



# Gulf Restoration Workgroup Update

*7th Annual NOAA/NGI Hypoxia Research Coordination Workshop –  
Building the Cooperative Hypoxia Assessment and Monitoring Program  
January 9 – 10, 2018  
Stennis Space Center, MS*

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U.S. Department of Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

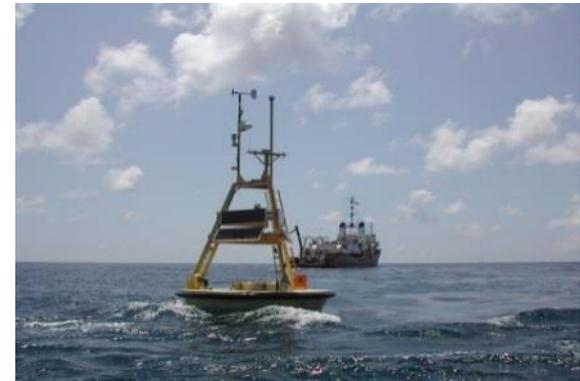
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

# CHAMP Gulf Restoration Workgroup

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## Purpose:

- ID opportunities for leveraging DWH-funded Monitoring to support the Cooperative Hypoxia Monitoring Program
  - RESTORE Council Monitoring and Assessment Program (CMAP)
  - NRDA Trustee Council Monitoring and Adaptive Management enterprise
  - NAS Gulf Program
  - Gulf State Centers of Excellence
  - Others



# CHAMP Gulf Restoration Workgroup

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## Goals:

- Identify ways DWH-funded monitoring activities can support monitoring objectives of CHAMP.
- Include and integrate appropriate CHAMP representatives into CMAP/GOMA Monitoring Community of Practice being established Summer 2018
- Ensure CHAMP accessibility to the CMAP monitoring network, and other regional water quality monitoring activities that collect relevant monitoring data

# Large Deepwater Horizon Funding Streams

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**Civil Settlements:** ~\$5.3 billion RESTORE Act

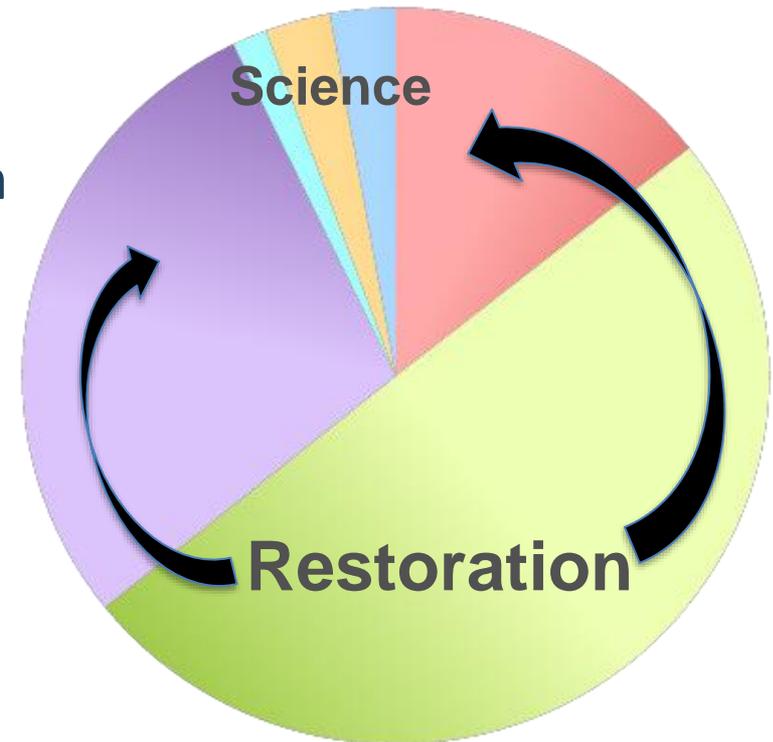
**Criminal Penalties:** ~\$3 billion

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
NAS Gulf Research Program

**Natural Resource Damages Trustee  
Council:** up to ~\$8.8 billion

**Voluntary:** \$500 million

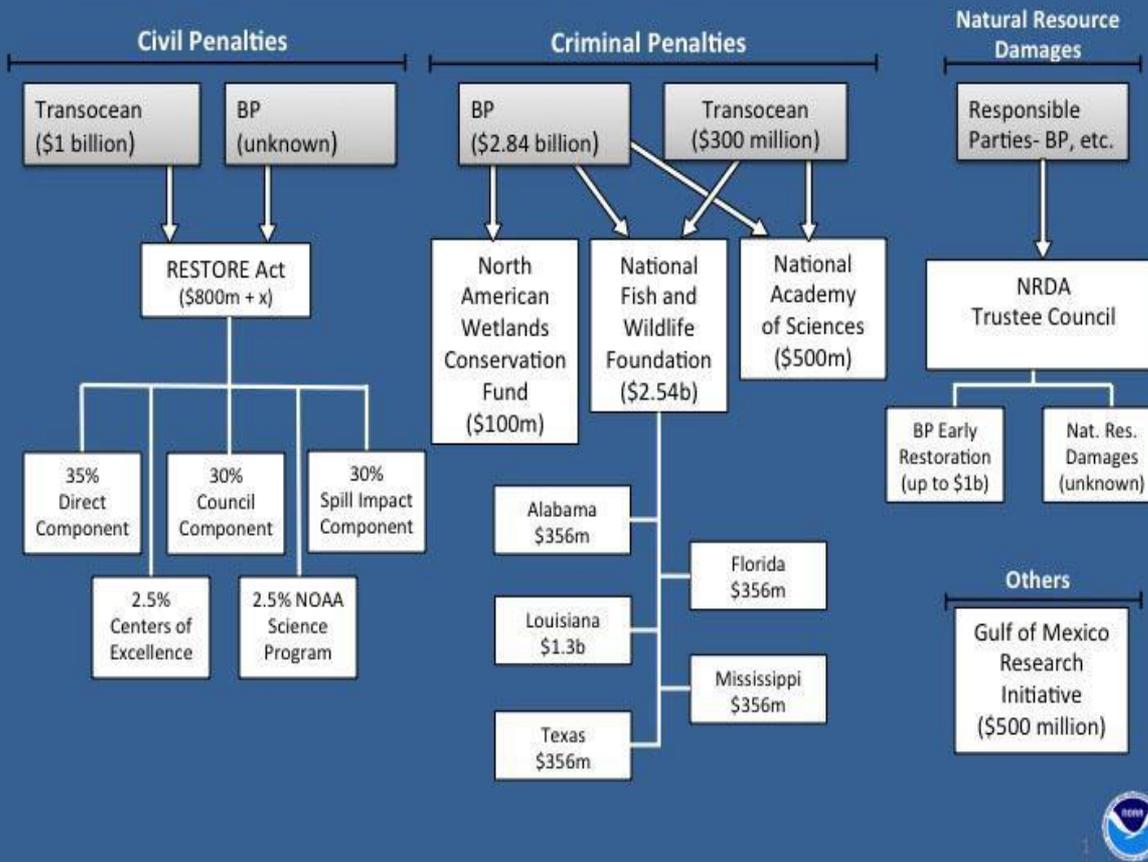
Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative



**Science Total: ~\$1.27 billion**

# Another view

## Deepwater Horizon Gulf Science and Restoration Initiatives



## RESTORE Act Partnerships in the Gulf of Mexico

(Funded by 80% of Civil Penalties)



Can any single program independently achieve holistic Gulf monitoring and assessment?

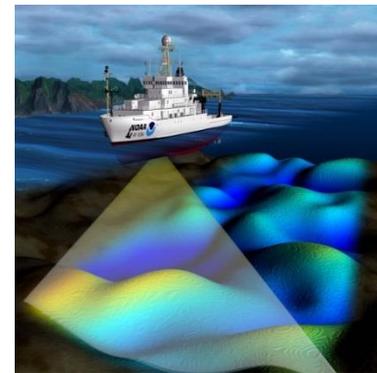


# Council Monitoring and Assessment Program

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## Approach: use and build on the numerous existing monitoring activities & programs in the Gulf

- Identify, catalogue, and understand historic and ongoing monitoring activities and associated data
  - Measurements taken
  - Location
  - Timing
  - Methods/Protocols
- Improve coordination of regional capabilities and capacity
- Develop and ensure consistent methods and protocols
- Develop data quality, management, and accessibility standards
- Monitor at different scales (project, basin, state, Gulf-wide)
- Identify and address information gaps

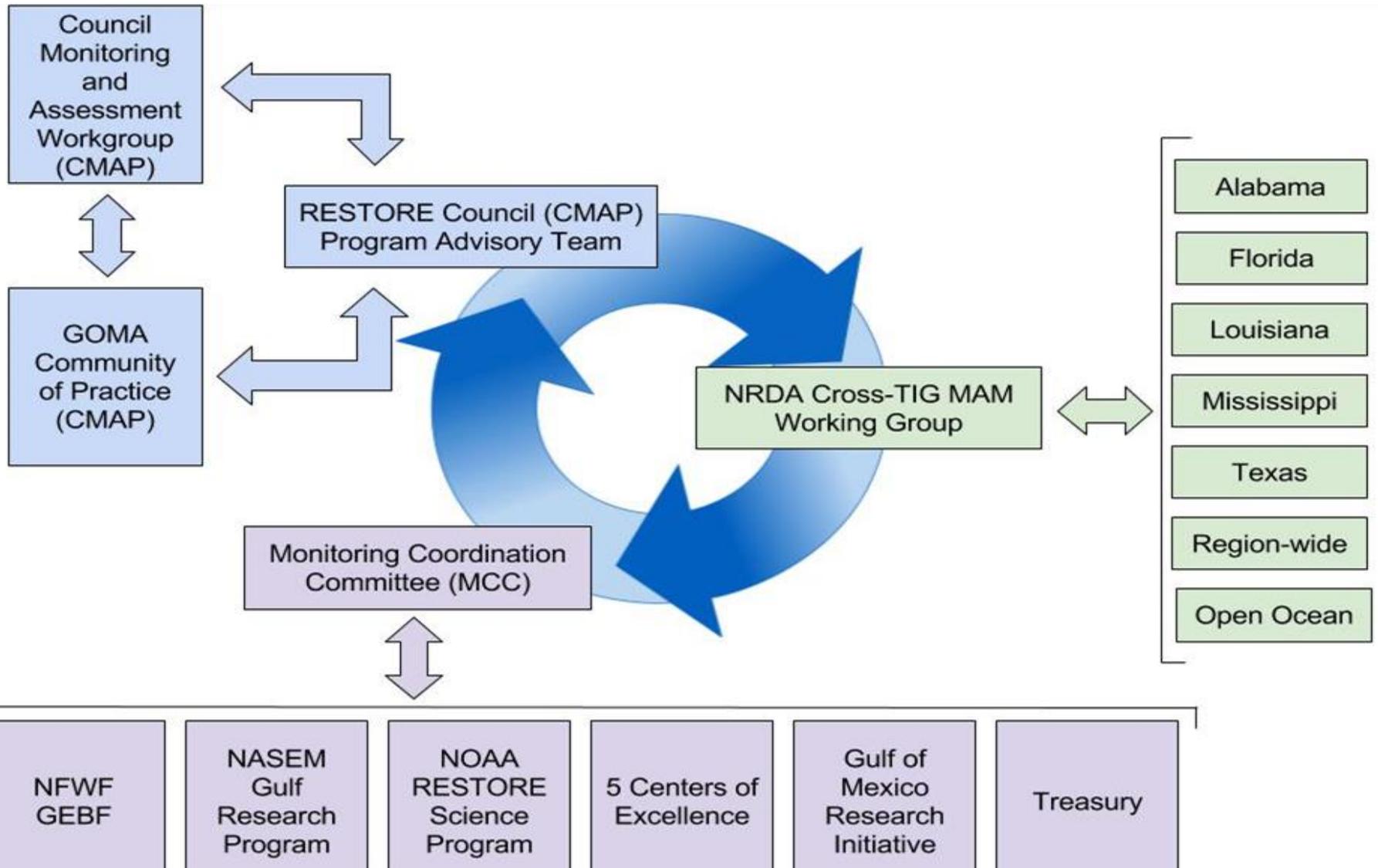


# Program Structure

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- **Program Advisory Team (PAT)**
  - 4 member team-NOAA, USGS, Council Science Advisor, 1 State
  - Discuss options for accomplishing activities based on existing capabilities and leveraging opportunities
  - Prepare recommendations to present to CMAWG for discussion/comments
  - NOAA and USGS responsible to the Council for program administration and implementation, execution, oversight & accountability
- **Council Monitoring & Assessment Work Group (CMAWG)**
  - 11 representatives – 1 representative per Council member
  - Coordination of and reach-back to available monitoring capacities and information
  - Program Advisory Team leads discussions of implementation activities, approaches, and sharing to generate recommendations to the Council
- **Monitoring Coordination Committee (MCC)**
  - Representatives include Program Management Team, NOAA RESTORE Science, NFWF, NAS, Centers of Excellence, others (The MCC will take over the role of the Monitoring Ad Hoc Working Group that was initially established under the Ad Hoc Funders Forum, and take advantage of Gulf Restoration Science Programs Ad Hoc Coordination)
  - Ensures connectivity between other monitoring funding sources in the Gulf region
- **Monitoring Community of Practice (CoP)**
  - Composed of Gulf of Mexico Alliance Priority Issue Teams as directed by Program Advisory Team
  - Lead workshops to provide feedback and input into establishment of Council minimum monitoring standards and protocols and to review existing baseline data and assessments

# Cross-Program Monitoring and Data Coordination



# Program Activities Summary

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- Inventory existing habitat/water quality monitoring programs
  - Building on and reconciling earlier efforts, catalogue existing monitoring activities, programs and available data
- Determine minimum monitoring standards
  - Survey and evaluate methods, protocols, and data management standards of existing monitoring activities and programs
  - Make recommendations to the Council for standard operating procedures, protocols, data management standards, and reporting
- Evaluate suitability of inventoried programs to support Council monitoring needs
- Develop searchable monitoring information databases
  - Information will support project and program-level monitoring planning and evaluations for Council member use
  - Initiate integrated data management structure

# Program Activities Summary

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- **Identify information gaps from inventory**
  - Anticipate significant gaps in data, even from State's with system-wide assessment and monitoring programs (LA) – non-tidal freshwater habitats, riverine conditions, natural resources
  - Prepare recommendation to the Council on additional monitoring data that may be needed to support Council needs
- **Inventory existing baseline condition assessments**
  - Baseline conditions serve as basis for measuring change/progress after restoration
- **Fill data gaps (potential future phase(s))**
  - Coordinate and integrate appropriate existing observations and monitoring systems and develop an integrated data management structure
  - Conduct additional data collection as required to support Council needs
- **Look at other data types beyond habitat and water quality (potential future phase(s))**

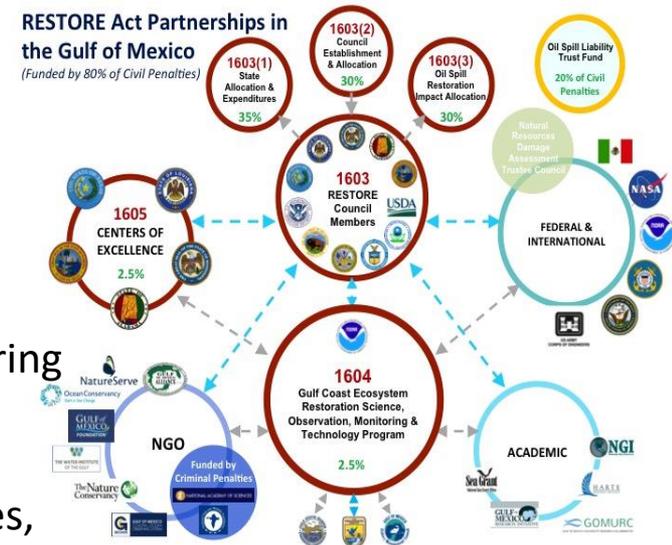
# Monitoring Coordination Committee

- Objectives

- (1) understand each MCC member's program monitoring objectives and needs
- (2) understand and evaluate each program's protocols, procedures, and processes,
- (3) identify common cross-program objectives and monitoring priorities,
- (4) identify program principles, capabilities, capacities, and available resources that could support network priorities,
- (5) coordinate resources (targeting, sharing, and leveraging) to meet program and network priorities, and
- (6) identify and address challenges in building consistency and compatibility across programs.

- Methods (TBD as group)

- Information exchange forum and strategic planning & implementation group
  - e.g., Exchange monitoring program recommendations & priorities
  - e.g., Identify and align out-year funding opportunities for monitoring



# MCC - Communication Engagement & Leveraging Opportunities

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- **Monitoring Program Structure**
  - Links to GOMA Priority Issue Teams, Alliance Management Team, Research Funders Forum, GOMRI, and others
  - Links to Gulf Restoration Science Programs Ad Hoc Coordination
- **NOAA RESTORE Science Program**
  - Coordination with funded ecosystem indicators and monitoring projects
- **NAS Gulf Restoration Program**
  - Discussions on data synthesis grants
  - Collaboration to develop “Effective approaches for monitoring & assessing GOM restoration activities”
- **Natural Resource Damage Assessment & Restoration - NRDAR**
  - Coordination on minimum monitoring standards, performance measures, data sharing, collection, and management
- **National Fish & Wildlife Foundation - NFWF**
  - Work on Gulf Restoration Science Program’s ad hoc monitoring working group to discuss common monitoring requirements – metrics, standards, etc.
  - Coordinate with NFWF-funded projects with monitoring components

# CHAMP Gulf Restoration Workgroup

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## Proposed Activities:

- Participate directly in CMAP to identify and create leveraging opportunities via MCC and MCoP.
- Explore and evaluate potential leveraging opportunities with NRDA Cross-Trustee Implementation Group MAM Work Group and other existing activities
- Identify pending Gulf restoration activities with significant and relevant monitoring components (e.g., LA Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, project monitoring, modeling, and adaptive management framework)

# CMAP Contacts

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