



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program / Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium

AMOUNT

*\$12,781,000

LEVERAGE

\$500,000

PARTNERS

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – State Lands Division

Alabama Department of Environmental Management

Alabama Department of Transportation

Geological Survey of Alabama

Baldwin County, AL

City of Daphne, AL

City of Spanish Fort, AL

LOCATION

Baldwin County, AL

AWARD DATE

November 2013

STATUS

Active

PROGRESS UPDATE

Adaptive management work continued. Two projects are being prepared to bid for construction in 2019. (February 2019)

**Project was amended in August 2015 to add \$6,000,000 to increase the project scope related to historic storms.*

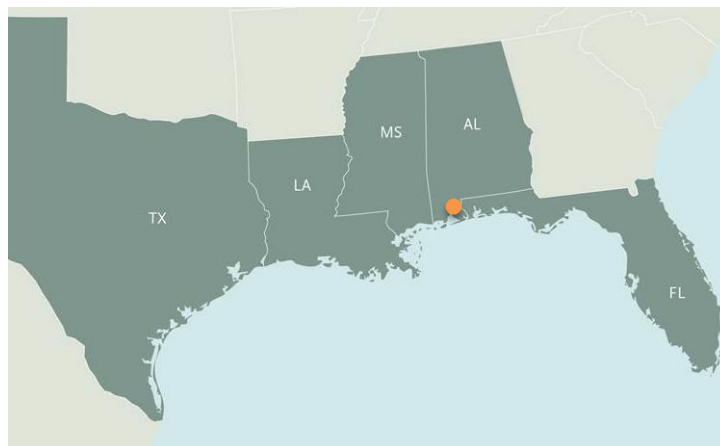
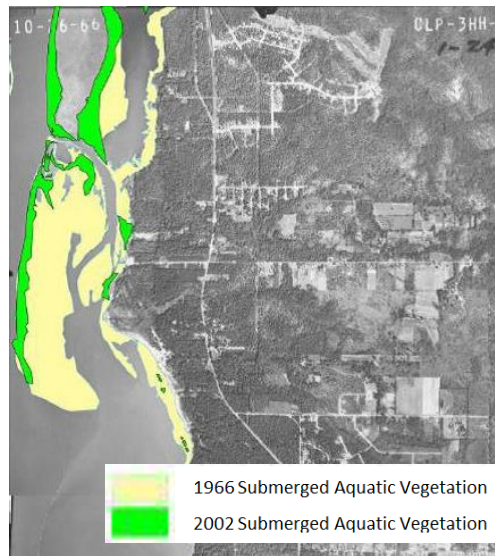
ALABAMA

D'Olive Watershed Restoration

This project proposes to restore degraded streams and install management measures to reduce the downstream impacts in the D'Olive watershed through a combination of stormwater retrofits, stream restorations and detailed monitoring. Stabilization of these stream segments will significantly reduce sediment loading in the northeast quadrant of Mobile Bay, improving the quality and clarity of the water necessary for re-establishing submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) beds in the upper Bay. SAV beds provide critical nursery areas for important species of shellfish and finfish.

The watershed has faced excessive erosion and sedimentation since the 1970's that has dramatically reduced the extent of seagrass beds in portions of Mobile Bay. Stormwater runoff from new developments has significantly impacted watershed morphology, function, and hydrology causing stream channel instability, head-cutting, mass slumping, and wetlands degradation. Altered hydrology, loss of natural wetlands and riparian areas, and inadequate natural flood plains have negatively impacted aquatic and wildlife species' survival and habitat. This project would complement earlier restoration work and is part

of a broader restoration strategy envisioned in the 2002 Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for the Mobile Bay Estuary. Work will include projects on three distinct tributaries of the D'Olive watershed and will significantly contribute to improved water quality and habitat creation in D'Olive and Mobile Bays.



Improvement in the highly impaired D'Olive Watershed (above) is critical to the ecological function of both D'Olive Bay and Mobile Bay. The project will significantly reduce the largest source of local sediments to Mobile Bay and improve conditions for degraded SAV beds (above-left).