



# Mississippi Restoration Area

## Maintaining Enhanced Marine Mammal Stranding Network Capacity and Diagnostic Capabilities

June 2022

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will focus on maintaining the enhanced capacity of the Mississippi Marine Mammal Stranding Network (MMSN) for three years in order to maintain an enhanced ability to respond to stranded, sick, injured, or dead marine mammals. Responding to live strandings in a timely manner increases the animal's likelihood of survival. If the response is to a deceased animal, it is also important to respond quickly because data from tissue samples are lost as the decomposition process occurs.

In addition, funds may be used to maintain MMSN capacity to respond to unusual natural or anthropogenic events (e.g., oil spills, harmful algal blooms, freshwater events, hurricanes).

The project will also maintain the timeliness, efficiency, and number of marine mammal stranding cases analyzed to provide more cause of illness and death information.

### IMPLEMENTING TRUSTEES AND PROJECT PARTNERS

The Implementing Trustee for this project is the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

### LEVERAGING

This project will build upon the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund Mississippi Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation, Recovery, and Monitoring Program - Phase I that is anticipated to be completed in 2022.

### ALLOCATION

\$2,350,000

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