

POTENTIAL DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL RESTORATION PROJECTS: PROVIDING INFORMATION TO ASSIST WITH PROJECT ASSESSMENT

To help you propose projects to the State of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), we developed this project submission form. You are not required to complete this form to submit a project. However, completion of the form will help DEP gather the information required to completely and accurately evaluate a project against the selection and evaluation criteria. Where appropriate in the form, please provide references to any additional supporting information.

Project Name: *(Include project number from DEP's existing list of submitted projects, if applicable.)*

Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Center, Inc.

Contact Information:

Cathy S. Holmes, Project Director

8668 Navarre Pkwy., #286, Navarre, FL 32566

850-565-0279

info@navarrebeachseaturtles.org

Location for Project Implementation: *(For example, city and county, GIS coordinates if known.)*

8740 Gulf Blvd., Navarre Beach, FL 32566

Santa Rosa County

GIS Coordinates – (X)-86.8607089062992, (Y)30.3819055280719

Brief Project Narrative: *(Describe what the project will do.)*

The Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Center (NBSTCC) will be a non-profit organization established in Navarre Beach, Florida. The NBSTCC's main mission is the conservation and protection of sea turtles through rescue, rehabilitation and release of threatened, endangered, sick and injured sea turtles. The NBSTCC will be a premier sea turtle rehabilitation center serving Northwest Florida and neighboring coastal states. The NBSTCC will be part of the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network. The network, which includes federal, state and private partners, encompasses the coastal areas of the eighteen-state region from Maine to Texas, and includes portions of the U.S. Caribbean.

The NBSTCC will be a showcase for conservation, education and ecotourism for Navarre Beach and will foster special and unique relationships between visitors, residents, and leaders of Santa Rosa, Escambia and Okaloosa Counties. Education programs will include guided field trips for over 40 local schools, Let's Save Sea Turtles Camp, public programs for school-aged children, lecture series and outreach presentations. We will also offer specialized programs for residents, visitors, and community leaders about the importance of sea turtle conservation and the preservation of the world's marine resources for current use and the enjoyment of future generations.

Estimated Project Costs: Project consists of modification of the existing building and the construction of a new 4,000 sq. ft. medical and rehabilitation building. **TOTAL - \$1,569,417**

Existing Building - \$254,774

Addition of 1,200 sq. ft. to the east of the existing building
15,000 gal permanent sea turtle exhibit
Interpretative center with interactive displays
Gift shop

New 4,000 sq. ft. *Medical/Rehabilitation Building - \$375,000

Diagnostic Machines: \$325,000

Digital radiograph machine (used) \$100,000
Ultrasound (used) \$60,000
Endoscopic equipment (refurbished) \$70,000
Laser surgery equipment (refurbished) \$95,000

Laboratory Machines: \$11,900

Microscope \$400
Laboratory combo centrifuge \$1,500
Blood chemistry analyzer \$10,000

Miscellaneous: \$3,000

Video equipment for documentation/education \$1,500
Medical supplies (will vary month to month) \$1,500

Treatment Area: \$7,029

Ceiling mount exam light \$1,100
Platform scale \$545
Infusion pump \$675
Vetlife low max exam table \$1,700
Doppler HR Monitor \$450
Aspirator \$260
Autoclave (medical sterilizer) \$1,099
Medical safe \$1,200

Surgery Room \$23,200

Veterinarian scrub room - Stainless steel sinks with foot pedal controls, scrub kits, sterile towels, gowns, goggles, shoe covers, masks and head covers - **\$3,000**

Several stainless steel tables - One hydraulic surgery table, small stainless steel tables to hold equipment - **\$9,500**

Anesthesia and respiratory equipment - Ventilators, intubation equipment, oxygen tanks/oxygen-monitoring devices and IV pumps - **\$4,000**

Surgical supplies - Sterile sheets, scalpels, clamps, scissors, etc. - **\$2,200**

Vital sign monitoring - Heart monitor, blood pressure measuring device, pulse and respiration monitors, thermometers - **\$2,500**

Secure storage area- Lockable cabinets/drawers for pharmaceuticals - **\$2,000**

Commissary: \$4,200

Chest freezer \$400
Refrigerator \$1,300
Three compartment stainless sink \$500
Stainless food prep table \$200
Cabinets \$1,000
Washer/dryer - \$800

Pools/Filtration Systems: \$565,314

Fiberglass rehabilitation pools with closed filtration systems :

2- 15,000 gal \$212,050
8 – 800 gal \$182,174
8 – 655 gal \$169,095
6 – 225 gal \$ 1,995

Matching Funds: District 4 Parks and Recreation - **\$165,000**

Additional Funding: Tourist Development Council - **\$60,000**

In-Kind Contributions and Donations: \$140,358

***NOTE:** We are also in the process of working on a partnership with a large hospital for medical equipment.

Anticipated Project Outcome with Respect to Screening Criteria

S1. Technically and administratively feasible: *(Briefly describe the critical technologies involved and any relevant past experience with similar projects.)*

Project consultants have significant experience (over 40 years of combined experience) in the areas of sea turtle rehabilitation, stranding and salvage, and sea turtle hospital center set-up to include pools, filtration, and medical equipment. All infrastructures will be constructed meeting all applicable codes, permitting, and resource conservation and protection standards. The NBSTCC will fall under Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Marine Turtle Guidelines for marine turtle permitting. All personnel conducting rehabilitation will be experienced and permitted according to these guidelines.

S2. Provides environmental benefits: *(Briefly describe the nature, magnitude, and timing of any environmental benefits attributable to the project and any potential environmental costs associated with implementing or maintaining the project, e.g., loss of a habitat or conversion of habitat from one type to another during implementation.)*

The NBSTCC facility will be considered a green facility. There will be no habitat loss during the construction phases. Green initiatives include:

- Solar panels for energy conservation
- Water conservation by utilizing water from Santa Rosa Sound for rehabilitation pools (already approved by Bureau of Ground Water Regulation, Northwest Florida Water Management District)
- Recycling program
- Maintaining the style of architecture already in the park
- Increased insulation in the existing building and in the new addition of the facility
- Replace existing florescent lighting with Compact Florescent Lamps (CFLs)

The environmental benefits would be long-term in the area of sea turtle conservation. We will be able to offer a 24-hour stranding response team with veterinary care. Navarre Beach is centrally located with easy access from Hwy 98. During January 2010 a cold stunning event occurred that affected thousands of sea turtles across the Southeast. Distressed turtles found in Northwest Florida were being transported from Perdido Key to marine parks 1 ½ - 2 ½ hours away. Long travel times for already stressed sea turtles can cause additional complications. A centrally located Navarre Beach facility would allow sea turtles experiencing any type of trauma to receive medical attention more quickly and increase their chances of survival.

S3. Does not conflict with any ongoing or planned response or remediation work: *(Briefly describe ongoing response activities in the project implementation area, if any, and why the project does or does not interfere with that work.)*

No response activities occurring at this time on Navarre Beach.

S4. Complies with applicable and relevant federal, state, local, and tribal laws and regulations: *(No information is needed for this screening criteria.)*

N/A

Anticipated Project Outcome with Respect to Evaluation Criteria

E1. Will restore, rehabilitate, or replace a natural resource or service¹ believed/demonstrated to have been injured as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill or associated response activities: *(Briefly describe the nature of any relationship between the new/improved resources or services and those adversely impacted by the oil spill.)*

Our customers are threatened and endangered sea turtles. Approximately 70,000 sea turtle eggs were translocated to the East Coast of Florida from the Florida Panhandle and Alabama area. More than 600 sea turtles died due to the oil spill with nearly 500 of these being Kemp's Ridleys, the most endangered sea turtle species. The rehabilitation benefits for sea turtles would be long-term care and the ability to offer a 24-hour stranding response team with veterinary care, which will ultimately help with sea turtle population recovery efforts.

E2. Is located in, or nearby, resources or services injured by the deepwater horizon spill: *(Briefly describe where the project would be implemented with respect to past/ongoing remediation work.)*

The NBSTCC is inside the Navarre Beach County Park. The Gulf is approximately 600 ft. to the South and Santa Rosa Sound is approximately 350 ft. to the North of the facility. This area was directly impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Event.

E3. Is ready for implementation, e.g., design, permitting, and necessary impacts assessments have been completed: *(Briefly describe where in the permitting process the project stands along with an estimated date of when the project can be implemented if it is not currently ready.)*

The NBSTCC was granted the lease to the building on October 31, 2012. We are currently in the process of preparing the existing building for our inside pools, filtration systems, and interpretive center. No permitting through Santa Rosa County is required until the construction phase of the building or changes are made to the outside of the building (i.e. outside rehabilitation pools and the addition to the East side of the facility to include the permanent exhibit pool). Permitting through FWC cannot be applied for until the facility is up and running for two (2) weeks. We estimate Phase I to be completed within the next 6-8 months.

E4. Is cost effective: *(Briefly describe why you think the project is cost effective. Discuss whether this project is more cost effective than alternative projects which would provide similar resource or service benefits.)*

Yes. The cost estimates for the NBSTCC are based on research and consultation with experts in this field and comparison with similar facilities. Sea turtle rehabilitation is a specialized field and at this time there are no "dedicated" sea turtle rehabilitation facilities in this area. There are two (2) marine parks that offer this service, but as stated in S2 they are located approximately 1 ½ - 2 ½ hours away from our area. The NBSTCC is centrally located thus allowing sea turtles experiencing any type of trauma to receive 24/7 medical attention more quickly and increase their chances of survival.

E5. Has a high potential for long-term success as demonstrated by incorporating established/reliable methods and technologies: *(Briefly describe if/how critical methods and technologies that will be used to implement the project could be considered reliable or proven.)*

NBSTCC will use proven sea turtle rehabilitation protocols that have been in place for over 25 years. These protocols are used in sea turtle rehabilitation facilities across Florida, all with high release success rates (statistics shown in quarterly and annual reports to FWC).

E6. Is likely to provide benefits rapidly following implementation: *(Briefly describe the anticipated change in benefits anticipated over time.)*

Benefits will be immediate upon opening the facility and will have a direct impact on sea turtle populations. The ability to offer quick response to stranding events and the decrease in travel time to get the animal medical attention, especially in the case of severe trauma, will immediately increase their chance for survival.

¹ In this form, "Services" (or "natural resource services") refers to the functions performed by a natural resource for the benefit of another natural resource and/or the public. Services can be "ecological services" – physical, chemical or biological functions that one natural resource provides for another (such as provision of food) – or "human services" – the use of natural resources used by humans that provide value to the public (such as hunting and fishing).

E7. Has a high likelihood of public acceptance: *(Briefly describe evidence to support the given answer based on surveys or results and assessments from past projects. Known or likely opposition to a project should be recognized.)*

No surveys have been conducted. Sea turtle rehabilitation facilities in Florida and across the nation have consistently shown strong support from their local communities through donations and volunteer hours. In our area we have had no opposition to this project.

In Santa Rosa County community support has been overwhelming. Articles in local newspapers, emails of support to the Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners, monetary support from individuals and soft marketing techniques (approx. \$15,000 in one month), and requests for volunteer opportunities. Additionally, commitment from District 4 Commissioner Jim Melvin for \$165,000.00 in matching funds and \$60,000.00 from the Tourist Development Council shows strong support at the county level.

Attendance at hatching events and public presentations average 50-100 people. We are partnered with the Santa Rosa County School District through the Navarre Beach Marine Science Station. Requests for presentations from schools, civic organizations, other non-profits, and businesses average 10 per month. We are contacted with offers of free vendor space at local festivals, charity events and community activities.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Submit this form via email to Jessica Kanes at Jessica.Kanes@dep.state.fl.us . If you have any questions or concerns about the process for submitting a project, please contact:

Jessica Kanes
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Environmental Specialist I
(850) 670-7707
Jessica.Kanes@dep.state.fl.us
Apalachicola NERR/FDEP
108 Island Drive
Eastpoint, FL 32328

A current summary of projects is accessible through the Florida DEP's website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/projects.htm> (click on "View the list of restoration project ideas").