



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENTS

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

AWARD AMOUNT

\$2,346,900

PARTNERS

University of Southern Mississippi

LOCATION

Mississippi Gulf Coast

AWARD DATE

November 2017

MISSISSIPPI

Reef Fish Assessment for Mississippi Coastal and Nearshore Waters: Restoration through Improved Data Collection and Management—Phase II

This project will fund continuing assessments of reef fish in coastal Mississippi and nearshore Gulf waters. Collection of biological, environmental, and fishery-dependent data will help to reduce the scientific uncertainty around several key factors influencing red snapper and reef fish population structures and stock assessments.

Prior to implementing earlier phases of this project with funding from the GEBF, Mississippi did not utilize a standardized reef fish sampling protocol to obtain vital fishery data on abundance, distribution and life-history characteristics of red snapper and other reef fish in coastal Mississippi. As such, the State's ability to assess its reef fish populations and thereby contribute to regional

management decisions was limited. This proposal represents phase II of the Mississippi effort to address the GEBF funding priorities associated with improving red snapper and reef fish data collection to promote sustainable fisheries management.



Credit | NOAA

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.



This effort is complementary to similar efforts underway in Florida and Alabama.