

A scenic photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. A long pier extends into the sea on the left side of the frame. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the water shows gentle ripples and small waves near the shore.

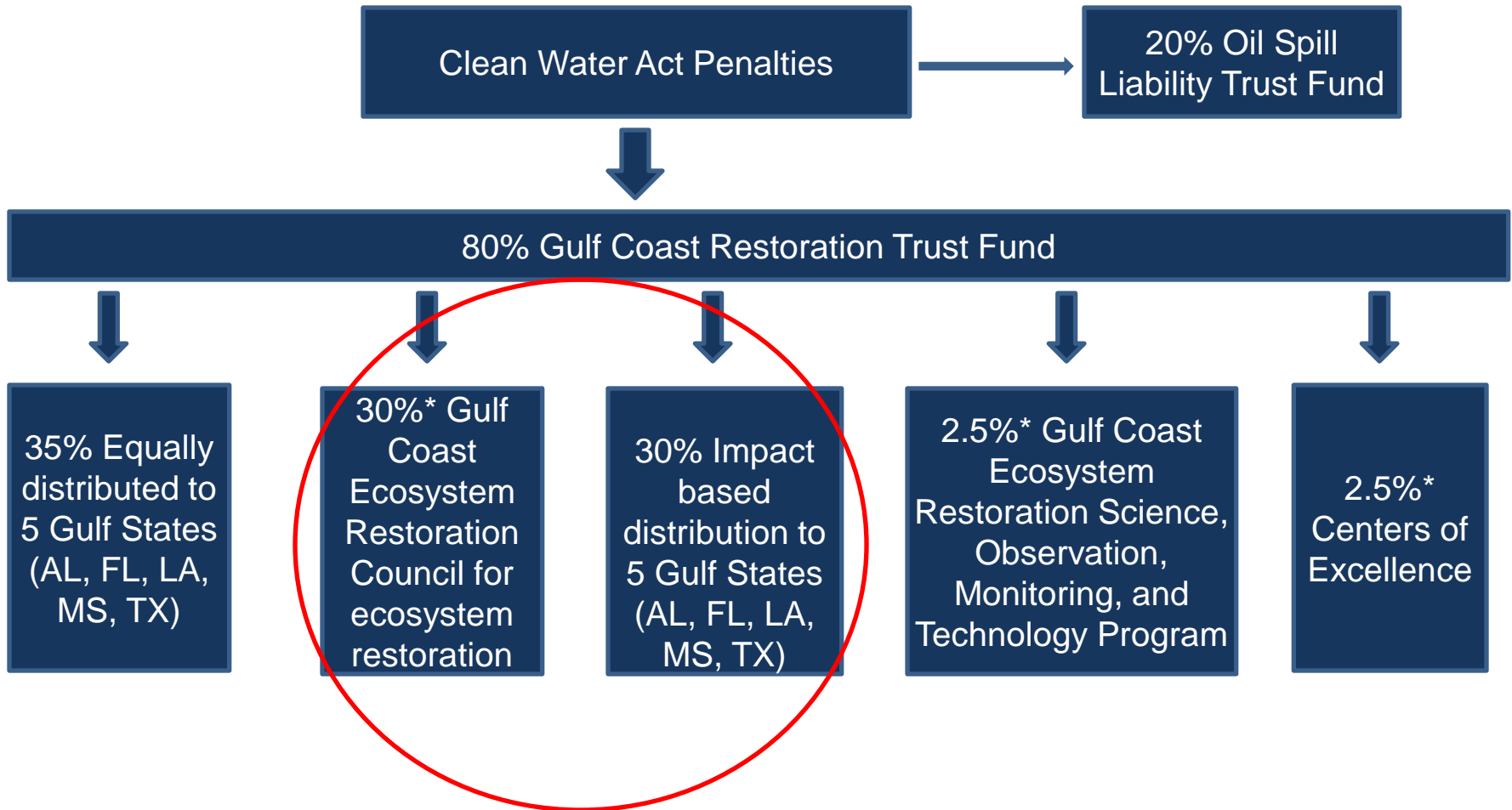
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

**And Public Engagement
CEERS**

July 29, 2014

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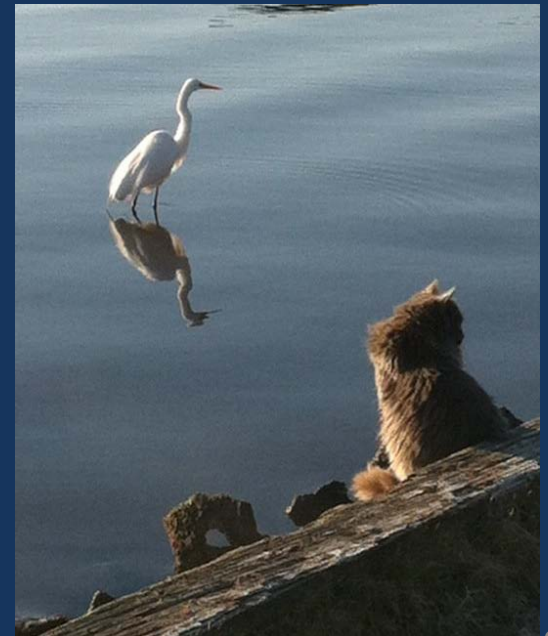
ALLOCATION OF RESTORE ACT FUNDS



***Supplemented by interest generated by the Trust Fund (50% to Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, 25% to Science Program, 25% to Centers of Excellence)**

Integrated Approach to Restoration

1. Restore and Conserve Habitat
2. Restore Water Quality
3. Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
4. Enhance Community Resilience
5. Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy

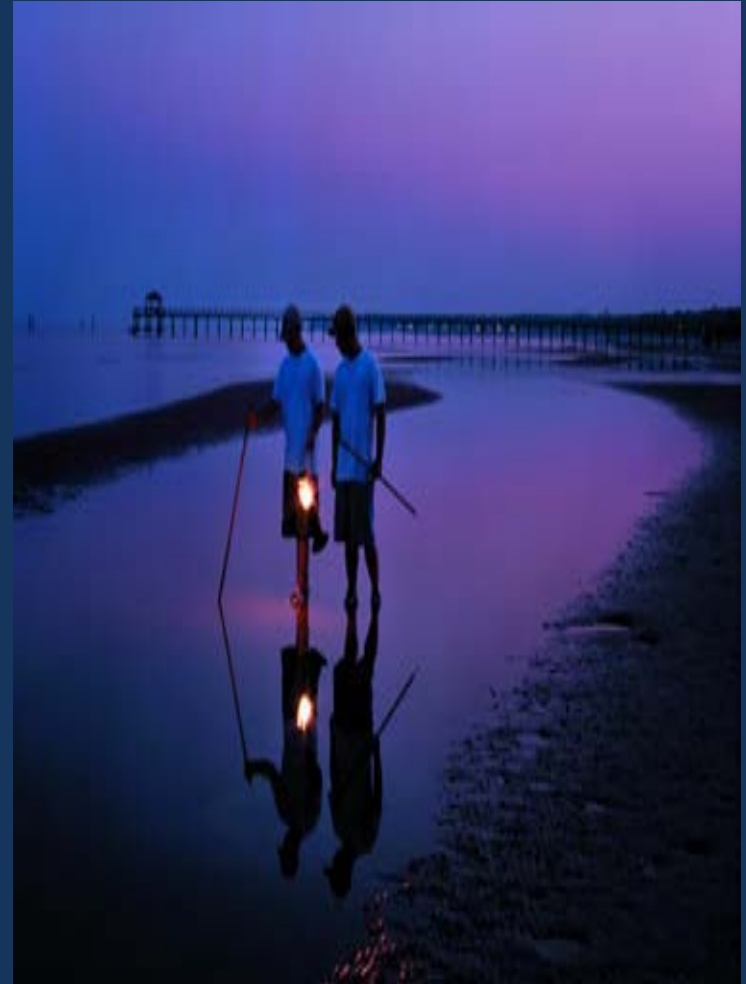


Engagement and the Comprehensive Plan

- “It is the Council’s intent to seek broad participation and input from the diverse stakeholders who live, work, and play in the Gulf Coast region in both the **continued development of this plan and the ultimate selection** and funding of ecosystem restoration activities.” (Pg.8)

Council-Selected Restoration Projects and Programs

- Develop a proposal solicitation and evaluation process
- Publish a Draft Funded Priorities List for public review
- Funded Priority List will serve as the basis for allocating funds



New Perspectives

- Scale
- Leverage
- Partnership



Council Public Engagement

- Challenges:
 - Diverse audiences
 - Vast geographic scope
 - Funding uncertainties
 - Meeting Fatigue



Council Public Engagement

Opportunities

- Leverage what has already been done
- Making the most of public input

Summary of Public Input

Administration of Restoration Processes

- Transparency
- Input mechanisms
- Coordination across processes
- Collaboration

Restoration Approach

- Science-based decision-making
- Metrics for success
- Monitoring and Tracking
- Focus on natural systems and processes

Projects/Priorities

- People
- Places
- Coastal and Marine Wildlife

What Comes Next?



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A satellite-style map of the Gulf of Mexico region, showing the coastline of the United States and Mexico. The water is a deep blue, and the land is green and brown. White outlines delineate the state boundaries of the Gulf Coast states: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. The text is centered over the Gulf of Mexico.

For More Information
www.RestoreTheGulf.gov