



NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

FLORIDA

Enhanced Assessment of Gulf of Mexico Fisheries – Phase V

This project will complete the fifth and final phase of enhanced marine fisheries data collection with expansion and enhancement of broad-scale fisheries-dependent and fisheries-independent methodologies in the Panhandle and West Florida regions in the Gulf of Mexico.

This project will continue a significant expansion of the collection of data on both catch effort and stock assessment of reef fish in the northern Gulf of Mexico to provide a greater understanding of the potential long-term impacts of the Deepwater Horizon spill on fisheries. Additional research components include expansion of seagrass monitoring, groundfish trawl surveys, benthic habitat mapping, and discard mortality assessment. Funding is also included in the final phase of the program to allow for significant data processing and reporting.

To date previous years' efforts have provided significant data assemblages to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/ the National Marine Fisheries Service for inclusion in federally-mandated reef fish stock assessments for red snapper, vermilion snapper, gray triggerfish, amberjacks, and gag, red and black grouper. In addition to increased baseline data informing abundance assessment for key species, Florida has also gathered significant data on fisheries catch and effort by various sectors, habitat utilization, and discard mortality, which are all being incorporated into state and federal regional fisheries management strategies.



Lessons learned from fisheries monitoring in Florida will influence future fisheries management for key species, such as the red snapper pictured above.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

AWARD AMOUNT:
*\$9,238,100

PARTNERS:
NOAA

LOCATION:
Florida Gulf Coast

AWARD DATE:
November 2017

STATUS:
Active

PROGRESS UPDATE:
**Project was amended November 2018 to add \$2,000,000 to complete an additional year of fieldwork and significant data processing and reporting associated with the final year of data collection.*



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