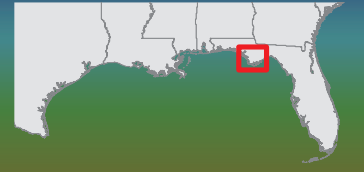




Gulf Coast
Ecosystem
Restoration
Council

Apalachicola Bay Watershed

Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration
(FL_RESTORE_002_006_Cat1)



Project Name: Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration

Costs: Category 1: \$4,680,000

Responsible Council Member: State of Florida

Project Details: This project will initiate substantive restoration of oyster reefs within Apalachicola Bay, an area with nationally and regionally significant oyster reefs, by placing substrate or "cultch" in bays where natural reproduction occurs. Cultch placement is among the most effective technique used to: 1) create reef infrastructure; 2) stimulate spat setting; 3) sustain oyster fisheries; 4) enhance ecological community functions; 5) increase natural productivity; and 6) accelerate the recovery process. The project will expand the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Early Restoration Phase III oyster cultch project.

Activities: The project activities include the placement of approximately 50,258 cubic yards of suitable oyster reef substrate through the use of barges and high-pressure water. Areas to be cultched will be marked with buoys or clearly marked stakes. Following the completion of the planting, oyster density (spat, sub-legal- and legal-sized) sampling will be conducted and analyzed at 6 months, 1 year and 2 years after clatching at each restoration site.

Environmental Benefits: Deliverables associated with this project include the restoration of approximately 251 acres of natural oyster reefs created in the Apalachicola Bay and monitoring data. The monitoring data will be used to inform oyster fisheries managers of commercially productive reefs in the Apalachicola Bay.

Ecological benefits associated with the project are realized through an array of ecosystem services in the form of increased fishery and wildlife habitat; increased biodiversity and trophic dynamics; increased filtering capacity to improve water quality and recycle nutrients; increased structural stability to reduce coastal erosion and to protect near shore resources; protection of water quality; and the protection of healthy, diverse and sustainable living coastal marine resources.

Duration: Approximately three years from the time funding is received.


More information on these activities can be found at <https://restorethegulf.gov/council-selected-restoration-component/funded-priorities-list>.



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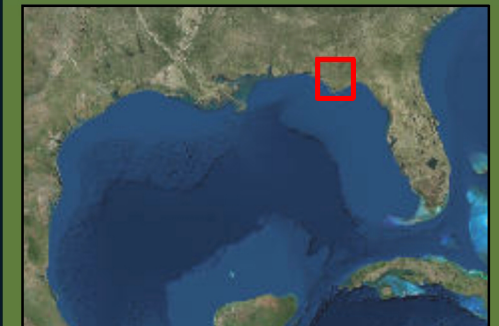
 Oyster Restoration

Costs: Category 1: \$4,680,000

Sponsor: State of Florida

Project Status: Planning and Implementation

Purpose: The project involves the placement of 50,258 cubic yards of suitable oyster reef substrate to restore approximately 251 acres of oyster reef habitat in Apalachicola Bay. Some portion of the funds could be used to complete any remaining planning activities necessary for implementation.



Map Date: August 24, 2016

St Joseph Bay

Apalachicola Bay

Gulf of Mexico