



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Dauphin Island Sea Lab

AMOUNT

*\$1,902,600

PARTNERS

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

NOAA

USFWS

LOCATION

Coastal Alabama

AWARD DATE

November 2014

AMENDED DATE

November 2017

STATUS

Active

PROGRESS UPDATE

Stranding response, research and public outreach activities ongoing. Incidence of marine mammal strandings remain higher than anticipated. (February 2018)

**Project was amended in November 2017 to add \$621,100 to address higher than anticipated stranding response and additional sampling and data collection requirements.*

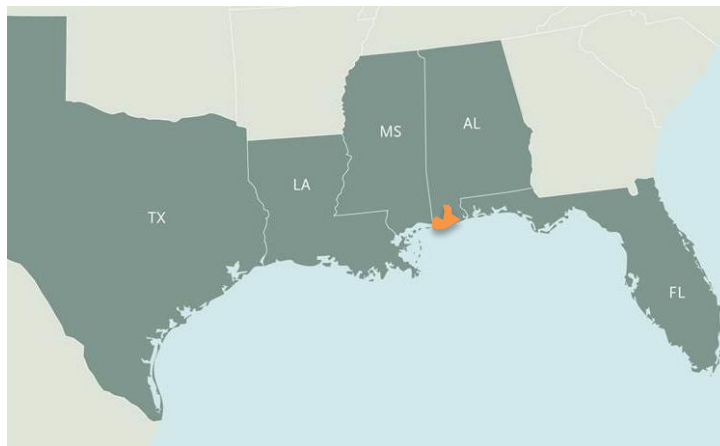
The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about NFWF, go to www.nfwf.org.

ALABAMA

Alabama Marine Mammal Conservation and Recovery Program

This project seeks to increase the response and research capacity within the Alabama Marine Mammal Stranding Network (ALMMSN). The ALMMSN will work to enhance survival of live stranded animals and provide continuous, consistent and scientifically rigorous data collection from stranded marine mammals to better and more rapidly define causes of death, and define relationships between environmental variables and stranding patterns, thereby contributing to their long-term recovery. Funding will be used to operate the ALMMSN and train dedicated personnel for future stranding response and research on marine mammals.

The Gulf of Mexico has among the highest diversity of marine mammals in the world. Long-term effects from exposure to contaminants or other stresses from natural and human-related sources can take years to be realized, necessitating properly outfitted and fully functioning marine mammal stranding response teams. This project will provide consistency in data management, improve baseline data collection for comparison to immediate and longer-term threats, and expand suitably focused management and conservation efforts. Efforts in Alabama and elsewhere will augment the overall response capability of NOAA's Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program (MMHSRP) throughout the Gulf.



This project will expand Marine Mammal Stranding Network capacity in Alabama to improve recovery of stranded animals and inform future management in the northern Gulf of Mexico to benefit many marine mammal species.