



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

MISSISSIPPI

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.



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

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

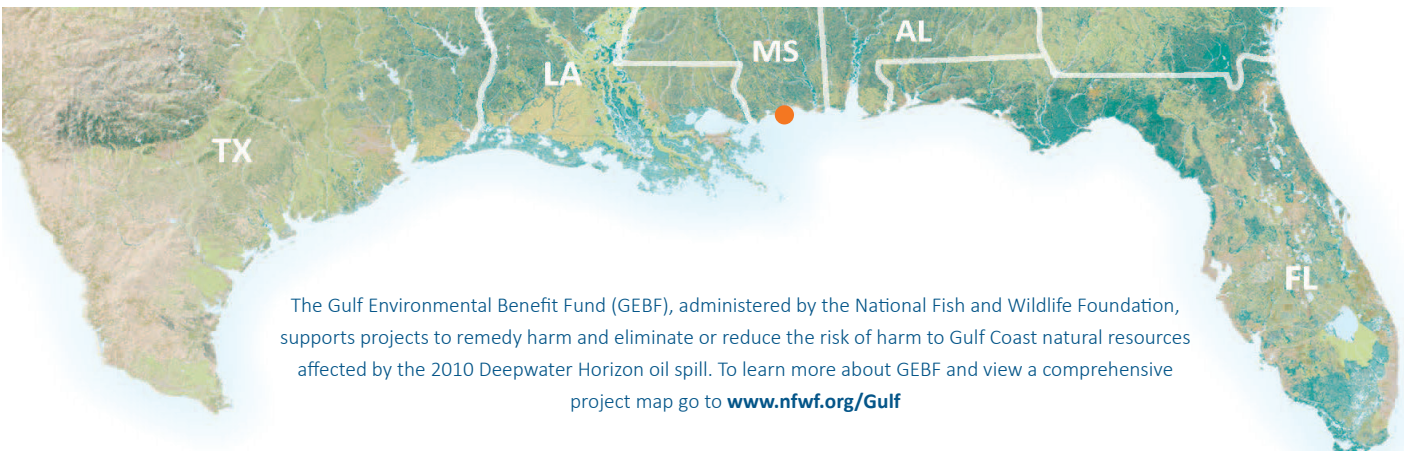
AWARD AMOUNT:
\$3,393,000

PARTNERS:
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

LOCATION:
Mississippi Sound

AWARD DATE:
November 2019

STATUS:
Active



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