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## Ecosystem Modeling and Chandeleur Islands Restoration

1 message

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Tue, Jun 30, 2020 at 1:37 PM

To: Ben Scaggs <ben.scaggs@restorethegulf.gov>

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Through the collaboration process, DOI and the States have determined that for the outstanding proposal on Ecosystem Modeling and Chandeleur Islands Restoration E&D, alternative funding sources might be available. Therefore, DOI is withdrawing our request for funding the Chandeleur Islands E&D under the RESTORE 3b.

Mary Josie Blanchard

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**Draft Funded Priorities List 3b**  
**Proposal Abstract**  
**(Withdrawn by DOI 06/30/2020)**

**Sponsor:** U.S. Department of the Interior, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Proposal:** Ecosystem Modeling and Chandeleur Island Restoration Engineering & Design (DOI/FWS)

“Ecosystem Modeling and Chandeleur Island Restoration Engineering and Design” is a planning project to develop a holistic restoration planning strategy for the ecologically interconnected Pontchartrain Basin, Chandeleur Sound, Mississippi Sound, and Mobile Bay system, and apply this strategy to the Chandeleur Islands as an exemplar. Targeted modeling is needed to assess the outcomes of this approach on multiple spatial scales (island-wide and regional) and under the range of forcing driving island evolution including multiple storm impacts and recovery periods. However, observational analysis and modeling suggests that this holistic, process-based approach to restoration is a viable, sustained approach for preserving coastal barrier islands like the Chandeleurs. This system includes portions of three states, which has challenged the ability to pursue restoration comprehensively. To address this challenge, we are proposing three project components. Component one entails an integrated modeling effort to unify the diverse models that have been developed for this region to leverage their individual capacities, cross calibrate, and gain a regional perspective on system dynamics to inform restoration planning. A more localized hydro-geomorphic model will be developed to screen restoration alternatives under various scenarios. Component 2 is preliminary engineering and design (E&D) for the Chandeleur Islands that includes permitting and environmental compliance. Component 3 is final E&D design. The Chandeleurs are a barrier island chain that sustains estuaries by providing habitat for fish and wildlife, attenuating wave energy to protect shorelines, and modulating salinity. Some predict complete submergence of the Chandeleur Islands within decades. Should these projections prove true, the Chandeleurs would erode into a shoal and its ecosystem services and functions would be lost. Given the importance of the Chandeleurs, restoration planning is required now. The modeling component of this project will cost \$2.5 million and take two years to complete; preliminary design is \$2 million and take 2 ½ years to complete; final E&D is \$3.5 million and will be complete 3 years after funding.