

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>NRDA</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>Sept. 27, 2010 Trustees issue notice of intent (NOI) to conduct restoration planning</p>	<p>Feb. 17, 2011 Trustees issue NOI to begin restoration scoping and prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS)</p> <p>Apr. 21, 2011 Trustees announce early restoration agreement with BP</p>	<p>Apr. 18, 2012 Trustees release Final Phase I Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA) (draft released Dec. 2011)</p> <p>Dec. 21, 2012 Trustees release Final Phase II Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Review (draft released Oct. 2012)</p>	<p>June 4, 2013 Trustees issue NOI to prepare PEIS for early restoration projects</p>	<p>June 26, 2014 Trustees release Final Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Early Restoration PEIS (draft released Dec. 2013)</p>	<p>Sept. 23, 2015 Trustees release Final Phase IV Early Restoration Plan and EAs (draft released May 2015)</p> <p>Oct. 5, 2015 Trustees release Draft Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Draft PEIS</p>	<p>Feb. 1., 2016 Trustees release final Phase V Early Restoration Plan and EA (draft released Dec. 2015)</p> <p>Feb. 19, 2016 Trustees release Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Final PEIS</p>	<p>Jan. 23, 2017 LA Trustee Implementation Group (TIG) releases its Final Restoration Plan #1 (draft released Oct. 2016)</p> <p>Apr. 14, 2017 AL TIG releases its Final Restoration Plan I and EIS (draft released Dec. 2016)</p> <p>July 9, 2017 MS TIG releases its 2016-2017 Restoration Plan/EA (draft released Dec. 2016)</p> <p>October 18, 2017 TX TIG releases its Final 2017 Restoration Plan/EA (draft released May 2017)</p>
<p>RESTORE ACT</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>June 29, 2012 RESTORE Act passes as part of surface transportation and federal aid highways act (MAP-21) [Pub. L. 112-141]</p> <p>July 6, 2012 President Obama signs RESTORE Act into law</p>	<p>Aug. 28, 2013 Council approves Final Initial Comprehensive Plan and Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) (draft released May 2013)</p> <p>Sept. 6, 2013 U.S. Treasury Department releases draft procedures for administering the RESTORE Act Restoration Trust Fund</p>	<p>Aug. 15, 2014 Treasury releases an interim final rule for administering the RESTORE Act Restoration Trust Fund (effective Oct. 14, 2014)</p>	<p>Aug. 13, 2015 Council releases its draft Initial Funded Priorities List</p> <p>Sept. 29, 2015 Council releases proposed regulation to allocate Spill Impact Component ("Pot 3") funds among the Gulf states</p> <p>Dec. 9, 2015 Council approves Initial Funded Priorities List and regulation allocating Spill Impact Component ("Pot 3") funds</p> <p>Dec. 14, 2015 Treasury releases final rule for RESTORE Act Restoration Trust Fund (effective Feb. 12, 2016)</p>	<p>Dec. 16, 2016 Council approves Comprehensive Plan Update (draft released Aug. 2016)</p>	<p>Sept. 27, 2017 Council releases 2017 Funded Priorities List: Comprehensive Plan Commitment and Planning Support (draft released July 2017), though Council has yet to approve</p>
<p>NFWF</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>Nov. 15, 2012 Under the terms of the BP criminal plea agreement, NFWF is to receive \$2.394 billion over five years</p>	<p>Jan. 3, 2013 Under the terms of the Transocean criminal plea agreement, NFWF is to receive \$150 million over five years</p> <p>May 13, 2013 NFWF launches Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund to monitor and administer funds</p> <p>Nov. 14, 2013 NFWF announces initial round of 22 projects across five Gulf states (~\$112 million)</p>	<p>April 2014 NFWF announces award of funds for projects in LA and MS (~\$148 million)</p> <p>Aug. 22, 2014 NFWF announces award of \$34.5 million for land acquisition project in TX</p> <p>Nov. 17, 2014 NFWF announces award of funds to 25 projects across five Gulf states (~\$100 million)</p>	<p>Apr. 27, 2015 NFWF announces award of funds for restoration planning in Florida (up to \$4.5 million)</p> <p>Nov. 10, 2015 NFWF announces award of funds to 22 projects across four states (~\$80 million)</p>	<p>Mar. 10, 2016 NFWF announces award of funds to two projects – one in AL, the other in MS</p> <p>Nov. 15, 2016 NFWF announces latest round of projects (~ \$370 million to 24 projects across five Gulf states)</p>	<p>March 2017 NFWF awards funds for two projects in TX (\$11.5 million)</p> <p>August 2017 NFWF awards funds for due diligence project in MS (~\$1.3 million)</p>
<p>U.S. Criminal Charges & Civil Claims</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>Dec. 15, 2010 U.S. files a complaint against various parties, which includes a claim for civil penalties under the Clean Water Act (CWA)</p>		<p>Feb. 17, 2012 DOJ, Coast Guard, EPA, and MOEX announce partial civil settlement (court approved June 18, 2012)</p> <p>Nov. 15, 2012 DOJ and BP announce criminal settlement (court accepted Jan. 29, 2013)</p>	<p>Jan. 3, 2013 DOJ and Transocean announce criminal settlement (court accepted Feb. 14, 2013) and partial civil settlement (court approved Feb. 19, 2013)</p> <p>Feb. 25 – Apr. 17, 2013 Phase I of the BP civil trial takes place in New Orleans, LA</p> <p>Sept. 30 – Oct. 18, 2013 Phase II of the BP civil trial takes place in New Orleans, LA</p>	<p>Sept. 4, 2014 U.S. District Court Judge Carl Barbier finds the oil spill was the result of BP's "gross negligence" and "willful misconduct"</p>	<p>Jan. 15, 2015 Court rules that 3.19M barrels of oil were discharged into the Gulf of Mexico</p> <p>Jan. 20 – Feb. 2, 2015 Phase III of the BP civil trial in New Orleans, LA</p> <p>July 2, 2015 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>Oct. 5, 2015 DOJ releases proposed consent decree among the U.S., five Gulf States, and BP</p> <p>Nov. 30, 2015 Court rules that Anadarko must pay \$159.5 million in CWA civil penalties</p>	<p>April 4, 2016 Court enters consent decree among the United States, five Gulf States, and BP</p>	

■ Criminal Charges