

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.)*

City of Panama City Marina Boat Ramp and Staging Docks

Contact Information: Chris Forehand, P.E.
Preble-Rish, Inc.
203 Aberdeen Parkway
Panama City, FL 32405

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

Panama City Marina, Panama City, Bay County

Latitude: 30° 09'09.09" N Longitude: -85° 39'48.92" W

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

This project proposes to replace a poorly functioning boat ramp at the Panama City Marina and construct new staging docks. The Panama City Marina is an under-utilized facility which the City has recently begun redeveloping. The redevelopment of the marina will allow it to serve as a destination and recreation resource for a wider variety of activities and will increase economic benefits to Panama City's historic downtown. This project will provide additional recreational and fishing opportunities regardless of age, race, gender, or economic status and help the area recover from the negative impacts of the Deep Horizon Oil Spill.

Estimated Project Costs: *(Describe the costs of the project, including any assumptions for contingency and ongoing operations and maintenance. Identify other available funding sources such as matching funds, in kind contributions or state or federal dollars. If possible, attach a schedule of anticipated costs, by year, over the anticipated project life.)*

The estimated construction cost for all aspects of this project is \$739,450. An Engineer's Cost Opinion is attached that assumes a 15% contingency. This project is a component of a much larger redevelopment effort that will include contributions from the City of Panama City and state grants.

Anticipated Project Outcome with Respect to Screening Criteria

The oil spill caused extensive damage to marine and wildlife and to the Gulf's fishing and tourism industries. The oil spill notably hindered recreational fishing and boating within the Panama City area. These improvements to the Panama City Marina will provide the additional opportunities needed for recreation and fishing opportunities to be enjoyed by the residents and visitors to the Panama City Marina.

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

The City of Panama City owns the Marina and therefore, no right of way or temporary easements have to be acquired. The Design and permitting can be completed within 6 months of funding availability.

Preble-Rish has relevant past experience with similar projects to make this one a successful one for the City of Panama City. The same type boat ramp was recently built in Mexico Beach, FL.

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.)*

Improvements made to the Marina will improve boating and fishing safety as well as improve the water quality and habitat for aquatic species.

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.)*

This project will not effect any ongoing response activities in the City Panama City.

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

This project complies with applicable and relevant federal, state, local, and tribal laws and regulations.

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.)*

Panama City has a robust commercial fishing industry that catches and distributes hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of seafood weekly to restaurants and vendors all over the United States. This industry was shuttered due to the spill from May to December 2010. Additionally the charter fishing and tourist excursion boat businesses that operate out of the Panama City Marina were closed due to use of the Marina by the Coast Guard and private vendors during spill response. The Port of Panama City lost 80% of its orders during this period, and the area's tourism decreased 70%. These negative economic impacts multiplied throughout the community. This project will aid in restoring fisheries and human use critical to the local economy.

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).

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 City of Panama City Marina is located off of the Gulf of Mexico which was injured by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. While only a small percentage of the total area of the Gulf was closed to fishing by the spill, the areas closed were fishing areas of the Panama City commercial fleet and also prized fishing locations for charters. This project would benefit users of the Gulf as well as the City of Panama City as it will provide public access for fishing on the pier and also a functional public boat ramp for the residents and tourists of the City of Panama City.

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.)*

Design and permitting for the Project have not been completed, but could be within 6 months of funding being secured.

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.)*

This project will provide great improvements to the City of Panama City Marina. The addition of a new boat ramp with staging docks will support a large array of residents and visitors to the Marina, thus improving the economic impact the additions will have on the City.

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.)*

The Panama City Marina has proven to be an important feature to the City of Panama City. By adding the elements in this project, the Marina will be able to increase the capacity of users of the boat ramp and docks, thereby promoting the use of the Marina facilities by the community and visitors. Many residents do not use the boat ramp because it is too steep.

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

The oil spill caused extensive damage to marine life and wildlife and the the fishing and tourism industries. The oil spill significantly stalled recreational fishing and boating for residents and tourist using the Panama City Marina. These improvements will provide additional recreational and fishing opportunities for residents and tourists regardless of age, race, gender or economic status and help the area recover from the negative impacts created by the Deep Horizon Oil Spill.

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.)*

Opposition to this project is not expected. The construction of the boat ramp with staging docks will provide numerous public benefits to residents and visitors alike by providing additional access for sightseeing and off-shore fishing access.

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:

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Environmental Specialist I
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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").