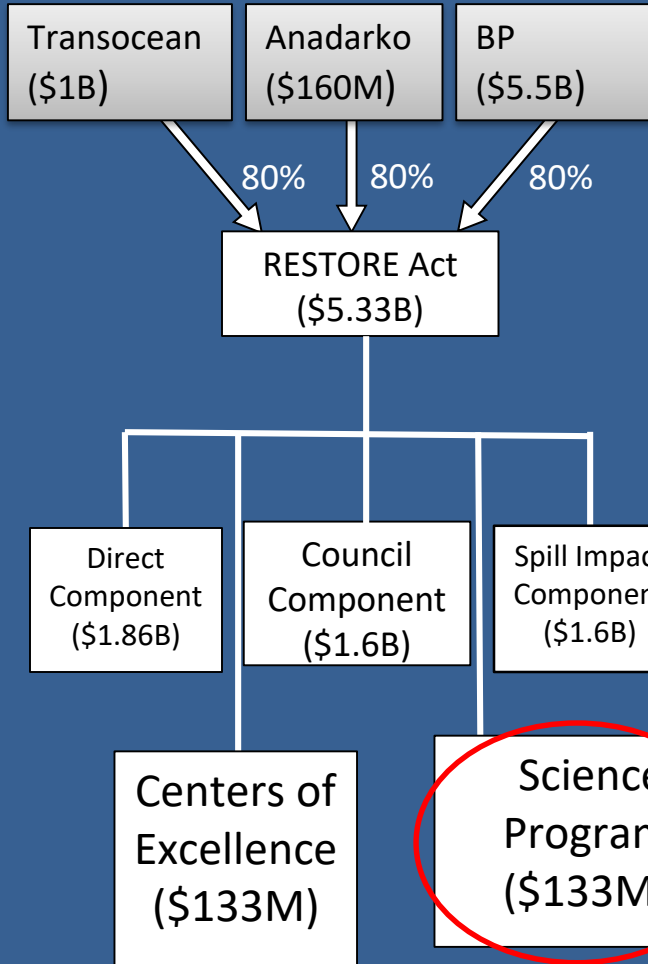
Outcomes

- The Gulf of Mexico ecosystem is understood in an integrative, holistic manner.
- Management of, and restoration activities within, the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem is guided by this ecosystem understanding.

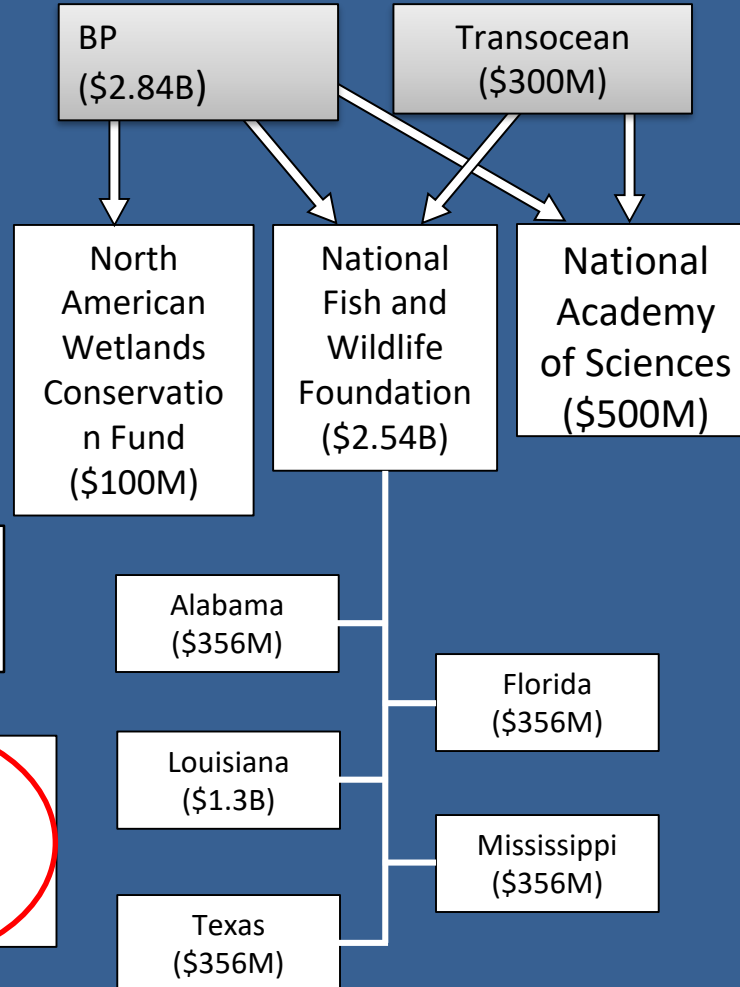


Deepwater Horizon Gulf Science and Restoration Initiatives

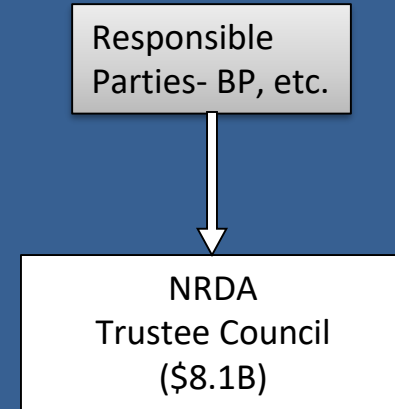
Civil Penalties



Criminal Penalties



Natural Resource Damages



Others



Our Approach

- Emphasize connections within the ecosystem
 - Supporting the application of an ecosystem approach to science and management in the Gulf of Mexico
- Prioritize application
- Build and strengthen relationships
 - A community of researchers and resource managers committed to working together



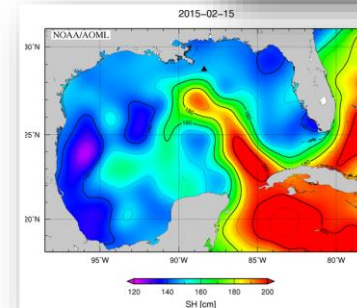
Our Approach

- How...
 - So far, competitively awarded cooperative agreements
- Who...
 - So far, institutions of higher education; non-profit institutions; federal, territorial, state, local, and tribal governments; and for-profit organizations
- Where...
 - Gulf of Mexico or on a process, habitat, or species with a direct, significant, and quantifiable impact or connection to the Gulf of Mexico



Federal Funding Opportunity - 2015

- Competition awarded \$2.7M to seven teams for assessment and synthesis
 - Indicators (2)
 - Modeling
 - Observing and monitoring (2)
 - Mississippi River impacts
 - Reef fish spawning aggregations





Spawning Aggregations

Lead Investigator: Brad Erisman (berisman@utexas.edu)

The University of Texas at Austin



Co-investigators and collaborators from LGL Ecological Research Associates, Inc. and Texas A&M University, NOAA, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and The Nature Conservancy.

NOAA Technical Monitor: Nick Farmer (NMFS)

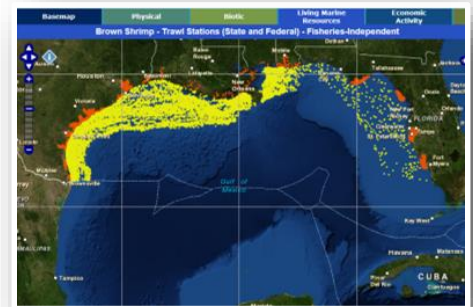
Project will or has...

- Compile information for species that form spawning aggregations
- Identify existing datasets and monitoring programs
- Develop a community-based approach for monitoring and research
- Synthesize this information and convene a workshop to discuss with stakeholders
- Engage in a comprehensive outreach and data-sharing



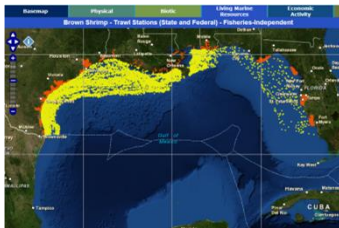
Federal Funding Opportunity - 2017

- Living coastal and marine resources and their habitats
- Two priorities
 - **Research** in six specific areas
 - **Decision support tools**
- Link to management is key for both priorities
- Up to \$17M
- Awards will be announced in Summer 2017



Future Opportunities

- Funding competitions
- Long term focal areas (5-10 year commitment)
- Partnerships
 - Model development and application
 - Data integration and synthesis
 - Technology development and application
 - Other areas...





Contact Information

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