



NFWF

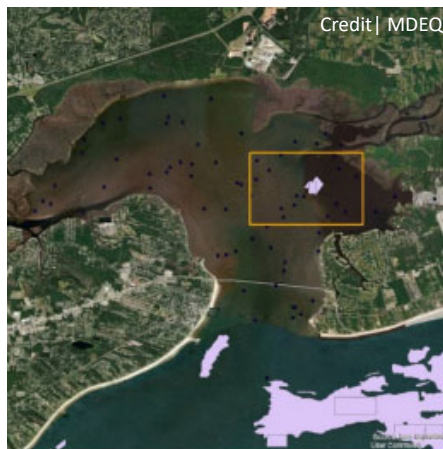
| Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

## MISSISSIPPI

# Enhancement of St. Louis Bay Oyster Reef

This project will expand an existing oyster reef in St. Louis Bay in Mississippi by 20 acres. Restoration will be accomplished through the deployment of clutch material at an existing 10-acre oyster reef site to add acreage and increase vertical relief. The vertical relief will ensure greater resilience to occasional incidents of low dissolved oxygen as well as enhance fisheries habitat. Commercial harvest in this part of St. Louis Bay is prohibited.

Oysters play a critical role in maintaining water quality and providing habitat for many estuarine species. The opportunity to expand this existing oyster reef was identified through Phase I of MDEQ's Oyster Restoration and Management project funded in 2015. Information gained from this work will inform MDEQ's plans to develop and implement a large-scale coast-wide oyster restoration strategy.



Above, a picture of oysters and a map of St. Louis Bay highlighting water quality sampling points. The yellow box represents the project site, and purple areas are existing oyster reefs.

## AT A GLANCE

### RECIPIENT:

The Nature Conservancy

### AWARD AMOUNT:

\*\$4,858,000

### PARTNERS:

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

### LOCATION:

St. Louis Bay, Mississippi

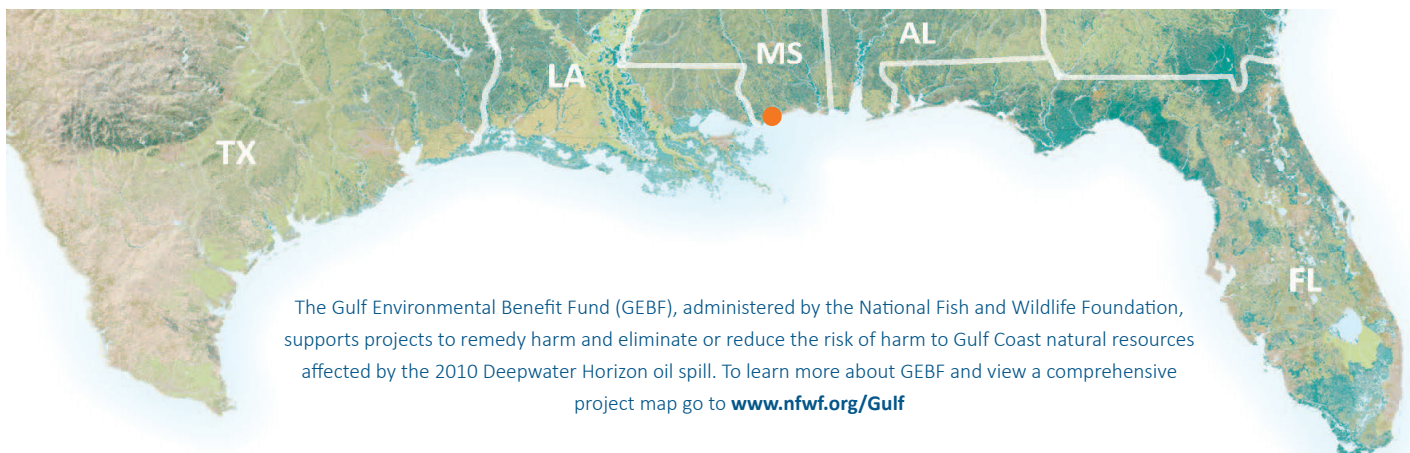
### AWARD DATE:

November 2019

### STATUS:

Active

*\*Project amended March 2023 to support increased costs of cultch materials and transportation for construction of the oyster reef.*



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](http://www.nfwf.org/Gulf)