



# NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

### RECIPIENT

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

### AWARD AMOUNT

\$20,057,000

### PARTNERS

Florida State University

### LOCATION

Apalachicola Bay

### AWARD DATE

November 2019

### STATUS

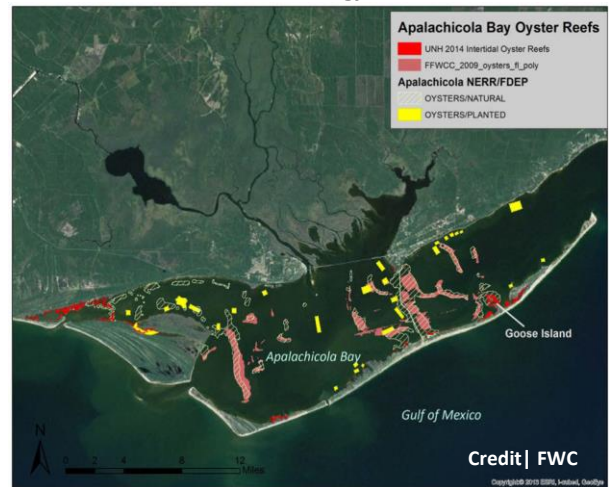
Awarded

## FLORIDA

# Apalachicola Bay Oyster Reef Restoration - Phase II

This project will implement up to 1,000 acres of oyster reef restoration in Apalachicola Bay. Restoration of oyster reefs in Apalachicola Bay is a priority conservation goal for the State of Florida, and this project will enhance resiliency in a fishery that once included more than 10,000 acres of reefs. Historically, Apalachicola Bay produced about 90% of Florida’s harvested oysters and 10% of the product for the entire nation. Oyster resources in the Bay have plummeted in recent years due to a number of factors, including harvest pressure after a reduction in freshwater inputs from the Apalachicola River.

Results from NFWF’s previous investments in Apalachicola Bay oyster restoration research will be used to inform the design and management of this reef restoration initiative. This project also includes the development of oyster harvest management strategies for Apalachicola Bay and Suwanee Sound to ensure sustainability of the restored reefs. In addition, a recent \$8 million Triumph Gulf Coast grant to Florida State University will collect critical water quality and hydrodynamic information to inform the optimal location for cultch deployments. Oyster restoration in the Apalachicola Bay is a high priority activity identified in the Florida GEBF Restoration Strategy and a number of other restoration plans.



This project will construct reef restoration for oysters, pictured above, within the Apalachicola Bay. The map above shows planted oyster reefs along the Apalachicola Bay in yellow and reefs constructed by FWC in pink.

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](http://www.nfwf.org).