



NFWF

| Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

MISSISSIPPI

Reef Fish Assessment for Mississippi Coastal and Nearshore Waters: Restoration through Improved Data Collection and Management—Phase II

This project funded continuing assessments of reef fish in coastal Mississippi and nearshore Gulf waters. Collection of biological, environmental, and fishery-dependent data is reducing the scientific uncertainty around several key factors influencing red snapper and other reef fish population structures and stock assessments.

Prior to implementing an earlier phase of this project with funding from the GEBF, Mississippi did not utilize a standardized reef fish sampling protocol to obtain vital fishery data on abundance, distribution and life-history characteristics of red snapper and other reef fish in coastal Mississippi. As such, the state's ability to assess its reef fish populations and manage these vital fisheries in real time was limited. This proposal represented phase II of the Mississippi effort to address the GEBF funding priorities associated with improving red snapper and reef fish data collection to promote sustainable fisheries management.



This effort is complementary to similar efforts underway in Florida and Alabama.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

AWARD AMOUNT:

\$2,346,900

PARTNERS:

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

University of Southern Mississippi

LOCATION:

Mississippi Gulf Coast

AWARD DATE:

November 2017

STATUS:

Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE:

Final reports submitted and project is now closed (June 2020)



The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF), administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about GEBF and view a comprehensive

project map go to www.nfwf.org/Gulf