



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENTS

Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission,
Fish and Wildlife Research
Institute

AWARD AMOUNT

\$7,238,100

PARTNERS

National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

LOCATION

Florida Gulf Coast

AWARD DATE

November 2017

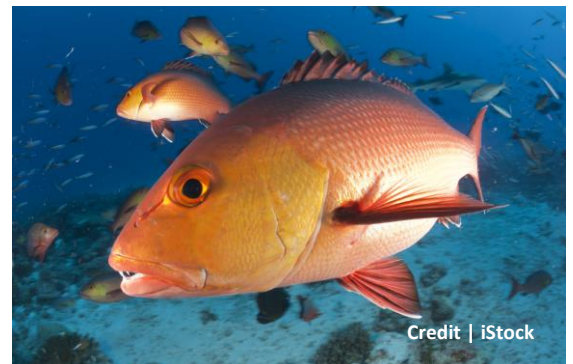
FLORIDA

Enhanced Assessment of Gulf of Mexico Fisheries – Phase V

This project will complete the fifth and final phase of enhanced marine fisheries data collection with expansion and enhancement of broad-scale fisheries-dependent and fisheries-independent methodologies in the Panhandle and West Florida regions in the Gulf of Mexico.

This project will continue a significant expansion of the collection of data on both catch effort and stock assessment of reef fish in the northern Gulf of Mexico to provide a greater understanding of the potential long-term impacts of the Deepwater Horizon spill on fisheries. Additional research components include expansion of seagrass monitoring, groundfish trawl surveys, benthic habitat mapping, and discard mortality assessment. Funding is also included in the final phase of the program to allow for significant data processing and reporting.

To date previous years' efforts have provided significant data assemblages to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/ the National Marine Fisheries Service for inclusion in federally-mandated reef fish stock assessments for red snapper, vermillion snapper, gray triggerfish, amberjacks, and gag, red and black grouper. In addition to increased baseline data informing abundance assessment for key species, Florida has also gathered significant data on fisheries catch and effort by various sectors, habitat utilization, and discard mortality, which are all being incorporated into state and federal regional fisheries management strategies.



The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about NFWF, go to www.nfwf.org.

Lessons learned from fisheries monitoring in Florida will influence future fisheries management for key species, such as the red snapper pictured above.