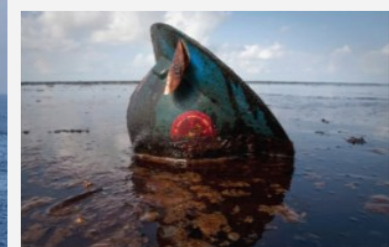


The Florida Institute of Oceanography hosts the **Florida RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence Program (FLRACEP)**, funded by Deepwater Horizon oil spill penalties to support science, technology and monitoring of Gulf of Mexico ecosystem recovery.



Deepwater Horizon oil platform fire and spill, April 2010.

Credits: Left—Gulf Restoration Network; Right/top—AP. Right/bottom—Getty Images.

RESTORE Act:

The Deepwater Horizon oil platform explosion in 2010 resulted in the largest maritime oil spill in U.S. history; 4-5 million barrels of oil spilled into the northern Gulf of Mexico over 87 days. Civil and criminal damage awards will exceed \$40 billion. The Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act ([RESTORE Act; Subtitle F of Public Law 112-141](#)) establishes a Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund in the U.S. Treasury to receive eighty percent of Clean Water Act penalties for activities that **restore and protect the environment and economy of the Gulf Coast region**. The Centers of Excellence Research Grant Programs (RESTORE Act section 1605) will receive 2.5% of Trust Fund principal, equally divided among five Gulf coast states. FIO manages the **FL RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence Program (FLRACEP)** funded by \$4 million from the 2012 Transocean settlement, and \$22 million over 15 years from the 2015 BP civil settlement.

Florida RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence Program

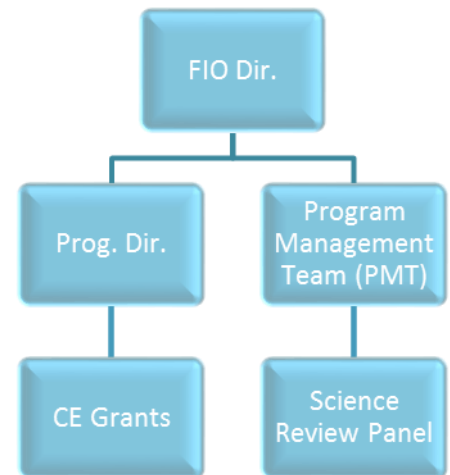
FLRACEP Mission:

FLRACEP will support science, technology, and monitoring in one or more of the five RESTORE Act eligible priority disciplines. Based on public scoping, Program Management Team (PMT) input, and available funding, FLRACEP will focus on two of these disciplines:

- Coastal fisheries and wildlife ecosystem research and monitoring in the Gulf Coast Region; and
- Comprehensive observation, monitoring, and mapping of the Gulf of Mexico.

FLRACEP Organization:

- PROGRAM OFFICE: FIO Director, Fiscal Officer, and Program Director: Manage budget and grants, Treasury business, develop strategic plans and coordinate with other Gulf restoration programs.
- PROGRAM MANAGEMENT TEAM: Senior-level experts, appointed based on their knowledge of regional science, technology and management needs, advise FIO on policies, plans and reports.
- CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE (CE): Conduct science and technology activities; 2015-2017 CEs funded as of September 2015 in **Table 1**.
- SCIENCE REVIEW PANEL: Ad hoc team of experts from in and outside Florida, responsible for technical review of CE grant proposals. Members change based on RFP priorities.



FLRACEP organization.

TABLE 1. 2015-2017 CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

CE	Grant PI	Title
University of Florida	Allen, Micheal	Assess management options to mitigate lionfish impacts to reef ecosystems
University of Miami	Ault, Jerry	Optimizing economic value and sustainability of Florida’s recreational fisheries.
“	Babcock, Beth	Better use of directly-observed data in ecosystem simulation models
Florida International University	Boswell, Kevin	Informing fishery-independent reef fish surveys through advanced survey techniques
University of West Florida	Caffrey, Jane	Evaluating the role of artificial reefs as hotspots of biological productivity
Florida State University	Grubbs, Dean	Long-term effects of DwH oil spill on large deep-sea fishes.
University of Central Florida	Mansfield, Kate	Tracking sea turtle “lost years” in the Gulf of Mexico
University of South Florida	Lembke, Chad	Robotic monitoring of Red Grouper in the Eastern GoM.
“	Peebles, Ernst	Egg and larval DNA barcoding to support Gulf reef fish stock assessments
Nova Southeastern University	Walker, Brian	Habitat mapping to inform future survey efficiencies, management strategies, and climate change research

More Information:

Treasury RESTORE Act [Web site](#)

Summary of [DWH oil spill restoration programs](#), including RESTORE Act

FLRACEP [Rules and Policies](#).

Florida Institute of Oceanography—Supporting Excellence in Marine Science, Technology and Education.

Florida Gulf Coast Entity: <http://fio.usf.edu/>

FLRACEP Program: <http://fio.usf.edu/flracep>

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