NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

ALABAMA

Multifaceted Fisheries and Ecosystem Monitoring in Alabama's Marine Waters - Phase III

This project funded years three and four of the Alabama Gulf of Mexico fisheries assessment program, and built upon previous investments in both fisheries-dependent and -independent data collection. Reef fish, particularly red snapper, have historically been subject to overfishing and habitat loss, causing significant decline in stocks. The largest single impediment to effective management of Gulf of Mexico reef fisheries remains the lack of sound data related to both catch effort and population levels. This lack of reliable data is particularly evident in relation to the recreational fishery, a significant and growing component.

Data collected was used by fisheries management agencies to: foster improved ecosystem-based assessment capabilities; assess the recovery of reef fish stocks in association with other restoration efforts implemented in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; and improve and expand single-species stock assessments for managed fish species. The project included the implementation of both fisheries-dependent and fisheries-independent data collection, and provided greater understanding of the potential long-term impacts of the Deepwater Horizon spill on fishes.

Data collection for key Gulf of Mexico fisheries species, such as the red snapper pictured above, will improve future species management.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources/Marine Resources Division

AWARD AMOUNT:
$3,793,942

PARTNERS:
University of South Alabama

Dauphin Island Sea Lab

LOCATION:
Alabama state and federal waters

AWARD DATE:
November 2016

STATUS:
Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE:
Project closed December 2019.

The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF), administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, 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 GEBF and view a comprehensive project map go to **www.nfwf.org/Gulf**