



NOAA Science Advisory Board

Establishment of an **RESTORE Science Advisory Board**

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Briefing Purpose

- Provide overview of NOAA's involvement in RESTORE science
- Request establishment of a RESTORE Advisory Body as a Working Group under the NOAA SAB
- Request SAB review of the draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group



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



Section 1604 of the RESTORE Act



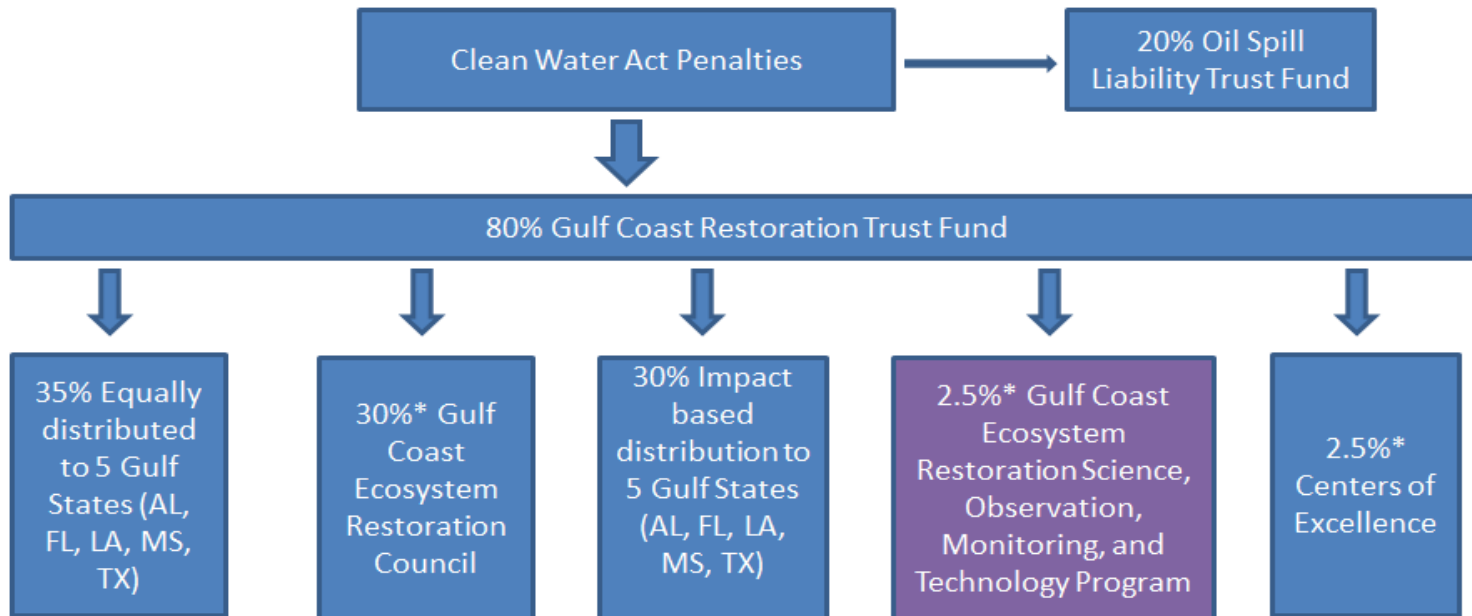
- NOAA shall develop framework to establish the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring, and Technology Program (Program).
- Section 1604 to be funded by:
 - 2.5% of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Trust Fund, established by the RESTORE Act, which comprises 80% of Clean 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



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)**



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:

- “State of health” of the Gulf
- Integrated analysis and synthesis of data
- Ecosystem processes, functioning and connectivity through integrative field/laboratory efforts
- 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



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



Organization & Governance



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



SAB Action Item 1

Does the SAB agree to the establishment of a RESTORE Advisory Working Group under the umbrella of the SAB?



SAB Action Item 2

- 1) Does the SAB agree to provide comments on the draft Terms of Reference for the WG?
- 2) Is the SAB comfortable with the proposed approach to membership for the WG?



Questions?

