NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

ALABAMA

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

This project will expand the temporal and spatial coverage for monitoring the long-term sustainability and recovery of reef fish and other marine resources into its fifth and final year. Alabama's Marine Resources Division will work collaboratively with Florida and Mississippi state resource agencies, the University of South Alabama, and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab to continue to implement broad-scale, standardized fishery independent and dependent data collection around both catch effort and abundance to inform future stock assessments. Fishery dependent work will continue blue crab and recreational finfish data collection to improve management of these important fisheries.

Establishment of robust monitoring and assessment programs remains critical to managing and monitoring the recovery of fishes and associated habitats. Expansion of this data collection effort and the collaboration between the states of Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi and the National Marine Fisheries Service will significantly improve the future management of this important fishery. Beyond the scope of this project period, maintaining the increased spatial sampling and pertinent new programmatic activities (e.g., reef fish vertical line sampling) is expected to be a priority for continued funding.


Credit | Jeremy Thorpe

This monitoring effort is intended to improve stock assessment of important commercial and recreational fish and shellfish species, like the blue crab pictured to the right.

AT A GLANCE

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

AWARD AMOUNT:
$2,800,000

PARTNERS:
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service

LOCATION:
Coastal Waters of Alabama

AWARD DATE:
November 2018

STATUS:
Active

PROGRESS UPDATE:
Offshore sampling and mapping field surveys complete with ecosystem surveys ongoing.

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**