



NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

## RECIPIENTS

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division

## AWARD AMOUNT

\$4,406,200

## LOCATION

Alabama state and federal waters

## AWARD DATE

November 2016

## ALABAMA

# Multifaceted Fisheries and Ecosystem Monitoring in Alabama's Marine Waters and the Gulf of Mexico – Phase III

This project will fund years three and four of the Alabama Gulf of Mexico fisheries assessment program, and builds upon previous investments in both fisheries-dependent and -independent data collection. Reef fish, particularly red snapper, have historically been subject to overfishing and habitat loss, causing significant decline in stocks. The largest single impediment to effective management of Gulf of Mexico reef fisheries remains the lack of sound data related to both catch effort and population levels. This lack of reliable data is particularly evident in relation to the recreational fishery, a significant and growing component.

Data collected will be used by fisheries management agencies to: foster improved ecosystem-based assessment capabilities; assess the recovery of reef fish stocks in association with other restoration efforts implemented in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; and improve and expand single-species stock assessments for managed fish species. The project includes the implementation of both fisheries-dependent and fisheries-independent data collection, and will provide greater understanding of the potential long-term impacts of the Deepwater Horizon spill on fisheries.



Red snapper: Credit iStock



Data collection for key Gulf of Mexico fisheries species, such as the red snapper pictured above, will improve future species management.

The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

To learn more about NFWF, go to [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org).