



Deepwater Horizon • Project Proposal Form

Instructions

IMPORTANT: if you use **INTERNET EXPLORER** (IE), make sure to have **"protected mode" disabled**.

1. Go to: Menu > Tools > Internet Options > Security
 2. Uncheck: Enable Protected Mode
 3. Restart Internet Explorer
- Submitted Forms are used in the evaluation of future Natural Resource Damage Assessment, RESTORE Council-Selected Restoration, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund projects in Florida. Please complete this form with the most accurate information that you have available.
 - If you have multiple projects, please submit one Form for each project.
 - When you have completed the Form, hit the "Submit" button at the bottom of the Review page.

- **Once your Form is successfully submitted, you will receive a confirmation email and then a second email with a unique project number. Keep record of the project number as it will be required to make future updates to your project proposal.**
- **You may upload back-up maps, reports, or other information related to your proposal at the end of this form.**
- **To complete the form later, click on "save and continue later" button at the top of the page and you will receive an email with a link to this form.**

Submission Type

1) Submission type:

Is this a new Project Proposal or an update to a previous one?

☒ **New**

☐ Update

You will be prompted to provide information to new required fields when updating a Project Proposal for the first time using this form.

Update Login

If you receive an error message when logging in to update a project proposal, please contact us at Restoration.Projects@dep.state.fl.us with the Project Proposal Number, your name and email address, and we will assist you.

Project Proposal Information

2) Project Title:*

Reducing Marine Debris and it's Impacts

3) Project Description:*

Provide a concise project description of one to two paragraphs, clearly indicate the objective(s) of the proposed project. Additional information may be provided as an upload at the end of the form.

The aim of this project is to reduce marine debris in Florida coastal habitats and the threats, such as entanglement, entrapment, and physical nesting barriers, it poses to sea turtles and other coastal wildlife. This will be accomplished through coordination with internal and external partners to conduct targeted and regular statewide marine debris removal where we will also assess and monitor wildlife interactions and impacts and quantitatively assemble and analyze the status and trends of marine debris in Florida to facilitate marine debris prevention and outreach and improve natural resource restoration and management. This will be a highly collaborative statewide project augmenting existing agency and volunteer efforts with considerable partner engagement while providing numerous benefits to our natural resources and a variety of stakeholders. There are four objectives within this project.

- 1.) Conduct regular statewide underwater pier, jetty, reef (natural and artificial) and coastal cleanups targeting removal of monofilament, fishing nets, and other marine debris
- 2.) Expand statewide derelict trap and line removal
- 3.) Remove permanent and/or semi-permanent debris on sea turtle nesting beaches
- 4.) Increase capacity within FWC to execute work related to marine debris detection, assessment, removal, monitoring, prevention and research.

4) Resource Benefits:*

(Check all that apply)

☒ Birds

☒ Corals

☒ Fish

☒ Human Use (Recreational, Cultural, Educational)

☒ Marine Mammals

☒ Reptiles/Amphibians

☒ Sediment/Benthos

☒ Shellfish

☒ Shoreline

☒ Terrestrial wildlife

☒ Vegetation

☒ Water Quality/Quantity

☐ Other

Validation: Max character count = 255

5) Other Benefit(s):*

This project, while targeting marine debris impacts to sea turtles, has benefits to all coastal wildlife and habitats as well as numerous human health and safety and economic benefits to the state of Florida.

6) Is the Project included in a Regional or Statewide Plan(s)?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Validation: Max character count = 255

7) Plan Name:*

Florida Marine Debris Reduction Plan

Validation: Max character count = 1023

8) Technical Feasibility:

Describe the technologies involved and any relevant past experience or proven success with similar projects.

FWC has extensive subject matter expertise in marine debris as well as the resources and established partnerships to successfully implement this project. FWC recently hired a marine debris coordinator who is involved in marine debris projects and programs throughout Florida and is also the Chair for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance's Marine Debris Cross Team Initiative as well as the Research and Data lead for the Florida Marine Debris Planning Team. Agency-wide, we have numerous programs that would all play a part in implementing this project such as our artificial reef program, trap retrieval program, sea turtle stranding and salvage network, coastal wildlife conservation initiative and monofilament recovery and recycling program to name a few. FWC has been entrusted by our federal partners to implement marine debris detection, assessment, removal, monitoring, prevention and research projects in the past as well as play a significant role in the development of the Florida Marine Debris Reduction Plan.

Validation: Max character count = 1023

9) Complements to Existing Efforts:

Describe any ongoing activities in the project area that may relate to or be affected by the proposed project. Consider how the proposed project may complement existing local, regional, and state efforts/plans/objectives.

Currently, underwater marine debris cleanups are being conducted in Florida on a more sporadic basis and largely rely on volunteers and donated resources to fully implement. Similarly, we have a trap retrieval program and a monofilament recovery and recycling program as well as other agency programs with marine debris project components with limited staff and capacity, often collaborating with our various partners to extend coverage and scope. A significant marine debris focus of the agency lately has been on post-hurricane debris. As such, FWC's marine debris coordinator is on time limited federal grant funds. All aspects of this proposed project would not only complement the existing efforts by FWC and our partners but also allow us to expand our scope and to more effectively and comprehensively reduce marine debris and its impacts throughout the state while serving the people and resources of Florida by addressing such a globally complex and ever-expanding issue of marine debris.

Validation: Max character count = 1023

10) Community Resilience:

Describe if the project assists Florida's ability to anticipate, withstand, or recover from hazards or threats (e.g. hurricanes, storm surges, shoreline erosion).

Through this project we can address numerous aspects of community resilience including, but not limited to, the following:

- Remove debris before it becomes an entanglement or entrapment risk or impairs essential resource life functions such as sea turtle nesting, damages coastal habitats that could lead to erosion and/or decreased storm resiliency, becomes a navigational hazard, becomes a human health or safety issue, or otherwise impairs response efforts to natural disasters
- Remove debris that has the potential to transport invasive species that have adhered to it
- Improve water quality
- Target areas of known underwater accumulation and hot spots of wildlife interactions for regular monitoring and removal as well as response and assessment in post storm situations

Validation: Max character count = 1023

11) Public Support:

Describe any known or potential public approval or opposition to the project.

Thus far, we have had unanimous public support for our marine debris projects and programs as well as the expressed desire for FWC to continue moving forward in this arena and expand our scope and resources. As mentioned, these programs are highly collaborative and the threats from marine debris are unbiased. We have been able to engage a wide variety of stakeholders throughout the state, building an impressive network of both internal and external partners, an essential aspect of successful implementation and marine debris reduction. We plan to continue in this manner, both by expanding our efforts and resources while also facilitating our collaborating partners' efforts via increased public education and support and by providing the resources available for them to successfully execute marine debris removal and reduction projects.

Validation: Must be currency

12) Total Cost of Project:*

This should include the total project cost regardless of funding source. Include contingency and ongoing operations/maintenance if applicable.

\$10,000,000

Validation: Must be currency

13) Total Funding Request:*

This is the dollar amount being requested by this proposal, excluding other funds.

\$10,000,000

14) Funding Needed For:*

(select all that apply)

☒ Planning/Design

☒ Permitting

☒ Implementation

☒ Operation/Maintenance

☒ Monitoring

15) Status of Project Planning/Design:*

☒ Not Started

☐ Started

☐ Completed

Please upload completed plans/designs at the end when prompted.

16) Status of Project Permitting:*

☒ Not Started

☐ Started

☐ Completed

Please upload issued permits at the end when prompted.

17) Is the Project able to be Phased?*

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

Validation: Min = 2 Must be numeric Whole numbers only Positive numbers only

18) Number of Phases:*

N/A

Validation: Max character count = 255

19) Describe the phases:*

(name, activities, duration)

N/A

Validation: Min = 1 Must be numeric Whole numbers only Positive numbers only

20) Time Frame of the entire Project:

10 Years

21) Category:*

Select only one category. It is recognized that projects may identify under multiple categories, but only select the best fit category.

- ☐ Land acquisition
- ☐ Water quality or quantity
- ☐ Habitat restoration
- ☒ Living resources
- ☐ Recreation or public access
- ☐ Community resilience

Land acquisition: Projects under this category seek to purchase a parcel of land.

Example project description: *“This project will acquire and transfer 17,273 acres of forested upland and wetland communities into state or federal ownership and will compensate for impacts to water quality through protection and restoration of terrestrial resources now in commercial timber operations.”*

Community resilience: Projects under this category seek to provide education, resources, and resilience within communities to protect the environment.

Example project descriptions: *“We propose a series of speaking engagements and workshops to advance our science-based understanding of the threats from and vulnerabilities to sea level rise, and to facilitate policy considerations for best adaptation and mitigation strategies. Speakers will present the latest science and policy strategies for sea level rise. Local workshops will help inform and guide policy.”*

Recreation/public access: Projects under this category entail installations or improvements for human-use.

Example project description: *“This proposal seeks to mitigate those losses via construction of a municipal marina, paddle craft access launch, and public waterfront area to stimulate and support increased access, boating and tourism on local waterways.”*

Living resources: Projects under this category seek to enhance, restore, protect, and/or conserve populations of living coastal and marine resources.

Example project description: *“This project seeks to provide critical information on the extent and species utilization of offshore fishery habitats. Using state-of-the-art towed camera and*

multibeam/sidescan sonar technologies, our team will assess habitat characteristics and species associations in five zones.”

Habitat restoration: Projects under this category seek to enhance, restore, and/or conserve damaged or destroyed ecosystems and habitats.

Example project description: “The proposed project focuses on the restoration of staghorn (Acropora cervicornis) and elkhorn (Acropora palmata) coral, both of which are listed as threatened but proposed for uplisting to endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Partners are proposing that through large scale nursery cultivation and strategic outplanting to reefs, these species can be reestablished as breeding populations that will provide subsequent natural recovery.”

Water quality or quantity: Projects under this category seek to improve water quality or increase the flow of water.

Example project description: “This project proposes to construct an aesthetically-enhanced wet detention stormwater facility and park meeting current water quality regulations, and an upgraded conveyance system equipped with pretreatment units designed to remove debris and floatables from the runoff to provide primary treatment prior to entering the wet detention pond.”

Subcategory

22) Land Acquisition Subcategory:*

- ☐ Fee simple
- ☐ Conservation easement
- ☐ Either FS/CE
- ☐ Other

- Fee simple: This purchase of land transfers full ownership of a property to another party.

- **Conservation easement:** This purchase of land is used primarily for conservation purposes. It is an agreement between a landowner and a public agency, or conservation nonprofit organization. Examples of circumstances from conservation easement acquisition include protecting or restoring wildlife habitats or watershed protection.
- **Either FS/CE:** Projects for which both methods could be used in various locations or the method of land acquisition is currently unknown.

23) Is there a willing seller?*

- ☐ Willing
- ☐ Unwilling
- ☐ Unknown

24) Water Quality or Quantity Subcategory:*

- ☐ Stormwater
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Reuse
- ☐ Septic tank abatement
- ☐ Research/monitoring
- ☐ Hydrologic restoration
- ☐ Unpaved roads/sedimentation/erosion
- ☐ Agricultural BMPs
- ☐ Other

- **Stormwater:** Stormwater projects use runoff water that is generated when precipitation from rain and snowmelt flows over the land. For example, projects seek to increase drainage improvements to provide flood relief, install injection walls to prevent runoff to near shore waters, or direct runoff and pollutants to storm water retention basins.
- **Wastewater:** Wastewater projects use water that has been adversely affected in quality by anthropogenic influences. For example, projects primarily refer to treating municipal wastewater to improve sanitary sewer systems.
- **Reuse:** Reuse projects use reclaimed water or recycled water in landscaping irrigation, recharge groundwater aquifers, and for drinking instead of discharging the water into

rivers and oceans. For example, projects aim to reduce the nutrient pollutant load into estuaries to recover and enhance impacted freshwater ecosystems.

- **Septic tank abatement:** Projects seek to replace existing septic tanks to eliminate sewage infiltration into groundwater and mitigate contamination in waterways and the environment.
- **Research/monitoring:** Projects that relate to researching or monitoring the water quality in a given area to provide valuable information on improving environmental and health conditions. For example, projects include hydrographic surveying of watersheds, laboratory analyses of water in estuaries, and water quality from artificial reef construction to be shared among other researchers and the public.
- **Hydrologic restoration:** Hydrologic restoration projects refer to restoring the flow of water within coastal and river wetland habitats as a result of human development. For example, projects seek to install ditch blocks to reconnect historic flowways or remove old culverts and replace them with bridges.
- **Unpaved roads/sedimentation/erosion:** Projects that propose abating erosion or paving roads to prevent sedimentation from entering waterways in close proximity.
- **Agricultural BMPs:** Projects under agricultural BMPs (Best Management Practices) focus on establishing soil conservation practices that also provide water quality benefits. For example, projects seek to retrofit pivot irrigation systems to improve water use efficiency, reduce groundwater withdrawals, and reduce nutrient loading on crops.

25) Habitat Restoration Subcategory:*

- ☐ Freshwater wetlands and other surface waters
- ☐ Dune/beaches
- ☐ Marine
- ☐ Uplands
- ☐ Research/monitoring
- ☐ Living shoreline/breakwaters
- ☐ Other

- **Freshwater wetlands and other surface waters:** Projects that regard the restoration of freshwater wetland habitats. For example, restoring coastal marsh to improve water quality, improve fishery habitat, improve bird habitat, and reduce shoreline erosion.
- **Dune/beaches:** Projects that involve enhancing dunes or beach habitat. For example, projects seek to plant native dune vegetation to improve critical habitats for rare species.
- **Marine/estuarine:** Projects that include restoring marine or estuarine habitats and species. For example, a marine project involves restoring propeller-damaged seagrass beds or restoring mangrove islands.

- **Uplands:** Projects that entail restoration of upland habitats. For example, restoring longleaf pine ecosystems through silviculture operations.
- **Research/monitoring:** Projects that involve researching or monitoring habitats to properly manage the wellbeing of the ecosystem by collecting scientific data. For example, sampling seagrass leaves to create a database that identifies organisms, physiological status, and community structure over time to determine the impacts to the ecosystem.
- **Living shoreline/breakwaters:** Projects that seek to install living shorelines or breakwaters to stabilize the shoreline, protect surrounding environment, and create habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species. For example, comprising offshore breakwaters of rock and oyster shell and vegetated shoreline of emergent marsh vegetation.

26) Living Resources Subcategory:*

- ☐ Shellfish conservation
- ☐ Fish conservation
- ☒ Turtle conservation
- ☐ Bird conservation
- ☐ Marine Mammals
- ☐ Research/monitoring
- ☐ Other

- **Shellfish conservation:** Projects that enhance, restore, and/or protect populations of shellfish species and their habitats, including aquaculture activities. For example, replacement of oyster substrate in coastal bays.
- **Fish conservation:** Projects that enhance, restore, and/or protect populations of fish species and their habitats, including aquaculture or hatchery activities. For example, developing a saltwater plant nursery and fish hatchery for coastal restoration and providing hatchery-raised recreationally-important sportfish species.
- **Turtle conservation:** Projects that enhance, restore, and/or protect populations of sea turtle species and their habitats. For example, reducing light pollution in coastal communities to provide an opportunity for turtles to successfully nest and allow hatchlings to not become disoriented.
- **Bird conservation:** Projects that enhance, restore, and/or protect populations of bird species and their habitats. For example, enhancing the opportunity for shorebirds to successfully forage and nest by improving and monitoring critical habitat.
- **Marine Mammals:** Projects that enhance, restore, and/or protect populations of marine mammals and their habitats. For example, improving the ability of stranding network partners to detect and rescue free swimming mammals that are entangled.
- **Research/monitoring:** Projects that provide scientific data on living resources, habitats, and/or communities and do not include a direct on-the-ground restoration or

conservation action. For example, studying the shells and soft tissues of shellfish for heavy metals and other harmful chemicals as a result of the oil spill.

27) Recreation or Public Access Subcategory:*

- ☐ Marina/boat ramps
- ☐ Park improvements
- ☐ Pedestrian access
- ☐ Artificial Reefs
- ☐ Other

- **Marina/boat ramps:** Projects that seek to enhance or install marinas and boat ramps. For example, private/public partnership projects work together to remediate and rebuild a marina.
- **Park improvements:** Projects that entail construction improvement of parks. For example, a project involves developing bike trails, improved parking, concession store, wildlife observation decks, and boat launches.
- **Pedestrian access:** Projects that involve the construction or restoration of boardwalks, walkways, bridges, piers, dune crossovers, and trails for pedestrian use. For example, designing, permitting, and constructing dune walkover complexes over beach parks to gain access to the shoreline.
- **Artificial reefs:** Projects that involve installation of manmade underwater structures to promote marine life and enhance recreational fishing. For example, deploying reef balls to enhance or create artificial reef sites.

28) Community Resilience Subcategory:*

- ☐ Education/citizen awareness
- ☐ Programs/planning/research
- ☐ Infrastructure Risk Assessment
- ☐ Other

- **Education/citizen awareness:** Projects that entail providing educational classes or seminars for all ages as well as endorsing community involvement on environmental issues. For example, public awareness campaigns targeting beach-goers, recreational boaters, and fishermen to raise awareness about beach-nesting birds during the breeding season.

- **Programs/planning/research:** Projects that involve collaboration with citizens and researchers to create restoration plans and/or programs within the community. For example, a regional volunteer restoration program which brings citizen volunteers to habitat restoration work events throughout counties to remove invasive plants, install native plants, and remove debris and trash.
- **Infrastructure risk assessments:** Projects focus on evaluating the potential risks to infrastructure. Risk assessment involves the integration of threat, vulnerability, and consequence information. For example, deep coastal wells for freshwater-saltwater interface monitoring to assist in long-term planning and resiliency to environmental changes.

29) Other Subcategory:*

N/A

Contact Information

30) Contact Information*

First Name:*: _____Jennifer_____

Last Name:*: _____McGee_____

Company, Agency or Organization Name:: _____Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission_____

Email Address:*: _____Jennifer.McGee@mMyFWC.com_____

Confirm Email Address:*: _____Jennifer.McGee@mMyFWC.com_____

Phone Number:*: _____850-727-3043_____

Extension:: _____

Partner Information

31) Would you like to identify a project partner?

(A partner should be a different entity from the proponent)

☐ Yes

☒ No TBD

32) Partner Information

First Name*: _____

Last Name*: _____

Company, Agency or Organization Name::

Email Address*: _____

Phone Number*: _____

Extension: _____

Leveraging Information

33) Other Funding:

Select "Yes" if other funding for the project has been secured.

☒ Yes

☐ No

34) Leveraging Information

Organization*: _____ NOAA

Funding Type:*

☒ Federal

☐ State

☐ Local

☐ Other

Funding Amount*: \$3,393,000 (Estimated)

Description:*

Post Hurricane Irma Derelict Fishing Gear (Traps) Removal (excluding the Florida Panhandle); Lobster Trap and Line Removal Along the Florida Reef Tract (\$3,300,000 Fisheries Disaster Funds), Buoyed Derelict Fishing Gear Removal and Underwater Debris, including fishing gear in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (\$93,000 Disaster Relief Act Supplemental Funds)

Deadline:: 09/30/2022

Constraints:: Can only be used for removal of identified derelict gear in locations impacted by Hurricane Irma

Location

35) Extent of Project Location:*

☐ Specific points

☐ Regional

☒ Undetermined, oceanic or statewide

36) Vicinity*

☐ Gulf of Mexico

☐ Atlantic Ocean

☒ Statewide

37) Region*

☒ Panhandle

☒ Big Bend

☒ Gulf of Mexico peninsula

☒ Atlantic peninsula

Note:

The Panhandle coast goes from Escambia **County** to Wakulla County.

The Big Bend coast goes from Jefferson **County** to Levy County.

The Gulf of Mexico Peninsula goes from Citrus **County** to Monroe County.

The Atlantic Peninsula goes from Nassau County to Miami-Dade County.

38) Additional information on the location:

-
- A map will appear once you click "add a location".
 - Click on the map to indicate the location(s) where the project/activity will occur.
 - You can add as many locations as needed.
 - When several locations have been added, check the "Hide previous location(s)" box to only view the fields associated with the location you are working on.

39) Project Location:

Location Name*: _____

Watershed*: _____

Region: _____

County: _____

Latitude: _____

Longitude: _____

Documents

40) Upload documents:

Upload up to 10 documents. Each file can be up to 50 megabytes in size. If you have larger files, the files can be split in to multiple, smaller files or they can be emailed to Restoration.Projects@dep.state.fl.us. Extensions allowed are: pdf, zip, png, gif, jpg, jpeg, doc, xls, docx, xlsx, pdf, txt, mov, mp3, and mp4