NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

**RECIPIENT**
Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

**AWARD AMOUNT**
$750,000

**PARTNERS**
Mobile County Commission

**LOCATION**
Mobile County, Alabama

**AWARD DATE**
November 2018

**STATUS**
Active

**PROGRESS UPDATE**
Project recently awarded. (February 2019)

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.**

ALABAMA

# Deer River Coastal Marsh Stabilization and Restoration- Phase I

This project will complete engineering and design plans to stabilize and restore the shoreline and intertidal salt marsh at the mouth of Deer River, adjacent to the Theodore Industrial Canal and Mobile Bay. Intertidal marsh at the mouth of Deer River has experienced significant deterioration and loss of natural function due to erosion from heavy storms, tides, and ship wakes. In the past two decades, approximately nine acres of productive intertidal marshland and shoreline have been lost. These habitats buffer wave energy and storm surges, protecting the shoreline as well as neighboring upland and wetland habitats, preserving the long-term sustainability of the ecological services they provide. Once designed and constructed, this project will stabilize and enhance up to 5,600 feet of shoreline on the western shore of Mobile Bay necessary to protect and enhance over 275 acres of existing priority coastal saltmarsh, along with the potential to create additional marsh habitat.

The Deer River Watershed has been identified as a focal area in the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program's (MBNEP) Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, which has designated the project as a priority habitat restoration need. MBNEP's Project Implementation Committee identified the Deer River Watershed as a priority watershed for long-term conservation and restoration.

Credit| iStock

This project will protect, restore, and enhance important intertidal marsh habitat like that pictured above that provides important nursery habitat for many fish and shellfish species.