

Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry Project

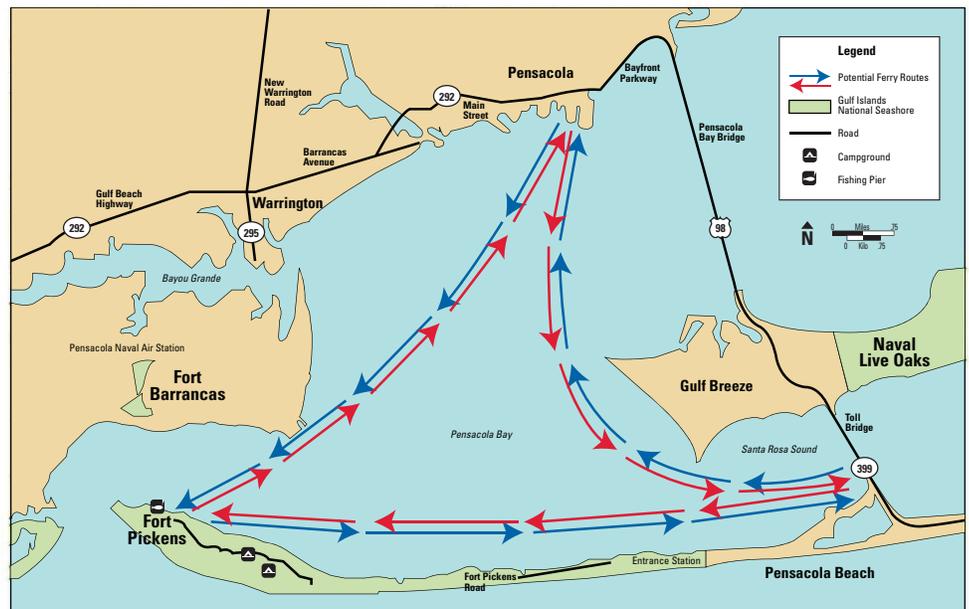
Phase III Early Restoration Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Gulf Islands National Seashore is located in Florida and Mississippi, and was established as a national seashore in 1971. The Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry project, sponsored by the National Park Service, will fund the purchase of up to three pedestrian visitor ferries for use between the City of Pensacola, Pensacola Beach, and the Fort Pickens area of Gulf Islands National Seashore in Florida.

A viable ferry service to this area of Gulf Islands National Seashore provides an alternative means of visitor access to the park. A ferry also will allow visitors to access the park if the road to Fort Pickens is made impassable by storms or other unfavorable conditions. The need for an alternate means to access the Fort Pickens area of the park was made apparent when hurricanes and storms in 2004 and 2005 destroyed large segments of the road, eliminating vehicle access through this eight-mile-long area. For five years access to the Fort Pickens area was severely restricted for everyone, especially for those with disabilities, the elderly, and the very young.

The passenger ferries will operate six or seven days per week, two making approximately three trips per day, for approximately 15 weeks during peak tourist season. (If three ferries are purchased, one would serve as a backup.) Ferry operation is expected to be reduced during the off-peak winter season.



Proposed Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry Project ferry routes and destinations

To support the project, passenger queuing areas – one with a small ticketing facility – and additional boat docks will be constructed at the Plaza de Luna area in the City of Pensacola and at Quietwater Beach in Pensacola Beach. (These actions are connected to the project but will not be funded as part of this action.) Also in support of this proposed project, a new dock was recently constructed by the National Park Service near the visitor center in the Fort Pickens Historic District.

This project partially restores the lost visitor use that occurred during the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

ESTIMATED COST

The estimated amount of *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill early restoration funding proposed for this project is \$4,020,000.

Plaza de Luna Area, City of Pensacola



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Quietwater Beach Area, Pensacola Beach

