



Terms of Reference and Membership Approach for Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science Program Advisory Working Group (RSPA WG)

A Presentation to the
NOAA Science Advisory Board

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NOAA SAB

Wednesday, July 24, 2013



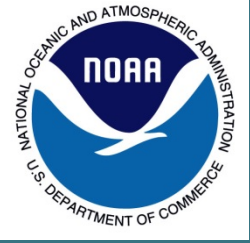
Outline



- RESTORE Act Background
- Request SAB approval of RSPA WG Terms of Reference
- Request SAB approval of RAPAWG Membership approach



Background



RESTORE Act Requirements

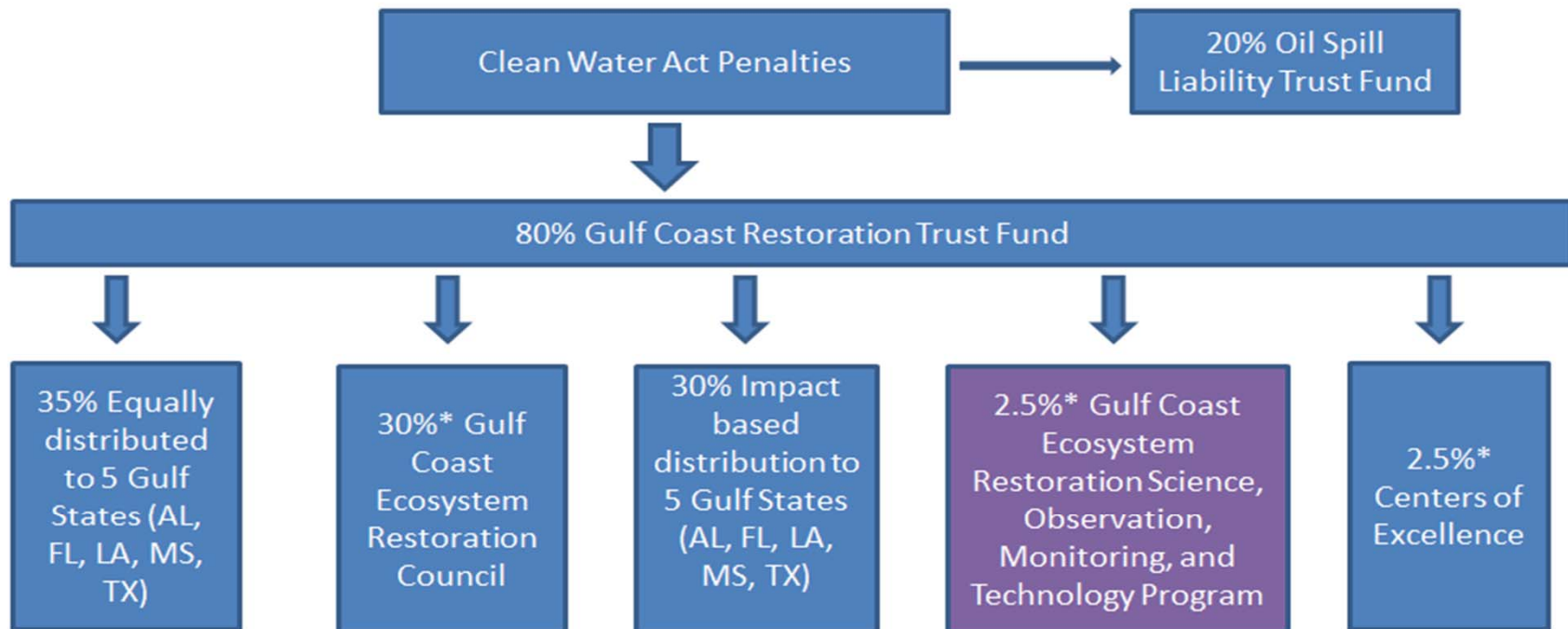
- Legislative intent - "to carry out research, observation, and monitoring to support the long-term sustainability of the ecosystem, fish stocks, fish habitat, and the recreational, commercial, and charter fishing industry in the Gulf of Mexico"
- NOAA and USFWS shall consult with the Regional Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) in carrying out the program.
- Priority shall be given to integrated, long-term projects that build on, or are coordinated with, related research activities and address current or anticipated marine ecosystem, fishery, or wildlife management information needs.
- Funds may not be used for any existing or planned research led by NOAA, unless agreed to in writing by the grant recipient; implement existing regulations or initiate new regulations promulgated or proposed by NOAA; or develop or approve a new limited access privilege program



RESTORE Funds Allocation



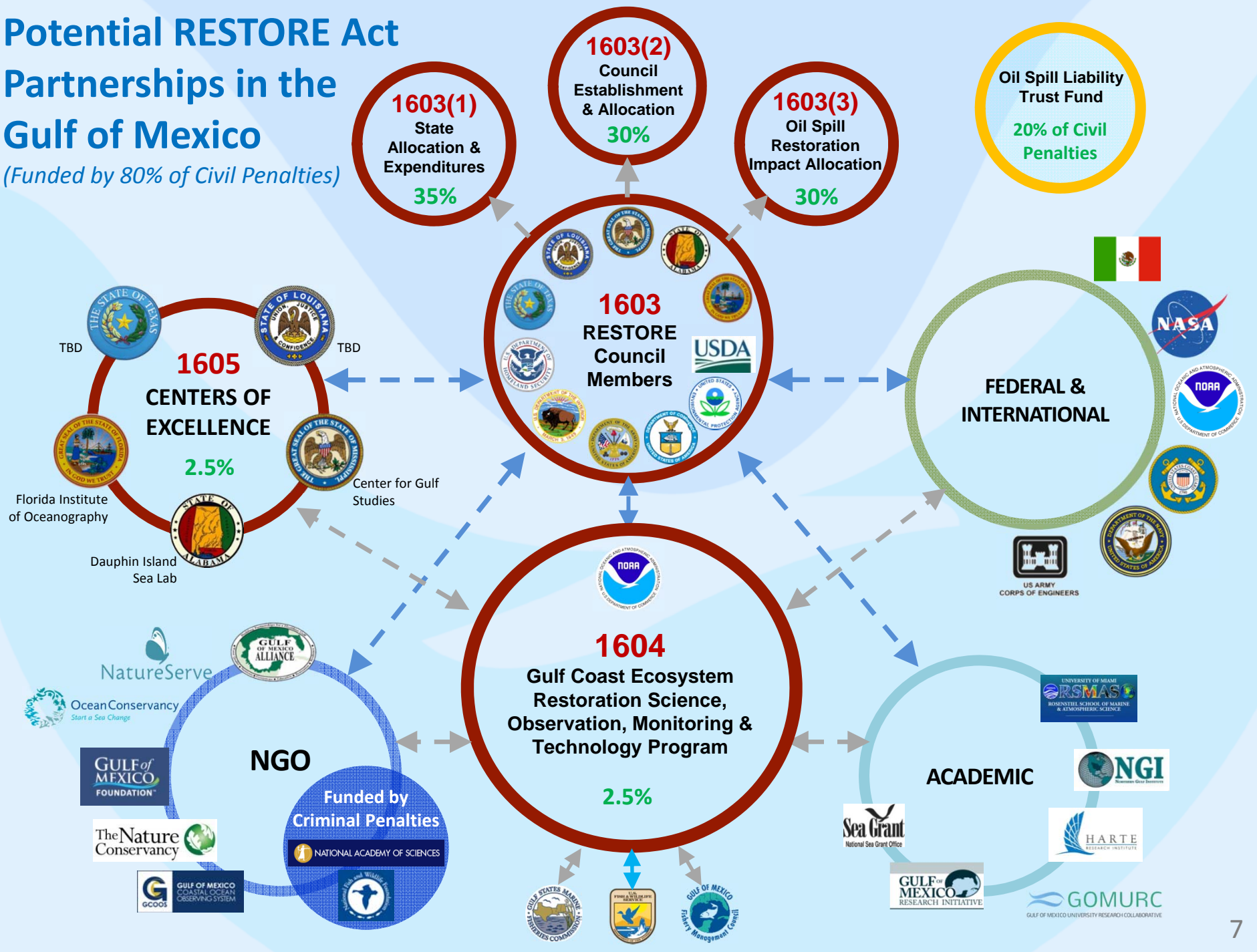
Distribution of Clean Water Act Penalties



***Supplemented by interest generated by the Trust Fund (50% to Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, 25% to Science Program, 25% to Centers of Excellence)**

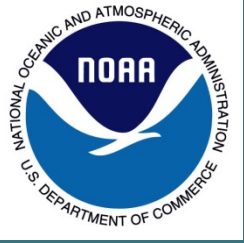
Potential RESTORE Act Partnerships in the Gulf of Mexico

(Funded by 80% of Civil Penalties)





Section 1604 of the RESTORE Act



- NOAA shall develop framework to establish the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring, and Technology Program (Program).
 - Website: <http://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/>
- Section 1604 to be funded by:
 - 2.5% of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Trust Fund, established by the RESTORE Act, which comprises 80% of Clean Water Act civil penalties to be recovered from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and
 - 25% of annual Trust Fund earned interest and investment proceeds.
- First \$1B in funds from Transocean settlement; no year money



Section 1604: Organization & Governance



- Administratively located in NOAA's National Ocean Service but with cross-agency participation
- Small NOAA program staff within NOS to administer the science program
- Mixed funding approaches (e.g. grants, contracts, cooperative agreements)
- Executive Oversight Board of senior NOAA and USFWS science leadership



Section 1604: Organization & Governance

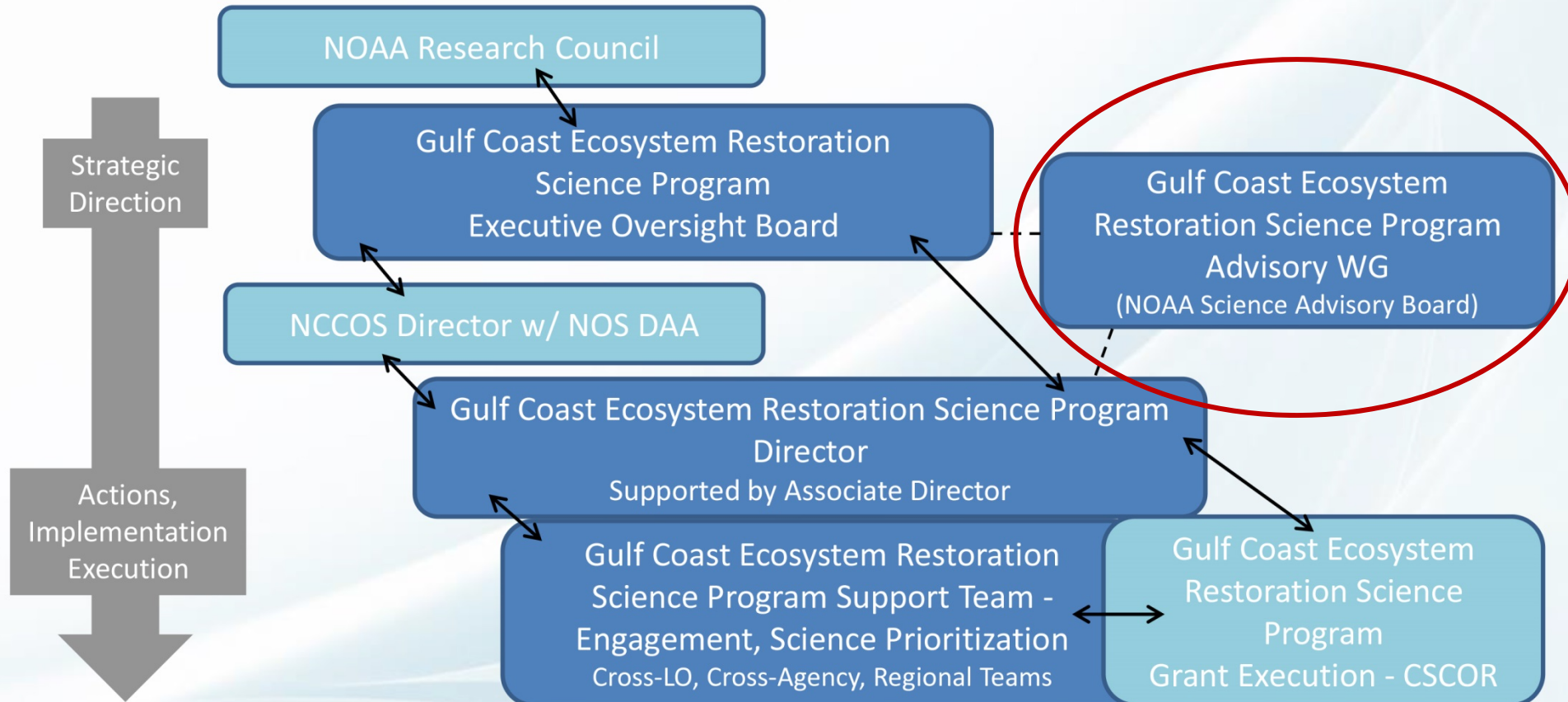


- NOAA will also establish a FACA-approved Advisory Body as a standing Working Group
 - May include representatives from the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, and other organizations
 - Will meet regularly (2-3x/year) to provide advice and input for implementation of NOAA's RESTORE science program.

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring, and Technology Program

(RESTORE Act Science Program)

Planning and Execution Organizational Structure



Color Key:



NOAA Infrastructure Support



RESTORE Act Science Program Structures

Current as of June 5, 2013



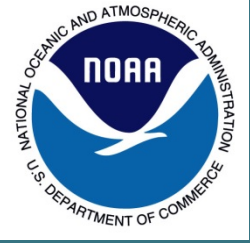
Terms of Reference

- 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)



Terms of Reference

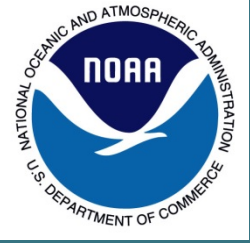
- The RSPAWG will not be involved in the development of NOAA's RESTORE science program funding initiatives or in the award of the program's contracts or grants
- In all its activities the RSPAWG will take into consideration:
 - The 4 focus areas set forth for the RESTORE Act program
 - The 8 principles set forth by the NOAA SAB



Terms of Reference

RESTORE Act program focus areas

1. “State of health” for the Gulf (e.g., ecosystem assessment), incorporating environmental, socio-economic, and human well-being benefits and elements
2. Integrated analysis and synthesis of data
3. Ecosystem processes, functioning and connectivity studies
4. Holistic approaches to observing and monitoring



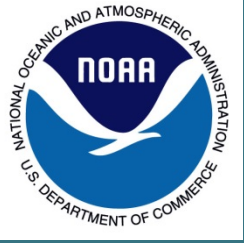
Terms of Reference

Principles set forth by the NOAA SAB

1. Quality, Creativity and Credibility
2. Timeliness and Scale
3. Science Connected to the Application and Operational Implementation of Policy
4. Capacity Building
5. Education and Outreach
6. Efficiency
7. Social Science Integration
8. Diversity



Proposed Membership

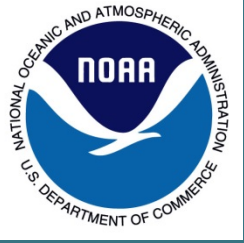


The RSPAWG shall be composed 15-20 individuals from 3 groups of outstanding scientists and leaders with a broad interest in Gulf of Mexico RESTORE related activities:

1. A group representing science related organizations in the Gulf of Mexico
2. A group of ex-officio members representing other funding organizations
3. A rotating group of external subject matter experts



Proposed Membership



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

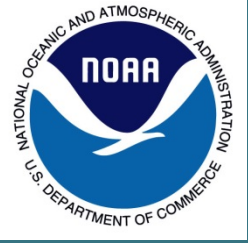
1. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
2. Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

RESTORE Centers of Excellence for the states of :

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



Proposed Membership

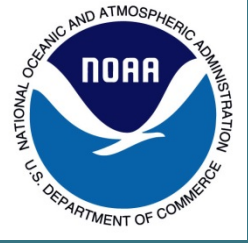


Group 2: *Four ex-officio members representing other funding organizations*

1. Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative
2. National Academy of Sciences
3. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
4. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

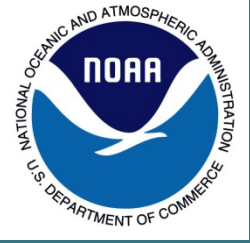


Proposed Membership



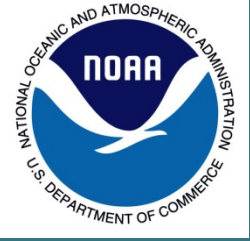
Group 3: *A rotating group of external subject matter experts*

- Individuals appointed for one 3-year term, which is renewable for one additional 3-year term.
- Subject areas represented might include, as examples
 - 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



Membership Approach

- Representational members will be solicited directly by letter from the SAB to the agencies and organizations listed
 - the SAB will request that individuals who serve on the RSPAWG have a credible background in science.
- Subject matter experts (SMEs) will be solicited through a Federal Register Notice put out by NOAA that will identify specific areas of expertise sought.
 - Individuals will be selected by a committee consisting of appropriate NOAA staff and SAB members.
 - SMEs do not have to conduct their research in the Gulf of Mexico.

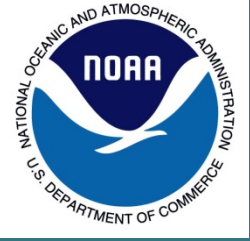


Tentative Timeline

- SAB approves Terms of Reference and Membership Approach - July 2013
- Federal Register Notice - August 2013
- Letters to agencies and organizations - August 2013
- Selection of members - September 2013
- First RSPAWG meeting - by the end of 2013 or early 2014



SAB Actions



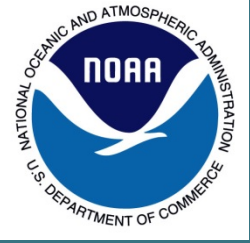
1. Approval of RSPA WG Terms of Reference
2. Approval of RAPA WG Membership Approach



Backup Slides



- *[if applicable]*



Purpose & Principles

Purpose: Achieve an *integrative, holistic understanding of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem* and support, to the maximum extent practicable, restoration efforts and the long-term sustainability of the ecosystem

Principles:

- An ecosystem approach
- Integrate and build on existing research, monitoring, and modeling efforts and plans
- Leverage partnerships
- Work within a management and policy framework developed with other entities in the Gulf
- Design a scalable and modular approach



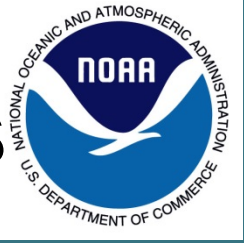
Focus Areas

To achieve the broad categories articulated in the RESTORE Act, research shall focus on four areas:

1. “State of health” for the Gulf (e.g., ecosystem assessment), incorporating environmental, socio- economic, and human well-being benefits and elements
2. Integrated analysis and synthesis of data
3. Ecosystem processes, functioning and connectivity studies through integrative field/laboratory efforts
4. Holistic approaches to observing and monitoring



Program Development Process



- Developed by cross-NOAA Line Office team, with US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) representatives
- Initial guidance from NOAA Administrator to inform discussions
 - Emphasize importance of ecosystem services
 - Approach the Gulf of Mexico as an integrated ecosystem
- Engaged with partners and stakeholders throughout process
- Once the Clean Water Act penalties are resolved and operational funds are available, NOAA will engage with numerous Gulf partners, as well as NRDA and others, to prepare a detailed program implementation plan