

Restoring Living Shorelines and Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries project

Phase IV Early Restoration Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Restoring Living Shorelines and Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries project would restore intertidal and subtidal reefs and use living shoreline techniques in four bays in Mississippi. Projects are proposed in Grand Bay, Graveline Bay, Back Bay of Biloxi and vicinity, and St. Louis Bay all located in Jackson, Harrison, and Hancock Counties, Mississippi.

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality would implement the project which would provide for the construction of over four miles of breakwaters, five acres of intertidal reef habitat and 267 acres of subtidal reef habitat at four locations across the Mississippi Gulf Coast (Figure 1).

The living shoreline approach includes constructing multiple breakwaters made of suitable manufactured and/or natural. This project will restore reef habitat through the placement of reefs and the use of living shoreline techniques including breakwaters in four bays in Mississippi. Over time, the breakwaters, intertidal and subtidal restoration areas will develop into living reefs that support marine reef habitat productivity. Breakwaters will also reduce shoreline erosion and marsh loss.

Breakwaters would reduce shoreline erosion and marsh loss by dampening wave energy. Over time, the breakwaters, intertidal and subtidal restoration areas would develop into reefs that support benthic secondary productivity, including, but not limited to, oysters/ bivalve mollusks, annelid worms, shrimp, and crabs. The ecological benefits that would be gained by this restoration are anticipated to help compensate the public for injuries resulting from the Oil Spill, including losses to secondary productivity and salt marsh in Mississippi.

ESTIMATED COST \$30 million.

