

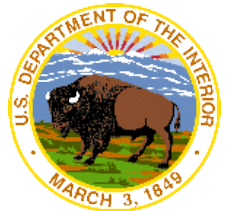


Environmental Studies Overview Gulf of Mexico Region



Pasquale Roscigno, PhD

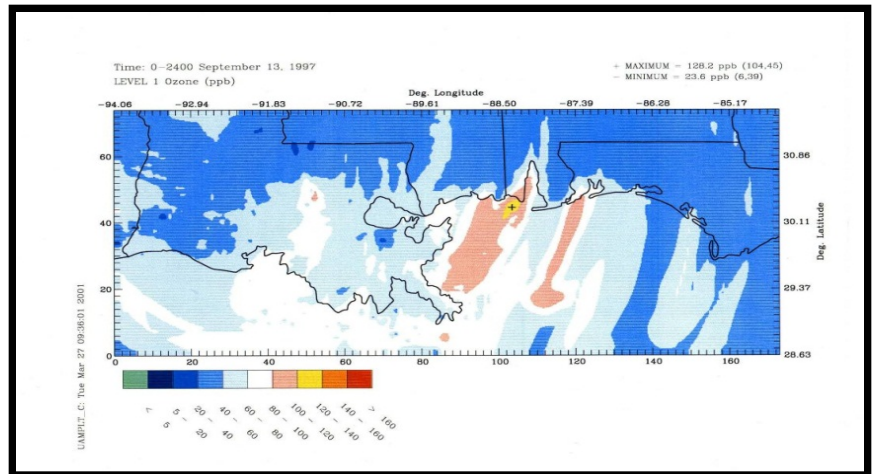
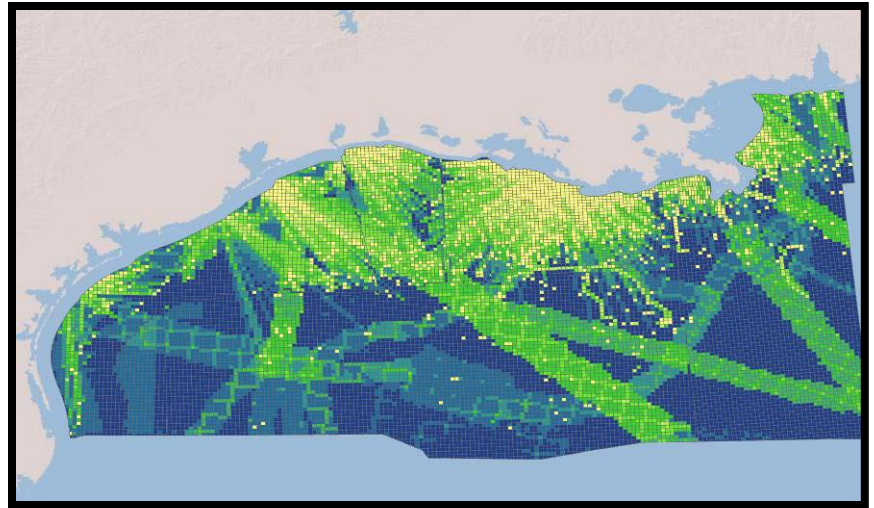
**Studies Chief
Environmental Studies Section
Environmental Studies Program**



- **Investigation of Pre-Riser Discharge from Wells within Proximity to Deep Water Benthic Communities for Plans with a “Zero Discharge” Mitigation**
- **Long-Term Monitoring at the East and West Flower Garden Banks: 2014-2017**
- **Long-Term Ecosystem Monitoring of the Deep Gulf of Mexico, Phase 1: Deep Water Coral Sites Impacted by the 2010 *Deep Water Horizon* Oil Spill**
- **Comprehensive Nearshore and Offshore Avian Surveys in the Gulf of Mexico (FY2015)**



- **Cumulative Impacts Modeling in the Gulf of Mexico Region**
- **Trends Analysis of OCS Emissions in the Gulf of Mexico**
- **Coral Reef Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site in the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (Reviewed by SAC last year)**
- **Assessment of Mud-Capped Dredge Pit Evolution on the OCS, Peveto and Sandy Point SE Borrow Areas**
- **Synthesizing and Quantifying Environmental Effects on the Gulf of Mexico**
- **Workshop on Developing a New, Leveraged Approach to Long-Term Monitoring in the GOM (FY 2015)**



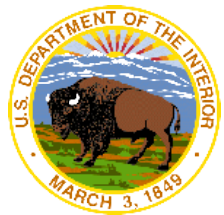


- **Coastal Land Loss and Oil & Gas Infrastructure**
- **Geo-Spatial Analysis of OCS Petroleum Effects on Gulf Coast Communities**

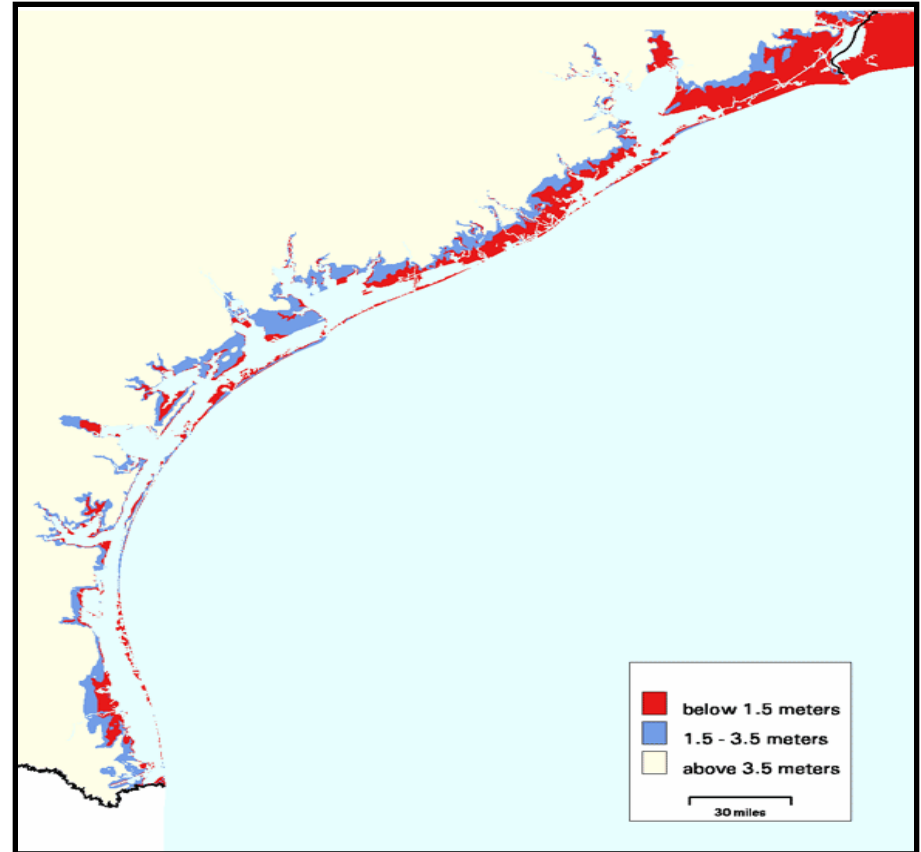




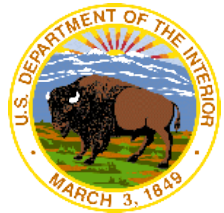
Testing and Assessment of the Effects of an Oil Spill on Coastal Archaeological Sites



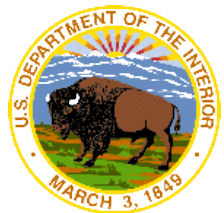
Texas Coastal Land Loss from 1992 to 2010



Source: USEPA



- **Natural Resource Damage Assessment**
- **Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative**
- **The RESTORE Act**

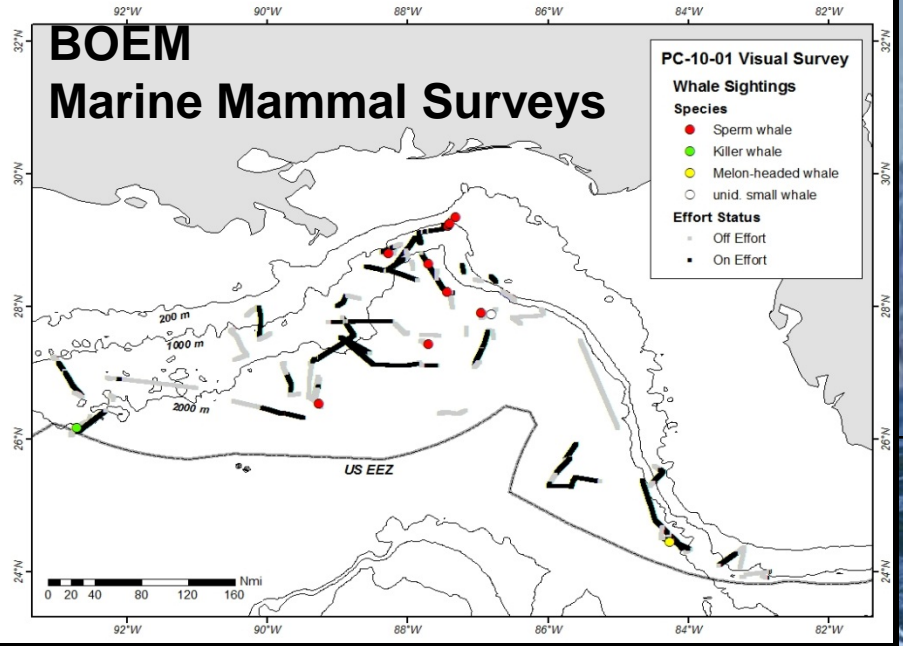


ESP Studies Complements NRDA Marine Mammal Efforts

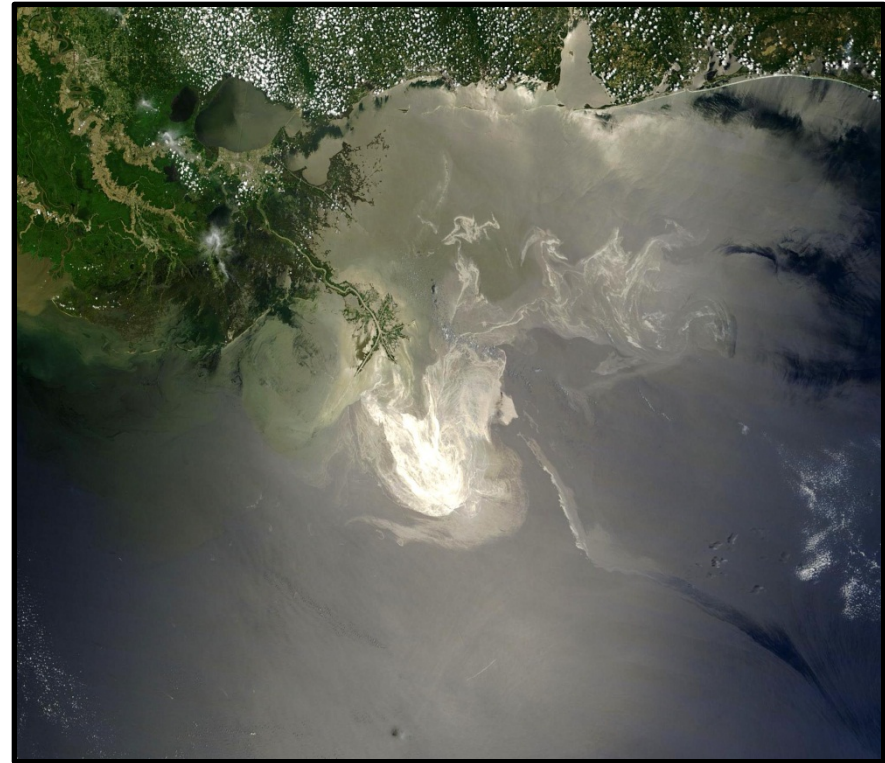
Seasonal NRDA Aerial Surveys



BOEM Marine Mammal Surveys



- **Study: “Simulation modeling of ocean circulation and oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico” (Awarded September 2011)**
- **Overlap with some aspects of DWH NRDA modeling**
- **Contractual deliverables held up by NOAA NRDA Deepwater Horizon legal process**
- **Not clear when first Annual Report will be released and available to the public**



Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative

- **The GOMRI is an independent scientific research program and is separate from the Natural Resources Damages Assessment process.**
- **The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GOMRI) Research Board manages the Request for Proposals (RFP) to select research activities involving Research Consortia.**
- **The objectives of the GOMRI are to investigate the impacts of the oil, dispersed oil, and dispersant on the ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico and affected coastal States.**
- **The ultimate goal of the GOMRI is to improve society's ability to understand, respond to, and mitigate the impacts of petroleum pollution and related stressors of the marine and coastal ecosystems, with an emphasis on conditions found in the Gulf of Mexico. Knowledge accrued will be applied to restoration and to improvement of the long-term environmental health of the Gulf of Mexico.**

Where is the Social Science?

Gulf of Mexico
Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference



January 21-23, 2013, New Orleans, Louisiana

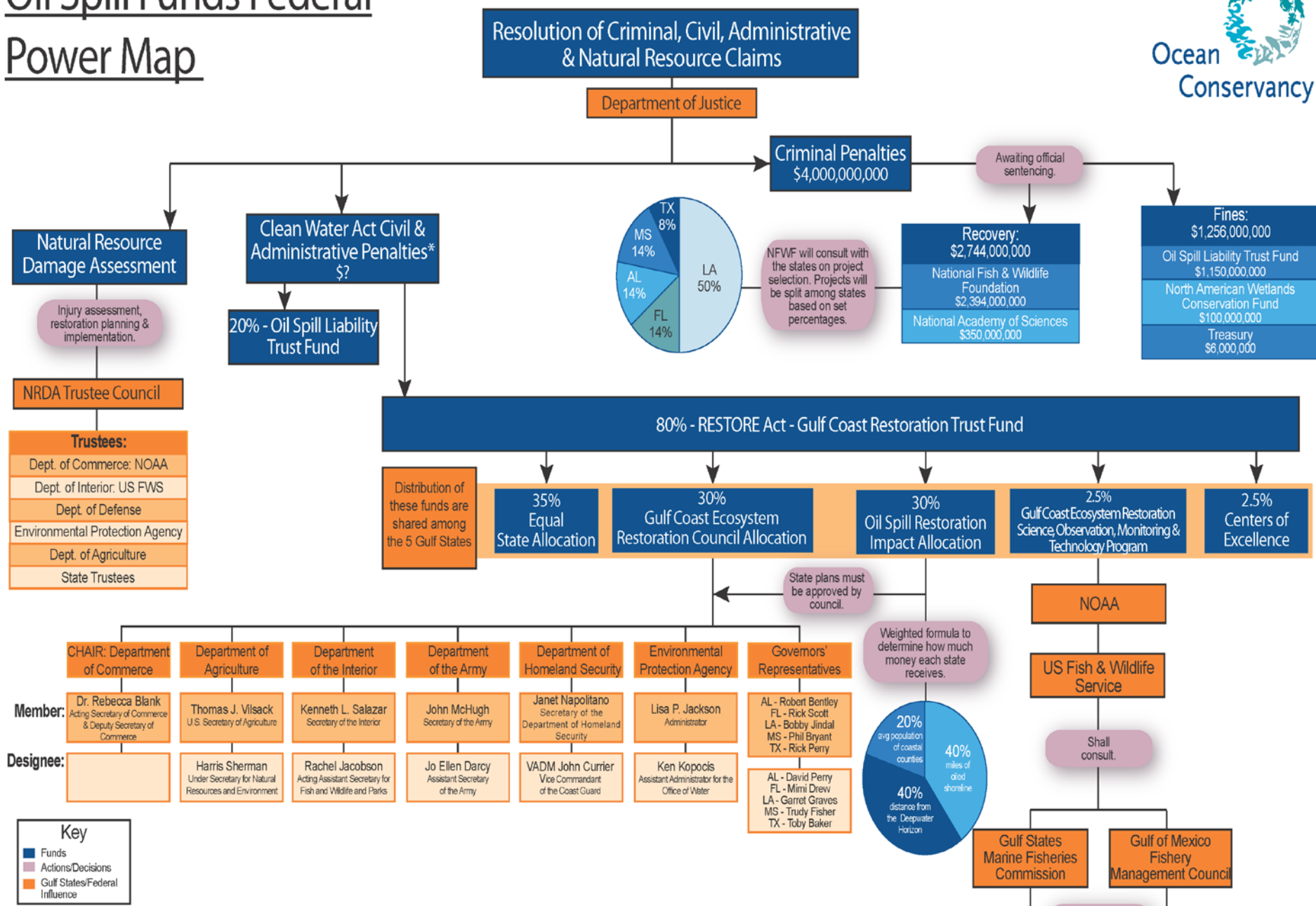
www.gulfofmexicoconference.org

- The criminal and civil settlements under the **Clean Water Act**, **Oil Pollution Act**, and the **Natural Resource Damage Assessment Act** are dedicated to ecosystem restoration and research/monitoring in the Gulf Coast
- The **Deepwater Horizon NRDA Trustees** are currently working on NRDA for the spill and have authorized in 10 early restoration projects in NRDA Phase I and Phase II Early Restoration Plans (~\$60 million)
- The **National Fish & Wildlife Foundation** has currently spent ~\$23 million on projects in response to the Spill and is receiving settlement funds for ecological restoration projects
- Approximately one-half will be used to "remedy harm" in **Alabama**, **Florida**, **Mississippi**, and **Texas**. The other half will go to projects in Louisiana, and will include efforts to restore coastal barrier islands and construct river diversions
- The **National Academy of Sciences** will use settlement funds for a 30 year Gulf Coast Research Program
- The **National American Wetlands Conservation Fund** received settlement funds for wetlands restoration, conservation, and projects benefiting migratory birds

Recent Activities by the Restore Council and the Gulf States

- **Restore Council Comprehensive Plan**
- **Individual Gulf State Plans**
- **Treasury Regulations**
- **3-Year Project List (Restore Council)**
- **Centers of Excellence (States)**
- **Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring, and Technology Program (Science Program – NOAA [FWS])*** *BOEM is a member

Oil Spill Funds Federal Power Map



*There may be other civil and administrative penalties. The CWA penalties are the focus of this chart. This is document version 1.0, as of 2/12/13.

Key

- Funds
- Actions/Decisions
- Gulf States/Federal Influence



Partnering and Leveraging Resources:
Good Government



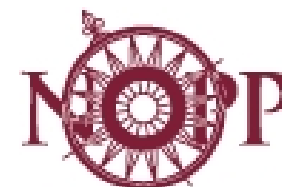
Forty years of Applied Environmental Research

Partnering, Partnering, Partnering

Making the best use of our resources



Subcommittee on
Ocean Science and Technology
Interagency Working Group on
Ocean Partnerships



Smithsonian
Institution



National
Oceanographic
Partnership
Program

