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.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENTS:
Dauphin Island Sea Lab

AWARD AMOUNT:
*$1,902,600

PARTNERS:
Alabama DCNR

NOAA

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

LOCATION:
Coastal Alabama

AWARD DATE:
November 2014

STATUS:
Active

PROGRESS UPDATE:
Stranding responses and necropsies, sample processing, and data analysis are ongoing.

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