



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENTS

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

NOAA

Various Stranding Network Participating Organizations

AWARD AMOUNT

\$4,400,000

LEVERAGE AMOUNT

\$1,973,000

LOCATION

Gulf Coast of Florida

AWARD DATE

November 2015

PROGRESS UPDATE

The Data Diplomat position has been filled and is currently testing the database system and developing user manuals for stranding network participants. (August 2016)

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.

FLORIDA

Increased Capacity for Marine Mammal Response

This project will improve capacity and data collection efforts for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s marine mammal field stations as well as 8 marine mammal stranding response and research organizations working in the Gulf. The Gulf of Mexico is habitat for 22 species of marine mammals – many were directly impacted by the oil spill, all are listed under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and several are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Given the high occurrence of annual marine mammal strandings along Florida’s Gulf Coast – more than 2,000 over the past five years – it is a management priority to enhance and sustain a viable stranding network in order to increase survival of distressed animals, monitor emerging diseases and mortality trends, improve understanding of population threats from future stranding events, and trigger management intervention where appropriate.

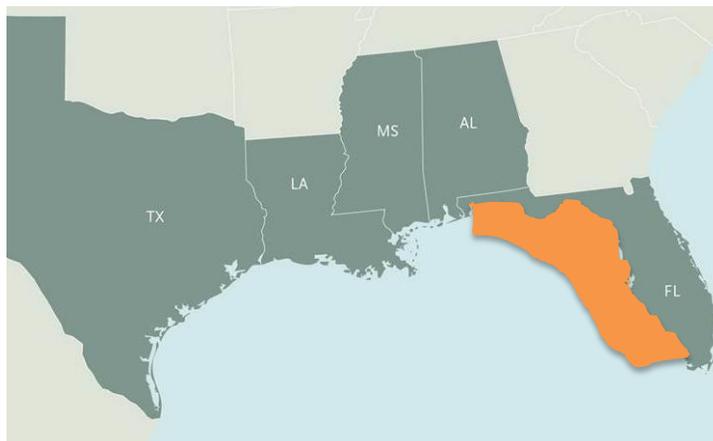
This project will provide supplemental equipment and staff capacity to capture and provide first response-care for distressed animals, recover carcasses, conduct thorough necropsy examinations to make cause of death determinations and efficiently transmit data to appropriate management agencies. Additionally, funds will be utilized to enhance data collection for Gulf-wide stranding events and related initiatives, and improve training for stranding network participating organizations to improve response efficiency, capability and coordination.



West Indian (Florida) Manatee | Credit: iStock



Bottlenose Dolphin | Credit: iStock



This project will improve data collection and capacity for marine mammals stranding network participants in the Gulf of Mexico to improve management and response to stranding events