

Timeline of Major Events in the Gulf Recovery Process

This timeline provides an overview of major events related to three key Gulf restoration and recovery processes: the **Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)**, the **RESTORE Act**, and the **National Fish and Wildlife**

Foundation (NFWF)'s Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund. It also introduces major events in the **U.S. Criminal Charges & Civil Claims**, which are related to but separate from the other processes.

PROCESS

WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR?

NRDA

Under the Oil Pollution Act, parties responsible for the spill are liable for injuries to natural resources, loss of use of those resources, and the costs of assessing the damage

Sept. 27, 2010
Trustees issue notice of intent (NOI) to conduct restoration planning

Feb. 17, 2011
Trustees issue NOI to begin restoration scoping and a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS)

Apr. 21, 2011
Trustees announce early restoration agreement with BP

Dec. 14, 2011
Trustees release Draft Phase I Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment

Apr. 18, 2012
Trustees release Final Phase I Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment

Oct. 10, 2012
Trustees release Draft Phase II Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment

Dec. 21, 2012
Trustees release Final Phase II Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Review

May 6, 2013
Trustees announce intent to propose Phase III Early Restoration projects

June 4, 2013
Trustees announce intent to prepare an early restoration PEIS

Dec. 6, 2013
Trustees release Draft Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Draft Early Restoration PEIS

June 26, 2014
Trustees release Final Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Early Restoration PEIS (Phase III ERP/PEIS)

October 2014
Trustees release Record of Decision (ROD) for Phase III ERP/PEIS

May 20, 2015
Trustees release Draft Phase IV Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessments

Sept. 23, 2015
Trustees release Final Phase IV Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessments

Oct. 5, 2015
Trustees release Draft Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Dec. 1, 2015
Trustees release Draft Phase V Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment

RESTORE Act

Specifies that 80% of Clean Water Act civil and administrative penalties go to a Restoration Trust Fund for restoration, recovery, and research activities in the Gulf

June 29, 2012
RESTORE Act passes as part of surface transportation and federal aid highways act (MAP-21) [Pub. L. 112-141]

July 6, 2012
President Obama signs RESTORE Act into law

Jan. 29, 2013
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council releases Proposed Comprehensive Plan

May 23, 2013
Restoration Council releases Draft Initial Comprehensive Plan and Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA)

Aug. 28, 2013
Restoration Council approves Final Initial Comprehensive Plan and PEA

Sept. 6, 2013
U.S. Treasury Department releases draft procedures for administering the RESTORE Act Restoration Trust Fund

Aug. 15, 2014
Treasury releases an interim final rule for administering the RESTORE Act Restoration Trust Fund (it became effective Oct. 14, 2014)

Nov. 17, 2014
First submission window for Council members to submit project and program proposals for Council ("Pot 2") funds closes (proposals posted online on Dec. 1)

Aug. 13, 2015
Council releases its draft Initial Funded Priorities List

Sept. 29, 2015
Council releases proposed regulation to allocate Spill Impact Component ("Pot 3") funds among the Gulf states

Dec. 9, 2015
Council approves Initial Funded Priorities List and regulation allocating Spill Impact Component ("Pot 3") funds

Dec. 14, 2015
Treasury releases final rule for RESTORE Act Restoration Trust Fund (it will be effective Feb. 12, 2016)

NFWF

Receives funds through two criminal plea agreements to remedy harm to natural resources injured by *Deepwater Horizon*

Nov. 15, 2012
Under the terms of the BP criminal plea agreement, NFWF is to receive \$2.394 billion over five years

Jan. 3, 2013
Under the terms of the Transocean criminal plea agreement, NFWF is to receive \$150 million over five years

May 13, 2013
NFWF launches Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund to monitor and administer funds

Nov. 14, 2013
NFWF announces initial round of 22 projects across five Gulf states (~\$112 million)

April 2014
NFWF announces award of funds for projects in LA and MS (~\$148 million)

Aug. 22, 2014
NFWF announces award of \$34.5 million for land acquisition project in Texas

Nov. 17, 2014
NFWF announces award of funds to 25 projects across five Gulf states (~\$100 million)

Apr. 27, 2015
NFWF announces award of funds for restoration planning in Florida (up to \$4.5 million)

Nov. 10, 2015
NFWF announces latest round of projects (over \$80 million to 22 projects across four states)

U.S. Criminal Charges & Civil Claims

Criminal charges and civil claims were filed against parties responsible for the spill. Some of these are linked to the processes mentioned above.

Dec. 15, 2010
U.S. files a complaint against various parties, which includes a claim for civil penalties under the Clean Water Act (CWA)

Feb. 17, 2012
DOJ, Coast Guard, EPA, and MOEX announce partial civil settlement (court approved June 18, 2012)

Nov. 15, 2012
DOJ and BP announce criminal settlement (court accepted Jan. 29, 2013)

Jan. 3, 2013
DOJ and Transocean announce criminal settlement (court accepted Feb. 14, 2013) and partial civil settlement (court approved Feb. 19, 2013)

Feb. 25 – Apr. 17, 2013
Phase I of the BP civil trial takes place in New Orleans, LA

Sept. 30 – Oct. 18, 2013
Phase II of the BP civil trial takes place in New Orleans, LA

Sept. 4, 2014
District Court Judge Carl Barbier finds the oil spill was the result of BP's "gross negligence" and "willful misconduct"

Jan. 15, 2015
Court rules that 3.19 million barrels of oil were discharged into the Gulf of Mexico

Jan. 20-Feb. 2, 2015
Phase III of the BP civil trial in New Orleans, LA

July 2, 2015
BP announces that an agreement in principle has been reached to settle, among other things, its Clean Water Act civil penalties and natural resource damages

Oct. 5, 2015
DOJ releases proposed consent decree among the United States, five Gulf States, and BP