



# FUNDED PRIORITIES LIST 3B

## Coastal Nearshore Habitat Restoration and Development Program in Mississippi

Funded Priorities List (FPL) 3b is part of a two-phase approach used by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) to respond to ecosystem needs and take advantage of important partnership opportunities to advance large-scale ecosystem restoration.

The Council is considering approval of \$6.92M in planning funds as FPL Category 1 for the *Coastal Nearshore Habitat Restoration and Development Program* in Mississippi. In addition, the Council is considering an implementation component for potential future funding as an FPL Category 2 activity, and proposes to reserve \$27.68M for this component, pending further review and a Council vote. The *Coastal Nearshore Habitat Restoration and Development Program in Mississippi* would utilize the Planning Framework techniques and approaches outlined in the figure below to address environmental stressors in the Mississippi Sound. Mississippi, through the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality is the sponsor of this proposed program.

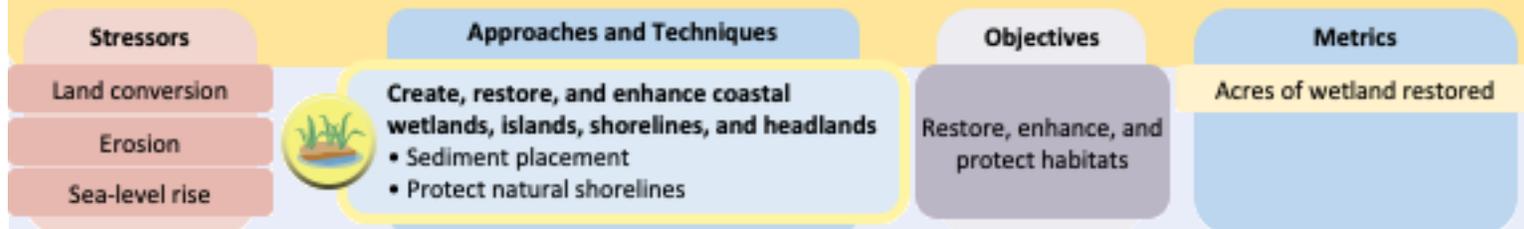
The program will support the restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region by creating, restoring, and enhancing coastal habitat, including marsh, beach, and dunes, through the dedicated sourcing of materials. To accomplish this, program activities include planning, engineering and design, and construction of habitat in the three coastal counties of Mississippi. The program builds from work funded by the Initial Funded Priority List, as well as National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Ecosystem Benefit Fund projects. To accelerate habitat creation and restoration, MDEQ may utilize multiple methods for sourcing habitat construction material, such as dedicated material sourcing from borrow sites, upland sites, and beneficial use of dredge materials. Mississippi will continue to develop sites that have already been identified until other planning efforts, as practicable, and may also work with state and federal agencies to identify additional sites that would allow strategic coastal habitat restoration.

Coastal nearshore habitats provide many ecosystem services including acting as natural buffers to protect shorelines from eroding, storm surge protection, fisheries production, and water quality benefits through sediment and nutrient reduction. The creation of new coastal nearshore habitats and the restoration of these habitats will continue to support and increase these ecosystem services to coastal systems in Mississippi.

### Program at a Glance

The *Coastal Nearshore Habitat Restoration and Development Program in Mississippi* applies Planning Framework approaches and techniques to support Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. In support of the primary objective to *Restore, enhance, and protect habitats*, stressors such as land conversion, erosion, and sea-level rise will be addressed using the *Sediment placement* technique and the *Protect natural shorelines* technique. Success using sediment placement and natural shoreline protection to *Restore, enhance, and protect habitats* may be tracked using acres of wetland restored as a metric.

#### Comprehensive Plan Goal: Restore and conserve habitat



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