MISSISSIPPI

Reef Fish Assessment for Mississippi Coastal and Nearshore Waters: Restoration through Improved Data Collection and Management—Phase II

This project funds continuing assessments of reef fish in coastal Mississippi and nearshore Gulf waters. Collection of biological, environmental, and fishery-dependent data will help to reduce the scientific uncertainty around several key factors influencing red snapper and other reef fish population structures and stock assessments.

Prior to implementing an earlier phase of this project with funding from the GEBF, Mississippi did not utilize a standardized reef fish sampling protocol to obtain vital fishery data on abundance, distribution and life-history characteristics of red snapper and other reef fish in coastal Mississippi. As such, the State’s ability to assess its reef fish populations and manage these vital fisheries in real time was limited. This proposal represents phase II of the Mississippi effort to address the GEBF funding priorities associated with improving red snapper and reef fish data collection to promote sustainable fisheries management.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

AWARD AMOUNT:
$2,346,900

PARTNERS:
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
University of Southern Mississippi

LOCATION:
Mississippi Gulf Coast

AWARD DATE:
November 2017

STATUS:
Active

PROGRESS UPDATE:
Data analysis is complete, and project closeout and final reports are pending.

This effort is complementary to similar efforts underway in Florida and Alabama.