



# *Deepwater Horizon*

Natural Resource Damage Assessment & Restoration

Open Ocean Restoration Area

Draft Restoration Plan 3 and  
Environmental Assessment

*Public Webinar*

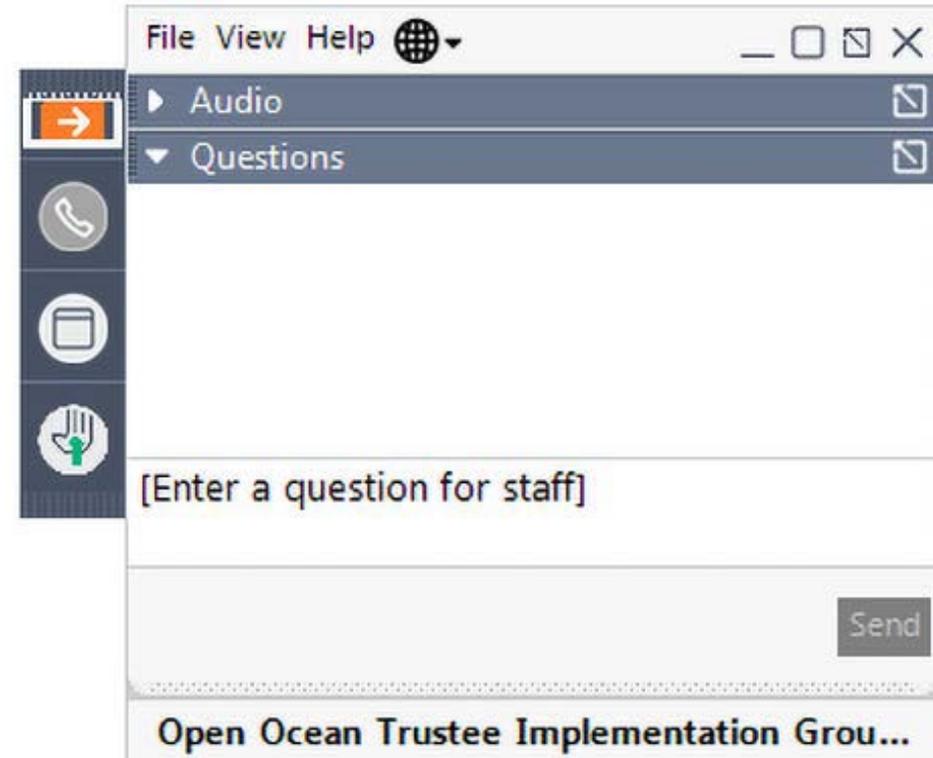
March 28 & April 4



# Webinar Participation



- If using a phone, turn off your computer microphone & speakers.
- Use the “Questions” box to type questions for the Trustees at any time.
- During Open House, use the “Questions” box to type your question.
- During the Comment Session, use the “Questions” box to sign up to give a verbal comment.
- Presentation will be posted on [www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov).



# Webinar Agenda



- *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Damage Assessment and 2016 Settlement.
- Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group.
- Draft Restoration Plan 3/Environmental Assessment.
- Open House: Questions and Answers.
- Public Comments.
- Next Steps.



*Deepwater Horizon*  
Natural Resource Damage Assessment  
Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group  
Draft Restoration Plan 3 and Environmental  
Assessment: Birds

March 2023



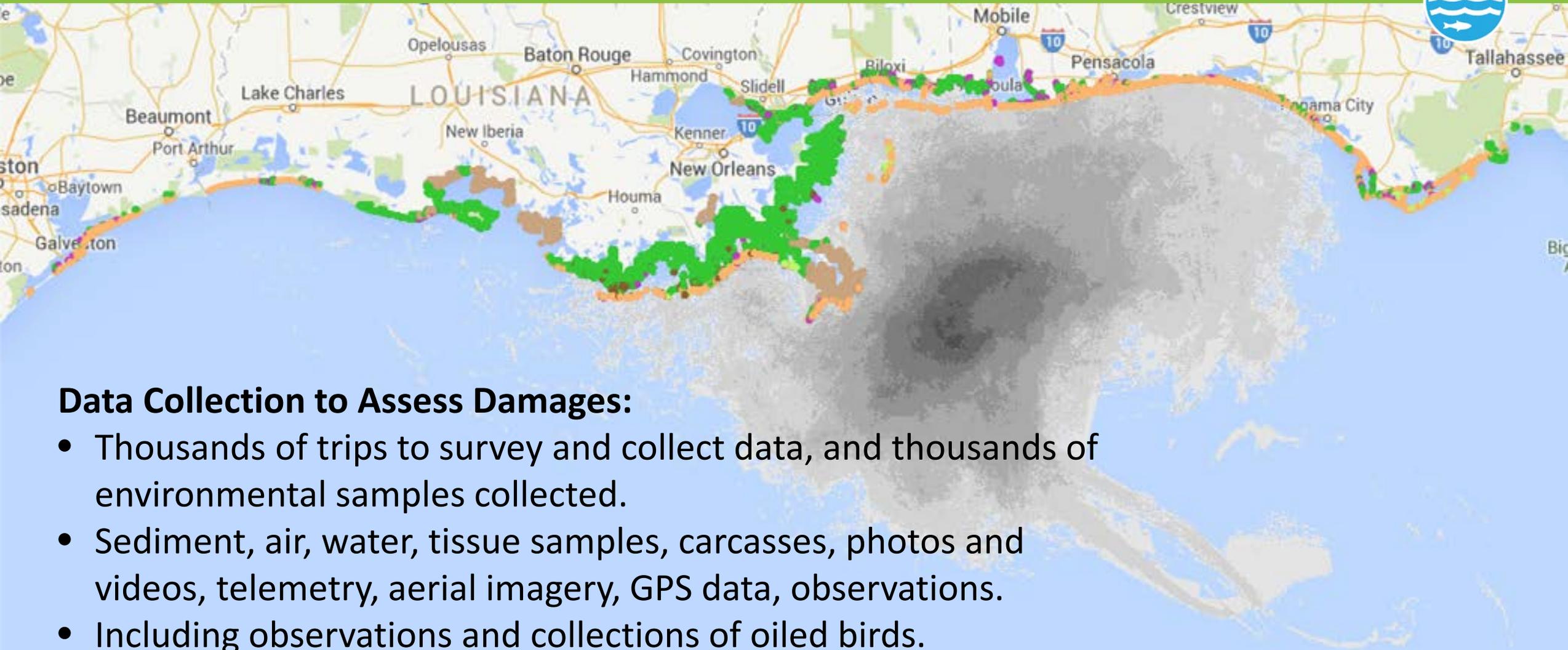
# Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill



- Tragic loss of 11 workers and largest marine oil spill in U.S. history.
- 3.19 million barrels (134 million gallons) of oil released into the ocean over 87 days.
- 43,300 square miles: Cumulative extent of surface slick during the spill—an area almost the size of Virginia.



# *Deepwater Horizon* Incident and Response



## **Data Collection to Assess Damages:**

- Thousands of trips to survey and collect data, and thousands of environmental samples collected.
- Sediment, air, water, tissue samples, carcasses, photos and videos, telemetry, aerial imagery, GPS data, observations.
- Including observations and collections of oiled birds.

# Trustees' Programmatic Restoration Plan



- **Damage assessment:** Injuries to natural resources and services.
- **Restoration:** Ecosystem approach and science-based adaptive management.
- **Governance:** Framework for future decision-making, including project selection & implementation.



# Deepwater Horizon NRDA Settlement



A total of \$8.8 billion allocated to:

- *Restore and Conserve Habitat* - \$4.7 billion.
- *Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources* - \$1.8 billion.
- *Restore Water Quality* - \$400 million.
- *Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities* - \$400 million.
- *Provide Monitoring, Adaptive Management, Administrative Oversight* - \$1.5 billion.
- *Future Unknown Conditions* - \$700 million.



# NRDA Trustees' Governance Structure



## Trustee Implementation Groups (TIGs)



# Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group



## **U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)**

Ashley Mills  
Mary Josie Blanchard



## **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

Laurie Rounds  
Chris Doley



## **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

Lenny Bankester  
Gale Bonanno



## **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

Ben Battle  
Ron Howard

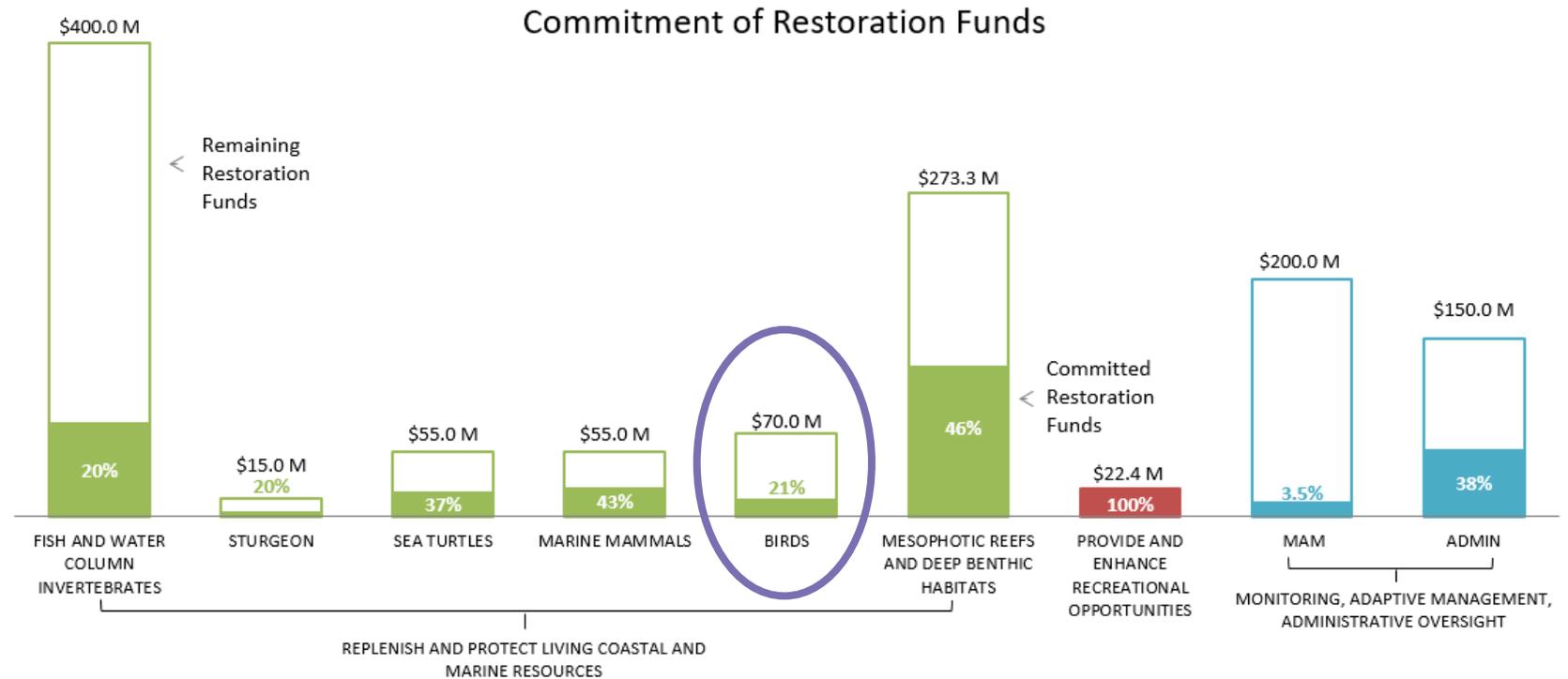
# Open Ocean Funding Allocation



- A total of \$1.2 billion will be received in payments through 2031.
- \$518 million received to date.

**\$868 million**

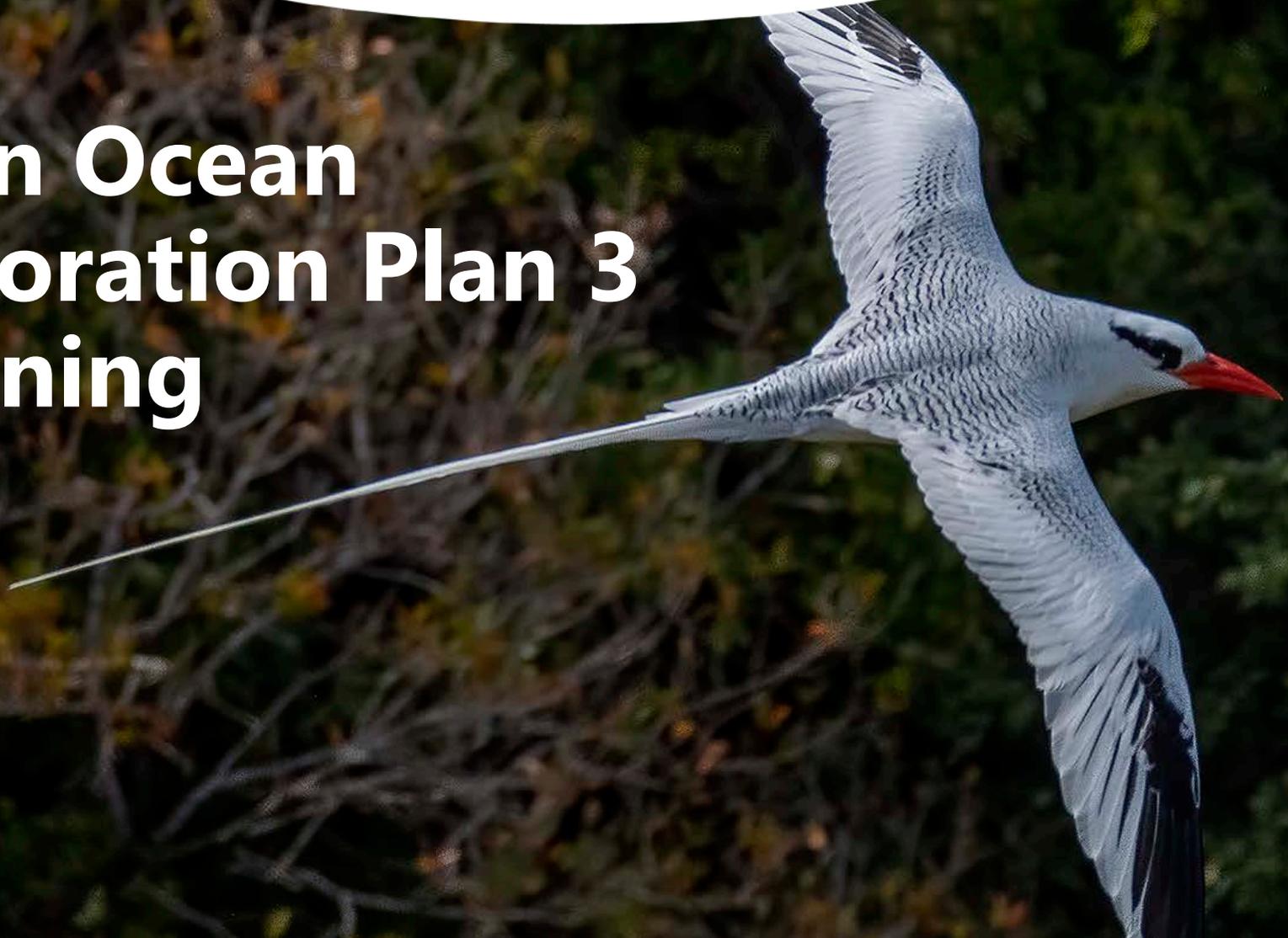
Amount for birds, sturgeon, oceanic fish and invertebrates, sea turtles, marine mammals, and deep-sea coral communities



Data current as of January 2023



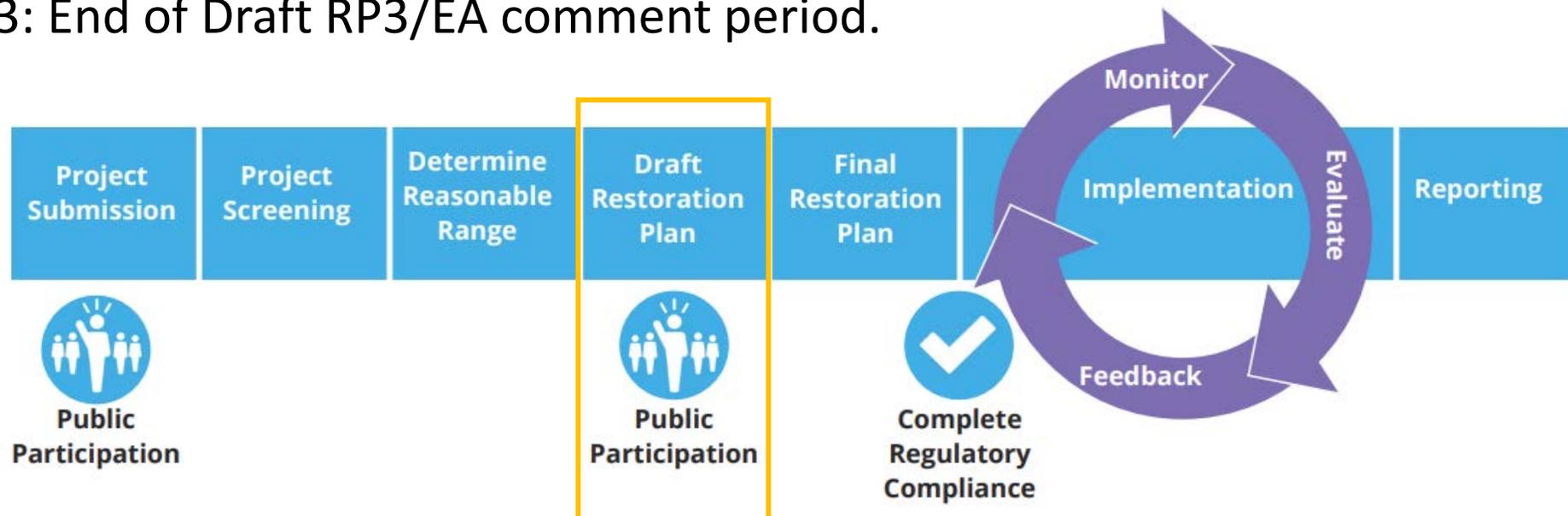
# Open Ocean Restoration Plan 3 Planning



# Restoration Planning Process and Timeline



- 3/25/21: Call for project ideas.
- 3/11/22: Notice of restoration planning.
- 3/14/23: Notice of availability of Draft RP3/EA.
- 3/28 & 4/4/23: Draft RP3/EA public webinars.
- 4/28/23: End of Draft RP3/EA comment period.



# Open Ocean Draft Restoration Plan 3 Overview



- Proposes restoration for Birds.
  - Focal seabird species injured by the *Deepwater Horizon* incident.
- Evaluates 11 restoration projects identified through robust screening.
- Proposes 7 projects for funding for an estimated cost of \$25,800,200.
- Public Comments: March 14 through April 28, 2023.



*Deepwater Horizon*  
Natural Resource Damage Assessment  
Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group  
Draft Restoration Plan 3 and Environmental  
Assessment: Birds  
March 2023





# Restoration Approaches and Techniques



# Programmatic Restoration Approaches for Birds



- Restore and conserve bird nesting and foraging habitat.
- Establish or re-establish breeding colonies.
- Prevent incidental bird mortality.



Brown noddie  
Photo by Eric Dale, USFWS

# Restoration Techniques



Rodent Removal



Predator Management



Invasive Goat Removal



Biosecurity



Vegetation Management



Social Attraction



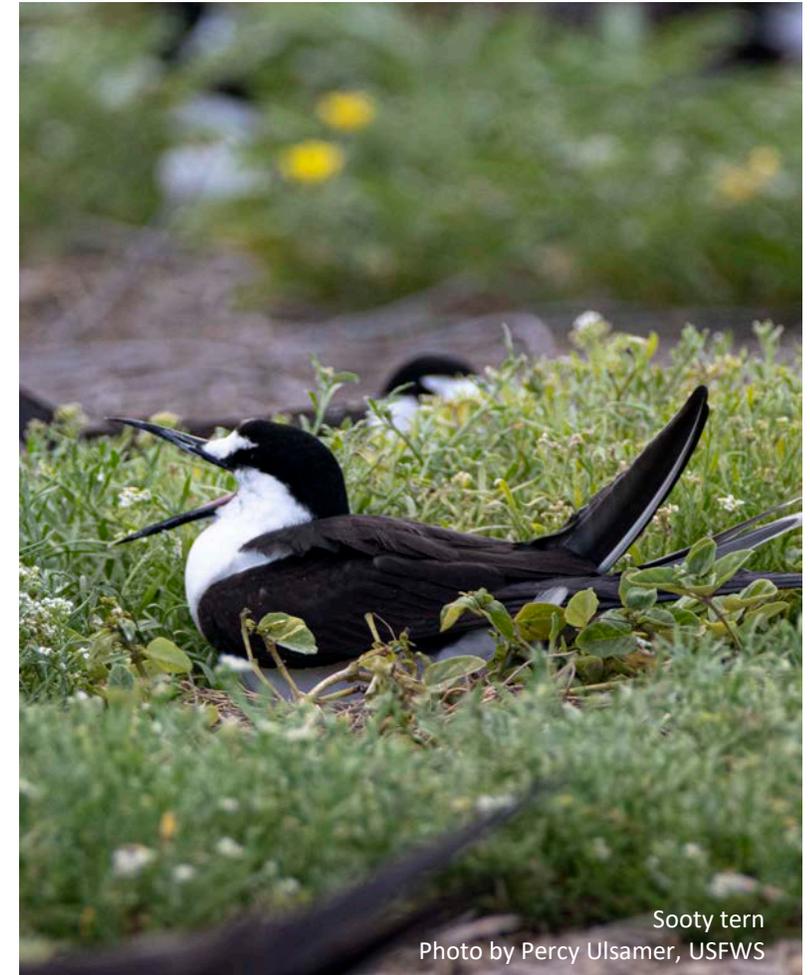
Land-Based Removal of Marine Debris



Human Disturbance Management



Bycatch Reduction

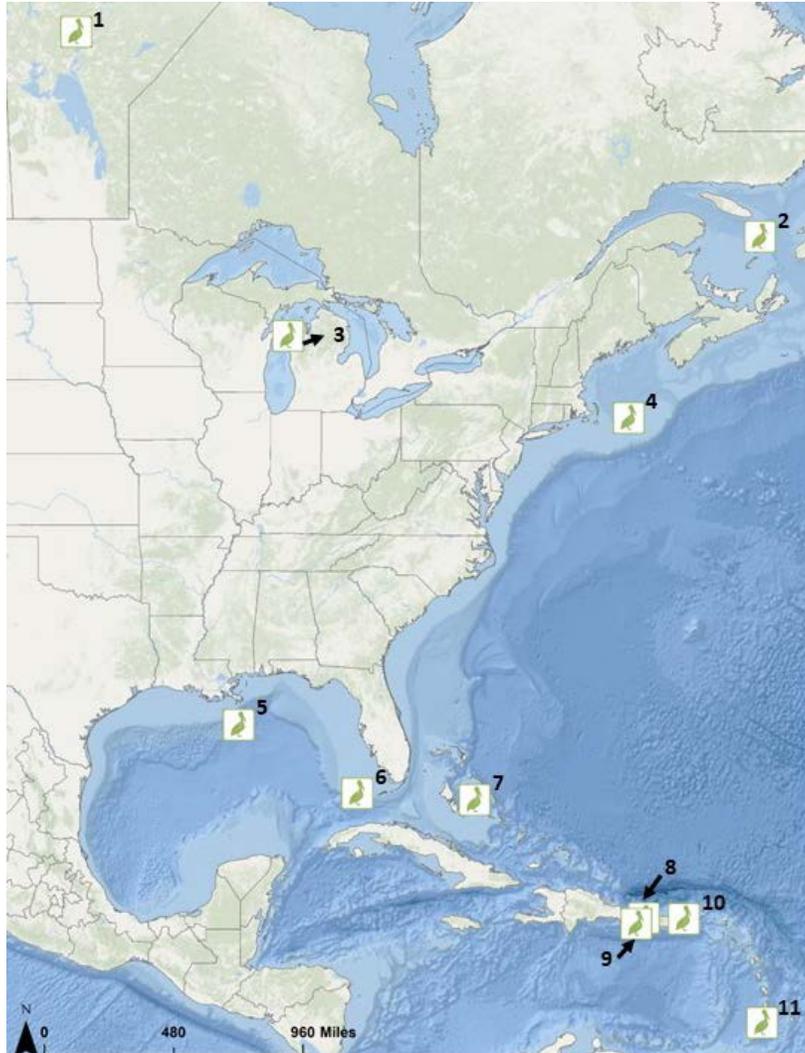


Sooty tern  
Photo by Percy Ulsamer, USFWS



# Preferred Alternatives

# Preferred and Non-Preferred Project Locations



## RESTORATION PROJECTS

1. **Common Tern Nesting Colony Restoration in Manitoba**
2. **Northern Gannet Nesting Colony Restoration in Eastern Canada**
3. Common Tern Nesting Colony Restoration in the Great Lakes Region
4. **Seabird Bycatch Reduction in Northeast U.S. and Atlantic Canada Fisheries**
5. Seabird Bycatch Risk Reduction in Gulf of Mexico and Southeast Atlantic Pelagic Longline Fisheries
6. **Seabird Nesting Colony Protection and Enhancement at Dry Tortugas National Park**
7. Seabird Nesting Habitat Restoration and Colony Reestablishment in the Bahamas
8. **Seabird Nesting Colony Reestablishment and Protection at Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge**
9. **Predator Removal and Seabird Nesting Colony Restoration at Mona Island**
10. Predator Removal and Seabird Nesting Colony Restoration in the Culebra Archipelago
11. **Invasive Goat Removal to Restore Seabird Nesting Habitat in St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

\***Bolding** indicates preferred alternative.

# Predator Removal and Seabird Nesting Colony Restoration at Mona Island



- Location: **Mona Island, Puerto Rico**
- Benefits:
  - Increase seabird nesting success, productivity, and survivorship;
  - Enhance biodiversity and habitat conditions.
- Target birds: **8 species**
- Estimated budget: **\$9 million**
- Timeline: **8-10 years**



## Restoration Techniques



Vegetation  
Management



Social  
Attraction



Predator  
Management



Biosecurity



Rodent  
Removal

# Seabird Nesting Colony Reestablishment and Protection at Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge



- Location: **Desecheo Island, Puerto Rico**
- Benefits:
  - Increase seabird nesting success, productivity, and survivorship;
  - Prevent the reintroduction of invasive rodents.
- Target birds: **5 species**
- Estimated budget: **\$214,500**
- Timeline: **5 years**



## Restoration Techniques



Biosecurity



Social Attraction

# Seabird Nesting Colony Protection and Enhancement at Dry Tortugas National Park



- Location: **Dry Tortugas, Florida**
- Benefits:
  - Enhance seabird habitat;
  - Increase seabird nesting success, productivity, and survivorship;
  - Prevent the reintroduction of invasive rodents.
- Target birds: **4 species**
- Estimated budget: **\$1.2 million**
- Timeline: **5 years**



## Restoration Techniques



Vegetation  
Management



Social Attraction



Biosecurity

# Northern Gannet Nesting Colony Restoration in Eastern Canada



- Location: **Eastern Canada**
- Benefits:
  - Enhance existing northern gannet colonies and increase nesting success, productivity, and survivorship;
  - Establish new breeding colonies.
- Target birds: **1 species**
- Estimated budget: **\$5.68 million**
- Timeline: **5 years**



Northern gannets  
Photo by Werner Bayer

## Restoration Techniques



Land-Based  
Removal of Marine  
Debris



Human Disturbance  
Management



Predator  
Management



Biosecurity



Social Attraction

# Common Tern Nesting Colony Restoration in Manitoba



- Location: **Manitoba, Canada**
- Benefits:
  - Enhance existing common tern colonies and increase nesting success, productivity, and survivorship;
  - Establish new breeding colonies.
- Target birds: **1 species**
- Estimated budget: **\$4.4 million**
- Timeline: **5 years**



## Restoration Techniques



Vegetation  
Management



Human Disturbance  
Management



Predator  
Management



Social  
Attraction



Land-Based  
Removal of Marine  
Debris

# Invasive Goat Removal to Restore Seabird Nesting Habitat in St. Vincent and the Grenadines



- Location: **St. Vincent and the Grenadines**
- Benefits:
  - Enhance habitat quality through goat eradication, monitoring, and encouraging environmental stewardship through public outreach activities;
  - Increase nesting success.
- Target birds: **6 species**
- Estimated budget: **\$231,000**
- Timeline: **5 years**



## Restoration Technique



Invasive Goat Removal

# Seabird Bycatch Reduction in Northeast U.S. and Atlantic Canada Fisheries



- Location: **Atlantic Ocean offshore of Cape Cod, Massachusetts and Newfoundland, Canada**
- Benefits:
  - Develop bycatch reduction strategies;
  - Education, training, and outreach with fisheries partners.
- Target birds: **2 species**
- Estimated budget: **\$5 million**
- Timeline: **6 years**



## Restoration Technique



Bycatch Reduction

# Non-Preferred Alternatives



- Common Tern Nesting Colony Restoration in the Great Lakes Region
- Seabird Bycatch Risk Reduction in Gulf of Mexico and Southeast U.S. Pelagic Longline Fisheries
- Seabird Nesting Habitat Restoration and Colony Reestablishment in the Bahamas
- Predator Removal and Seabird Nesting Colony Restoration in the Culebra Archipelago

## Restoration Techniques



Predator Management



Rodent Removal



Vegetation Management



Human Disturbance Management



Biosecurity



Social Attraction



Bycatch Reduction



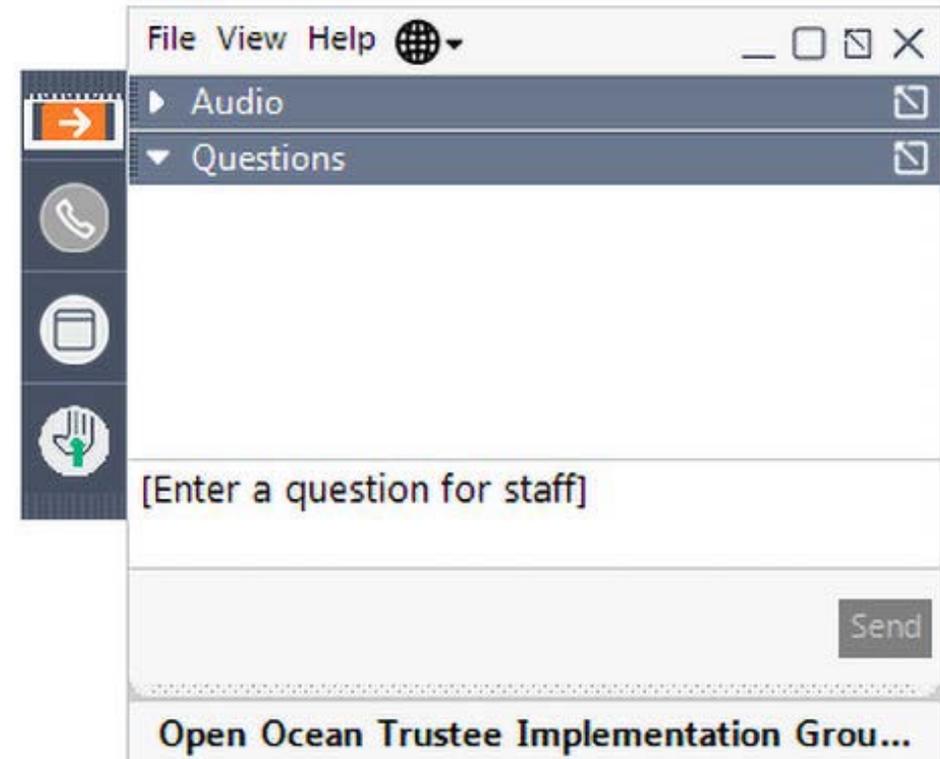
# Open House: Questions and Answers



# Open House Participation



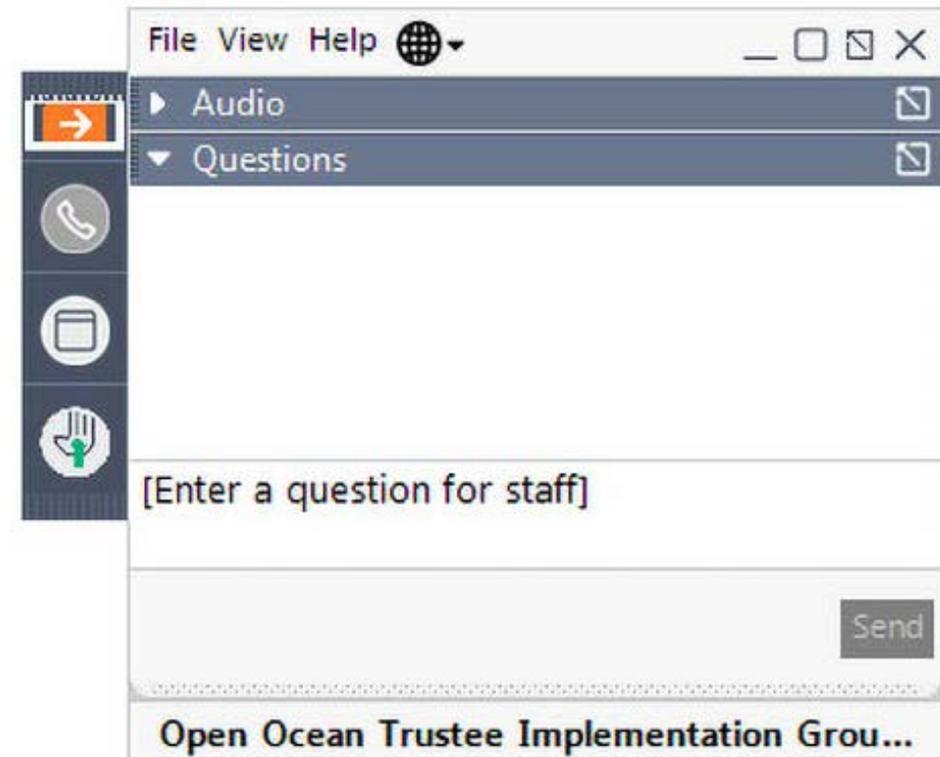
- Please type your questions in the “Questions” box.
- We may not get to them all.
- Please note that formal public comments will be taken at a later time during the webinar. Please only enter **questions** during the Open House.



# Participación Durante la Sesión Abierta



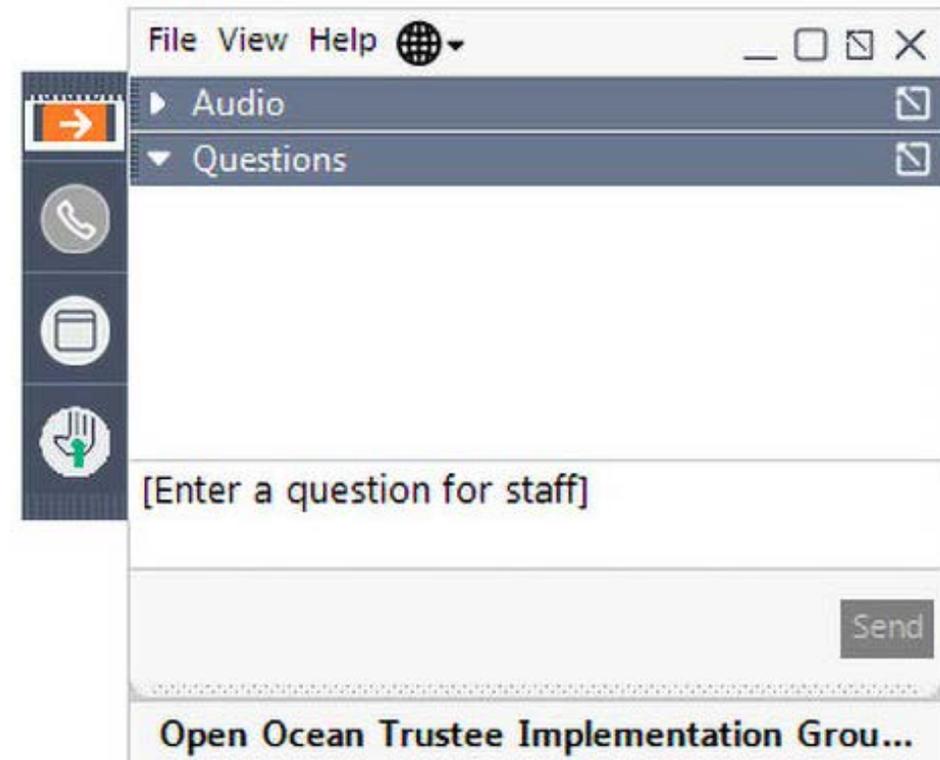
- Por favor, escriba su pregunta en la caja de “Questions”.
- Quizás no alcancemos a responder todas las preguntas.
- Por favor, tenga en cuenta que los comentarios públicos formales serán tratados durante el seminario web. Solo haga preguntas durante la sesión abierta.



# La Participation aux Portes Ouvertes



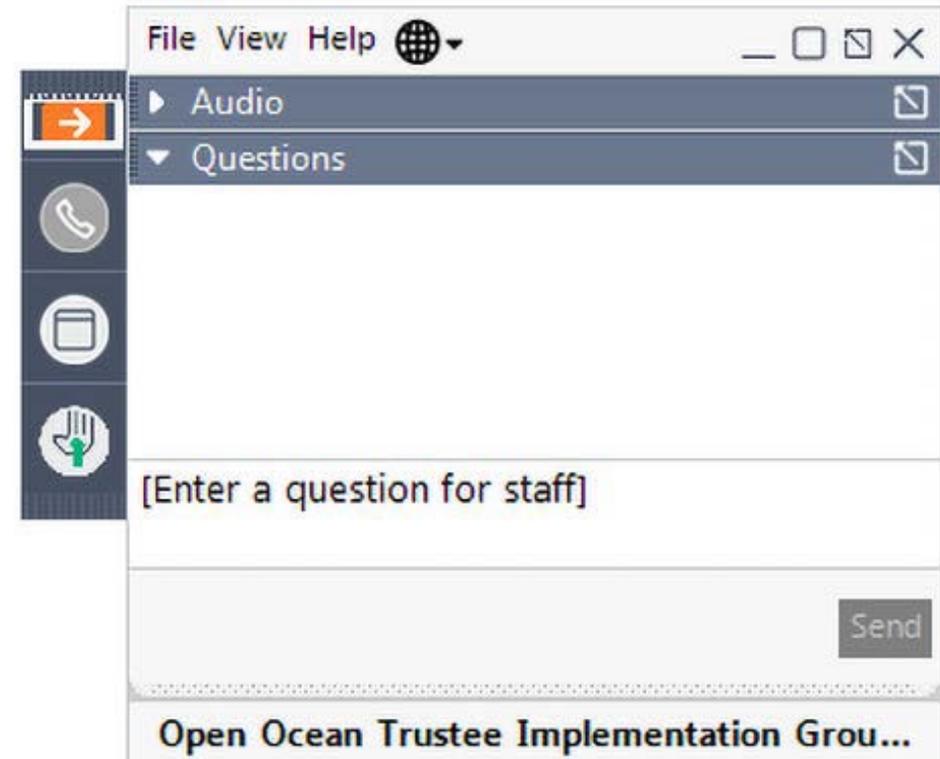
- Veuillez saisir vos questions dans la case « Questions ».
- Il est possible que nous ne les atteignons pas tous.
- Veuillez noter que les commentaires formels du public seront recueillis à un moment ultérieur du webinaire. Veuillez ne poser vos **questions** que lors de la journée portes ouvertes.



# Open House Participation



- Please type your questions in the “Questions” box.
- We may not get to them all.
- Please note that formal public comments will be taken at a later time during the webinar. Please only enter **questions** during the Open House.





# Public Comment Session



# Public Comment Participation



- If you would like to provide a comment verbally during the webinar, enter your audio PIN – you will be unmuted at the appropriate time.
- Type your name into the “Questions” box to get into the speaking queue.

Comments can also be submitted online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/OOTIGRP3>

The screenshot shows the GoToWebinar interface. The 'Audio' section has radio buttons for 'Computer audio' and 'Phone call'. Below are fields for 'Dial: #### ##', 'Access Code: #### ##', and 'Audio PIN: ##'. A 'Send' button is at the bottom right of the audio section. The 'Questions' section has a text input field with the placeholder '[Enter a question for staff]' and a 'Send' button. Three red arrows point from text boxes to these elements: the first points to the 'Phone call' radio button, the second points to the 'Audio PIN' field, and the third points to the 'Questions' text input field.

If you call into the webinar with a phone, do not select computer audio.

If you use a phone, your **unique** audio pin will be here. You must enter this to speak on the call. (Computer audio users do not need a PIN)

To communicate with staff, type questions here.

# Participación Durante los Comentarios del Público



- Si desea emitir un comentario verbal durante el seminario web, conecte el PIN de audio – se le reactivará el sonido en el momento adecuado.
- Escriba su nombre en la caja de “Questions” para ingresar a la cola de espera para hablar.

También puede enviar comentarios en línea a <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/OOTIGRP3>

The screenshot shows the GoToWebinar interface. The 'Audio' section has two radio buttons: 'Computer audio' (unselected) and 'Phone call' (selected). Below this are fields for 'Dial: #### ##', 'Access Code: ## ## ##', and 'Audio PIN: ##'. A red arrow points from a text box to the 'Phone call' radio button. Another red arrow points from a text box to the 'Audio PIN' field. Below the audio section is a 'Questions' section with a text input field containing '[Enter a question for staff]'. A red arrow points from a text box to this input field. At the bottom, it says 'Multi sessions different registrants', 'Webinar ID: 357-351-315', and the 'GoToWebinar' logo.

If you call into the webinar with a phone, do not select computer audio.

If you use a phone and wish to make a comment you will need to enter your personal audio PIN in order to speak. (Computer audio users do not need to enter a PIN)

To communicate with staff, type questions here.

# La Participation aux Commentaires du Public



- Si vous souhaitez faire des commentaires de vive voix pendant le webinaire, entrez votre code PIN audio, ne vous inquiétez pas, le son sera coupé au moment voulu.
- Saisissez votre nom dans la case « Questions » pour vous inscrire dans la file d'attente des orateurs.

**Vous pouvez également nous envoyer vos commentaires en ligne sur <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/OOTIGRP3>**

The screenshot shows the GoToWebinar interface with the following elements:

- Audio Section:** Includes radio buttons for "Computer audio" and "Phone call". Below are fields for "Dial: ####-####", "Access Code: ####-####", and "Audio PIN: #". A note says "Already on the call? Press ### now." and there is a dropdown menu for "United States".
- Questions Section:** A text input field with the placeholder "[Enter a question for staff]" and a "Send" button.

Three red text boxes with arrows provide instructions:

- Top box: "If you call into the webinar with a phone, do not select computer audio." (Points to the "Phone call" radio button.)
- Middle box: "If you use a phone and wish to make a comment you will need to enter your personal audio PIN in order to speak. (Computer audio users do not need to enter a PIN)" (Points to the "Audio PIN" field.)
- Bottom box: "To communicate with staff, type questions here." (Points to the "Enter a question for staff" input field.)

At the bottom of the interface, it says "Multi sessions different registrants", "Webinar ID: 357-351-315", and the "GoToWebinar" logo.

# Public Comment Participation



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Comments can also be submitted online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/OOTIGRP3>

The screenshot shows the GoToWebinar interface with the following elements and annotations:

- Audio Section:** Includes options for "Computer audio" and "Phone call". A red arrow points to "Phone call" with the text: "If you call into the webinar with a phone, do not select computer audio."
- Fields:** Includes "Dial: #### ##", "Access Code: ### ## ##", and "Audio PIN: ##". A red arrow points to the "Audio PIN" field with the text: "If you use a phone and wish to make a comment you will need to enter your personal audio PIN in order to speak. (Computer audio users do not need to enter a PIN)".
- Questions Section:** Includes a text box with the placeholder "[Enter a question for staff]". A red arrow points to this text box with the text: "To communicate with staff, type questions here."
- Footer:** Displays "Multi sessions different registrants", "Webinar ID: 357-351-315", and the "GoToWebinar" logo.



# Next Steps

# How to Submit Comments



- Online: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/OOTIGRP3>
- By mail (hard copy), addressed to:  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf Restoration Office  
1875 Century Blvd.  
Atlanta, GA 30345
- By phone: 1-888-467-0009

**Comment  
deadline is  
April 28,  
2023**

For more information: [www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov)



# Thank You



For more information:  
[www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov)