

Open Ocean Restoration Area

Final Restoration Plan 1/Environmental Assessment

Sturgeon Restoration Type

Sturgeon Restoration Type

The Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group released its *Final Restoration Plan 1/Environmental Assessment: Birds and Sturgeon* in March 2019. The project selected for implementation for sturgeon is consistent with the following restoration approaches identified in the *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement*:

- Restore sturgeon spawning habitat.
- Reduce nutrient loads to coastal watersheds.
- Protect and conserve marine, coastal, estuarine and riparian habitats (sturgeon).

In screening projects for the Draft Restoration Plan 1 under this Restoration Type, Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group Trustees considered the following Trustee goals:

- Restoring and protecting Gulf sturgeon through improving access to spawning areas.
- Increasing the reproductive success of Gulf sturgeon.



Photos from top: Wildlife biologists weigh an adult sturgeon; Gulf sturgeon spawning habitat; juvenile sturgeon. Credit - FWS.

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Sturgeon Project in Final Restoration Plan 1

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST
REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES – STURGEON		
Characterizing Gulf Sturgeon Spawning Habitat, Habitat Use and Origins of Juvenile Sturgeon in the Pearl and Pascagoula River Systems	This project will identify and characterize the potential spawning habitat in the Pearl and Pascagoula River systems; describe habitat accessibility and patterns of habitat use during spawning periods; determine the river of origin for juvenile sturgeon, and synthesize the data needed to evaluate and prioritize Gulf sturgeon spawning habitat restoration projects such as in-stream barrier removal, spawning reef creation, or riparian restoration.	\$2,150,000



For additional information, contact:

NANCIANN REGALADO
 Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

nanciann_regalado@fws.gov

Map: Project area highlighting reaches targeted for spawning habitat mapping (yellow areas within blue river systems) that encompass roughly 1,500 stream kilometers in both the Pearl and Pascagoula river systems.