



NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

FLORIDA

Pensacola East Bay Oyster Habitat Restoration- Phase I

This proposal was the first step in a comprehensive effort to design and construct oyster habitat along approximately 8 miles of shoreline in East and Blackwater Bays to enhance nursery habitat for commercially and recreationally important finfish and shellfish. Additional anticipated benefits included: decreased wave energy to minimize shoreline erosion; stabilization of sediments and decreased turbidity; and improvement of habitat for a suite of avian and fish species. Phase I included pre-restoration monitoring, design and engineering, and permitting for the entire project area.

This project significantly increased protected oyster resources in Eastern Pensacola Bay and protected vulnerable shoreline and other important coastal and marine habitat. The project is located partially within the boundaries of the state's Yellow River Marsh Aquatic Preserve and leveraged acquisition and management investments from the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, the MOEX settlement, and NRDA in the Escribano Point Wildlife Management Area.

At this scale, reef restoration is expected to also provide significant nursery habitat for numerous finfish and shellfish stocks, as well as foraging habitat for numerous avian species affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.



This project facilitated the design, engineering, and permitting needed to construct a significant oyster restoration project in Eastern Pensacola Bay, creating foraging habitat for oystercatchers, pictured above, and other avian species.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:

The Nature Conservancy

AWARD AMOUNT:

\$1,345,587

LOCATION:

East Bay and Blackwater Bays, Florida

AWARD DATE:

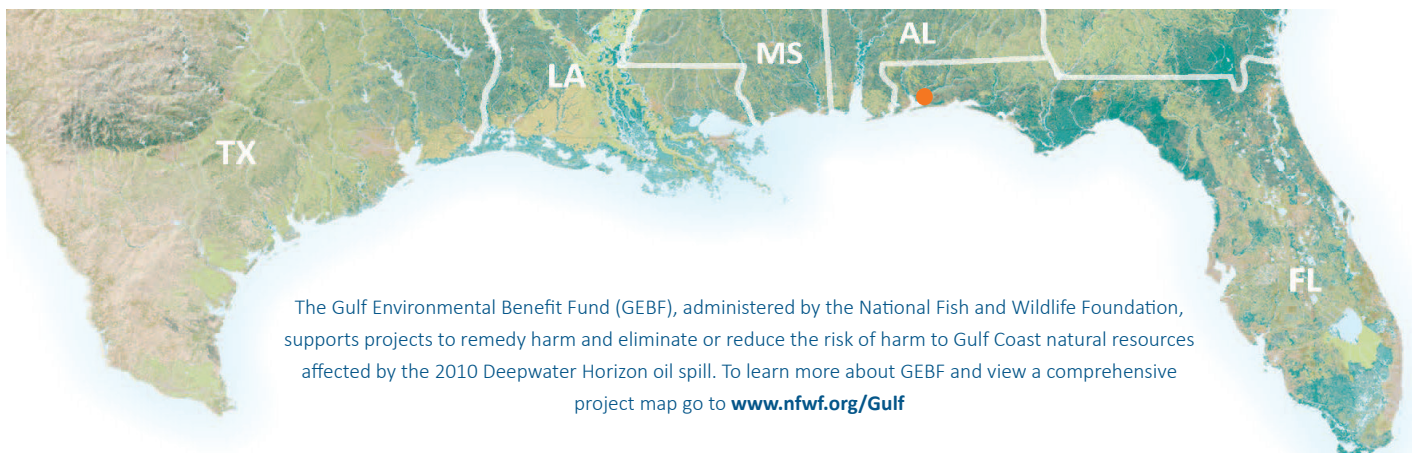
November 2015

STATUS:

Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE:

Permit applications were submitted, design documents and pre-restoration monitoring were completed. This project is now closed (July 2020).



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