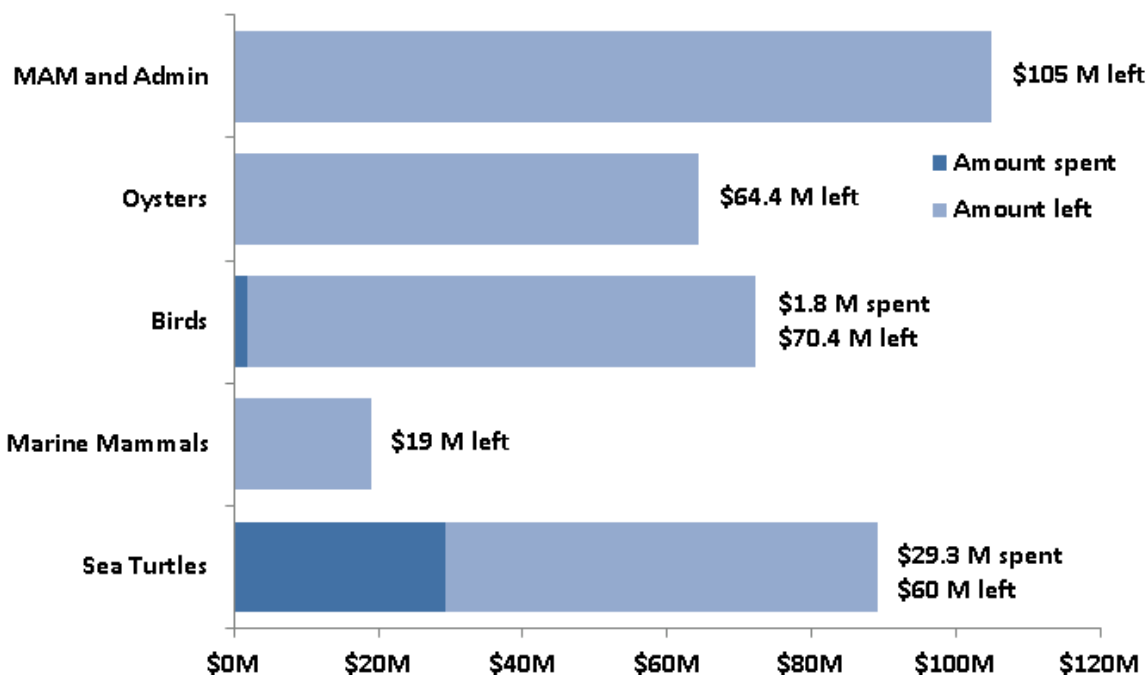


Restoration Across the Gulf Region

In April 2016, a federal court approved a settlement among the United States, five Gulf states, and BP. Under that settlement, BP agreed to pay up to \$8.8 billion for natural resource damages. That money is being divided among eight different “restoration areas.” One of those areas is the Region-wide restoration area, which will receive approximately \$350 million. Below we explain how the money will be spent, who is in charge, what has happened so far, and how you can participate.

How will the natural resource damages money be spent?

The \$350 million will be split among four different “restoration types” and monitoring, adaptive management, and administration (MAM and Admin) as follows:



Note that approximately \$31 million has already been allocated to restoration projects through the early restoration process (see our [“Overview of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Process”](#) fact sheet for more information on early restoration). This money has been allocated to three projects. [Click here](#) for a list of those projects (scroll to the bottom of the page).

Who is in charge?

The restoration program for the Region-wide restoration area is being managed by the Region-wide Trustee Implementation Group (Region-wide TIG), which includes all of the federal and state trustees. When making decisions, the TIG must reach consensus. That means that “all nonabstaining” federal members (i.e. those that participate in the vote) and “all nonabstaining”

state members must agree to the decision. If a state has more than one trustee, the trustees in that state must agree as a group. The members of the Region-wide TIG are as follows:

Federal Members	State Members
US Dept. of the Interior – US Fish and Wildlife Service; National Park Service; Bureau of Land Management	State of Louisiana – Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority; Oil Spill Coordinator’s Office; Dept. of Environmental Quality; Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries; Dept. of Natural Resources
US Dept. of Commerce – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	State of Mississippi – Dept. of Environmental Quality
US Environmental Protection Agency	State of Alabama – Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources; Geological Survey of Alabama
US Dept. of Agriculture	State of Florida – Dept. of Environmental Protection; Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
	State of Texas – Parks and Wildlife Dept.; General Land Office; Commission on Environmental Quality

Where are we now?

Based on an update from September 2016, the Region-wide TIG is currently focused on laying the groundwork for its own as well as the other TIGs’ work. This includes drafting a monitoring and adaptive management manual for the TIGs, as well as producing strategic frameworks for restoring sea turtles, marine mammals, birds, and oysters.

How can I participate?

There are different ways that you can participate. These include:

- **Attend public meetings:** The Region-wide TIG will host a public meeting at least once a year.
- **Suggest project ideas:** The public can suggest project ideas (e.g. on the [trustees’ website](#)). The public will be notified when the TIG is starting restoration planning, and may be updated on those efforts.
- **Comment on draft restoration plans:** The public will have the opportunity to comment on draft restoration plans as they are released.
- **Other engagement opportunities:** The restoration projects may trigger other laws and regulations that provide the public with opportunities to engage.
- **Sign up for updates:** To keep informed about what’s happening in the Region-wide TIG (and the other restoration areas), you can sign up for updates at www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov (scroll down the page to “Get the latest news updates”).

For more information about the Region-wide TIG, and to find current participation opportunities, visit the Region-wide TIG’s web page at: www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/open-ocean. You can also contact a representative of the Region-wide TIG, Nanciann Regalado at nanciann_regalado@fws.gov.