Oyster Restoration and Management – Phase II

This project will deploy cultch material in several locations throughout the western Mississippi Sound as a pilot study to assess factors influencing oyster survivability. Building on results obtained from prior GEBF-funded investigations and NRDA-funded restoration projects, ten one-acre reefs will be created with vertical relief near Henderson Point and Bay St. Louis. A restoration decision support system (DSS) will be developed to integrate data from prior oyster restoration and planning efforts to identify the ten 1-acre pilot cultch deployment site locations and to prioritize future restoration efforts. Oyster production and growth will be monitored to confirm the viability of identified locations for future large-scale oyster restoration efforts. Oyster reefs provide many ecological benefits to the Mississippi Sound ecosystem, including improving water quality and creating habitats for near-shore and estuarine species.

Restoration of oyster resources in Mississippi Sound and associated bays and bayous remains a high priority focal area for the state. This project builds on results from prior restoration and research efforts to validate locations for future large scale restoration projects, reducing risk and uncertainty.

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

Oyster Restoration and Management – Phase II

GEBF funds will study survivability of oysters, pictured above, and restore oyster reef habitats in the Mississippi Sound.