

NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program Awards from Federal Funding Opportunity 2015 (FFO-2015)

Points of Contact:

Julien Lartigue, Director, NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program

(julien.lartigue@noaa.gov, 240-429-5966)

Bonnie Ponwith, Director, NMFS, Southeast Fisheries Science Center

(bonnie.ponwith@noaa.gov, 305-361-4264)

Awards:

Title: [Cooperative monitoring program for spawning aggregations in the Gulf of Mexico: an assessment of existing information, data gaps and research priorities](#)

Lead Investigator (Institution/\$): Brad Erisman (The University of Texas at Austin/\$391K)

Summary: This research team will work with a diverse group of experts from academia, federal and state government, and non-governmental organizations to compile and evaluate existing information of fish spawning aggregations in the Gulf of Mexico to inform the conservation and management of the region's fisheries.

Title: [Ecosystem modeling efforts in the Gulf of Mexico: current status and future needs to address management and restoration activities](#)

Lead Investigator (Institution/\$): Jim Simons (Texas A&M University Corpus Christi/\$395K)

Summary: This research team will work with fisheries resource managers and other researchers to test and align ecosystem models with management needs and restoration activities in the Gulf of Mexico.

Title: [Defining abnormal events of oceanographic, biological, and physical properties in the Gulf of Mexico to identify data gaps](#)

Lead Investigator (Institution/\$): Bob Arnone (The University of Southern Mississippi/\$367K)

Summary: This research team will use archived satellite ocean observations, ocean circulation models, and existing fish and nekton sampling datasets to identify ecological active regions in the Gulf of Mexico and gaps in current oceanographic data collection.

Title: [Indicators and assessment framework for ecological health and ecosystem services](#)

Lead Investigator (Institution/\$): Larry D. McKinney (Texas A&M University Corpus Christi/\$398K)

Summary: This research team will develop and test a set of ecological and ecosystem service indicators, including their link to human well-being, and an approach for using them based on specific management needs in the Gulf of Mexico.

Title: [Inventory of Gulf of Mexico ecosystem indicators using an ecological resilience framework](#)

Lead Investigator (Institution/\$): Kathleen Goodin (NatureServe/\$400K)

Summary: This research team will evaluate ecosystem indicators collected by existing monitoring programs, assess their strengths and weaknesses, and make recommendations for a set of scientifically rigorous, practical, and cost-effective indicators for five key habitats (salt marsh, mangrove, seagrass, oyster beds/reefs, and coral reefs) across the Gulf of Mexico.

Title: [Evaluation of Gulf of Mexico oceanographic observation networks impact assessment on ecosystem management and recommendation](#)

Lead Investigator (Institution/\$): Matthieu Le Hénaff (University of Miami/\$399K)

Summary: This research team will work with resource managers to expand observing system evaluation techniques typically focused on observations of ocean circulation to include biogeochemistry and ecosystem observations in order to provide recommendations on the full suite and location of observations needed for monitoring and managing the Gulf of Mexico.

Title: [The central role of the Mississippi River and its delta in the oceanography and ecology of the Gulf of Mexico large marine ecosystem](#)

Lead Investigator (Institution/\$): Alex Kolker (Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium/\$309K)

Summary: This research team will investigate the influence of the Mississippi River and its delta on the oceanography, ecology, and economy of the Gulf of Mexico and identify the additional data collection and modeling necessary for managers to better monitor and manage the Gulf's natural resources.