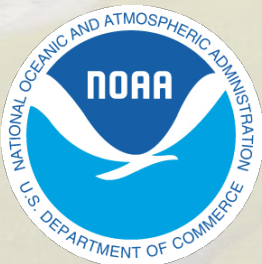


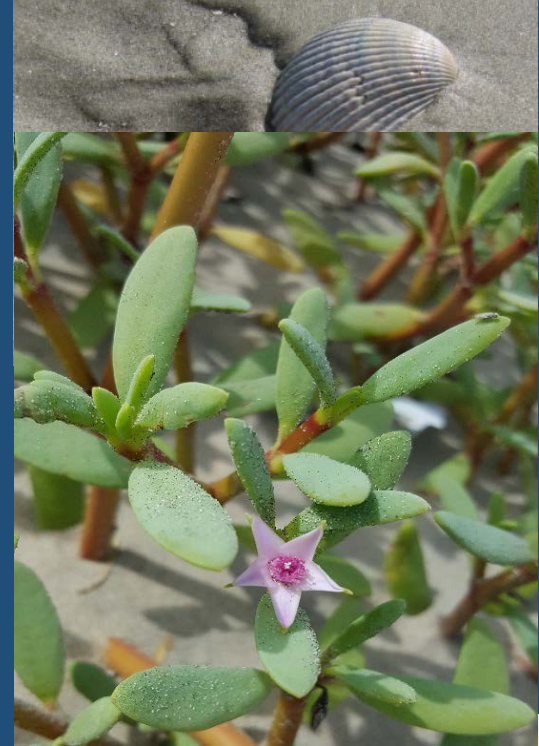
# *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resources Damage Assessment Texas Trustee Implementation Group

Public Meeting  
December 1, 2021



# Agenda

- NRDA and Deepwater Horizon
- Funding in Texas
- Restoration Planning
- Active Project Updates

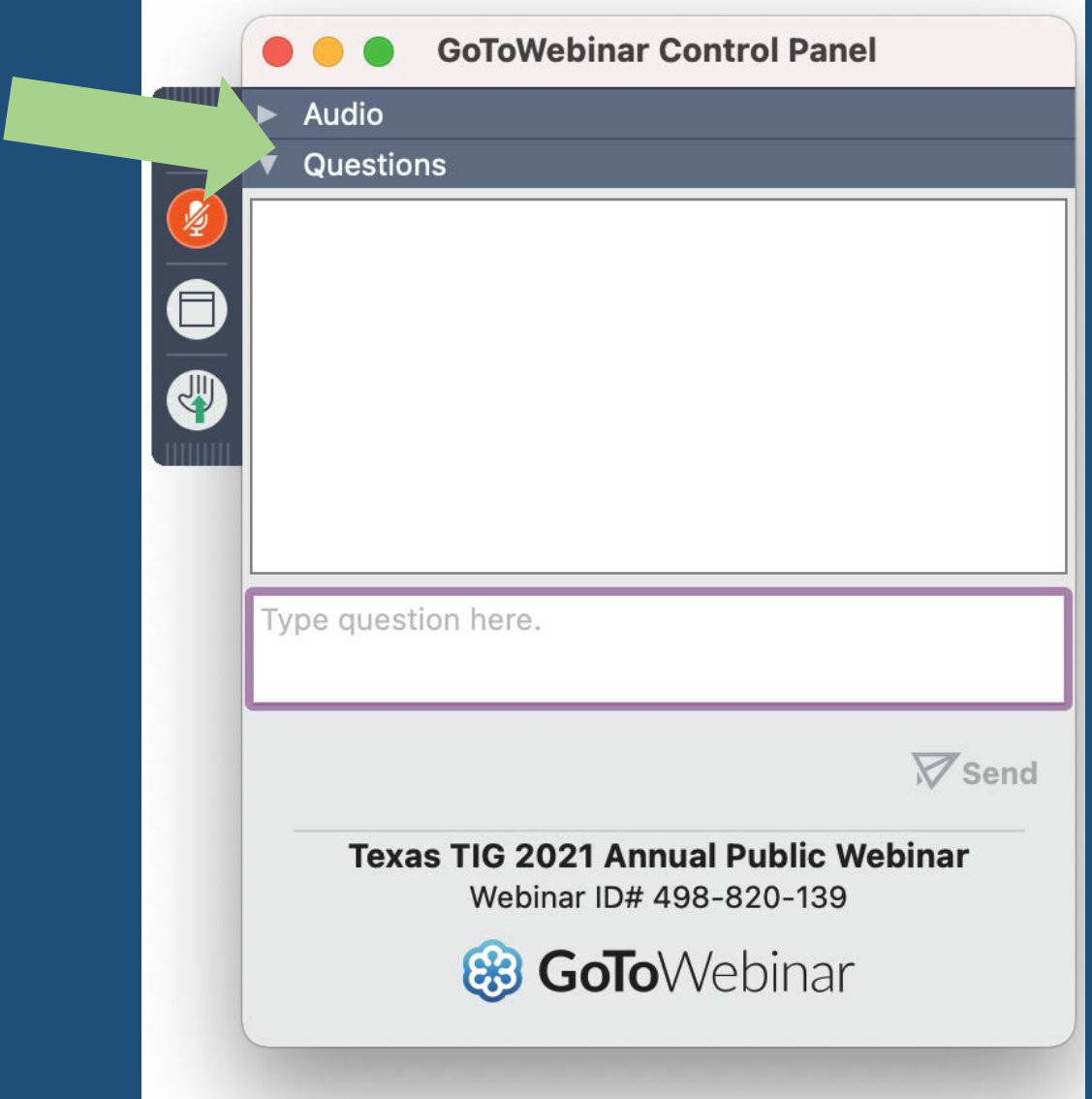


# Webinar Participation

Please use the "Questions" box to type questions for the Q&A session.

We will answer as many submitted questions as possible at the end of the presentation.

The presentation will be posted on [www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov).



The screenshot shows the GoToWebinar Control Panel interface. At the top, there are three colored window control buttons (red, yellow, green) followed by the title "GoToWebinar Control Panel". Below the title, there are two tabs: "Audio" and "Questions". A green arrow points to the "Questions" tab. Underneath the tabs, there is a vertical sidebar with three icons: a microphone (muted), a document (chat), and a hand with a green arrow (raise hand). The main area of the panel is a large white box for questions. Below this box is a text input field with the placeholder text "Type question here." and a "Send" button with a paper plane icon. At the bottom of the panel, there is text that reads "Texas TIG 2021 Annual Public Webinar" and "Webinar ID# 498-820-139". The GoToWebinar logo is at the bottom center.

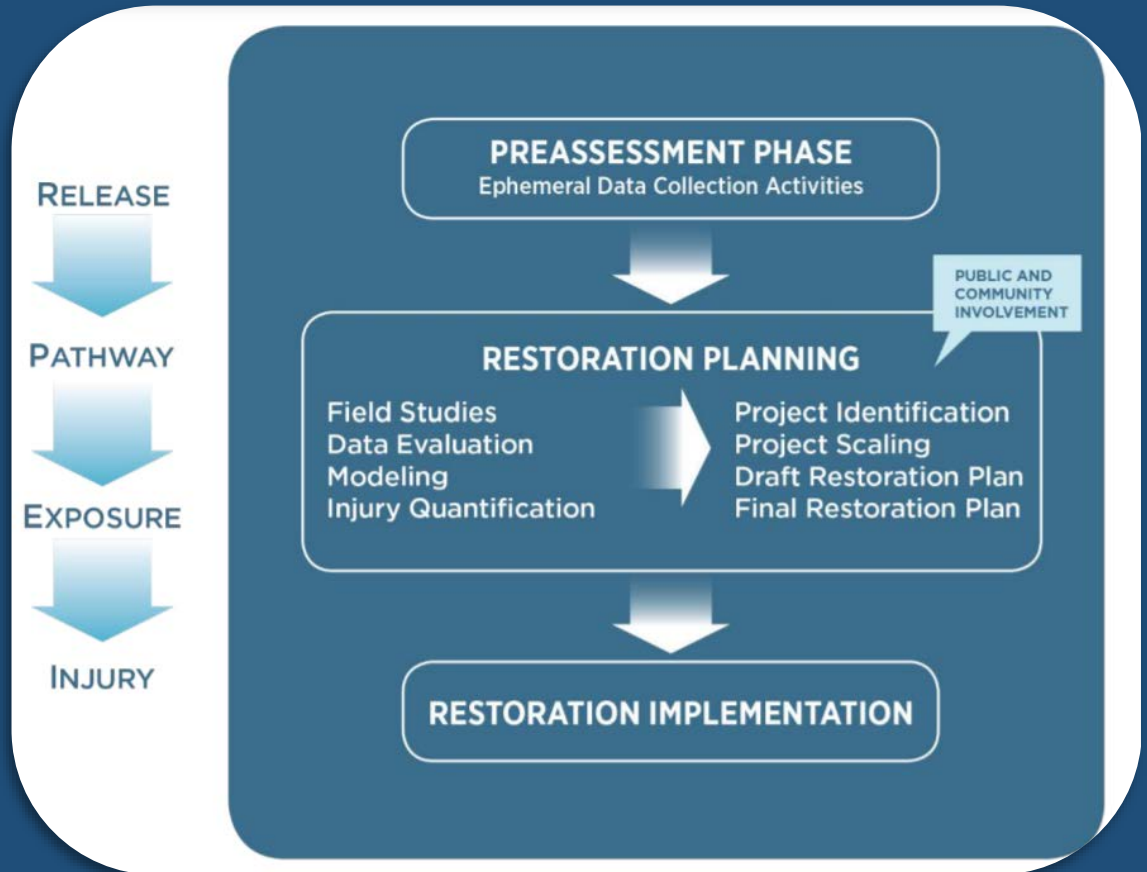
# Natural Resource Damage Assessment

**Authority:** Oil Pollution Act of 1990

**Trustees:** Designated federal, state, and tribal agencies

**Responsibilities:**

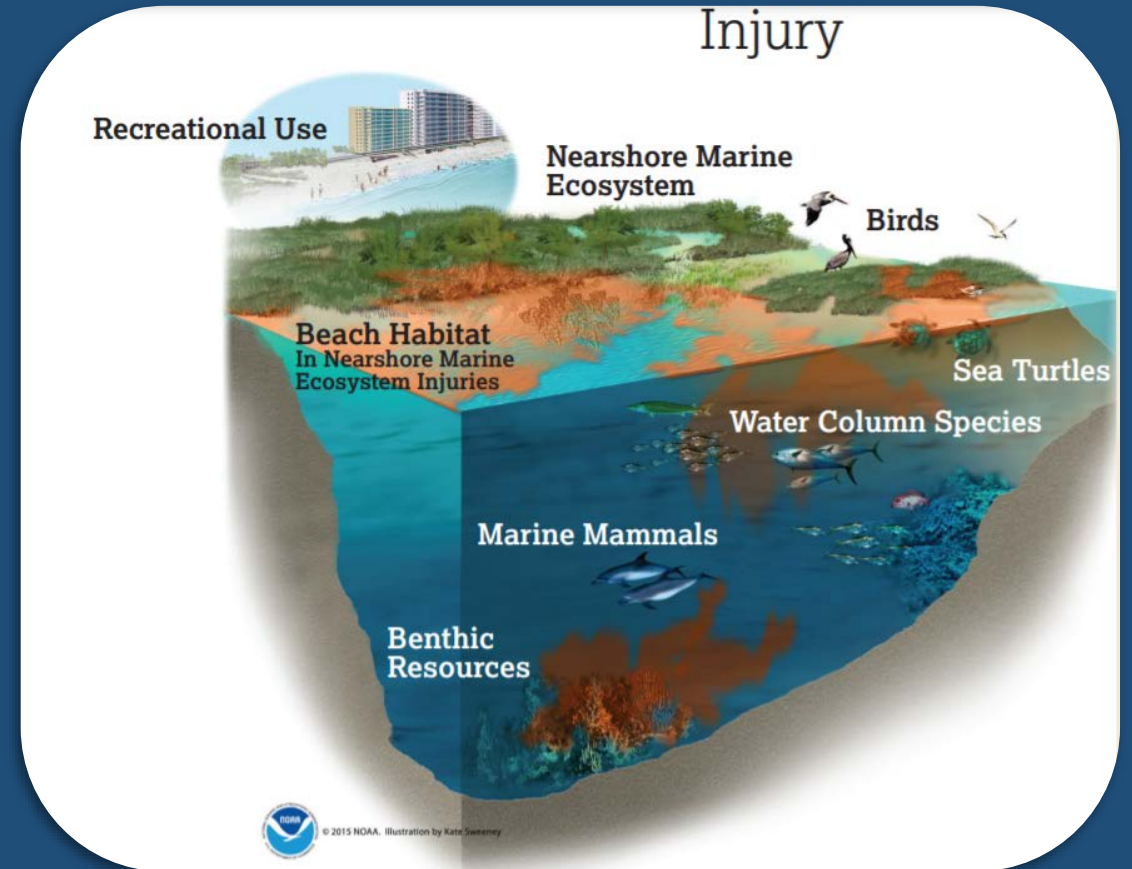
- Determine injury to natural resources and ecosystem services
- Assess damages for injuries to recover and restore natural resources and services
- Recover damages or restoration to compensate the public for those injuries



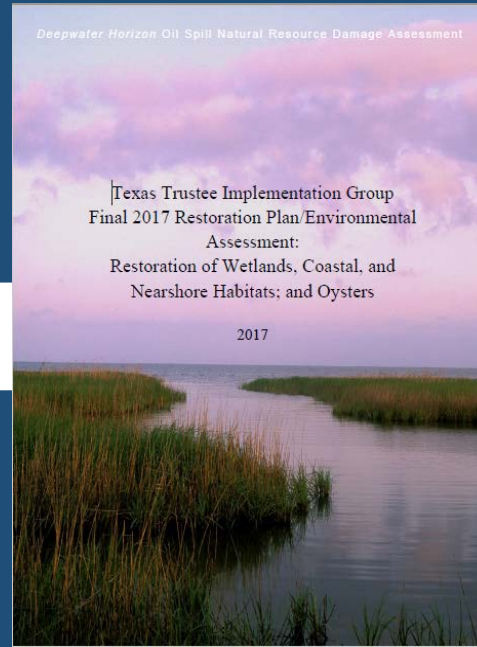
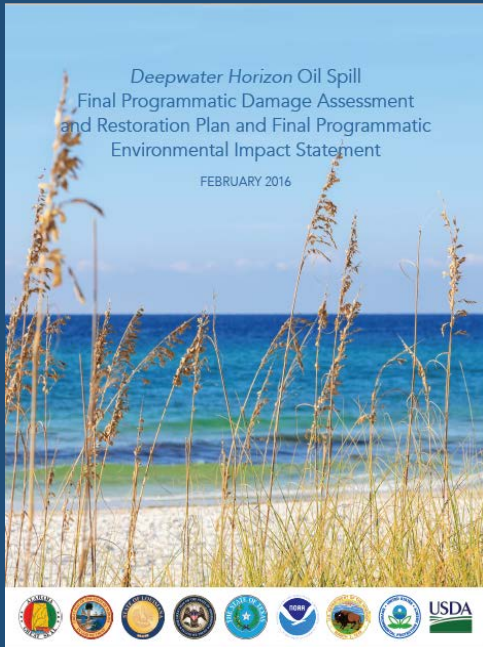
**Goal:** Restore injured natural resources to baseline condition and to replace ecosystem services lost while the habitat was contaminated, effectively making the environment and public whole

# Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

- In April 2010, the *Deepwater Horizon* exploded, caught fire, and sank
- Discharged 3.19 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico over 87 days
- Injured wildlife, habitats, and ecological functions
- Adversely effected recreational opportunities



Impacted shoreline and state waters of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, and Florida and the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico



## PDARP

- Framework document for future project-specific restoration plans
- Identifies approaches and techniques for restoration

## Restoration Plans

- Evaluates specific projects for restoration types established in PDARP
- Multiple restoration plans released over time
- Projects must be consistent with restoration goals, types, approaches, and techniques identified in PDARP

## Restoration Projects

- Multiple restoration projects under each restoration plan
- Must be implemented in accordance with PDARP and restoration plan

# 2016 Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PDARP)

## Injury Quantification:

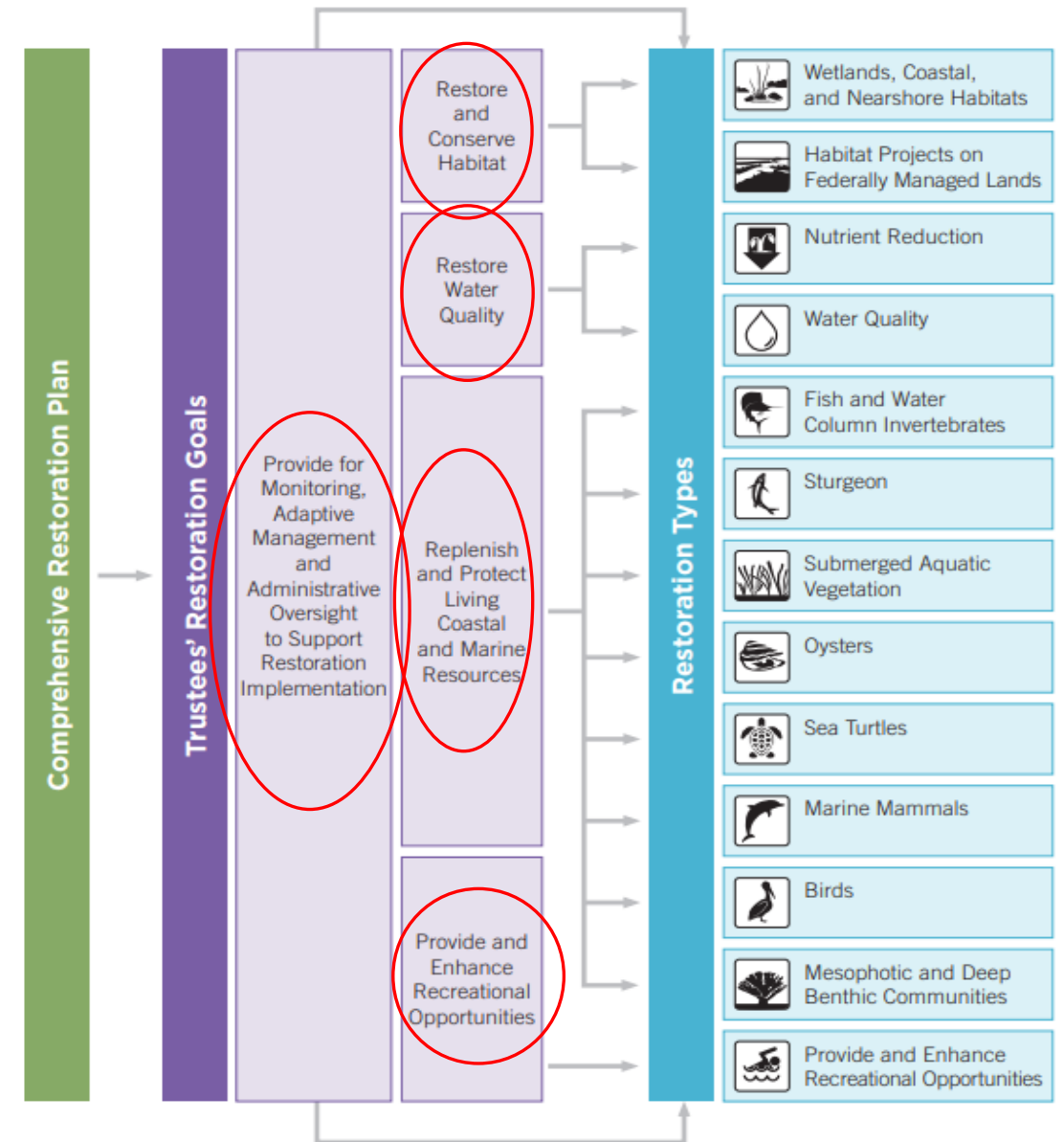
- Determines nature and extent of injuries to natural resources and services

## Restoration Planning:

- Establishes restoration goals
- Identifies type and amount of restoration needed to compensate for the impacts
- Identifies approaches and techniques for restoration and monitoring

## Damages:

- Allocates restoration funding for specific restoration types by geographic area



# Texas Trustee Implementation Group

Responsible for planning and implementing restoration activities within the Texas Restoration Area

- Identify, develop, and evaluate project alternatives
- Draft restoration plans identifying proposed projects
- Engage the public for comment on restoration plans
- Select and implement restoration projects
- Conduct monitoring and adaptive management





# Texas TIG Agencies

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Department Of the Interior

United States Department of Agriculture

United States Environmental Protection Agency

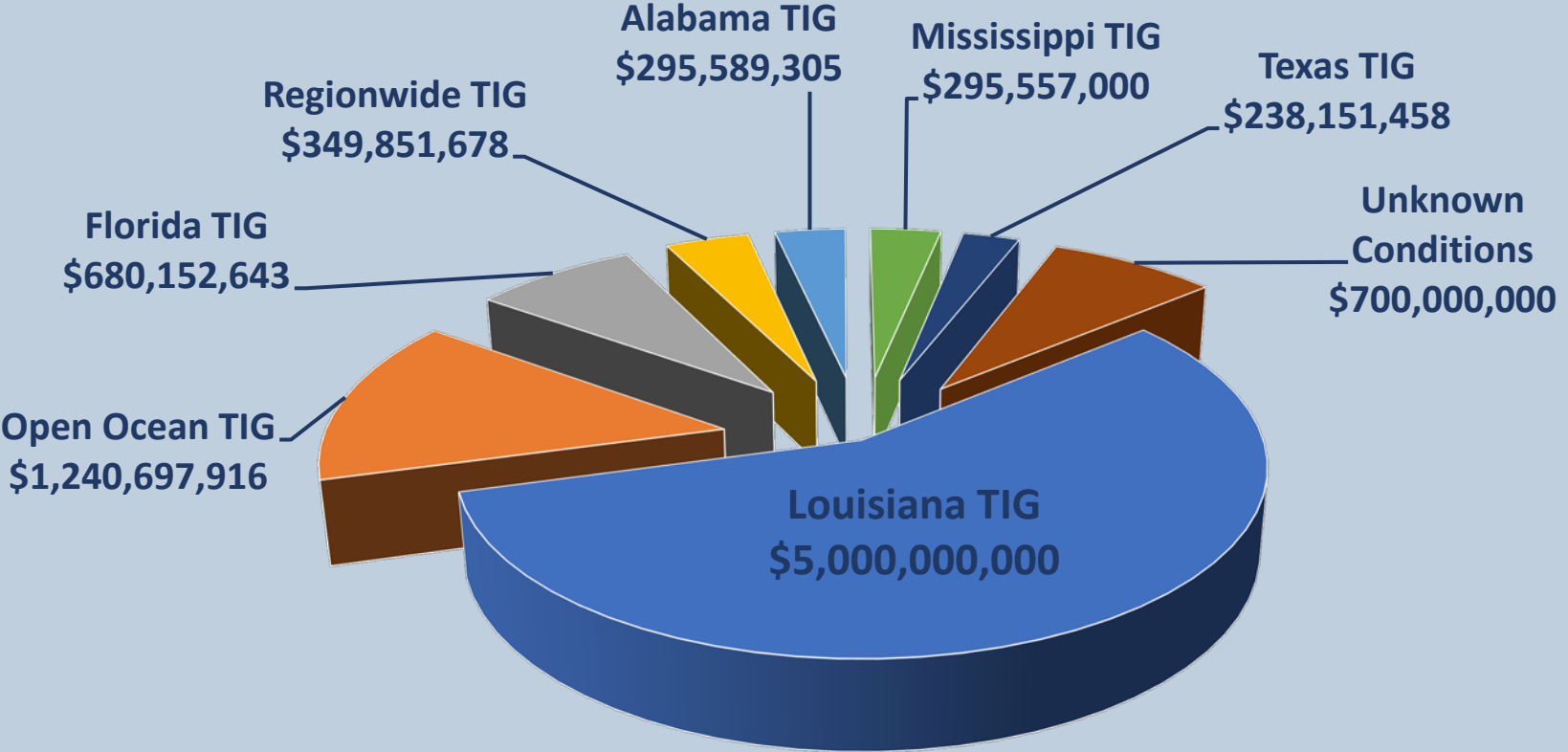
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

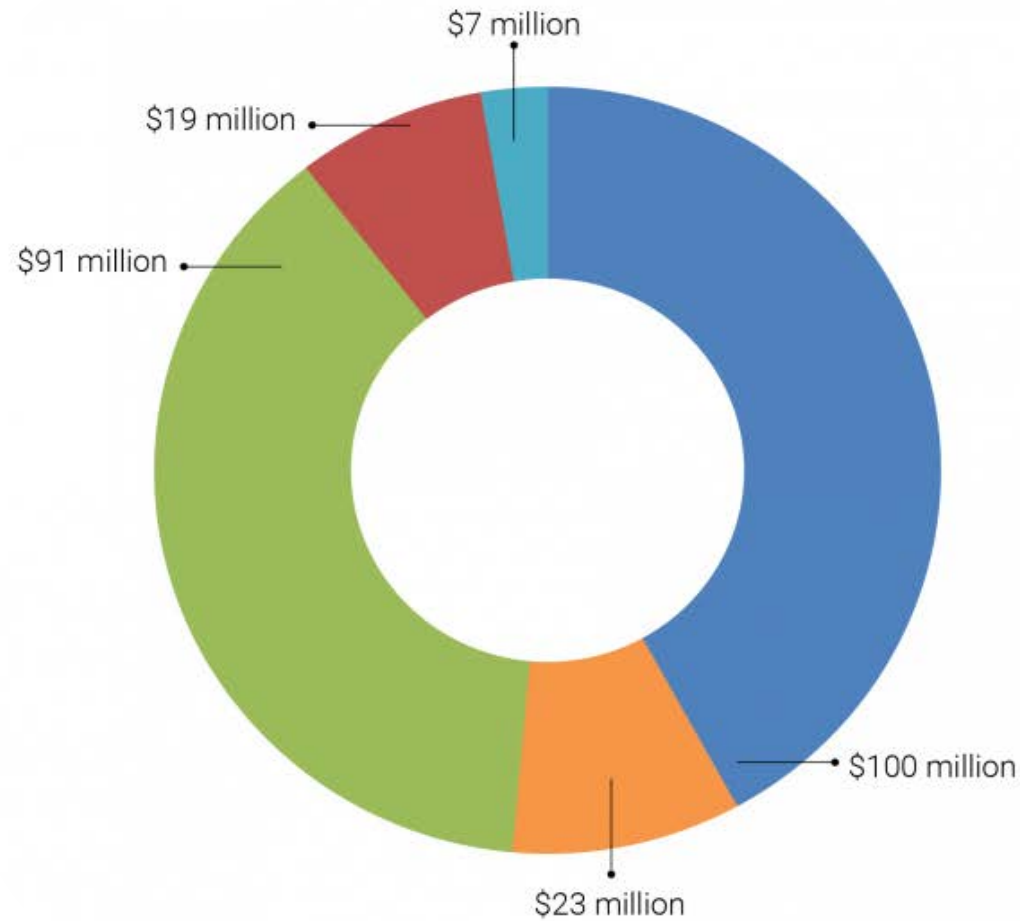
Texas General Land Office



# Total Allocation



# Texas Allocation of Restoration Funds

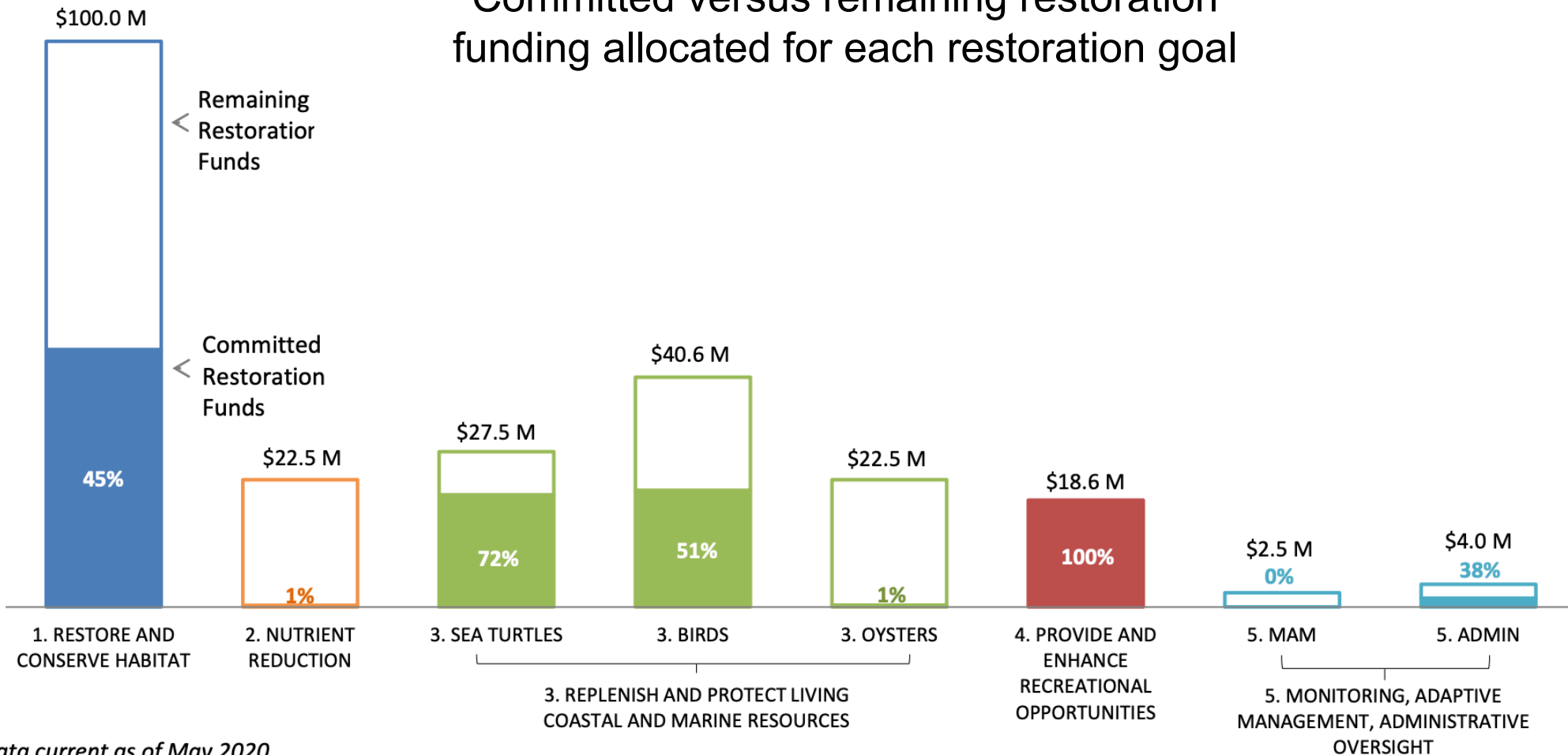


Restoration funding allocated to the Texas Restoration Area for each restoration goal

- Restore and Conserve Habitat
- Restore Water Quality
- Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
- Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities
- Monitoring, Adaptive Management, Administrative Oversight

# Commitment of Restoration Funds

Committed versus remaining restoration funding allocated for each restoration goal



Data current as of May 2020

# Where to find more DWH NRDA information

## GULF SPILL RESTORATION



Website maintained by NOAA on behalf of the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustees

Home

About Us

How We Restore

Restoration Areas

Data

Media & News

Google Custom Search

Home \ Restoration Areas \ Texas Restoration Area

## Texas Restoration Area

Restoration work in the Texas Restoration Area will focus on restoring wetlands and other coastal habitats and reducing nonpoint source pollution. We will also restore wildlife injured by the spill, including oysters, birds, and sea turtles.

Together, the trustees will restore natural resources—and the services they provide—that were injured by the spill. We will develop project-specific restoration plans, consistent with the **programmatic restoration plan** (see chart below). As part of the restoration planning process, we will accept restoration project ideas from the public. The public will also have the opportunity to review and comment on any proposed project-specific restoration plans for the Texas Restoration Area. Once approved, we will then begin implementation and monitoring of the selected projects.



<https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/texas>

# Texas TIG Current Restoration Planning Activities

## Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment 2 (RP/EA 2)

- October 1 - December 10, 2020: Solicited project ideas from the public
- January 2021: Began screening projects and drafting plan
- February 2022: Release Draft RP/EA for public comment
- March 2022: Public meeting for comment
- July 2022: Release Final RP/EA

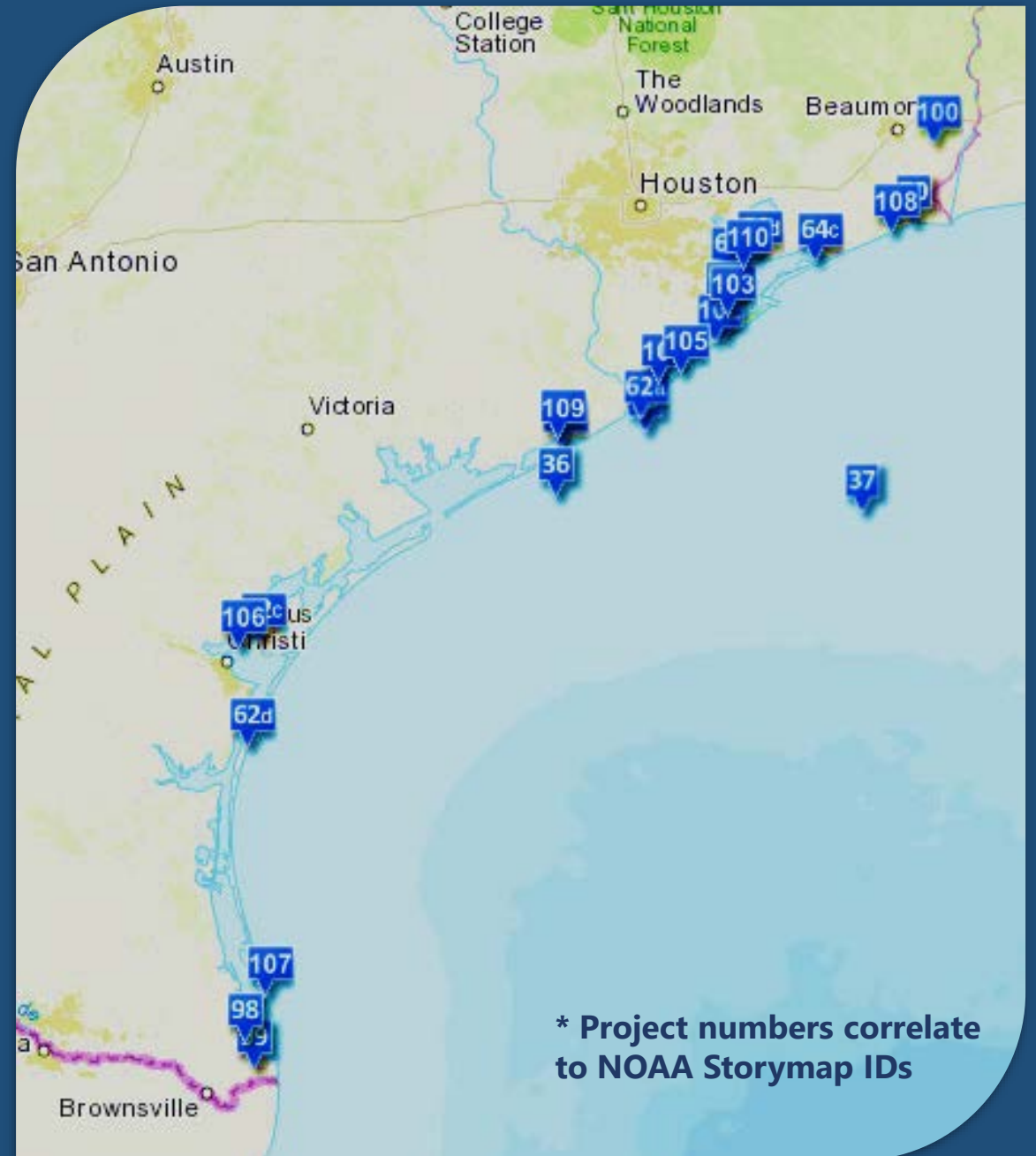
# Texas Trustee Implementation Group Projects in Progress



# Current Projects

## Twenty (20) active projects along the Texas coast include:

- Hydrologic and wetland restoration
- Habitat acquisition
- Park redevelopment and improvements
- Oyster restoration
- Artificial reef construction
- Sea turtle restoration
- Rookery Island construction





# Bahia Grande Acquisition Project



**Location:** Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Cameron County

**Description:** Acquisition and protection of important coastal habitat including tidal wetlands, thorn scrub, and coastal prairie.

**Benefits:** Acquired land is being managed by USFWS as part of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge and the Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor. The acquisition and protection of these habitats benefits numerous species, including wading birds, migratory birds, and ocelots.

**Status:** The acquisition was finalized in summer 2021, with final project reporting to be completed this year.

# Dredged Material Planning for Wetlands Restoration



**Location:** 8 sites in Sabine Lake, Galveston Bay, Matagorda Bay, San Antonio Bay and Aransas Bay

**Description:** Develop engineering and design documents to restore coastal wetlands at these site using beneficial use of dredged material

**Benefits:** Engineering and Design documents will be used to form the basis of a future Texas TIG Restoration Plan that will focus on a subset of the eight sites. The Texas TIG is actively working with the USACE to leverage TIG funding with ongoing dredging activities to restore coastal habitats that support fish and wildlife resources.

# Bahia Grande Hydrologic Restoration



**Location:** Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, near Port Isabel, Cameron County

**Description:** Enlarge and stabilize the existing Joe Gayman pilot channel, which provides tidal exchange between the Brownsville Ship Channel and the Bahia Grande

**Benefits:** Restore water to a tidally influenced wetland which has been impacted since the 1950s. Approximately 6,500 acres of wetland will be restored, making this one of the largest wetland restoration projects in the United States, and one of the most cost effective on a per-acre basis.

**Status:** Under Construction

# McFaddin Beach and Dune Restoration



**Location:** McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge, Jefferson County

**Description:** Restore and enhance 17 miles of beach and dune habitat which provides protection for Salt Bayou Marsh

**Benefits:** Restore dune and beach barrier along ~17 miles of shoreline to protect Texas' largest system of freshwater marshes from open water transition with Gulf of Mexico. This will be the largest beach restoration project in Texas to date.

**Status:** Solicitation complete

# Texas Rookery Islands

## Dickinson Bay Island II



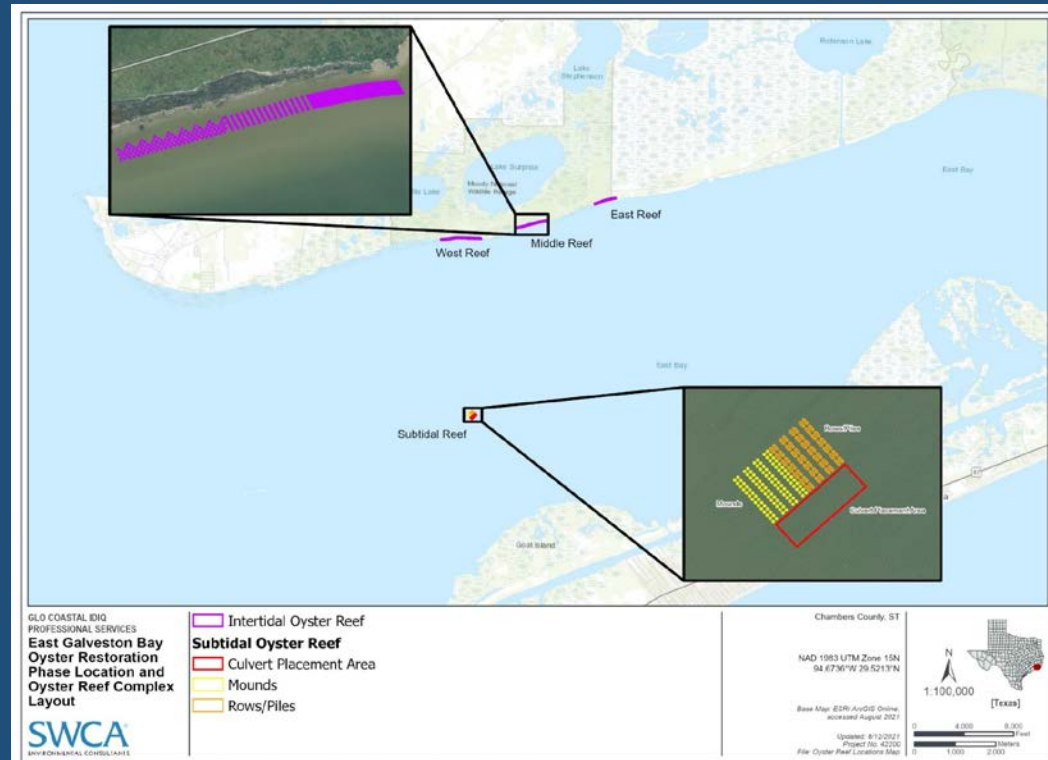
**Location:** Dickinson Bay, north of Texas City, TX, Galveston County

**Description:** Construction of a 4-acre bird rookery island in Dickinson Bay. Will involve placing fill to create new island mass, planting native scrub-shrub vegetation to enhance habitat, and building armored levees to protect the island from erosion

**Benefits:** Will create nesting habitat for colonial waterbirds.

**Status:** Under Construction

# Oyster Restoration- East Galveston Bay



**Location:** East Bay, Galveston and Chambers County

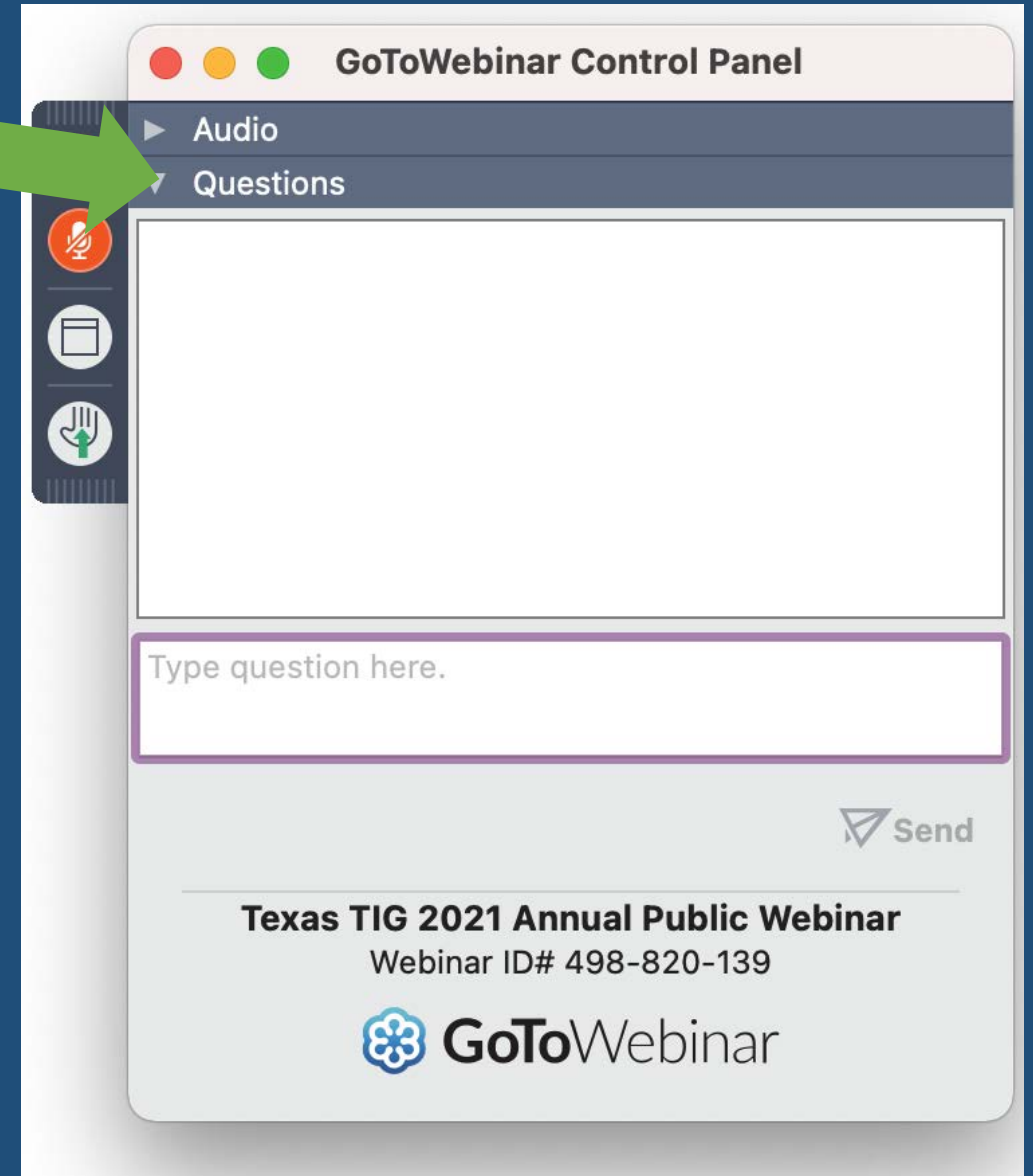
**Description:** Engineering and design for this project was completed via funding from the Texas TIG RP1. Project implementation funding is provided by the RW TIG as part of the Improving Resilience for Oysters by Linking Brood Reefs and Sink Reefs project funded in September 2021.

**Benefits:** Project will restore 6 acres of intertidal reef and 1.4 acres of subtidal oyster reef.

# Questions?

Please type your questions in the “Questions” box.

We’ll do our best to answer as many as possible.



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# Thank you!



<https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/texas>