

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 Mexico Beach Fish Cleaning Station

Contact Information: Chris Hubbard, City Administrator (Phone #850-648-5700)

P.O. Box 13425

Mexico Beach, FL 32410

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

122 Canal Parkway

City of Mexico Beach

Parcel Identification Number 04751-000-000

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

The City of Mexico Beach is seeking to build a "Muffin Monster" grinder-style fish cleaning station and plumb it into the adjacent sewer lift station for disposal and treatment. In the past, fish carcasses were thrown into our canal system but we were informed this was a FDEP violation [specifically, FS 403.031(7), FS 403.413(2)(f), 403.413(4) and (4)(b)]. Therefore, the City constructed a fish cleaning station on the site--but all fish waste must be discarded in a garbage can or dumpster (depending on time of year). The odor from the fish carcasses/wastes creates a nuisance and draws wild animals to the area; additionally, because of the bad smell (and potential for wild animals being present), many refuse to utilize the fish cleaning station and continue to dispose of fish carcasses/waste in the canal. Due to these ongoing issues, over the last several years the City has been researching alternatives to the current system. By installing a grinder-style fish cleaning station, the waste will be pumped into the City's sanitary sewer system where it will then be transported to Bay County's Military Point Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility for treatment, complying with all Florida Department of Environmental Protection requirements.

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.)*

Muffin Monster fish grinder cleaning station: \$78,000 (quote attached); new concrete pad: \$1,000; plumbing into sewer system: \$6,000; connecting to electricity: \$3,000. **Total cost: \$88,000**

Ongoing maintenance/repair costs and utility costs (water/sewer/electricity) will be paid for by the City of Mexico Beach by incorporating these expenses into our annual budgeting process.

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.)*

The City of Mexico Beach currently holds several permits (both FDEP and ACOE) for dredging and maintaining the City's canal system and the City attempts to comply with all Florida Statute/FDEP/ACOE requirements. The canal system is also the primary recreational area in the City and it drives much of the local economy. The "Muffin Monster" grinder-style fish cleaning station is the "gold standard" for these types of systems and will allow the City to comply with FDEP's requirements for disposing of fish wastes. The "Muffin Monster" system is utilized by other government entities for fish cleaning stations and is also used in other private/commercial sectors such as: chemical producers, food processors, fuel refining, pulp & paper mills, rendering plants, nuclear power generation, apparel manufacturers, retail stores, breweries, waste-to-energy plants, obsolete inventory destruction sites, and agricultural applications.

Due to their widespread use and history of reliability, the "Muffin Monster" grinder-style fish cleaning station would be the best and most cost effective system for Mexico Beach.

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.)*

FS 403.413(4), "Dumping Litter Prohibited" states: "Unless otherwise authorized by law or permit, it is unlawful for any person to dump litter in any manner or amount:" and subsection (4)(b) continues by stating, "In or on any freshwater lake, river, canal, or stream or tidal or coastal water of the state, including canals."

FS 403.413(2)(f), "Litter" is defined as "any garbage; rubbish; trash; refuse; can; bottle; box; container; paper; tobacco product; tire; appliance; mechanical equipment or part; building or construction material; tool; machinery; wood; motor vehicle or motor vehicle part; vessel; aircraft; farm machinery or equipment; sludge from a waste treatment facility, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility; or substance in any form resulting from domestic, industrial, commercial, mining, agricultural, or governmental operations." And,

FS 403.031(7) defines "Pollution" as "the presence in the outdoor atmosphere or waters of the state of any substances, contaminants, noise, or manmade or human-induced impairment of air or waters or alteration of the chemical, physical, biological, or radiological integrity of air or water in quantities or at levels which are or may be potentially harmful or injurious to human health or welfare, animal or plant life, or property or which unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of life or property, including outdoor recreation unless authorized by applicable law."

If the City of Mexico Beach can receive funding under the NRDA program, it will allow us to install the "Muffin Monster" fish cleaning station and eliminate the potential for violations of the above-mentioned Florida Statutes. By eliminating the pollution and litter from the fish waste going into the canal, it will improve the health and safety of the ecosystem, allow the canal to more rapidly heal from any harmful impacts resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, as well as prevent any negative health impacts on humans who fish in or frequent those areas.

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.)*

Currently, there are no response activities which would be affected.

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

This project not only complies with all applicable laws but would allow Mexico Beach to further comply with existing Florida Statutes. (see Section "S2" above)

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.)*

The City of Mexico Beach received minor impact from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, consisting of mostly tar balls washing ashore on our beaches and entering the canal system. By eliminating future litter/pollution going into the canal system, it will allow the natural ecosystem of the canal (and surrounding areas) to repair itself in a more rapid manner.

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 project is proposed to take place in the City of Mexico Beach which is located very close to prime fishing locations in the Gulf of Mexico—all were negatively impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Oil cleanup operations occurred in these areas during the timeframe of the active spill and remediation work is currently ongoing or planned in the future.

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 proposed project was included in the City of Mexico Beach Canal Master Plan, which was engineered and permitted four years ago (pre-Deepwater Horizon), again, due to the ongoing problems/violations. The project could be bid out immediately, if funding was received through the NRDA program.

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.)*

No other alternative projects are available for this project. With the current, ineffective method of operation (garbage can/dumpster, next to a fish cleaning station which may or may not be utilized—see "Project Narrative" above), it is very costly and labor intensive. A "Muffin Monster" grinder-style fish cleaning station is the only option available which would comply with Florida Statutes while eliminating all health, nuisance, safety, and environmental concerns.

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).

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 proposed "Muffin Monster" grinder-style fish cleaning station is utilized by many other government entities as well as in many other private and commercial activities. Its well-proven technology and reliability makes it the leader in this field. This style/brand system is well proven.

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

Once installed, the "Muffin Monster" grinder-style fish cleaning station will provide immediate benefits—specifically, all negative aspects of our past and current system will be corrected. Those who utilize our fish cleaning station will be able to dispose of the fish carcasses/wastes in accordance with Florida Statutes; those who have avoided utilizing the fish cleaning station due to the negative aspects of the past/current system will begin to use the "Muffin Monster" system, improving the health and safety of the canal as well as the surrounding environment.

As the offshore fishing areas which had been impacted by the oil spill improve, the number of fish will increase, and, therefore, the number of fishermen will increase. With the increase in fishermen, the benefits of this system will compound over time, dramatically improving the local environment compared to what it would be without the installation of the "Muffin Monster" fish cleaning station.

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.)*

The economy of the City of Mexico Beach revolves around fishing, the fishing industry, and those industries which provide support to those who fish. The citizens of Mexico Beach—as well as those who visit and vacation here—have asked for several years for this type of fish cleaning station. If funding is received through the NRDA program, the "Muffin Monster" grinder-style fish cleaning station would be universally accepted by the public!

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").