

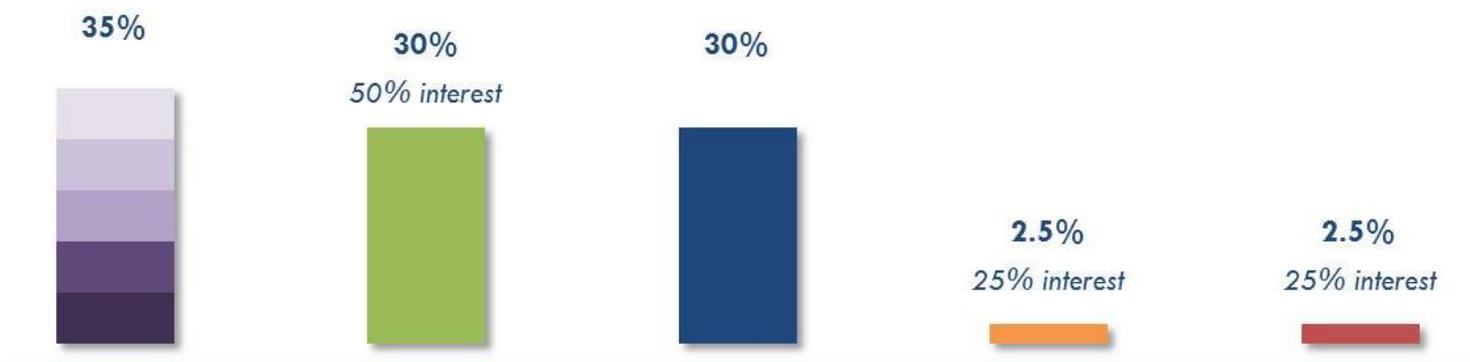
An Overview of the RESTORE Act

What is the RESTORE Act?

The Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012—better known as the “**RESTORE Act**”— was enacted on July 6, 2012.

The RESTORE Act creates a Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (RTF), which is receiving **80% of any Clean Water Act (CWA) civil and administrative penalties** paid by BP and other companies responsible for the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

Funds from the RTF are divided among five different “pots.”
The total interest earned by the RTF will be added to Pot 2 (50%), Pot 4 (25%) and Pot 5 (25%).



Direct Component (Pot 1)

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Pot 2)

Spill Impact Component (Pot 3)

Restoration Science Program (Pot 4)

Centers of Excellence (Pot 5)

To States in Equal Amounts.

Funds can be used “for ecological and economic restoration...” States must complete a multi-year implementation plan, which must be accepted by the Department of the Treasury, before receiving funds.

To a Gulf-wide Council.

The Act creates the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, composed of federal officials and the governors of the Gulf states. Funds are to be used “to carry out” a science-based plan “to restore and protect” Gulf natural resources.

To States Based on Oil Impacts.

Funds can be used for ecological and economic restoration. States must complete a state expenditure plan, which must be approved by the Council, before receiving funds.

To a NOAA-led Program.

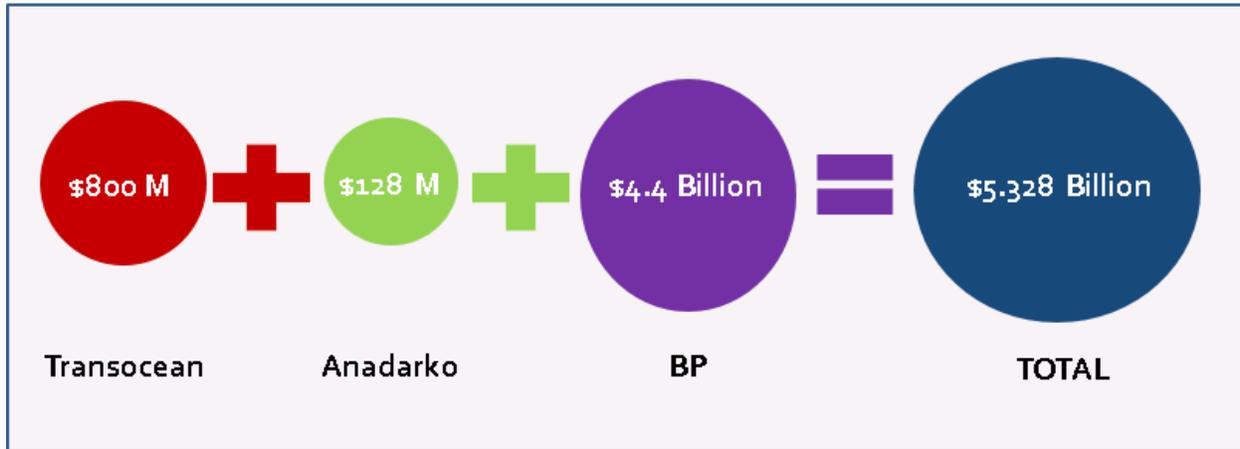
The program funds “research, observation, and monitoring to support...the long-term sustainability of” Gulf ecosystems and fisheries. Funding priority is “given to integrated, long-term projects...”

To States for “Centers of Excellence”.

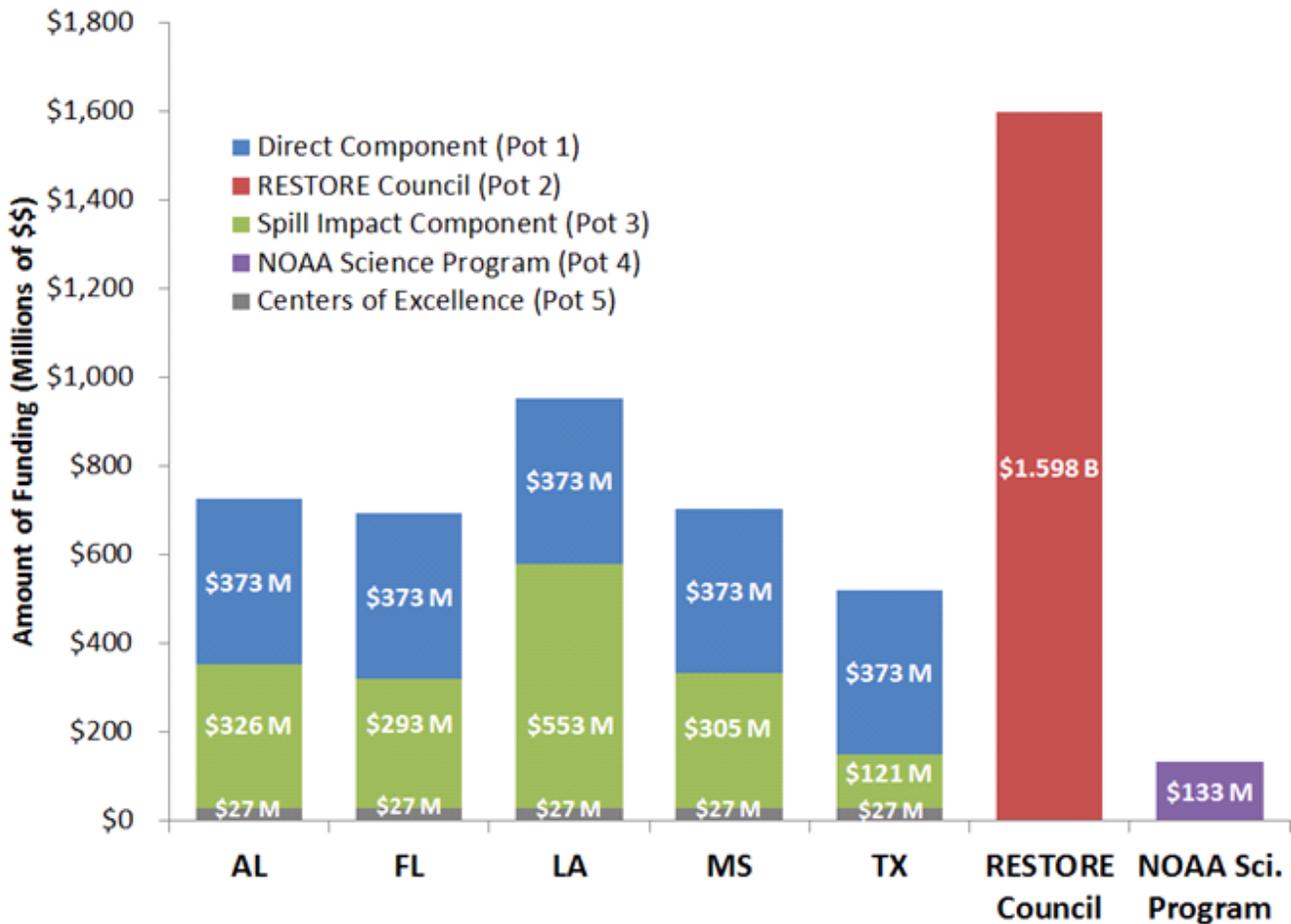
States are “to award competitive grants to nongovernmental entities and consortia in the Gulf Coast region” to establish centers, which are to “focus on science, technology, and monitoring...”

How much money is involved?

In April 2016, a federal court approved a settlement among the United States, the five Gulf states, and BP. Under that settlement, BP agreed to pay \$5.5 billion in CWA civil penalties. \$4.4 billion (80%) of that will flow through the RESTORE Act. Added to the money paid by other companies – \$800 million from Transocean and \$128 million from Anadarko – a total of \$5.328 billion will flow through RESTORE.



How will the \$5.328 Billion Be Distributed?



NOTE: BP is paying CWA civil penalties over a 15-year period, with the first payment made in 2017. Transocean and Anadarko have already paid their penalties.

How Can I Participate in the RESTORE Act?

There are several opportunities for the public to participate in the RESTORE Act. Some of these opportunities are listed below.

General Participation Opportunities

Certain activities conducted under the various funding pots may trigger **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review**. If so, there may be an opportunity for public comment.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE: **Review and comment** on any NEPA documents that are released.

35%



Before states (and, in Louisiana and Florida, some local governments) receive their **equal-share funds**, they must, among other things, develop a multi-year implementation plan. The public must be given at least 45 days to review and comment on those plans.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE: **Submit** project ideas to the lead entities in each state; **review and comment** on multi-year implementation plans when they become available for public comment; **attend** any public meetings.

Direct Component (Pot 1)

30%

50% interest



The **Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council** is required to develop lists of priority projects and programs to be funded. These are called the **Funded Priorities List (or FPL)**. Only members of the Council may submit proposals. The Council approved its Initial FPL in December 2015. Council members have begun to conduct outreach for the next FPL, which is expected to be finalized in mid-2020. More information about the Council's activities can be found on their website: restorethegulf.gov.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE: **Submit** project ideas to individual Council members; **participate** in meetings hosted by the Council or individual Council members; **review and comment** on the Funded Priorities List when it becomes available for public comment.

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Pot 2)

The Council must update its **Comprehensive Plan** every five years; the Council released its Comprehensive Plan Update in 2016, so another update is expected by 2021. Any update will be open for public comment before it is finalized.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE: **Provide input** on plan development; **review and comment** on the draft plan when it becomes available for public comment.

30%



**Spill Impact
Component
(Pot 3)**



Before states receive **funds based on spill impacts**, they must develop state expenditure plans that describe how funds will be spent. The public must be given at least 45 days to review and comment on the plans.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE: **Submit** project ideas to the lead entities in each state; **review and comment** on plans when they become available for public comment; **attend** public meetings.

2.5%

25% interest



**Restoration Science
Program
(Pot 4)**



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is tasked with administering the **NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program**.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE: We are not aware of any opportunities for members of the general public to participate.

2.5%

25% interest



**Centers of
Excellence
(Pot 5)**



Each of the Gulf states is receiving funds to award competitive research grants to Gulf Coast non-governmental entities and consortia (including universities) to establish "**Centers of Excellence**" focused on science, technology, and monitoring. Each state's Centers of Excellence Program (CEP) is required establish "rules and policies" governing competitive selection and grant administration.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE: **Provide input** on research priorities when CEP asks for public feedback; **review and comment** on CEP rules and policies.

Other Ways to Influence What Happens With RESTORE

There are many other ways to make your voice heard in regards to the RESTORE Act. Some of these include:

- Meet with and write letters to RESTORE Council members and staff, and representatives of any state or local entity that is allocating RESTORE Act funds
- Rally support for your position among other citizen groups
- Go to the press
- Draft an opinion piece ("op-ed") for your local newspaper
- Lobby an agency or involve a legislator

