

100-1000 RESTORE COASTAL ALABAMA

A Public-Private Partnership for Restoration



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Restoring Gulf of Mexico Fisheries 1 Mile at a Time

In the coming years, our finfish and shellfish stocks will need as much new clean nursery habitat as possible to recover rapidly from the impacts of the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill.

Mobile Bay has been *relatively* protected from the worst

aspects of the disaster because of the large volume of freshwater inflows from the Bay's major tributaries.



Meaningful Action:

By building 100 miles of oyster reefs we will protect and promote more than 1,000 acres of coastal marsh and seagrass:

- providing habitat for oyster larvae to settle and colonize
- serving as nursery habitat for commercially and recreationally important finfish and shellfish (shrimp, blue crab, speckled trout, red drum, southern flounder, ladyfish and gray snapper)
- dampening of wave energy and decreasing erosion
- stabilizing sediments and decreasing turbidity

Fast Facts

Worldwide, 85% of oyster reefs have been lost. They are the single most imperiled marine habitat.

97% percent of the commercial catch of fish and shellfish species in the Gulf depends on estuaries and nursery habitats for survival.

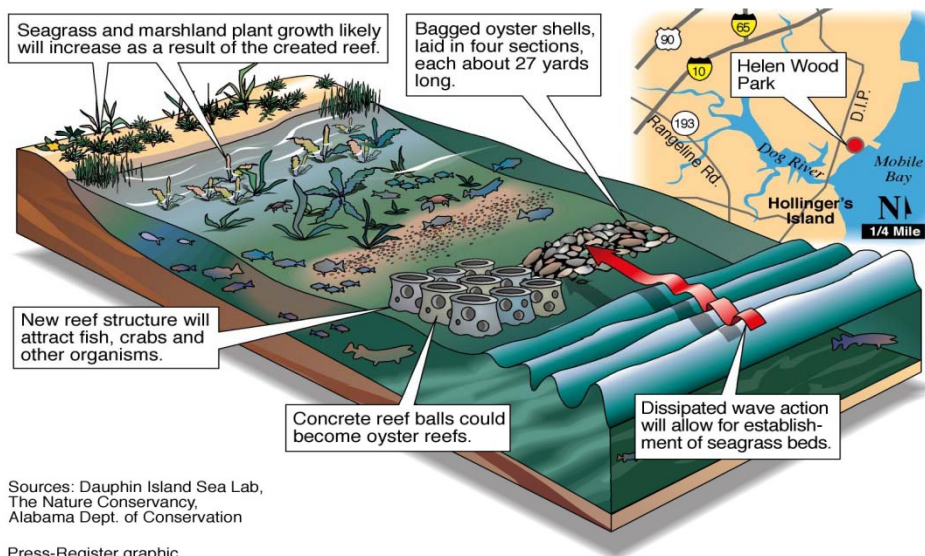
Gulf shrimp account for 73% of the nation's total harvest and hundreds of millions of dollars in dockside revenue alone.

How we do it:

Jobs Creation: Crews will be needed to construct and deploy a variety of artificial oyster reefs that create the foundation for recovery of Northern Gulf finfish and shellfish stocks. Many of the workers and small-businesses who will support this effort are the same people whose jobs have been destroyed by the spill: a truly win-win effort for both the fisheries and the people.

Volunteer Involvement: Tens of thousands of citizens raised their hands to volunteer to help cleanup this disaster on the Gulf Coast. However, the harmful nature of the oil and dispersants, as well as the logistical challenges of cleanup left most of these volunteers on the sidelines. Engaging volunteers to plant critical marsh grasses, a habitat directly impacted by the spill, is a great way to accomplish the important goals of this partnership: 1) on-the-ground restoration; 2) community education and involvement on the importance of coastal wetlands; and, 3) longterm commitment from the community to continue and build upon these efforts.

How it Works:



Why do it:

Oyster reefs are an investment: rebuild the natural capital and harvest only the yearly interest, leaving the principal untouched. This will ensure we have oysters, marshes and shoreline protection for the future.



100 - 1,000 Partnership:
Restore Coastal Alabama

Partners Working Together

The Nature Conservancy
Mobile Baykeeper
Alabama Coastal Foundation
The Ocean Foundation
Dauphin Island Sea Lab
University of South Alabama
Auburn University
Alabama Department of
Conservation and Natural
Resources

Coastal Conservation Association
Other local, state and federal
agency partners

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