

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring, and Technology Program

Section 1604 – NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program

**NOAA “Brown Bag” Seminar
5 June, 2013, Silver Spring, MD**

**Mr. Russ Beard, Acting Director, RESTORE Act Science Program
Ms. Mary Erickson, Acting Director, NCCOS**

Outline

- **FAQ's**
- **Structure**
- **Goals & Focus Areas**
- **Timeline**
- **Q&A**

NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program

- **NOAA-administered program**
 - *Establish the program in consultation and implement with USFWS*
 - *Carry out the program in consultation with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission*
- **Purpose**
 - *To achieve an integrative, holistic understanding of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem and support restoration efforts and long-term sustainability of the ecosystem*
- **Funding**
 - *2.5% of the Restoration Trust Fund (80% of Civil Penalties)*
 - *25% Interest of the Restoration Trust Fund*

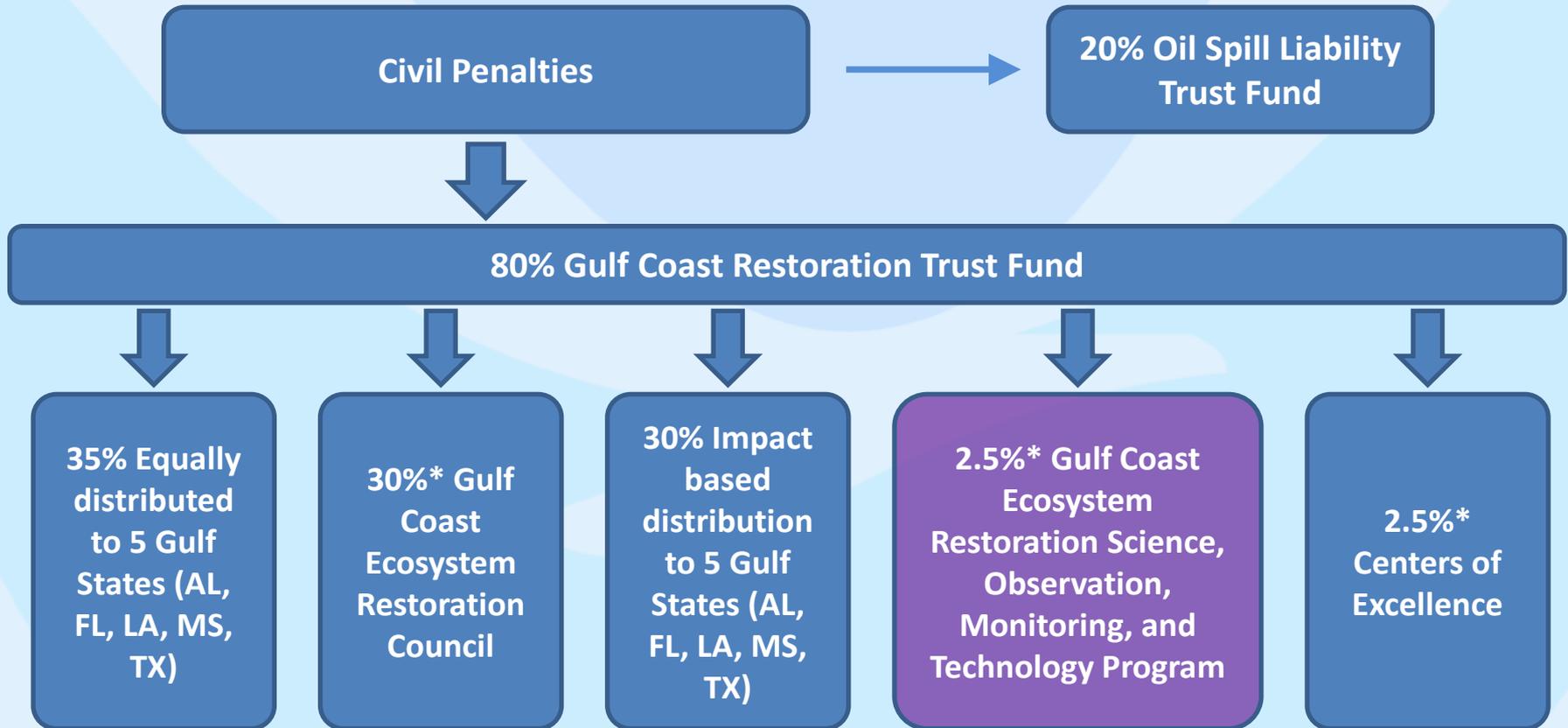
General RESTORE Science FAQs

1. What is the main framework for the program?
2. What are the focus areas for the program?
3. How long will the program continue?
4. How will the funding be distributed?
5. What activities can the program support?
6. Can the program support existing programs?
7. How does the program relate to other programs?

2. Focus Areas:

- *“State of Health” for the Gulf, incorporating environmental, socio-economic, and human well-being*
3. *The legislation does not set a specific time limit to the program: the program will continue as long as funding is available.*
 5. *Ecosystem science, observation, monitoring, and technology projects relating to the GOM and focused on understanding the health of the Gulf of Mexico and the effects of human activities on the Gulf.*
 6. *The program may not support any existing, planned or ongoing NOAA programs, research, regulations, or limited access fishery programs*
however, the program supports the development and tools for observing, monitoring, and data integration for fisheries and other natural resources

Distribution of Civil Penalties



***Supplemented by interest generated by the Trust Fund (50% to Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, 25% to Science Program, 25% to Centers of Excellence)**

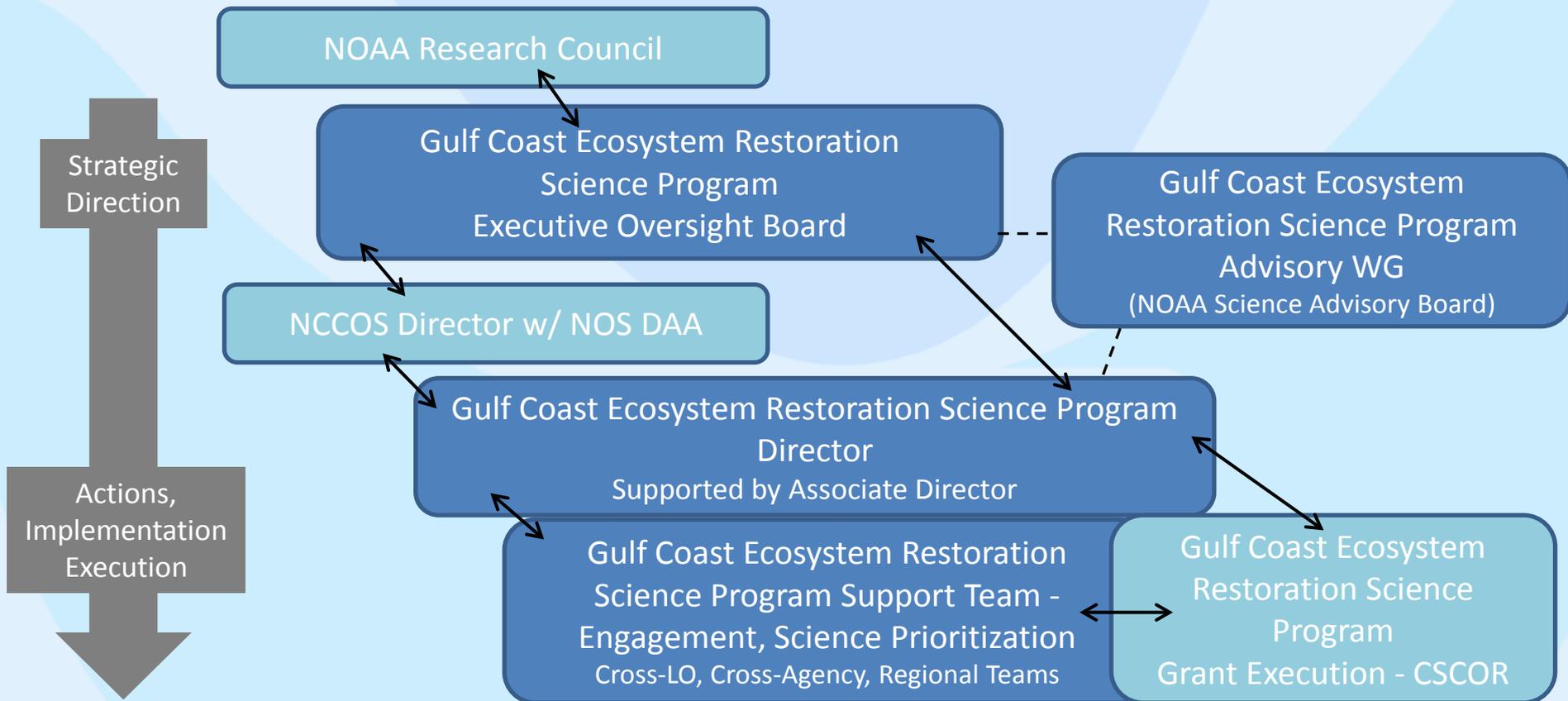
The Challenges Ahead

- *Uncertainties remain until the final Department of Treasury regulations are approved and promulgated*
- *The RESTORE Act “structure” is complex - many moving parts, entities, roles, and priorities*
- *Identifying our partners and establishing science priorities continues*
- *The release date of criminal penalty funds (the first payment is \$400M) and the civil penalties, are an unknown at this time. This uncertainty requires a tiered and iterative Science Plan.*
- *The NOAA RESTORE Science Plan CAN NOT do it all - very small percentage of the total funding (2.5%)*
- *Transparency of the process and information flow between all the RESTORE programs is critical to the success of the Science Plan (and all plans!)*
- *The leveraging of resources is critical to ensuring complementary efforts and avoiding duplication*

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring, and Technology Program

(RESTORE Act Science Program)

Planning and Execution Organizational Structure



Color Key:



NOAA Infrastructure Support



RESTORE Act Science Program Structures

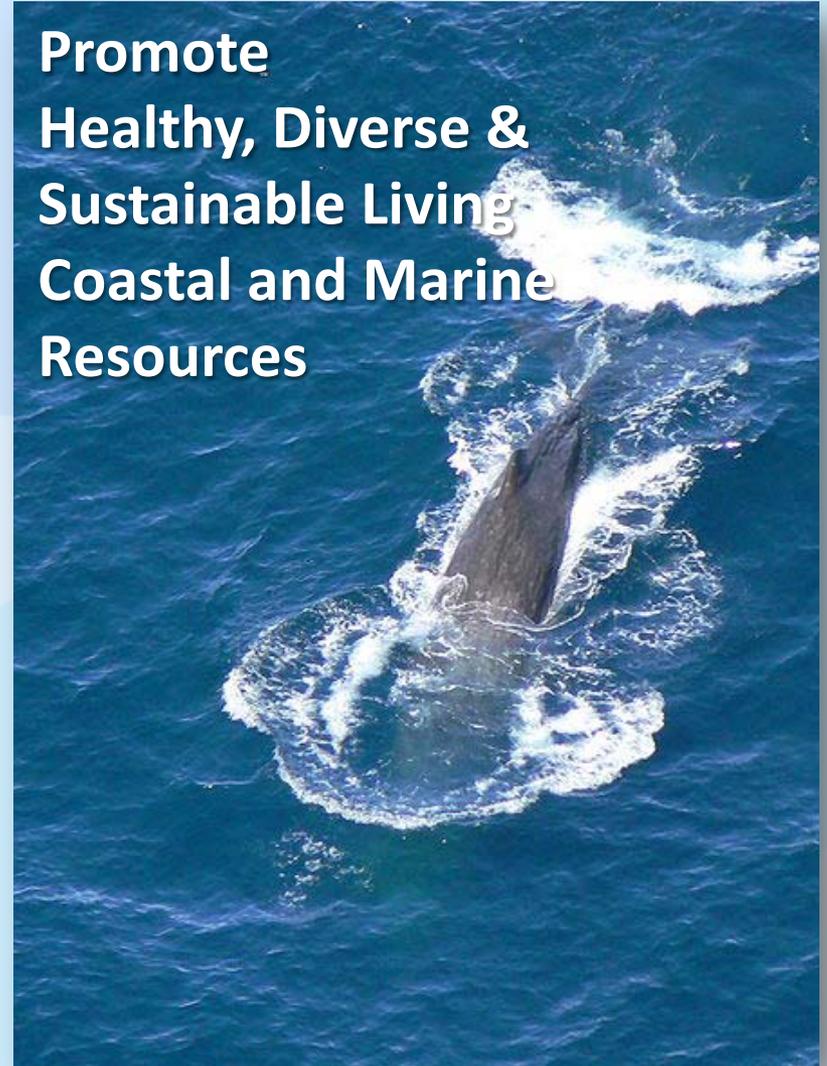
Current as of June 5, 2013

***These goals are described in the Draft
NOAA RESTORE Act Science Plan
In Development***

**Support Healthy,
Diverse & Resilient
Coastal Habitats**



**Promote
Healthy, Diverse &
Sustainable Living
Coastal and Marine
Resources**



**Support Sustainably
Managed Fisheries**



**Support Healthy, Sustainable,
and Resilient Coastal
Communities able to adapt to
a changing environment**



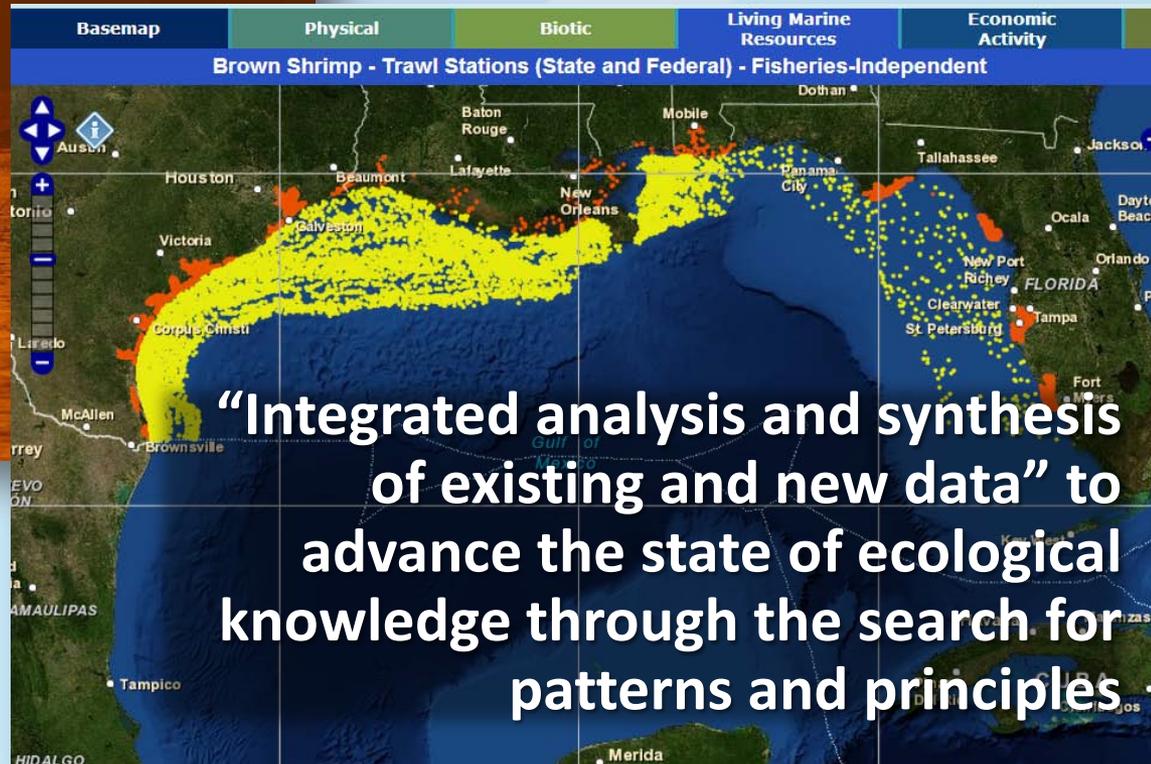
**Support Healthy and
Well-managed Offshore
Environments**



Four Focus Areas are described in the Draft NOAA RESTORE Act Science Plan

In Development

“State of Health” of the Gulf,
incorporating environmental,
socio-economic, and human
well-being benefits and elements



“Ecosystem processes, functioning and connectivity” through integrative field and laboratory studies



“Holistic approaches to observing and monitoring” with advanced technologies to monitor fisheries and other natural resources, and data integration tools focused on the observing needs in the Gulf of Mexico



NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program Timeline – Background

- **Science Program Framework team established, August 2012**
- **Science Program Framework transmitted to Congress, January 2013**
- **Science Program Executive Oversight Board established, February 2013**
- **Science Program organization finalized and approved, April 2013**

NOAA RESTORE Act Science Plan Timeline – Status/RESTORE Updates

- Finalize the Science Support Team, June 2013
- Draft Science Plan ready for review, June 2013
- Public Meeting, GOMA All Hands, Tampa FL, June 22, 2013
- Additional engagement and outreach efforts planned for Summer 2013
- *Website-Coming soon!*

NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program

Contact Information

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NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program

QUESTIONS?