

Coordinating Monitoring Programs to Design for Holistic Ecosystem Restoration

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The variety of mechanisms for funding ecosystem restoration in the Gulf of Mexico offer unique challenges to establishing a coordinated and integrated monitoring response. Consistency in monitoring and adaptive management approaches at the system-wide, Gulf of Mexico scale requires external engagement across existing working groups (e.g., RESTORE Council Monitoring and Assessment, Cross-Trustee Implementation Group [TIG] Monitoring and Adaptive Management) and coordination forums (e.g., Monitoring Coordination Committee, Coordination Forum Monitoring Subgroup, Communities of Practice). The intent is to use these working groups to coordinate the development of the foundational components for Gulf region-wide monitoring, including monitoring and adaptive management plan guidance and monitoring standards and protocols, that will facilitate a system-level view of response to restoration. We will describe on-going efforts of the working groups and challenges in developing a shared monitoring and adaptive management vision among Gulf States, Federal and local partners, academia, non-governmental/non-profit organizations, and industry.