MISSISSIPPI

Design Challenge for Improvement of Water Quality from Beach Outfalls

The design challenge encouraged individuals and teams to compete to create innovative "green" solutions to address the water quality impacts of beach outfalls. The winning design is expected to be implemented and may be replicated across the Mississippi Coast. Finalists had their proposed restoration solutions peer reviewed by key stakeholders and technical experts, with additional input from the public. Design challenge implementation locations were based on proximity and net benefit to coastal resources such as oyster reefs, artificial reefs and marshes.

This project funded a design competition to find innovative eco-solutions for water quality impairments associated with stormwater beach outfalls, a significant threat to water quality in the Mississippi Sound. Numbering well in excess of 200 and found throughout all three coastal counties, these outfalls provide an important municipal stormwater function but currently provide minimal treatment. The untreated effluent adds significant sediment and nutrient loading to the sound and contributes to the detriment of species and habitats.

This project identified cost-effective and creative 'green' solutions to address water quality impacts associated with the more than 200 stormwater outfalls that discharge directly into the Mississippi Sound.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

AWARD AMOUNT:
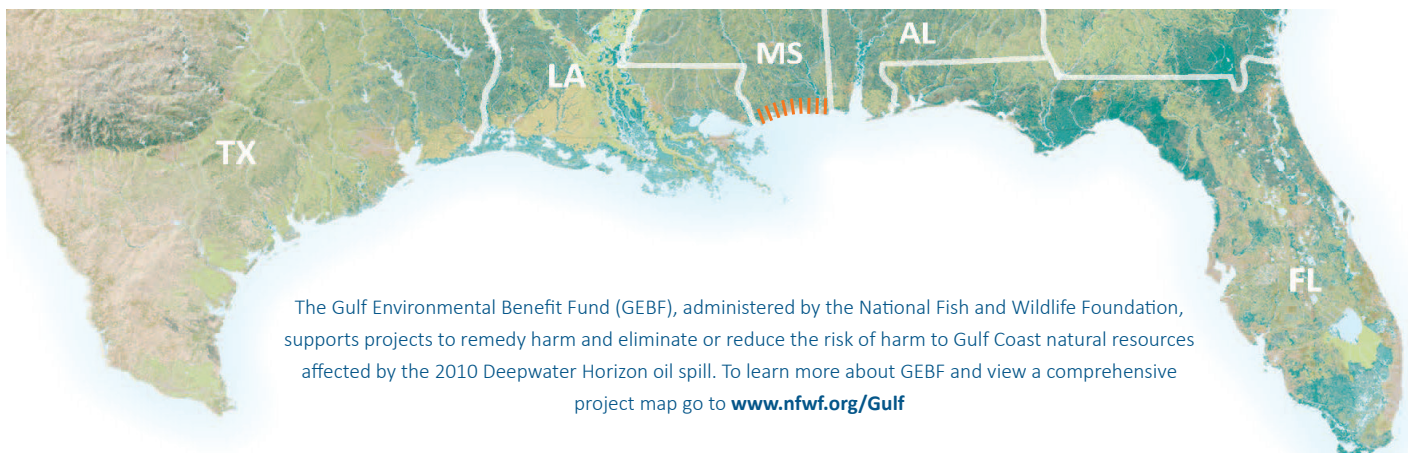*$556,088

LOCATION:
Mississippi Sound, Mississippi

AWARD DATE:
November 2015

STATUS:
Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE:
Three proposals to improve water quality associated with beach outfalls were selected for advancement. Engineering, design and construction of pilot-scale demonstrations for each are expected to move forward in the near future. Final reports have been submitted and the project is closed. (June 2018)

Project was amended in July 2018 to add $11,576 for unanticipated costs that exceeded initial estimates.