

NOAA
FISHERIES

Restoration
Center

Pelagic Longline Bycatch Reduction Project

Deepwater Horizon Early Restoration

September 9, 2015

PROPOSED Early Restoration Project

- Project is being evaluated through OPA/NEPA public processes
- Project is not selected for implementation until release of the Final Phase IV Early Restoration Plan
- Public comment period May 20th – July 6th, 2015
- Public meetings were held in FL, AL, MS, LA, and TX
- Trustees are currently reviewing public input and finalizing the restoration plan that includes this project

NRDA Objective

To make the environment and public whole for injuries to natural resources and services resulting from an incident involving a discharge or substantial threat of discharge of oil.

Oil Pollution Act 1990

NRDA Trustees

Responsibilities:

- Determine amount of injury to natural resources and lost services
- Develop restoration plan(s) to compensate the public for injuries and lost services
- Ensure the polluters pay for restoration



Stages of NRDA



Pre-
assessment



Injury
Assessment
and
Restoration
Planning



Restoration
Implementation

Early Restoration Process

Project submissions from public and stakeholders.

Trustees screen ideas and identify potential projects.

Trustees consider and approve projects for negotiation with BP.

Trustees negotiate projects with BP.

Trustees decide to include negotiated projects in draft plan.

Project implementation and monitoring.

Project stipulations negotiated and filed with court.

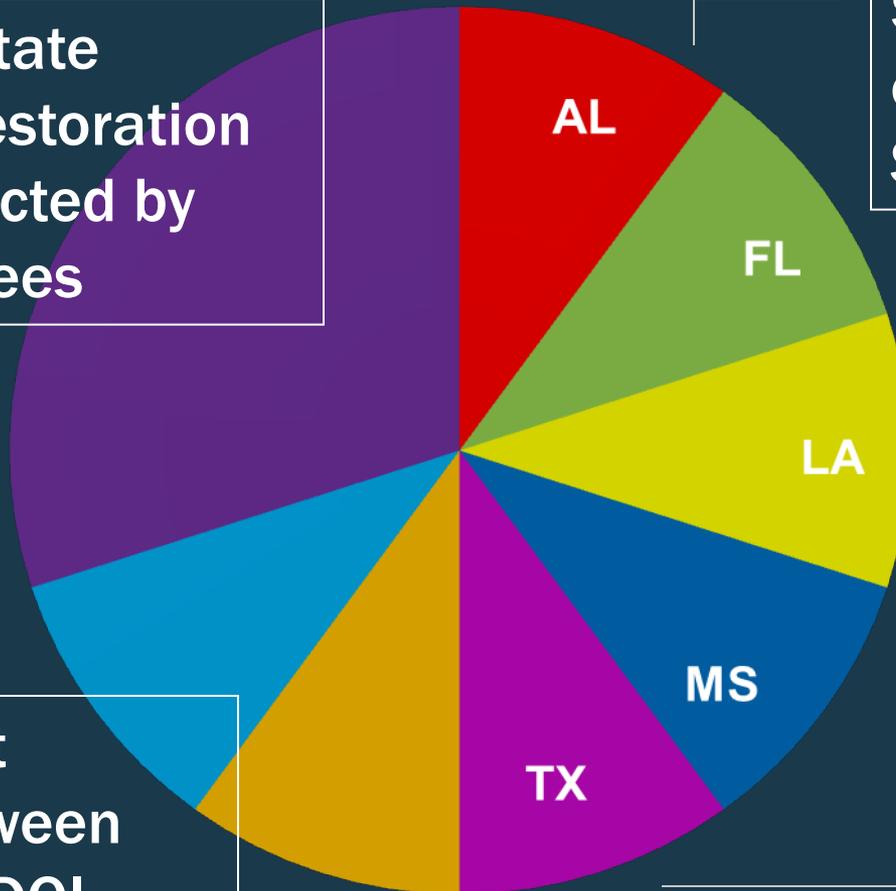
Trustees finalize draft plan and NEPA decision documents.

Trustees draft plan, analyze impacts under NEPA and compliance with other laws, and consider public comments.

Early Restoration \$1 Billion

\$300M for state sponsored restoration projects selected by federal trustees

\$500M split equally among Gulf State Trustees



\$200M split equally between NOAA and DOI

Potential Injury to Gulf of Mexico Pelagic Resources

Oil spills and fish health: exposing the heart of the matter

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^bOceans and Human Health Initiative, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA



OPEN ACCESS Freely available online



Spatial, Temporal, and Habitat-Related Variation in Abundance of Pelagic Fishes in the Gulf of Mexico: Potential Implications of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Jay R. Rooker^{1,2*}, Larissa L. Kitchens^{1,2}, Michael A. Dance^{1,2}, R. J. David Wells¹, Brett Falterman², Maelle Cornic¹



Deepwater Horizon crude oil impacts the developing hearts of large predatory pelagic fish

John P. Incardona^{a,1}, Luke D. Gardner^b, Tiffany L. Linbo^a, Tanya L. Brown^a, Andrew J. Esbaugh^c, Edward M. Mager^c, John D. Stieglitz^c, Barbara L. French^a, Jana S. Labenia^a, Cathy A. Laetz^a, Mark Tagal^a, Catherine A. Sloan^a, Abigail Elizur^a, Daniel D. Benetti^c, Martin Grosell^c, Barbara A. Block^b, and Nathaniel L. Scholz^a

Aquatic Toxicology 142–143 (2013) 303–316



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Aquatic Toxicology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/aquatox



Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Marine Pollution Bulletin

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/marpolbul



Overlap between Atlantic bluefin tuna spawning grounds and observed Deepwater Horizon surface oil in the northern Gulf of Mexico

B.A. Muhling^{a,*}, M.A. Roffer^b, J.T. Lamkin^c, G.W. Ingram Jr.^d, M.A. Upton^b, G. Gawlikowski^b, F. Muller-Karger^e, S. Habtes^e, W.J. Richards^e

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^eCollege of Marine Science, University of South Florida, 340 Seventh Avenue, South St. Petersburg, FL 33701, USA

Exxon Valdez to Deepwater Horizon: Comparable toxicity of both crude oils to fish early life stages

John P. Incardona^{a,*}, Tanya L. Swarts^a, Richard C. Edmunds^a, Tiffany L. Linbo^a, Allisan Aquilina-Beck^a, Catherine A. Sloan^a, Luke D. Gardner^b, Barbara A. Block^b, Nathaniel L. Scholz^a

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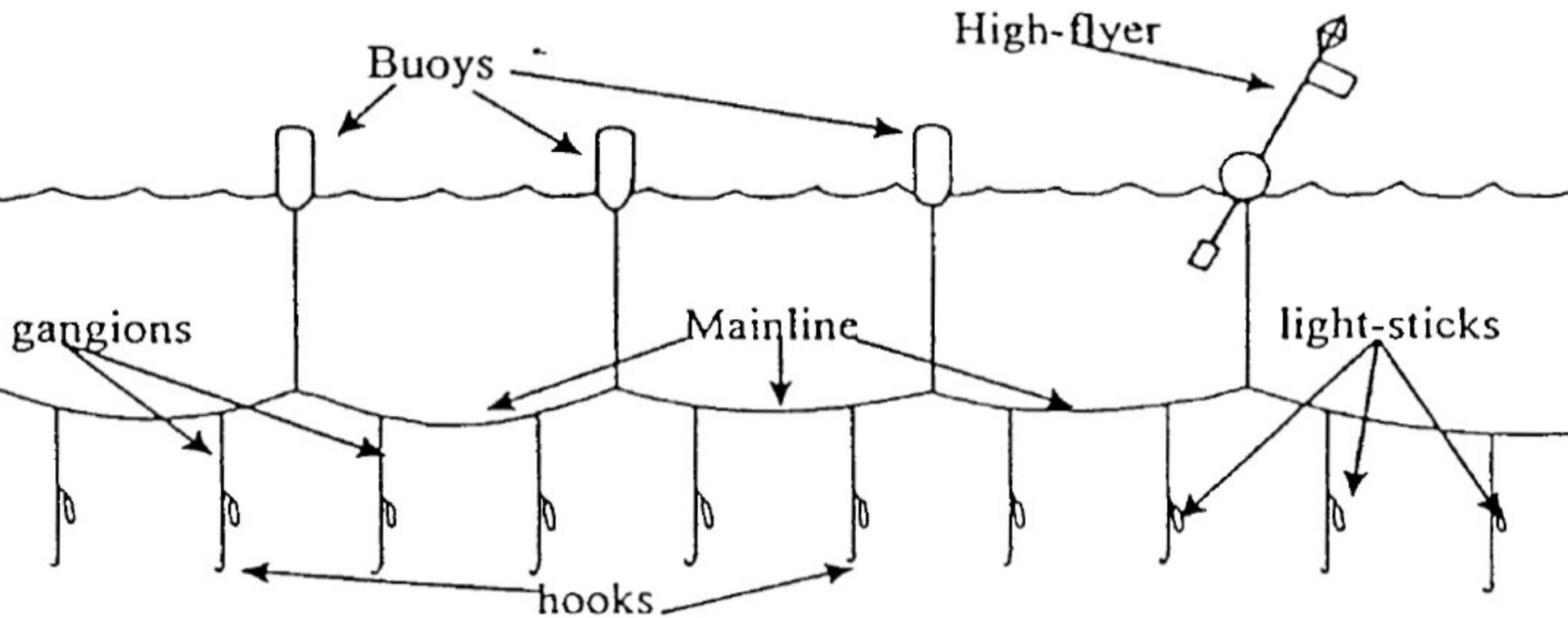


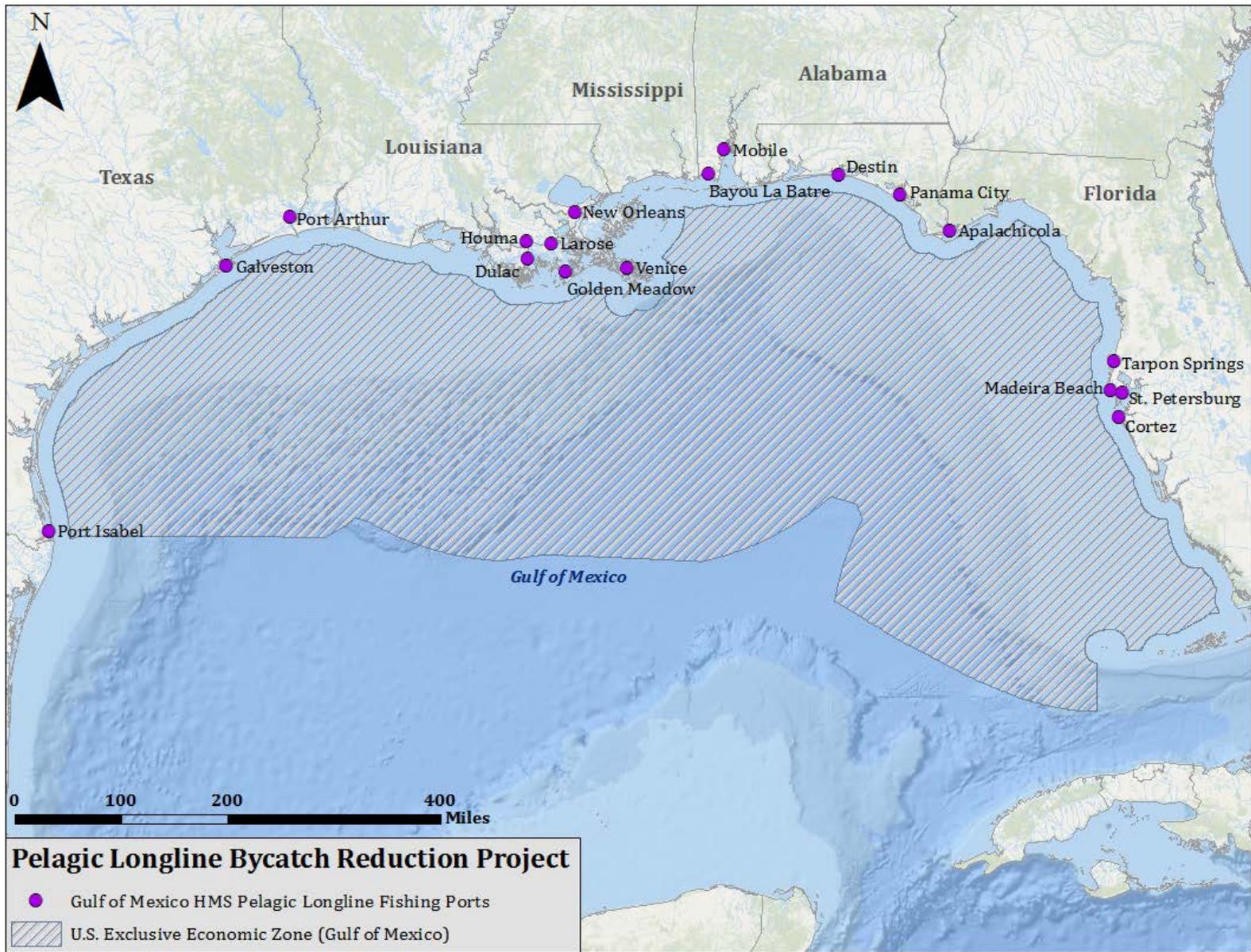
Pelagic Longline Bycatch Reduction Project

Background: Gulf of Mexico PLL Fishery

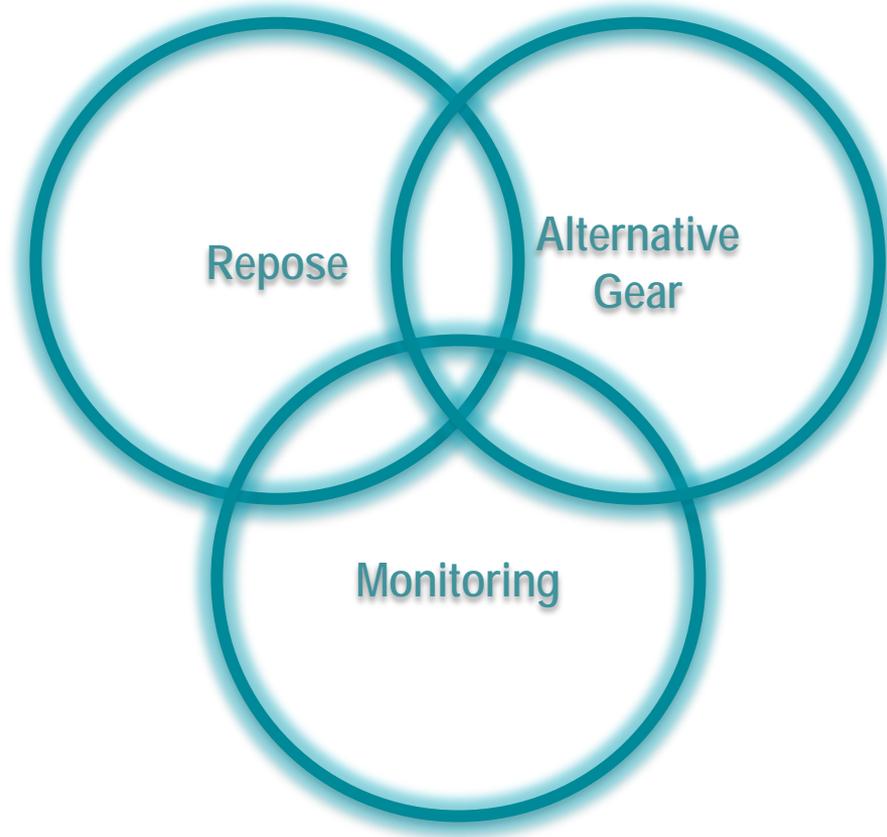
- Primarily target Yellowfin Tuna and Swordfish
- Limited access fishery
- ~ 50 Vessels operate in the Gulf
- Landed in LA, FL, TX, & AL
- Final rule for Amendment 7 significant changes to the fishery
 - Limits access to GOM via IBQ
- Fishing practices vary regionally and by target

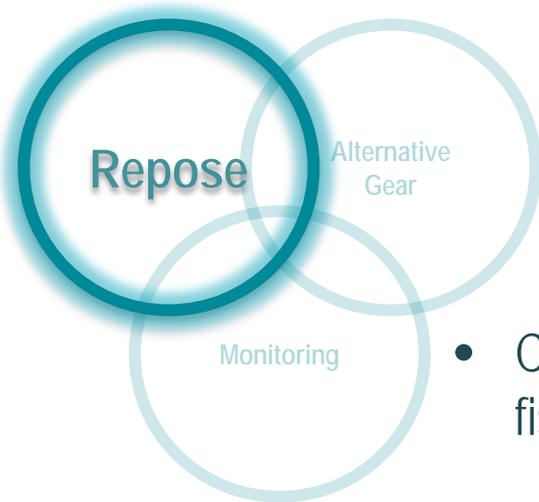
Gulf of Mexico PLL Fishery



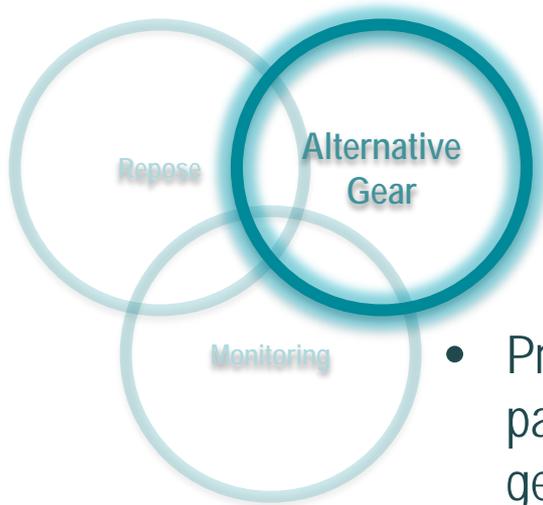


Goal: ...to restore pelagic fish biomass through actions that are expected to reduce fish mortality from bycatch and regulatory discards in the portion of the U.S. Atlantic pelagic longline (PLL) fishery operating in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM)...

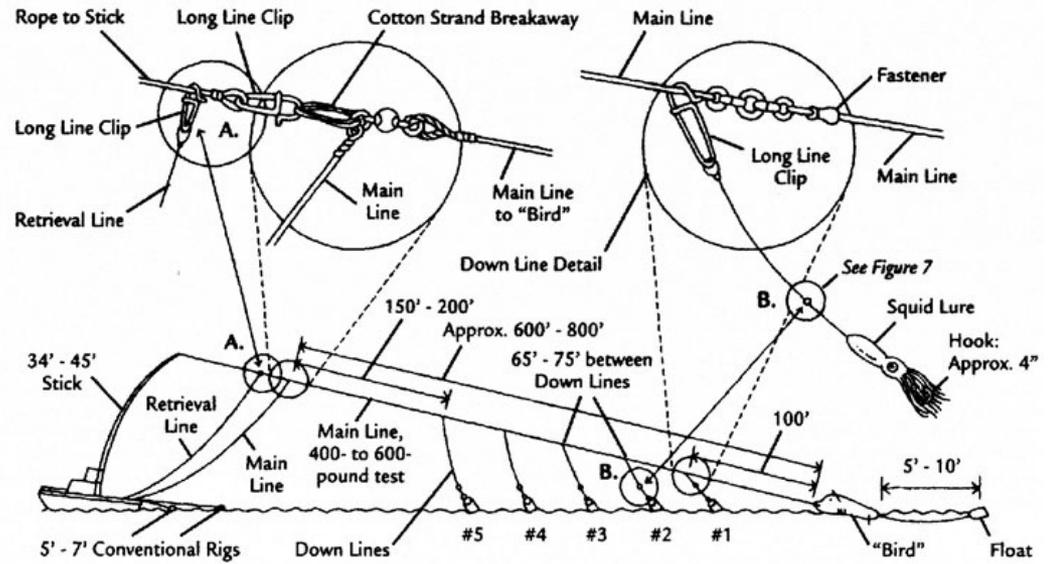
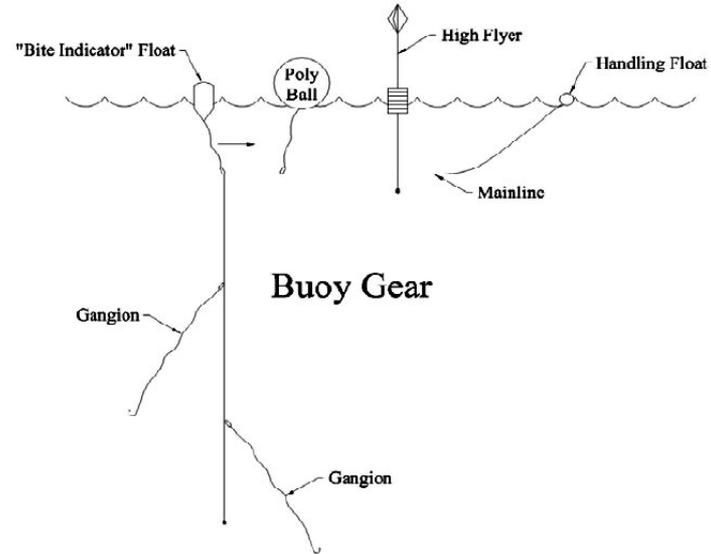
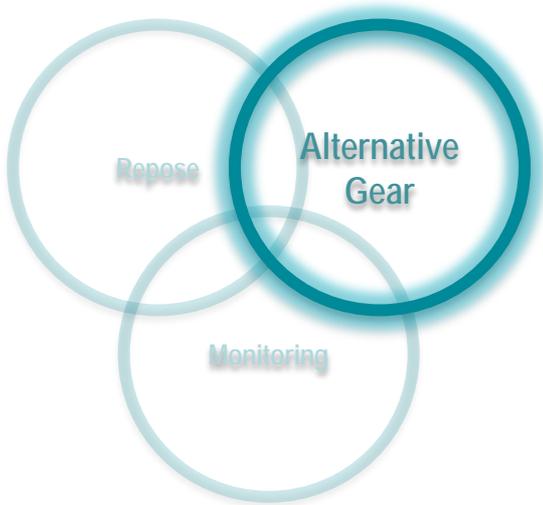


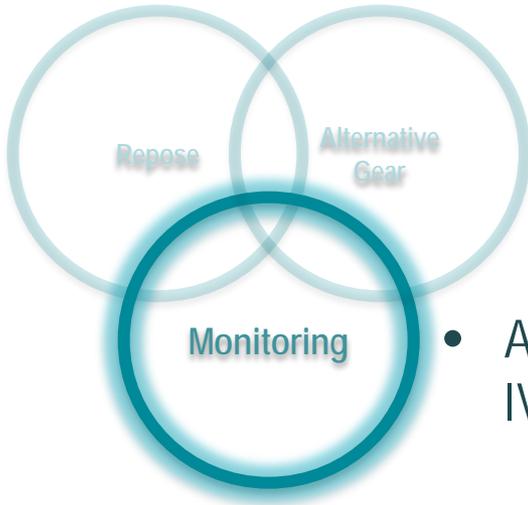


- Compensation-based voluntary annual 6-month repose from PLL fishing in the GOM
- Targeted to coincide with bluefin tuna spawning season in the GOM
- During the repose period, participating fishermen could continue to fish for yellowfin tuna and swordfish but using only the provided alternative fishing gear

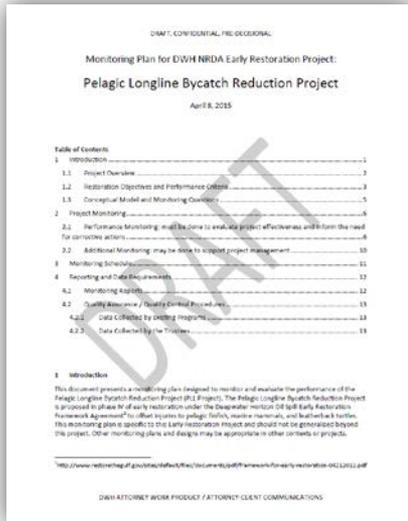


- Provisioning of two alternative gear types to PLL fishermen participating in the repose period: greenstick gear and/or buoy gear
- During the PLL repose period, fishers would be encouraged/ incentivized to use the alternative gears to harvest targeted species
- Objective: to reduce adverse financial impact to fishers and help maintain local economies during the PLL repose periods
- Technical extension services (research, outreach, and training on the use of the alternative gear types) will be provided to participants to educate users and tune alternative gear to maximize effectiveness





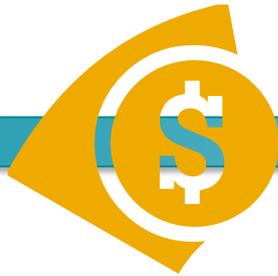
- A full monitoring plan has been drafted for inclusion in the Phase IV DERP
- Monitoring capitalizes on existing data collection programs and data management systems within NMFS (e.g. POP, VMS, HMS Logbooks)
- Expansion or modification of existing programs will facilitate capture of project-specific data (e.g. updating POP data management infrastructure for inclusion of alternative gear data)



Additional Project Information

- Project Budget: \$20 million
- Resource benefits based on 60 vessel-years of participation
 - Provides flexibility to meet project goals with various participations rates
 - Project duration based on participation (10 vessels over 6yrs vs. 6 vessels over 10yrs)
- Alt gears are not anticipated to fully replicate catch of target species from PLL gear
 - Gear training and gear improvement efforts are expected to increase catch efficiency over the life of the project
 - Repose compensation in addition to alternative gear use are anticipated to jointly offset economic impacts to owners, operators, and suppliers

DWH NRDA Early Restoration Process



\$1B Committed by BP



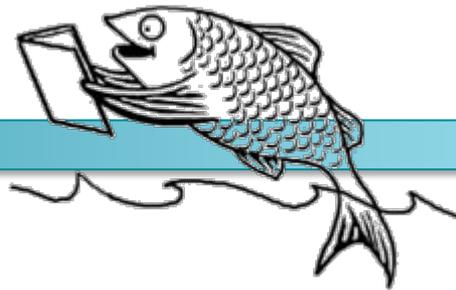
Trustees Design Projects



Negotiate Cost & Benefits with BP



Final Plan
Funding Transferred
Implementation

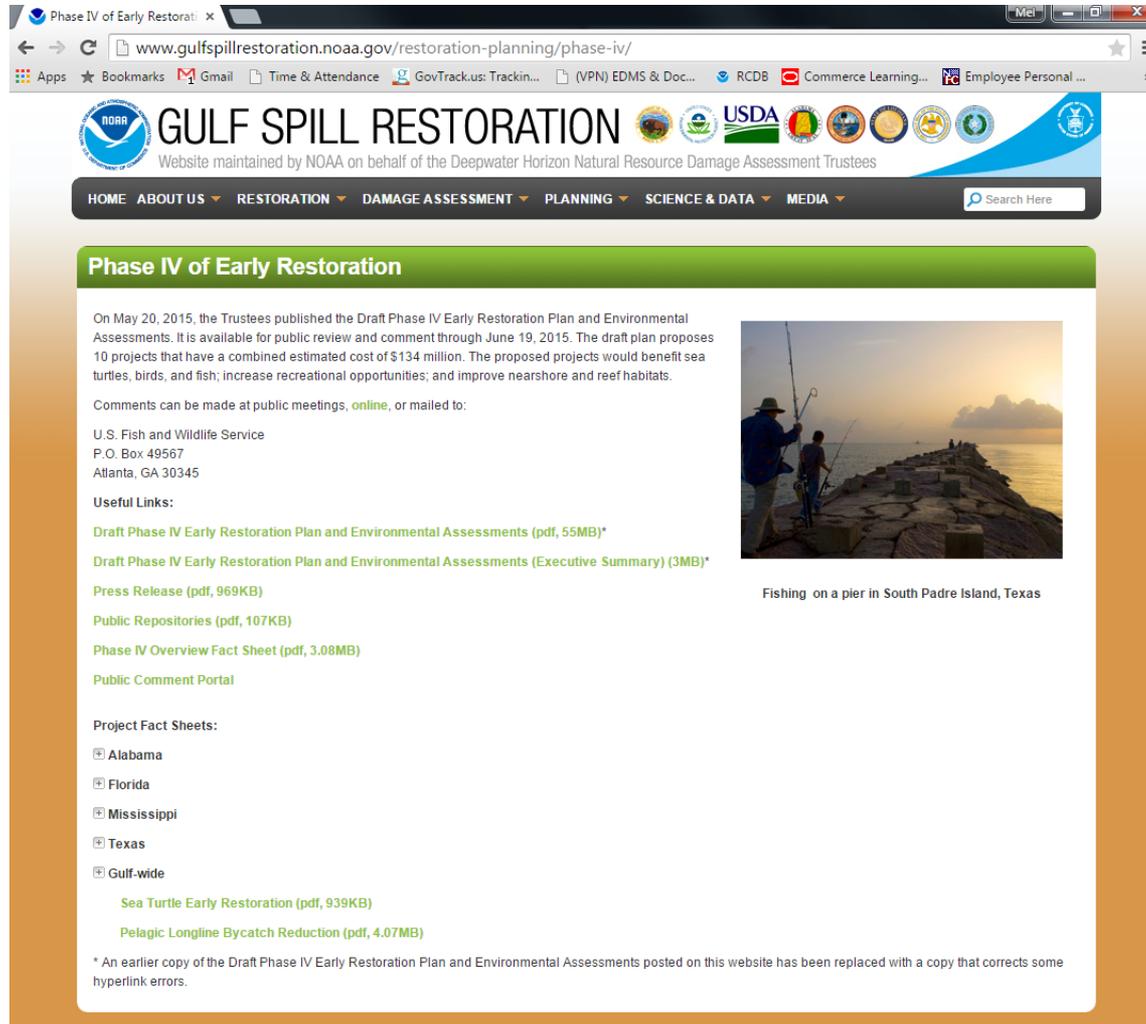


Public Review



DRAFT Early
Restoration Plan &
NEPA

GulfSpillRestoration.NOAA.gov



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/phase-iv/. The page header features the NOAA logo and the text "GULF SPILL RESTORATION" with a sub-header "Website maintained by NOAA on behalf of the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustees". A navigation menu includes links for HOME, ABOUT US, RESTORATION, DAMAGE ASSESSMENT, PLANNING, SCIENCE & DATA, and MEDIA. A search bar is also present.

Phase IV of Early Restoration

On May 20, 2015, the Trustees published the Draft Phase IV Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessments. It is available for public review and comment through June 19, 2015. The draft plan proposes 10 projects that have a combined estimated cost of \$134 million. The proposed projects would benefit sea turtles, birds, and fish; increase recreational opportunities; and improve nearshore and reef habitats.

Comments can be made at public meetings, [online](#), or mailed to:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 49567
Atlanta, GA 30345

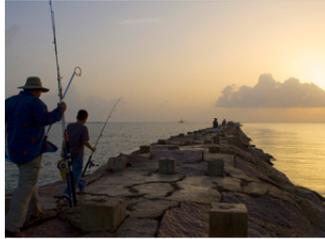
Useful Links:

- [Draft Phase IV Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessments \(pdf, 55MB\)*](#)
- [Draft Phase IV Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessments \(Executive Summary\) \(3MB\)*](#)
- [Press Release \(pdf, 969KB\)](#)
- [Public Repositories \(pdf, 107KB\)](#)
- [Phase IV Overview Fact Sheet \(pdf, 3.08MB\)](#)
- [Public Comment Portal](#)

Project Fact Sheets:

- Alabama
- Florida
- Mississippi
- Texas
- Gulf-wide
 - [Sea Turtle Early Restoration \(pdf, 939KB\)](#)
 - [Pelagic Longline Bycatch Reduction \(pdf, 4.07MB\)](#)

* An earlier copy of the Draft Phase IV Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessments posted on this website has been replaced with a copy that corrects some hyperlink errors.



Fishing on a pier in South Padre Island, Texas

Draft Timeline: Project Implementation

- Complete: Develop project for negotiation
- Complete: Negotiate project under NRDA Early Restoration
- 2015 Summer: Phase IV Early Restoration Plan development, public review, and finalization
- 2015 Fall / 2016 Winter: Develop Project Implementation Plan
- 2016 Spring/Summer/Fall: Institute monitoring framework, develop implementation contracts/agreements
- 2017 January: Implement repose / alternative gear / monitoring

Discussion

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Project Executive Team

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