

Draft Funded Priorities List 3b

Proposal Abstract

Sponsor: Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

Proposal: Coastal Nearshore Habitat Restoration and Development Program in Mississippi

Mississippi, through the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), is requesting \$40M in Council-Selected Restoration Component funding for the proposed Coastal Nearshore Habitat Restoration and Development Program in Mississippi. This would include \$8M in planning funds as FPL Category 1, as well as a separate \$32M implementation component as an FPL Category 2 priority for potential funding. This program would support the primary RESTORE Comprehensive Plan goal to restore and conserve habitat through activities to create, restore, and enhance coastal habitat, including marsh, beach, and dunes through the dedicated sourcing of materials. Program activities include planning, engineering and design, and construction of habitat in the three coastal counties of Mississippi, and builds off work funded by the Initial FPL, as well as National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Ecosystem Benefit Fund projects. To accelerate habitat creation and restoration, MDEQ may utilize multiple methods for sourcing material for habitat construction.

Coastal nearshore habitats provide many important ecosystem services including acting as natural buffers to protect shorelines from erosion, storm surge protection, fisheries production, and water quality benefits through sediment and nutrient reduction. The creation of new coastal nearshore habitats and the restoration of these habitats would continue to support and increase these ecosystem services to coastal systems in Mississippi. Program duration is 10 years.