

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring and Technology Program
NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program

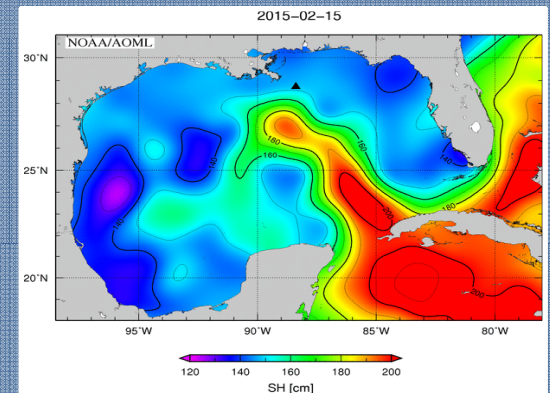
NOAA-led RESTORE Act Science Program

April 8, 2015

Gulf of Mexico Marine Mammal
Research Meeting



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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service





Outline

- Program Overview
- Relationship to the Other DWH-related Funds
- Science Plan
- Long-term Research Priorities
- 2015 Funding
- Science Advisory Board Working Group
- Future





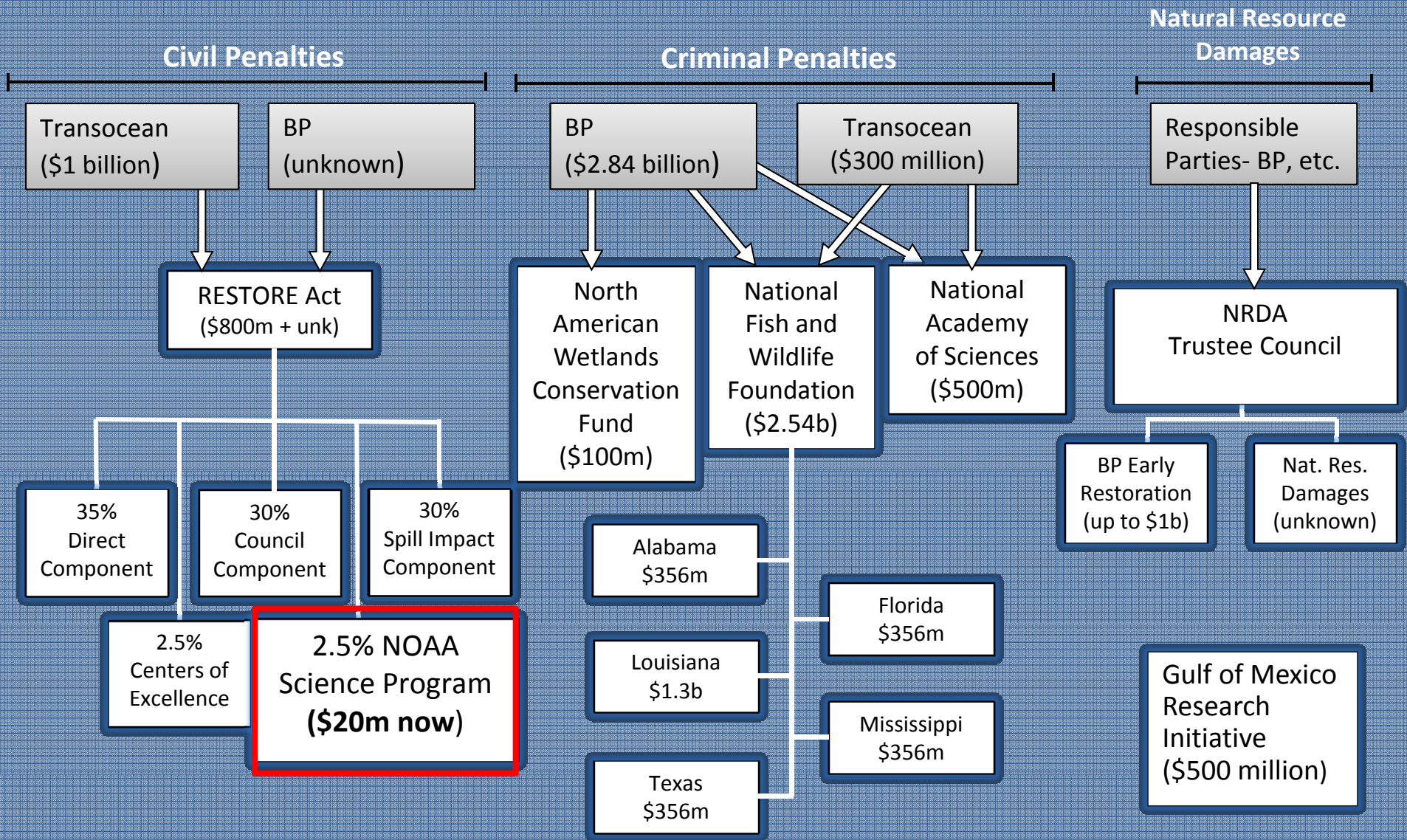
Program Overview

Mission: To initiate and sustain an integrative, holistic understanding of the Gulf of Mexico (GoM) ecosystem and support, to the maximum extent practicable, restoration efforts and the long-term sustainability of the ecosystem, including its fish stocks, fishing industries, habitat, and wildlife through ecosystem research, observation, monitoring, and technology development.

- NOAA and US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Science needs of resource managers are key driver
- Engagement for input and awareness
- Science plan builds on prior science needs assessments for the region
- Coordinate with other DWH-related science and restoration programs
- \$20 million available now



Deepwater Horizon Gulf Science and Restoration Initiatives





Science Plan

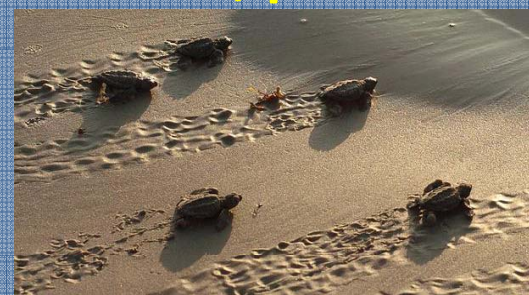
- Highlights the areas of investment for the Program
 - long-term research priorities create a foundation
- Describes competitive research program approach
- Identifies partners for leveraging future opportunities
- Final version to be published in FR April 2015





Long-term Research Priorities

- Comprehensive understanding of:
 - coupled social and ecological systems
 - watershed, sediment, & nutrient impacts to coastal ecology
 - **living marine resources (LMR) food webs, habitats, protected areas, and carbon flow**
 - climate change and weather effects
- Management-ready ecosystem models
- **Long-term trends on status and health of ecosystem**
- Indicators of GoM coastal environ. & socioeconomic conditions
- **Decision tools to monitor and manage habitat, LMRs, and wildlife**
- **Integrated GoM monitoring programs**
- **Advanced technologies to improve monitoring**





Federal Funding Opportunity - 2015

- **Short-term priorities:**
 1. **Inventory and assess existing ecosystem models (not just Gulf models)**
 2. **Identify and evaluate GoM biological and human health indicators**
 3. **Assess GoM monitoring and observation needs and develop recommendations for a Gulf-wide network**
- Further refined by three topical areas:
 - Ecosystem and living marine resources management
 - Climate change and extreme weather impacts on sustainability of restoration
 - Integration of social/behavioral/economic science into restoration and management
- \$2-2.5 million for up to 7 projects of 1 to 2 year duration
- >100 letters of intent; <40 full proposals; Reviews by June



Science Advisory Board Working Group

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science Program Advisory Working Group

- Provide independent guidance and review of the Science Program
- Provide a mechanism for formal coordination between organizations (NOAA HQ Program)

Representatives of Gulf of Mexico Science Programs:

- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
- RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence (Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas)

Subject Matter Experts:

physical, chemical, biological oceanography; economics or social sciences; wetlands ecology; fishery, wildlife, and marine mammal ecology; ecosystem modeling; toxicology; observing and monitoring systems; ecosystem management

Ex-officio members:

- Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative
- National Academy of Sciences Gulf Research Program
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation





Future

- **April 2015 - Science Plan published**
- **June 2015 –Science Advisory Bd. WG meets**
- Fall 2015 – Award 2015 FFO \$s (expected)
- **Fall 2015 – Develop 2016 FFO**
 - **Setting which priorities from Plan will be the focus**
 - Digesting new information
- Develop metrics to measure success



QUESTIONS?



Contact Information

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