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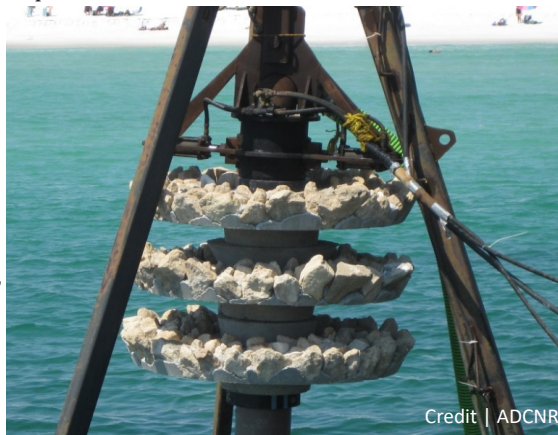
Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

ALABAMA

Alabama Artificial Reef and Habitat Enhancement Plan- Phase II

This project will build on phase I of the plan to construct and enhance artificial reef habitat in Alabama's coastal waters. Alabama's artificial reef system provides habitat for economically important reef fishes and provides a marine environment, allowing fish populations to flourish. Over time, subsidence, storm damage, and other factors have caused deterioration of many of the state's existing artificial reefs. Phase II of the project aims to continue to increase connectivity between habitats used by fish in early and adult life through creation or enhancement of inshore, nearshore, and offshore reef habitats. Analysis of phase I response monitoring suggests increases in the abundance of red snapper on artificial reefs post deployment. Future analysis will include examination of responses in biomass, other species of interest, and the overall marine community.

Habitat enhancement is vital to increased survivorship of many species. Alabama's Marine Resources Division has a significant record of success with respect to the deployment of artificial reef structures in state and federal waters off the Alabama coast. Previous investments have resulted in improvements to fisheries and expanded recreational opportunities. The overall scope of Alabama's reef habitat enhancement program is significant, with phase I enhancing nearly 110,000 acres of habitat for reef fishes and phase II anticipated to enhance up to 160,000 acres of habitat. Additional outcomes include an increase in abundance and diversity of a wide variety of reef associated organisms and a more robust connection between the inshore, nearshore, and offshore reef habitats.



Credit | ADCNR

Above, juvenile fish shelters attached to a fiberglass pile that will be embedded in a concrete slab and lowered to the seabed.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:
ADCNR, Marine Resources Division

AWARD AMOUNT:
\$22,499,000

PARTNERS:
AL Wildlife Federation, Coastal Conservation Association-AL Chapter, AL Reef and Restoration Foundation, University of South AL, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Auburn University

LOCATION:
Coastal Alabama (inshore and offshore)

AWARD DATE:
November 2018

STATUS:
Active

PROGRESS UPDATE:
Construction expected to begin in the spring of 2020.



The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF), administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, 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 GEBF and view a comprehensive project map go to www.nfwf.org/Gulf