



## 2016-2018 PROGRAM STRATEGY

Prepared by the Florida Institute of Oceanography, Gulf Coast State Entity for Florida's RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence Program (FLRACEP)

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Vision & Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vision- priority outcome</li> <li>Mission- role of FLRACEP within larger vision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">RESTORE Act (RA)</a></li> <li>Treasury RA <a href="#">Rulemaking (regulations)</a></li> <li><a href="#">FLRACEP Rules and Policies (R&amp;P)</a></li> </ul>
Goals and Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic goals:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>priority disciplines from RESTORE Act and 2014 public scoping</li> <li>Cross-cut goals- objectives/actions span disciplines</li> </ul> </li> <li>Objectives for each goal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RA Bill and Regulations, R&amp;P</li> <li>Program Management Team</li> <li>Sea Grant regional research plan (<a href="#">MASGC, 2013</a>)</li> </ul>

### Vision statement (adapted from RESTORE Act):

Sustainable Gulf Coast Region ecosystem goods and services, including living resources, fisheries and wildlife habitats, beaches, wetlands and coastal communities.

### Mission statement (adapted from RESTORE Act):

Engage a broad base of non-governmental participants, including institutions of higher education, with interest and expertise in science, technology, and monitoring to support a healthy Gulf of Mexico environment and economy.

## STRATEGIC GOALS

### RESTORE Act Disciplines:

Based on public scoping, program funding levels, and with consent of the FLRACEP Program Management Team (PMT) and Treasury Office of Gulf Restoration, the program will focus on two of the five eligible RESTORE Act “disciplines” (numbers 2 and 5), which serve as the program’s **strategic goals**:

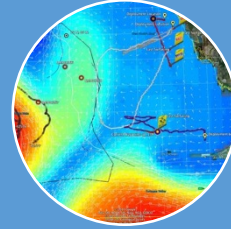
- Coastal fisheries and wildlife ecosystem research and monitoring; and*
- Comprehensive ecosystem observing, monitoring, and mapping.*

### Cross-cut Goals:

- Engage, coordinate and collaborate*** with other ocean and coastal ecosystem restoration and research programs funded by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill-related penalties and settlements;
- Promote science and technology innovation*** to support an ecosystem-based approach to managing Gulf recovery and sustainability.
- Support formal education activities*** to train next generation of scientists and engineers required for Gulf ecosystem sustainability.



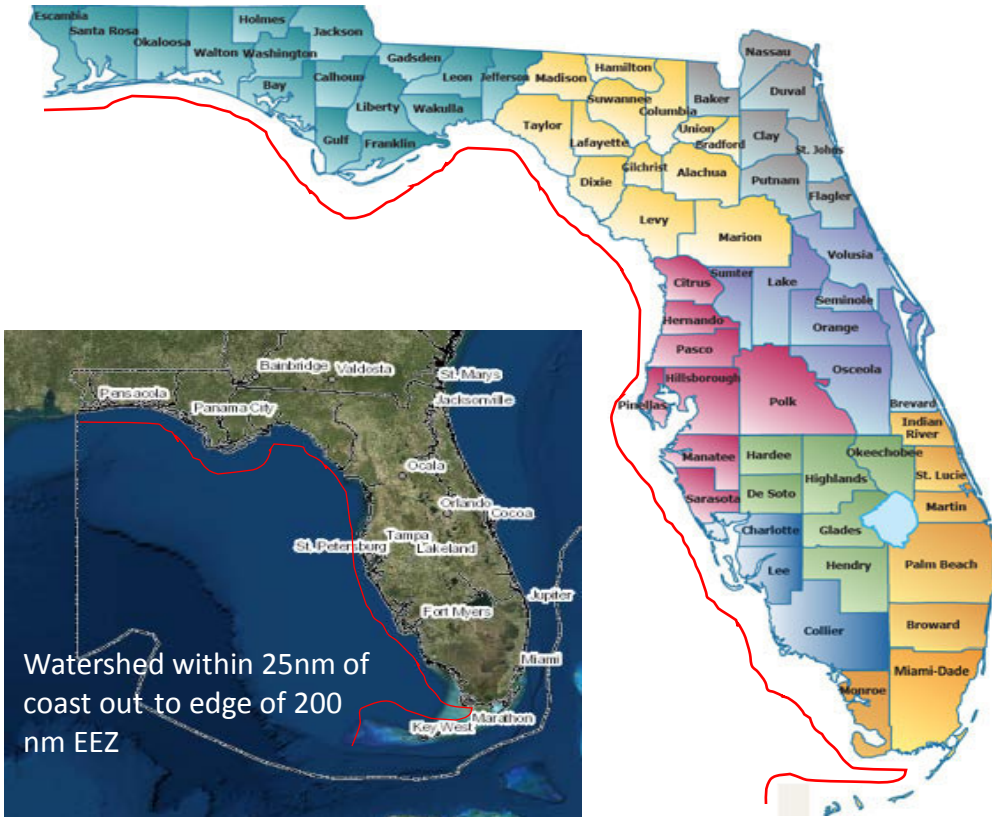
# Fisheries and wildlife



# Ecosystem monitoring

VISION: Sustainable natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands

CROSS-CUT GOALS: collaborate, innovate, educate



FLRACEP field projects must be conducted in the Gulf Coast Region, from 25 nm inland to the offshore edge of the EEZ; FLRACEP will prioritize but not limit fieldwork to waters off Monroe to Escambia Counties (Red line).

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

**RA Discipline 2 Goal:** *Coastal fisheries and wildlife ecosystem research and monitoring in the Florida Gulf Coast Region [as presented in the RFP # FLCERGP-2015-01]*

Improve data and information products:

- To enhance biological observations (including real- or near-real time) required for monitoring fisheries, wildlife, and related productivity.
- To assess and map habitat (especially Essential Fish Habitat as defined by state and federal management) location and condition.
- To increase and improve fishery independent data for stock assessments (benchmark and updates).

Develop innovative approaches and technologies:

- To assess fish populations, fishing activities, ecosystem impacts of fishing activities, and pressure on resources.
- To improve recreational fisheries data collection (including landings and bycatch).
- To promote the pace, scope and efficiency of stock assessments.
- To increase trust in fisheries data, related syntheses and products (e.g., models).

**RA Discipline 5 Goal:** *Comprehensive ecosystem observing, monitoring, and mapping of the Gulf of Mexico*

- Develop operational framework for a Gulf-wide Comprehensive Ecosystem Monitoring Program (CEMP) in coordination with other partners in the Gulf Coast Region.
- Collaborate to monitor and evaluate progress of restoration activities with emphasis on Florida Gulf Coast Region projects and resources.
- Provide baseline conditions and models required to assess DWH spill damage and impacts, respond to future disasters (local to regional scale), and support adaptive management for ecosystem sustainability.
- Promote Gulf-wide ecosystem monitoring by integrating data and information from FLRACEP research efforts with other regional and national observing and monitoring programs.

**CC Goal:** *Engage, coordinate and collaborate with other ocean and coastal ecosystem restoration and research programs funded by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill-related penalties and settlements.*

- Coordinate program plans, projects, results' syntheses and data management with other regional programs to promote collaboration, assimilation of results, and effective and efficient Gulf-wide restoration.
- Communicate and coordinate with institutions of higher education and Gulf science-related non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to encourage and promote engagement in Gulf-wide recovery and management efforts.

**CC GOAL:** *Promote science and technology innovation to support an ecosystem-based approach to managing Gulf recovery and sustainability.*

- Promote understanding of what it means and how to implement "best available science" into Gulf ecosystem recovery and management efforts.

- Develop and transition new science and technologies for restoration and adaptive management of Florida ecosystem goods and services.

***CC GOAL:*** Support ***formal education activities*** to train next generation of scientists and engineers required for Gulf ecosystem sustainability.

- Share program results with formal education (educators and programs) to help train new scientists and engineers, with focus on under-served and under-represented groups in Florida coastal communities.
- Include students in all program research and technology projects.