

This timeline provides an overview of major events related to the three main 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.

**What's Happened So Far?**

| PROCESS  | 2010   | 2011   | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015   | 2016  | 2017   |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| <p><b>NRDA</b></p> <p>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.</p>  | <p><b>Sept. 27, 2010</b><br/>Trustees issue notice of intent (NOI) to conduct restoration planning</p>   | <p><b>Feb. 17, 2011</b><br/>Trustees issue NOI to begin restoration scoping and prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS)</p> <p><b>Apr. 21, 2011</b><br/>Trustees announce early restoration agreement with BP</p> | <p><b>Apr. 18, 2012</b><br/>Trustees release Final Phase I Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA) (draft released Dec. 2011)</p> <p><b>Dec. 21, 2012</b><br/>Trustees release Final Phase II Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Review (draft released Oct. 2012)</p> | <p><b>June 4, 2013</b><br/>Trustees issue NOI to prepare PEIS for early restoration projects</p>  | <p><b>June 26, 2014</b><br/>Trustees release Final Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Early Restoration PEIS (draft released Dec. 2013)</p>  | <p><b>Sept. 23, 2015</b><br/>Trustees release Final Phase IV Early Restoration Plan and EAs (draft released May 2015)</p> <p><b>Oct. 5, 2015</b><br/>Trustees release Draft Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Draft PEIS</p>   | <p><b>Feb. 1, 2016</b><br/>Trustees release final Phase V Early Restoration Plan and EA (draft released Dec. 2015)</p> <p><b>Feb. 19, 2016</b><br/>Trustees release Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Final PEIS</p> <p><b>Dec. 27, 2016</b><br/>MS Trustee Implementation Group (TIG) releases its Draft 2016-2017 Restoration Plan/EA</p> | <p><b>Jan. 23, 2017</b><br/>LA TIG releases its Final Restoration Plan #1 (draft released Oct. 2016)</p> <p><b>Apr. 14, 2017</b><br/>AL TIG releases its Final Restoration Plan I and EIS (draft released Dec. 2016)</p> <p><b>May 18, 2017</b><br/>TX TIG releases its Draft 2017 Restoration Plan/EA</p> |
| <p><b>RESTORE ACT</b></p> <p>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. This timeline focuses mostly on the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council ("Pot 2").</p> |  |  | <p><b>June 29, 2012</b><br/>RESTORE Act passes as part of surface transportation and federal aid highways act (MAP-21) [Pub. L. 112-141]</p> <p><b>July 6, 2012</b><br/>President Obama signs RESTORE Act into law</p>  | <p><b>Aug. 28, 2013</b><br/>Council approves Final Initial Comprehensive Plan and Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) (draft released May 2013)</p> <p><b>Sept. 6, 2013</b><br/>U.S. Treasury Department releases draft procedures for administering the RESTORE Act Restoration Trust Fund</p>   | <p><b>Aug. 15, 2014</b><br/>Treasury releases an interim final rule for administering the RESTORE Act Restoration Trust Fund (effective Oct. 14, 2014)</p>  | <p><b>Aug. 13, 2015</b><br/>Council releases its draft Initial Funded Priorities List</p> <p><b>Sept. 29, 2015</b><br/>Council releases proposed regulation to allocate Spill Impact Component ("Pot 3") funds among the Gulf states</p> <p><b>Dec. 9, 2015</b><br/>Council approves Initial Funded Priorities List and regulation allocating Spill Impact Component ("Pot 3") funds</p> <p><b>Dec. 14, 2015</b><br/>Treasury releases final rule for RESTORE Act Restoration Trust Fund (effective Feb. 12, 2016)</p>   | <p><b>Dec. 16, 2016</b><br/>Council approves Comprehensive Plan Update (draft released Aug. 2016)</p>   |  |
| <p><b>NFWF</b></p> <p>Receives funds through two criminal plea agreements to remedy harm to natural resources injured by the <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> spill.</p>   |  |  | <p><b>Nov. 15, 2012</b><br/>Under the terms of the BP criminal plea agreement, NFWF is to receive \$2.394 billion over five years</p>   | <p><b>Jan. 3, 2013</b><br/>Under the terms of the Transocean criminal plea agreement, NFWF is to receive \$150 million over five years</p> <p><b>May 13, 2013</b><br/>NFWF launches Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund to monitor and administer funds</p> <p><b>Nov. 14, 2013</b><br/>NFWF announces initial round of 22 projects across five Gulf states (~\$112 million)</p>              | <p><b>April 2014</b><br/>NFWF announces award of funds for projects in LA and MS (~\$148 million)</p> <p><b>Aug. 22, 2014</b><br/>NFWF announces award of \$34.5 million for land acquisition project in TX</p> <p><b>Nov. 17, 2014</b><br/>NFWF announces award of funds to 25 projects across five Gulf states (~\$100 million)</p> | <p><b>Apr. 27, 2015</b><br/>NFWF announces award of funds for restoration planning in Florida (up to \$4.5 million)</p> <p><b>Nov. 10, 2015</b><br/>NFWF announces award of funds to 22 projects across four states (~\$80 million)</p>  | <p><b>Mar. 10, 2016</b><br/>NFWF announces award of funds to two projects – one in AL, the other in MS</p> <p><b>Nov. 15, 2016</b><br/>NFWF announces latest round of projects (~ \$370 million to 24 projects across five Gulf states)</p>   |  |
| <p><b>U.S. Criminal Charges &amp; Civil Claims</b></p> <p>Criminal charges and civil claims were filed against parties responsible for the spill. Some of these are linked to the processes mentioned above.</p>   | <p><b>Dec. 15, 2010</b><br/>U.S. files a complaint against various parties, which includes a claim for civil penalties under the Clean Water Act (CWA)</p> |  | <p><b>Feb. 17, 2012</b><br/>DOJ, Coast Guard, EPA, and MOEX announce partial civil settlement (court approved June 18, 2012)</p> <p><b>Nov. 15, 2012</b><br/>DOJ and BP announce criminal settlement (court accepted Jan. 29, 2013)</p>   | <p><b>Jan. 3, 2013</b><br/>DOJ and Transocean announce criminal settlement (court accepted Feb. 14, 2013) and partial civil settlement (court approved Feb. 19, 2013)</p> <p><b>Feb. 25 – Apr. 17, 2013</b><br/>Phase I of the BP civil trial takes place in New Orleans, LA</p> <p><b>Sept. 30 – Oct. 18, 2013</b><br/>Phase II of the BP civil trial takes place in New Orleans, LA</p> | <p><b>Sept. 4, 2014</b><br/>U.S. District Court Judge Carl Barbier finds the oil spill was the result of BP's "gross negligence" and "willful misconduct"</p>   | <p><b>Jan. 15, 2015</b><br/>Court rules that 3.19M barrels of oil were discharged into the Gulf of Mexico</p> <p><b>Jan. 20 – Feb. 2, 2015</b><br/>Phase III of the BP civil trial in New Orleans, LA</p> <p><b>July 2, 2015</b><br/>BP announces that an agreement in principle has been reached to settle, among other things, its CWA civil penalties and natural resource damages</p> <p><b>Oct. 5, 2015</b><br/>DOJ releases proposed consent decree among the U.S., five Gulf States, and BP</p> <p><b>Nov. 30, 2015</b><br/>Court rules that Anadarko must pay \$159.5 million in CWA civil penalties</p> | <p><b>April 4, 2016</b><br/>Court enters consent decree among the United States, five Gulf States, and BP</p>   |  |

■ Criminal Charges