



**NOAA Response to:
Comments and Recommendations on the
NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program's
Draft Science Plan**

NOAA Science Advisory Board

November 18, 2014

Mary Erickson



Purpose

- Discuss overarching findings in response to SAB recommendations on draft science plan
- Provide update to the SAB on current status of draft science plan and initial FFO
- Provide an overview of the path ahead for the SAB RESTORE Science Program Advisory Working Group



Overarching Findings A Useful Catalyst



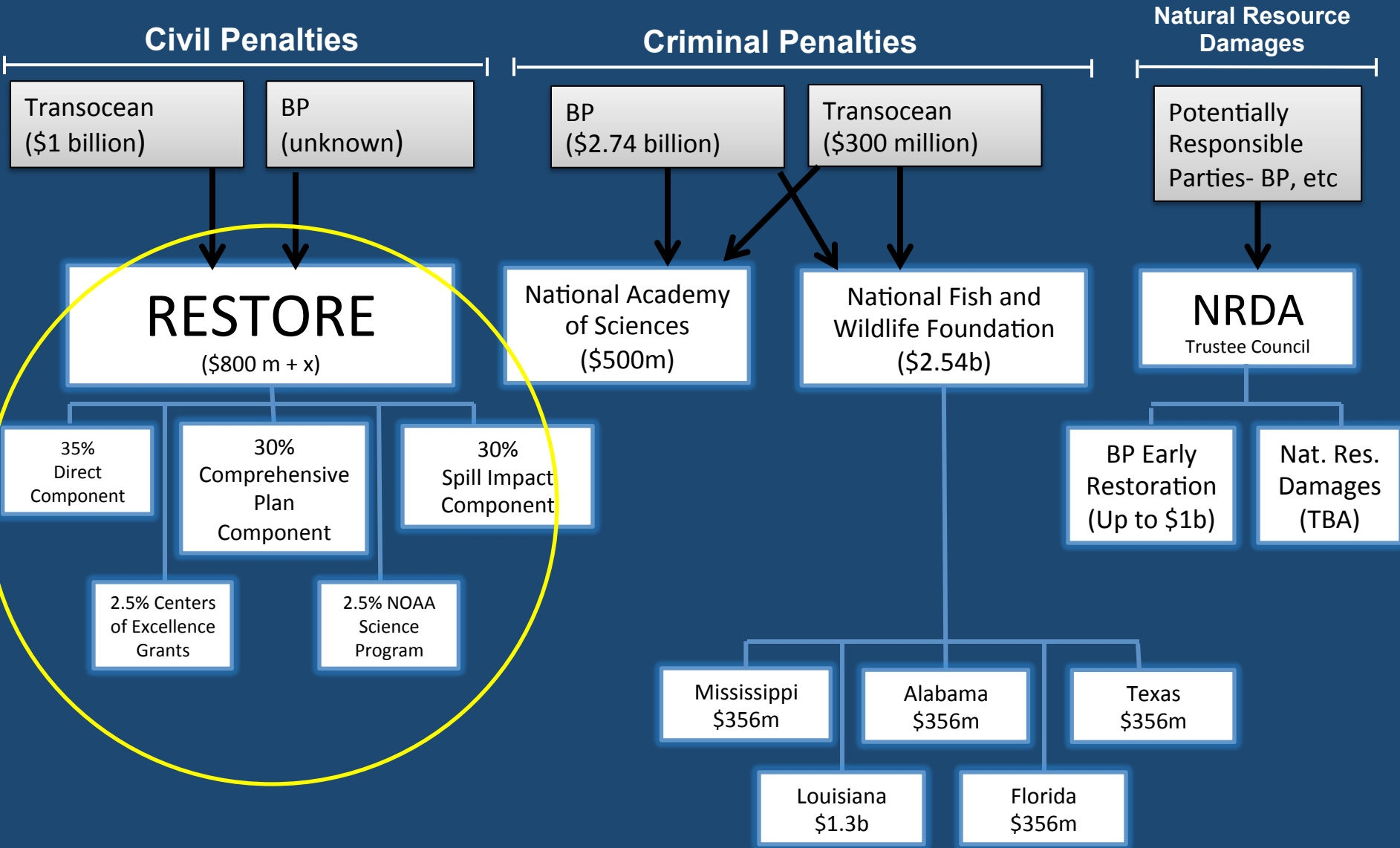
- Organization of priorities by Focus Area
- Focus areas removed from revised plan
- Many of the recommendations and comments were addressed with this one action



Other Feedback

- Too focused or too specific
 - Entirely removed text or clarified as examples
- Role of science in informing management decisions
 - Revised text to emphasize research to improve understanding/better inform management
- Redundancy and cross-over
 - Priorities reorganized
- Crosswalk
 - Table and figure added to describe other programs

DEEPWATER HORIZON GULF RESTORATION INITIATIVES





Program Status

- Draft Science Plan out for Public Review
 - Comment period October 30 to December 15
- Initial Federal Funding Opportunity moving through approval process
 - \$2 – 2.5 M
 - Short-term priorities



Science Program Objectives for Discussion with RSPA WG



- Options for science prioritization, focus, interdependencies
- Integration and coordination approaches
- Program review and assessment
 - Measures of success



NOAA

Coordination & Views



- Coordination with:
 - Program’s Executive Oversight Board (EOB)
 - Includes USFWS representation
 - NOAA Research Council
 - Virtual Review by NOAA Executive Panel and Council (NEP and NEC)



Desired Outcome

- Response to Science Plan
Recommendations – *Informational*
- Program Status – *Informational*
- Proposed topics for RSPA WG – *Discussion*



Public Comment Period on Science Plan



Comments due December 15, 2014

Find the plan at:

<http://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/science-plan>

Comments by Email:

noaarestorescience@noaa.gov

Comments by Mail:

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Backup Slides

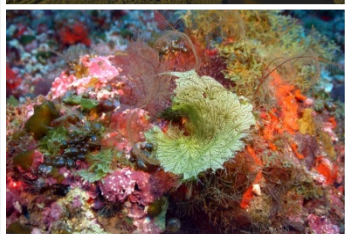




Program Goal

Support the science necessary for better understanding and management of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem, specifically:

- healthy, diverse, sustainable, and resilient ***estuarine, coastal and marine habitats***
- healthy, diverse, sustainable, and resilient ***coastal and marine resources, including wildlife***
- resilient and adaptive ***coastal communities***





Long-term Research Priorities



1. Coupled social and ecological systems
2. Management-ready ecosystem models
3. Improved climate change and weather effects on Gulf ecosystems
4. Watershed, sediment, and nutrient impacts on coastal habitats/ ecology
5. LMR, food webs, habitats, protected areas, and carbon flow
6. Long-term trends on status and health of ecosystem
7. Indicators of Gulf Coast environmental and socioeconomic conditions
8. Decision support tools to monitor and manage habitat, LMR, wildlife
9. Integrated existing and planned Gulf monitoring programs
10. Advanced engineering, physical, chemical, biological, and socioeconomic technologies to improve monitoring



Federal Funding Opportunity



- Focuses on three short-term priorities:
 - Comprehensive inventory and assessment of ecosystem modeling
 - Analysis of Gulf of Mexico ecosystem health/condition indicators (including strengths and weaknesses) and design/testing of additional indicators
 - Assessment of monitoring and observation needs and development of recommendations for a Gulf wide network.
- Further refined by three topical areas:
 - Ecosystem and living marine resources management
 - Climate change and extreme weather impacts on sustainability of restoration
 - Integration of social/behavioral/economic science into restoration and management
- Total available funding is \$2 to 2.5 M for projects of 1-2 years



NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program



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