NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENTS
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division

AWARD AMOUNT
$12,525,400

LOCATION
Coastal Alabama (inshore and offshore)

AWARD DATE
November 2015

STATUS
Active

PROGRESS UPDATE
Offshore and inshore deployments are completed. Monitoring and data management continued. Final reports anticipated soon. (February 2019)

The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), 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 NFWF, go to **www.nfwf.org.**

ALABAMA

Alabama Artificial Reef and Habitat Enhancement

This project will fund the enhancement and expansion of the state's artificial reef program to improve habitats for reef fish and other species in coastal Alabama. Two new reefs will be constructed and existing reefs will be restored within Alabama's nearshore waters; 125 structures will be deployed 3 miles offshore; 600 concrete and limestone pyramids will be deployed within 6-9 miles from shore; 20 acres of seabed in the Gulf of Mexico will be enhanced as a juvenile reef fish recruitment reef; and up to 140 high relief reef modules constructed of concrete and limestone will be deployed in the offshore waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Extensive research will be conducted to monitor the biological succession, temporal/spatial patterns of habitat utilization, and evaluate the structural integrity, durability, and stability of the habitat enhancement projects.

This project is the first significant investment in Alabama's reef habitat enhancement program, which seeks to enhance over 140,000 acres of reef habitat; and will contribute to population increases of a wide variety of reef-associated organisms and the improvement of connectivity between inshore and offshore habitats.

This project will deploy and monitor artificial reef habitat in nearshore, offshore and deep water applications to benefit populations of red snapper and other reef fish.