



DEEPWATER HORIZON

Oceanic Fish Restoration Project

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation worked with the pelagic longline fishery in the Gulf of Mexico to launch this temporary restoration project that aims to restore a portion of fish injured as a result of the 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.



WHY RESTORE

DAMAGE TO FISH SPECIES CAUSED BY THE 2010 OIL SPILL:

LOSS OF FISH, EGGS AND LARVAE

The oil spill caused widespread environmental damage to natural resources in the Gulf of Mexico. In particular, many Gulf oceanic fish, eggs, and larvae (newly hatched eggs) were injured or killed.



Approximately **1 IN 1,000** fish larvae typically survive to adulthood



2-5 trillion larvae **KILLED** by the oil spill, which means billions of fish never reached adulthood



FEWER spawning adults alive **TODAY**

INJURY

The oil spill also had detrimental effects to those fish that survived the initial spill and cleanup.



REDUCED GROWTH RATE



IMPAIRED CARDIAC FUNCTION



COMPROMISED IMMUNE SYSTEM

HOW DO WE RESTORE

PARTNERING FOR RESTORATION

Participating vessel owners will volunteer to refrain from using pelagic longline fishing gear for a portion of the year to reduce fish mortality, which allows fish to grow and reproduce. This will help restore more than 60 species of fish.



BLUEFIN TUNA



MACKERELS/BILLFISH /OTHER TUNA



DEEPWATER FISH



SHARKS



JACKS AND RELATED FISH

SUPPORTING HEALTHIER POPULATIONS OF FISH IN THE GULF

The pelagic longline fishery is sustainably managed, yet sometimes results in incidental catch (or bycatch) of non-targeted species. Additionally, some of the bycatch can die before the fishing line is hauled back.

OUTCOMES

By participating in the project, vessel owners will help reduce bycatch by as much as **25 percent** during the temporary, annual repose.

OVERALL PROJECT GOAL

750 TONS OF FISH REMAIN IN THE WATER

OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN

Participants will be able to harvest yellowfin tuna and swordfish during the repose using alternative fishing gear types, which result in low bycatch of non-targeted species.



ALTERNATE GEAR

This will allow participants to continue to support the local economy, purchasing fuel and supplies from shoreside businesses and bringing fish to market.



MONITORING

Using alternative gear will provide an opportunity to study and improve its efficiency over time.

> This project will allow oceanic fish in the Gulf to grow, reproduce and continue to contribute to the ecosystem. Restoring fish species that were injured by the oil spill will benefit the Gulf of Mexico in both the short- and long-term.