



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENTS

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division

AWARD AMOUNT

\$1,916,602

PARTNERS

University of South Alabama

LOCATION

Mobile Bay

AWARD DATE

November 2015

STATUS

Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE

Surveying tasks for year two are complete and data is being uploaded to spatial data management system. Final project reports have been submitted. This project is now closed. (December 2018)

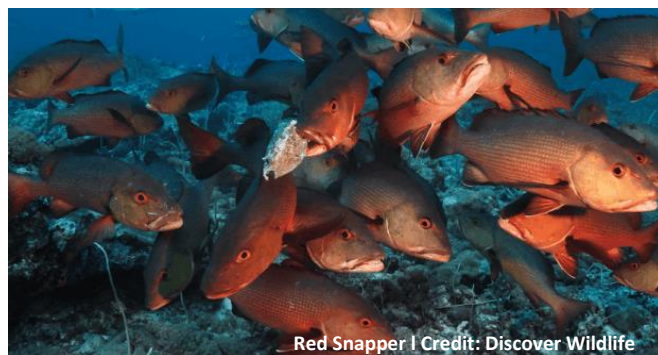
The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about NFWF, go to www.nfwf.org.

ALABAMA

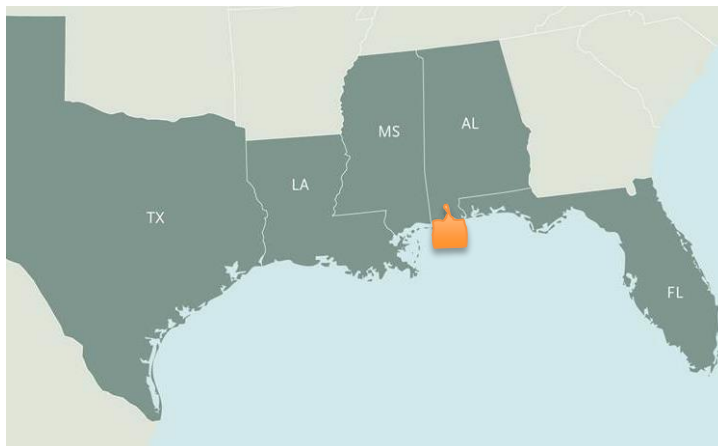
Multifaceted Fisheries and Ecosystem Monitoring in Alabama’s Marine – Phase II

This project represents the second year of the fisheries monitoring effort in the state of Alabama and will continue the implementation and meaningful expansion of the collection of data on catch effort and reef fish stock assessment in coastal Alabama. Data will be used to improve ecosystem-based management capabilities, assess the recovery of reef fish stocks in association with other fisheries restoration efforts, and improve and expand single-species stock assessments for managed fish species. The project continues the implementation of both fisheries-dependent and fisheries-independent data collection, and is similar to and complementary of fisheries monitoring projects supported by the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund in Florida and Mississippi.

Gulf of Mexico fisheries, particularly red snapper, have historically been subject to overfishing, causing periods of significant decline in stocks. While current stock assessments show an improving fishery, more work clearly remains to be done. The largest single impediment to effective management of Gulf of Mexico reef fisheries, like red snapper, is the lack of sound data related to both catch effort and stock assessment. Establishment and expansion of monitoring and assessment programs is critical to managing and monitoring the recovery of fisheries and ecosystems. This project will provide critical baseline data to inform future fisheries management and restoration actions for species impacted by the spill.



Red Snapper | Credit: Discover Wildlife



This project will continue and increase the fish monitoring work currently taking place in Mobile Bay, Alabama and surrounding areas.