

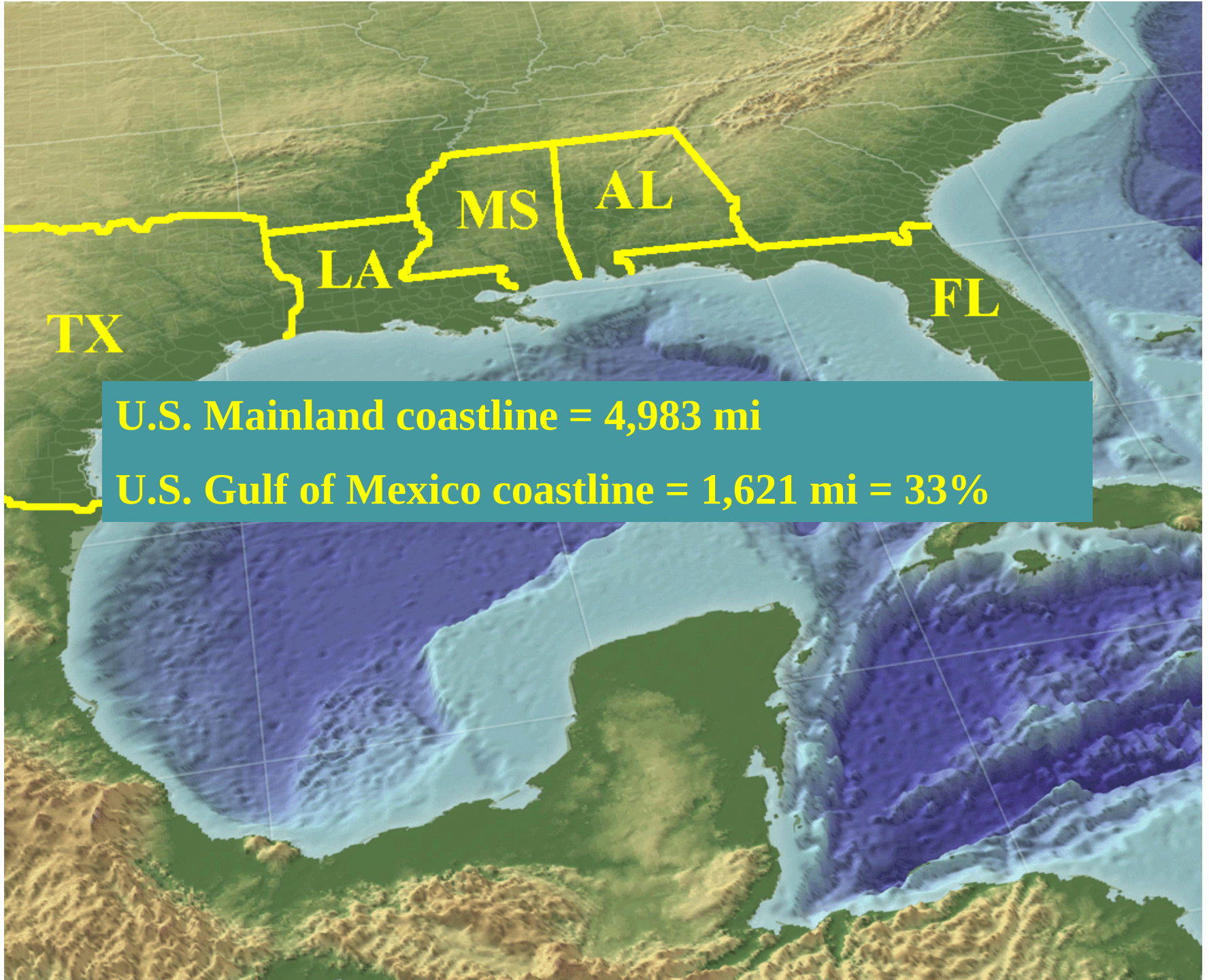


Deepwater Horizon & Gulf of Mexico Alliance Water Quality Team: status update

FWRMC

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Steve Wolfe, Coordinator
Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Water Quality Team
Florida Institute of Oceanography



U.S. Mainland coastline = 4,983 mi

U.S. Gulf of Mexico coastline = 1,621 mi = 33%

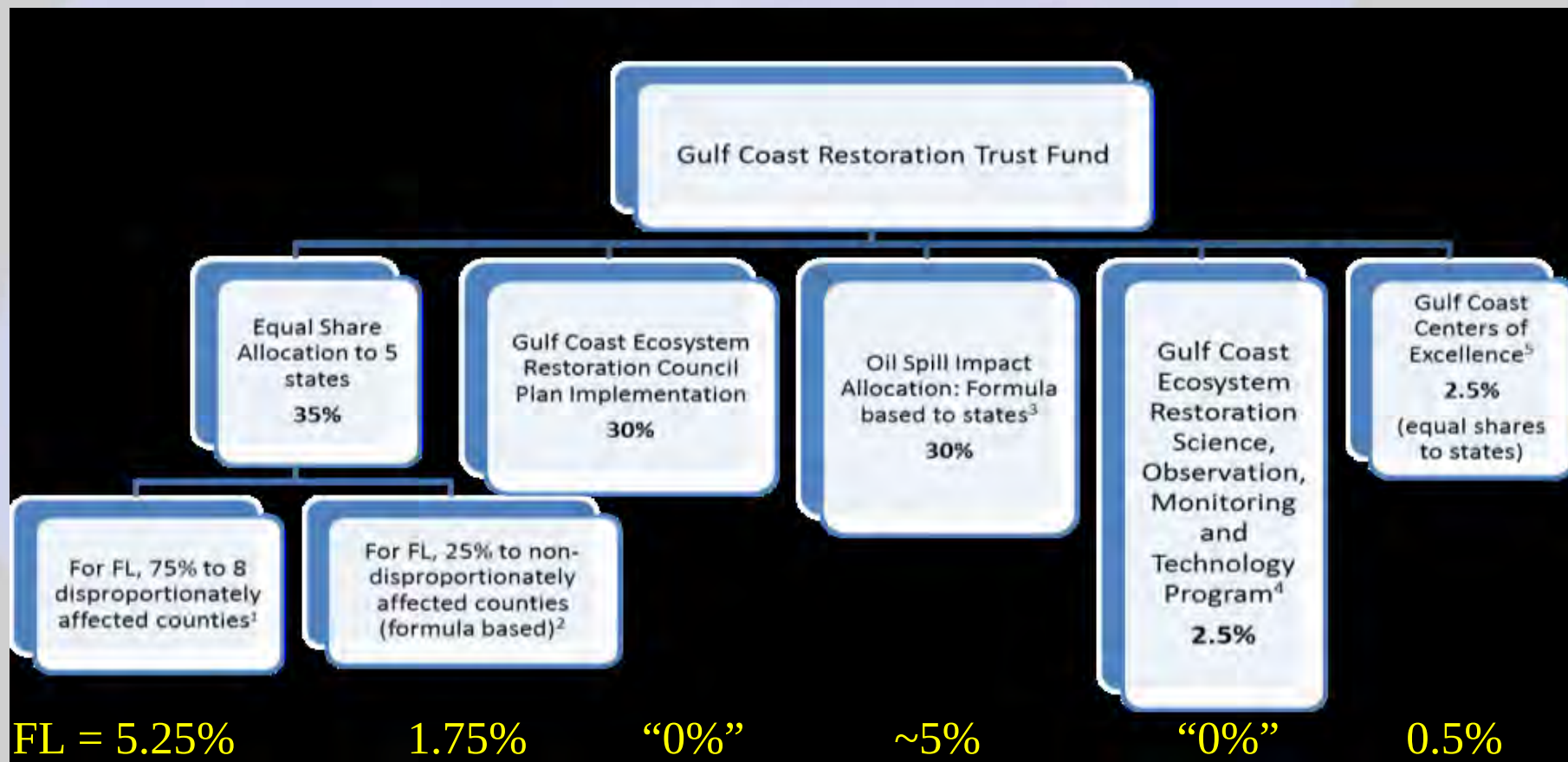


RESTORE Act

- Act calls for 80% of civil penalties from Deepwater Horizon blowout to go to trust fund for use in Gulf ‘restoration’.
- Potential range of civil penalties (which are based on amount spilled and amount of negligence) range from ~\$4B to ~\$20B.
- Potential RESTORE trust fund range therefore ~ \$3B to about ~\$16B.



RESTORE Act





RESTORE Act status

- Three Deepwater Horizon parties: BP Oil, Transocean, and Halliburton.
- Transocean settled with U.S Govt. in January, civil penalty was \$1B (= \$800M for trust fund)
- BP trial scheduled for this month. Some anticipate a settlement before trial begins.



GOMA status

- GOMA is nearing end of year 4 of their 5-year Governors' Action Plan II. Beginning July drafting of Action Plan III will begin, to be released summer 2014. Priorities will be re-examined and potential adjustments made.
- Will be wrapping-up incomplete Actions from Action Plan II.



WQ Team status

- HABs
- Mercury in Seafood
- Pathogens
- Monitoring



WQ Team status

- Monitoring
 - Catalog of Monitoring Programs, software complete and being stood up by GCOOS. Data entry to begin very soon.
 - Writing Gulf Monitoring White Paper with history and status of Gulf monitoring, and laying out a monitoring vision for the future. Includes a funding strategy to establish endowment to provide “Foundational Monitoring”.



WQ Team status

- Monitoring
 - Overseeing development of Gulf Monitoring Network (GMN) design and implementation planning.
 - Coordinating with monitoring entities across the Gulf, including state and federal agencies, UNIDO Gulf LME program (U.S./Mexico), GCOOS, GOMURC, and GCRTF/C to develop single monitoring-coordination plan as part of RESTORE Act proposal.



WQ Team status

- Monitoring
 - Held GMN nutrient-monitoring design workshop Sept 2012 and published design report.
 - Holding second GMN design workshop March 4-6 to add HABs, mercury, and pathogens to nutrient design. Workshop co-sponsored with GCOOS & EPA GMPO.
 - Holding GMN implementation planning workshop late April/early May. Workshop co-sponsored with GOMURC.



Application of GMN strategy

The essential design concept at all scales is for the monitoring system to accomplish two goals:

1. to estimate nutrient fluxes between different key parts of the Gulf system, and
2. to support understanding of the nutrient processes occurring between flux points to understand the relationship between nutrient fluxes and endpoints of concern.



Application of GMN strategy

- Designs in estuaries and “similar-size coastal segments” should be developed locally, incorporating GMN design template to ensure certain consistent design elements across Gulf.



Questions?