ALABAMA

Multifaceted Fisheries and Ecosystem Monitoring in Alabama's Marine Waters - Phase II

This project represented the second year of the fisheries monitoring effort in the state of Alabama and continued the implementation and meaningful expansion of the collection of data on catch effort and reef fish stock assessment in coastal Alabama. Data was used to improve ecosystem-based management capabilities, assess the recovery of reef fish stocks in association with other fisheries restoration efforts, and improve and expand single-species stock assessments for managed fish species. The project continued the implementation of both fisheries-dependent and fisheries-independent data collection, and is similar to and complementary of fisheries monitoring projects supported by the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund in Florida and Mississippi.

Gulf of Mexico fishes, particularly red snapper, have historically been subject to overfishing, causing periods of significant decline in stocks. While current stock assessments show an improving populations, more work clearly remains to be done. The largest single impediment to effective management of Gulf of Mexico reef fishes, like red snapper, is the lack of sound data related to both catch effort and stock assessment. Establishment and expansion of monitoring and assessment programs is critical to managing and monitoring the recovery of fisheries and ecosystems. This project will provided critical baseline data to inform future fishes management and restoration actions for species impacted by the spill.

Credit | Discover Wildlife

This project will continue and increase the fish monitoring work currently taking place in Mobile Bay, Alabama and surrounding areas.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources/Marine Resources Division

AWARD AMOUNT:
$1,916,602

PARTNERS:
University of South Alabama

Dauphin Island Sea Lab
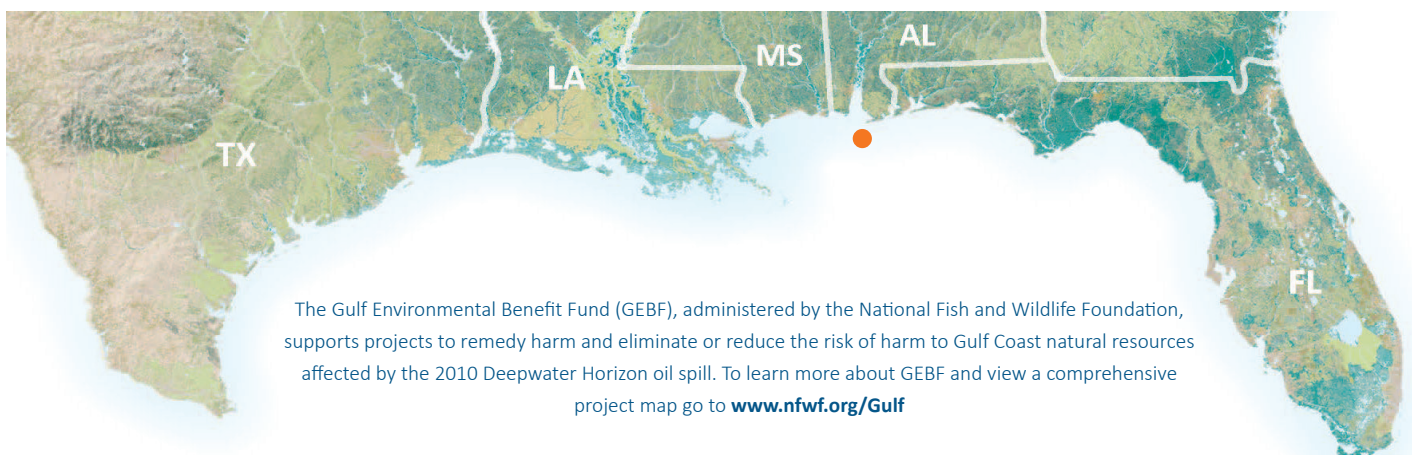
LOCATION:
Mobile Bay

AWARD DATE:
November 2015

STATUS:
Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE:
Project closed December 2018.