



NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

## RECIPIENTS

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

## AWARD AMOUNT

\$6,246,200

## PARTNERS

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network members

## LOCATION

Florida Gulf Coast

## AWARD DATE

November 2016

## PROGRESS UPDATE

Funding agreement is nearing finalization and project should be underway in the near future. (February 2018)

## FLORIDA

# Enhancement of Sea Turtle Stranding Response Capacity in Florida

This project will increase and enhance the collection of information on the causes of sea turtle mortality in Florida to inform the development of future management actions aimed at reducing mortality. The project involves the establishment and staffing of a dedicated sea turtle necropsy facility strategically located along Florida's Gulf Coast, with appropriate staff for the 10-year project period. Under the program, staff will retrieve and conduct necropsies on more than 250 sea turtles carcasses found each year in Florida (primarily along the Gulf Coast) to create a comprehensive assessment of sea turtle mortality across the state. The project builds upon and benefits from previous infrastructure and data collection efforts of the Florida Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network, including data management and dissemination enhancements to be funded under the Natural Resource Damage program (Early Restoration Phase IV).

This proposal targets to necropsy approximately 20 percent of all stranded sea turtles documented annually in the state of Florida. The mortality data gathered through increased necropsy and pathology will facilitate improvements to management and enforcement strategies.



Green sea turtle: Credit iStock



Loggerhead sea turtle: Credit iStock



Data on the causes of sea turtle mortality will be collected and analyzed to inform future sea turtle management strategies along the Florida Gulf Coast.

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).