



# RSPA WG Working Group Update

49<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the NOAA Science Advisory Board  
Silver Spring, MD

Wednesday, April 16, 2014



# Background

## RESTORE Act of 2012

Section 1604 authorizes NOAA to establish a Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring, and Technology Program (NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program)

*“...to carry out research, observation, and monitoring to support, to the maximum extent practicable, the long-term sustainability of the ecosystem, fish stocks, fish habitat, and the recreational, commercial, and charter fishing industry in the Gulf of Mexico.”*



# Legislative Requirements



- Coordinate with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Consult with Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC)
- Priority shall be given to integrated, long-term projects that address management needs
- Funds may not be used for
  - any existing or planned research led by NOAA,
  - implementation or initiation of new NOAA regulations, and
  - development of or approval of a fisheries catch share program



# Approved Terms of Reference



- Provide informed regional advice on GOM RESTORE related ecosystem science and monitoring to both the Administrative Body and the Oversight Board for implementation of NOAA's RESTORE science program
- Assist NOAA's RESTORE program in establishing plans, assessing progress, and reviewing priorities
- Provide a formal forum for the discussion and coordination of RESTORE related science outside of NOAA's program
- Coordinate with other SAB Working Groups, specifically the Ecosystem Science and Management Working Group (ESMWG)



# Goals (proposed)

- Support Healthy, Diverse & Resilient Coastal Habitats
- Promote Healthy, Diverse & Sustainable Living Coastal & Marine Resources
- Support Sustainably Managed Fisheries
- Support Healthy, Sustainable, & Resilient Coastal Communities able to adapt to a changing environment
- Support Healthy and Well-managed Offshore Environments



# RSPA WG Membership



***The RSPA WG shall be composed 15-20 individuals from 3 groups of outstanding scientists and leaders with a broad interest in Gulf of Mexico RESTORE related activities:***

**Group 1** - Representatives of science related organizations in the Gulf of Mexico

**Group 2** - *Ex-officio* members representing other funding organizations

**Group 3** - A rotating group of external subject matter experts



# RSPA WG Member Groups



**Group 1:** *Seven members representing science related organizations in the Gulf of Mexico and called out in the actual RESTORE ACT*

1. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
  - Mr. Jeffery Rester, Member, GSMFC
2. Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
  - Dr. Carrie Simmons, Deputy Director, GMFMC

*RESTORE Centers of Excellence for the states of :*

3. Florida
4. Alabama
5. Mississippi
6. Louisiana
7. Texas



# RSPA WG Member Groups



**Group 2:** *Four ex-officio members representing other funding organizations*

1. Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative
  - Mr. Charles Wilson, Chief Science Officer, GOMRI
2. National Academy of Sciences
  - Dr. Maggie Walser, Senior Program Officer, Gulf Research Program, NAS
3. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
  - Dr. Pasquale F. Roscigno, Supervisory Environmental Scientist, Gulf of Mexico Region; Chief, Environmental Studies Program, BOEM
4. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
  - Dr. Anthony Chatwin, Director, Marine and Coastal Conservation, NFWF





# RSPA WG Member Groups



## **Group 3:** *A rotating group of external subject matter experts (SMEs)*

- Individuals terms have been assigned
- Chair selected
- Subject areas include
  - Marine/estuarine ecosystem-based modeling
  - Ecological effects of hypoxia
  - Deep sea microbial ecology
  - Harmful algal blooms
  - Coastal nutrient management
  - Marine/estuarine geology
  - Applications of science in marine/estuarine management



# Next Steps

- The representatives for the Centers of Excellence will be identified after the Centers have been established.
- The first meeting to be scheduled in Mississippi and held in June.
- A co-chair will be selected once the full working group is established.