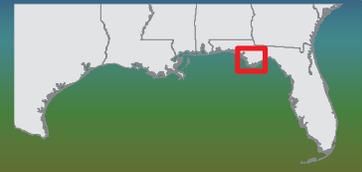




Gulf Coast
Ecosystem
Restoration
Council

Apalachicola Bay Watershed

Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration
(FL_RESTORE_002_006_Cat1/Cat2)



Project Name: Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration

Costs: Category 1: \$702,000 | Category 2: \$3,978,000

Responsible Council Member: State of Florida

Project Details: This project proposes to restore oyster reefs within Apalachicola Bay, an area with nationally and regionally significant oyster reefs, by placing substrate or "cultch" in bays where natural reproduction occurs. Cultch placement is among the most effective technique used to: 1) create reef infrastructure, 2) stimulate spat setting, 3) sustain oyster fisheries, 4) enhance ecological community functions, 5) increase natural productivity, and 6) accelerate the recovery process. The proposed project would extend the *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Damage Assessment Early Restoration Phase III oyster cultch project.

Activities: The proposed project includes activities in two FPL categories. Category 1 activities would include completion of environmental compliance and permitting for restoration of approximately 219 acres of natural oyster reefs through the addition of approximately 43,858 cubic yards of cultch material.

Category 2 activities are proposed for potential future funding. If funded in the future, Category 2 activities would include the placement of approximately 43,858 cubic yards of suitable oyster reef substrate in approximately 219 acres of natural oyster reef through the use of barges and high-pressure water. Areas to be cultched would be marked with buoys or clearly marked stakes. Following the completion of the planting, oyster density sampling would be conducted and analyzed at six months, one year and two years after placing cultch at each restoration site.

Environmental Benefits: If the Category 2 activities are fully implemented in the future, the project would restore approximately 219 acres of natural oyster reefs through the addition of approximately 43,858 cubic yards of cultch material to support successful oyster spat settlement and, ultimately, adult oysters. Ecological benefits associated with the project are realized through an array of ecological services in the form of increased fishery and wildlife habitat; increased biodiversity and trophic dynamics; increased filtering capacity to improve water quality and recycle nutrients; increased structural stability to reduce coastal erosion and to protect near shore resources; protection of water quality; and the protection of healthy, diverse and sustainable living coastal marine resources.

Duration: It is anticipated to take between six to twelve months to complete the Category 1 environmental compliance and permitting. Category 2 implementation activities, if funded in the future, would be completed approximately three years from the time funding is received. Once the project is constructed it is anticipated that the project's ecological benefits would be sustainable over the long-term.

More information on these activities can be found in Appendix H. Apalachicola Bay; Unique Identifier: FL_RESTORE_002_006_Cat1 and FL_RESTORE_002_006_Cat2.



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

Apalachicola Bay Watershed

 Oyster Restoration

Cost: Category 1: \$702,000 | Category 2: \$3,978,000

Sponsor: State of Florida

Project Status: Planning/Implementation

Purpose: **Planning** - The project would complete all applicable environmental compliance and permitting for placing culch material for the settling of oyster larvae and oyster colonization in Apalachicola Bay. **Implementation** - If funded in the future, the project would involve the placement of 43,856 cubic yards of culch material over 219 acres of natural oyster reefs at selected sites within the Bay.



Map Date: August 10, 2015

Gulf of Mexico

