

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1400

To restore the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of Gulf Coast States, to create jobs and revive the economic health of communities adversely affected by the explosion on, and sinking of, the mobile offshore drilling unit Deepwater Horizon, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 21, 2011

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. VITTER, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. WICKER, and Mrs. HUTCHISON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To restore the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of Gulf Coast States, to create jobs and revive the economic health of communities adversely affected by the explosion on, and sinking of, the mobile offshore drilling unit Deepwater Horizon, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Resources and Eco-  
3 systems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Re-  
4 vived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2011”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds that—

7 (1) as a result of decades of oil and gas devel-  
8 opment in the Gulf of Mexico, producing and non-  
9 producing States in the Gulf Coast region have  
10 borne substantial risks of environmental damage and  
11 economic harm, all of which culminated with the ex-  
12 plosion on, and sinking of, the mobile offshore drill-  
13 ing unit Deepwater Horizon;

14 (2) the discharge of oil in the Gulf of Mexico  
15 that began following the explosion on, and sinking  
16 of, the mobile offshore drilling unit Deepwater Hori-  
17 zon has caused substantial environmental destruc-  
18 tion and economic harm to the people and commu-  
19 nities of the Gulf Coast region;

20 (3)(A) in the report entitled “America’s Gulf  
21 Coast—A Long Term Recovery Plan after the Deep-  
22 water Horizon Oil Spill”, the Secretary of the Navy  
23 stated, “Together, the Gulf’s tourism and commer-  
24 cial and recreational fishing industries contribute  
25 tens of billions of dollars to the U.S. economy. More  
26 than 90 percent of the nation’s offshore crude oil

1 and natural gas is produced in the Gulf, and the  
2 federal treasury receives roughly \$4.5 billion dollars  
3 every year from offshore leases and royalties. And it  
4 is in the Gulf of Mexico that nearly one third of sea-  
5 food production in the continental U.S. is harvested.  
6 America needs a healthy and resilient Gulf Coast,  
7 one that can support the diverse economies, commu-  
8 nities, and cultures of the region.”;

9 (B) to address the needs of the Gulf Coast re-  
10 gion, the Secretary of the Navy stated, “It is rec-  
11 ommended that the President urge Congress to pass  
12 legislation that would dedicate a significant amount  
13 of any civil penalties recovered under the Clean  
14 Water Act from parties responsible for the Deep-  
15 water Horizon oil spill to those directly impacted by  
16 that spill.”; and

17 (C) to mitigate local challenges and help restore  
18 the resiliency of communities adversely affected by  
19 the spill, the Secretary of the Navy stated that the  
20 legislation described in subparagraph (B) should  
21 “[b]uild economic development strategies around  
22 community needs, and take particular efforts to ad-  
23 dress the needs of disadvantaged, underserved, and  
24 resource constrained communities”;

1 (4) in a final report to the President, the Na-  
2 tional Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon  
3 Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling—

4 (A) stated, “Estimates of the cost of Gulf  
5 restoration, including but not limited to the  
6 Mississippi Delta, vary widely, but according to  
7 testimony before the Commission, full restora-  
8 tion of the Gulf will require \$15 billion to \$20  
9 billion: a minimum of \$500 million annually for  
10 30 years.”; and

11 (B) like the Secretary of the Navy, rec-  
12 ommended that, to meet the needs described in  
13 subparagraph (A), a substantial portion of ap-  
14 plicable penalties under the Federal Water Pol-  
15 lution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) be  
16 dedicated to long-term restoration of the Gulf  
17 of Mexico;

18 (5) taking into account the risks borne by Gulf  
19 Coast States for decades of oil and gas development  
20 and the environmental degradation suffered by the  
21 Gulf Coast ecosystem, the amounts received by the  
22 United States as payment of administrative, civil, or  
23 criminal penalties in connection with the explosion  
24 on, and sinking of, the mobile offshore drilling unit  
25 Deepwater Horizon should be expended—

1 (A) to restore the natural resources, eco-  
2 systems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats,  
3 beaches, barrier islands, dunes, coastal wet-  
4 lands, and economy of the Gulf Coast; and

5 (B) to address the associated economic  
6 harm suffered by the people and communities  
7 of the region;

8 (6) the projects and programs authorized by  
9 this Act and the amendments made by this Act  
10 should be carried out pursuant to contracts awarded  
11 in a manner that provides a preference to individuals  
12 and entities that reside in, are headquartered in, or  
13 are principally engaged in business in a Gulf Coast  
14 State; and

15 (7) Federal, State, and local officials should  
16 seek—

17 (A) to leverage the financial resources  
18 made available under this Act; and

19 (B) to the maximum extent practicable, to  
20 ensure that projects funded pursuant to this  
21 Act complement efforts planned or in operation  
22 to revitalize the natural resources and economic  
23 health of the Gulf Coast region.

1 **SEC. 3. GULF COAST RESTORATION TRUST FUND.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the  
3 Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known  
4 as the “Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund” (referred to  
5 in this section as the “Trust Fund”), consisting of such  
6 amounts as are deposited in the Trust Fund under this  
7 Act or any other provision of law.

8 (b) TRANSFERS.—The Secretary of the Treasury  
9 shall deposit in the Trust Fund an amount equal to 80  
10 percent of all administrative and civil penalties paid by  
11 responsible parties after the date of enactment of this Act  
12 in connection with the explosion on, and sinking of, the  
13 mobile offshore drilling unit Deepwater Horizon pursuant  
14 to a court order, negotiated settlement, or other instru-  
15 ment in accordance with section 311 of the Federal Water  
16 Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321).

17 (c) EXPENDITURES.—Amounts in the Trust Fund,  
18 including interest earned on advances to the Trust Fund  
19 and proceeds from investment under subsection (d),  
20 shall—

21 (1) be available for expenditure, without further  
22 appropriation, solely for the purpose and eligible ac-  
23 tivities of this Act; and

24 (2) remain available until expended, without fis-  
25 cal year limitation.

1           (d) INVESTMENT.—Amounts in the Trust Fund shall  
2 be invested in accordance with section 9702 of title 31,  
3 United States Code, and any interest on, and proceeds  
4 from, any such investment shall be available for expendi-  
5 ture in accordance with this Act and the amendments  
6 made by this Act.

7           (e) ADMINISTRATION.—Not later than 180 days after  
8 the date of enactment of this Act, after providing notice  
9 and an opportunity for public comment, the Secretary of  
10 the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of the In-  
11 terior and the Secretary of Commerce, shall establish such  
12 procedures as the Secretary determines to be necessary  
13 to deposit amounts in, and expend amounts from, the  
14 Trust Fund pursuant to this Act, including—

15           (1) procedures to assess whether the programs  
16 and activities carried out under this Act and the  
17 amendments made by this Act achieve compliance  
18 with applicable requirements, including procedures  
19 by which the Secretary of the Treasury may deter-  
20 mine whether an expenditure by a Gulf Coast State  
21 or coastal political subdivision (as those terms are  
22 defined in section 311 of the Federal Water Pollu-  
23 tion Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321)) pursuant to such  
24 a program or activity achieves compliance;

1           (2) auditing requirements to ensure that  
2 amounts in the Trust Fund are expended as in-  
3 tended; and

4           (3) procedures for identification and allocation  
5 of funds available to the Secretary under other pro-  
6 visions of law that may be necessary to pay the ad-  
7 ministrative expenses directly attributable to the  
8 management of the Trust Fund.

9 **SEC. 4. GULF COAST NATURAL RESOURCES RESTORATION**  
10 **AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY.**

11       Section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control  
12 Act (33 U.S.C. 1321) is amended—

13           (1) in subsection (a)—

14               (A) in paragraph (25)(B), by striking  
15 “and” at the end;

16               (B) in paragraph (26)(D), by striking the  
17 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;  
18 and

19               (C) by adding at the end the following:

20                   “(27) the term ‘Chairperson’ means the Chair-  
21 person of the Council;

22                   “(28) the term ‘coastal political subdivision’  
23 means any local political jurisdiction that is imme-  
24 diately below the State level of government, includ-  
25 ing a county, parish, or borough, with a coastline



1 that is contiguous with any portion of the United  
2 States Gulf of Mexico;

3 “(29) the term ‘Comprehensive Plan’ means the  
4 comprehensive plan developed by the Council pursu-  
5 ant to subsection (t);

6 “(30) the term ‘Council’ means the Gulf Coast  
7 Ecosystem Restoration Council established pursuant  
8 to subsection (t);

9 “(31) the term ‘Deepwater Horizon oil spill’  
10 means the blowout and explosion of the mobile off-  
11 shore drilling unit Deepwater Horizon that occurred  
12 on April 20, 2010, and resulting hydrocarbon re-  
13 leases into the environment;

14 “(32) the term ‘Gulf Coast ecosystem’ means—

15 “(A) in the Gulf Coast States, the coastal  
16 zones (as that term is defined in section 304 of  
17 the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16  
18 U.S.C. 1453)) that border the Gulf of Mexico;

19 “(B) any adjacent land, water, and water-  
20 sheds, that are within 25 miles of those coastal  
21 zones of the Gulf Coast States; and

22 “(C) all Federal waters in the Gulf of Mex-  
23 ico;

1           “(33) the term ‘Gulf Coast State’ means any of  
2 the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mis-  
3 sissippi, and Texas; and

4           “(34) the term ‘Trust Fund’ means the Gulf  
5 Coast Restoration Trust Fund established pursuant  
6 to section 3 of the Resources and Ecosystems Sus-  
7 tainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived  
8 Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2011.”;

9           (2) in subsection (s), by inserting “except as  
10 provided in subsection (t)” before the period at the  
11 end; and

12           (3) by adding at the end the following:

13           “(t) GULF COAST RESTORATION AND RECOVERY.—

14           “(1) STATE ALLOCATION AND EXPENDI-  
15 TURES.—

16           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the total amounts  
17 made available in any fiscal year from the  
18 Trust Fund, 35 percent shall be available, in  
19 accordance with the requirements of this sec-  
20 tion, to the Gulf Coast States in equal shares  
21 for expenditure for ecological and economic res-  
22 toration of the Gulf Coast ecosystem in accord-  
23 ance with this subsection.

24           “(B) USE OF FUNDS.—

1           “(i) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Amounts  
2 provided to the Gulf States under this sub-  
3 section may only be used to carry out 1 or  
4 more of the following activities:

5           “(I) Coastal restoration projects  
6 and activities, including conservation  
7 and coastal land acquisition.

8           “(II) Mitigation of damage to,  
9 and restoration of, fish, wildlife, or  
10 natural resources.

11           “(III) Implementation of a feder-  
12 ally approved marine, coastal, or com-  
13 prehensive conservation management  
14 plan, including fisheries monitoring.

15           “(IV) Programs to promote tour-  
16 ism in a Gulf Coast State.

17           “(V) Programs to promote the  
18 consumption of seafood produced from  
19 the Gulf Coast ecosystem.

20           “(VI) Programs to promote edu-  
21 cation regarding the natural resources  
22 of the Gulf Coast ecosystem.

23           “(VII) Planning assistance.

24           “(VIII) Workforce development  
25 and job creation.

1           “(IX) Improvements to or upon  
2 State parks located in coastal areas  
3 affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil  
4 spill.

5           “(X) Mitigation of the ecological  
6 and economic impact of outer Conti-  
7 nental Shelf activities and the impacts  
8 of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill or  
9 promotion of the long-term ecological  
10 or economic recovery of the Gulf  
11 Coast ecosystem through the funding  
12 of infrastructure projects.

13           “(XI) Coastal flood protection  
14 and infrastructure directly affected by  
15 coastal wetland losses, beach erosion,  
16 and the impacts of the Deepwater Ho-  
17 rizon oil spill.

18           “(XII) Administrative costs of  
19 complying with this subsection.

20           “(ii) LIMITATION.—

21           “(I) IN GENERAL.—Of the  
22 amounts received by a Gulf State  
23 under this subsection not more than 3  
24 percent may be used for administra-

1           tive costs eligible under clause  
2           (i)(XII).

3                   “(II) PROHIBITION ON USE FOR  
4           IMPORTED SEAFOOD.—None of the  
5           funds made available under this sub-  
6           section shall be used for any program  
7           to support or promote imported sea-  
8           food or any seafood product that is  
9           not harvested from the Gulf Coast  
10          ecosystem.

11          “(C) COASTAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.—

12                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a  
13          State where the coastal zone includes the  
14          entire State—

15                           “(I) 75 percent of funding shall  
16          be provided to the 8 counties that  
17          were disproportionately impacted by  
18          the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill; and

19                           “(II) 25 percent shall be provided  
20          to nondisproportionately impacted  
21          counties within the State.

22                           “(ii) LOUISIANA.—Of the total  
23          amounts made available to the State of  
24          Louisiana under this paragraph:

1           “(I) Seventy percent shall be pro-  
2           vided directly to the State in accord-  
3           ance with this subsection.

4           “(II) Thirty percent shall be pro-  
5           vided directly to parishes in the coast-  
6           al zone (as defined in section 304 of  
7           the Coastal Zone Management Act of  
8           1972 (16 U.S.C. 1453)) of the State  
9           of Louisiana according to the fol-  
10          lowing weighted formula:

11                   “(aa) Forty percent based  
12                   on the weighted average of miles  
13                   of the parish shoreline oiled.

14                   “(bb) Forty percent based  
15                   on the weighted average of the  
16                   population of the parish.

17                   “(cc) Twenty percent based  
18                   on the weighted average of the  
19                   land mass of the parish.

20          “(iii) CONDITIONS.—

21                   “(I) LAND USE PLAN.—As a con-  
22                   dition of receiving amounts allocated  
23                   under clause (ii), the chief executive  
24                   of the eligible parish shall certify to  
25                   the Governor of the State that the

1 parish has completed a comprehensive  
2 land use plan.

3 “(II) OTHER CONDITIONS.—A  
4 coastal political subdivision receiving  
5 funding under this subsection shall  
6 meet all of the conditions in subpara-  
7 graph (D).

8 “(D) CONDITIONS.—As a condition of re-  
9 ceiving amounts from the Trust Fund, a Gulf  
10 Coast State, including the entities described in  
11 subparagraph (E), or a coastal political subdivi-  
12 sion shall—

13 “(i) agree to meet such conditions, in-  
14 cluding audit requirements, as the Sec-  
15 retary of the Treasury determines nec-  
16 essary to ensure that amounts disbursed  
17 from the Trust Fund will be used in ac-  
18 cordance with this subsection;

19 “(ii) certify in such form and in such  
20 manner as the Secretary of the Treasury  
21 determines necessary that the project or  
22 program for which the Gulf Coast State or  
23 coastal political subdivision is requesting  
24 amounts—

1           “(I) is designed to restore and  
2           protect the natural resources, eco-  
3           systems, fisheries, marine and wildlife  
4           habitats, beaches, coastal wetlands, or  
5           economy of the Gulf Coast;

6           “(II) carries out 1 or more of the  
7           activities described in subparagraph  
8           (B)(i);

9           “(III) was selected based on  
10          meaningful input from the public, in-  
11          cluding broad-based participation  
12          from individuals, businesses, and non-  
13          profit organizations; and

14          “(IV) in the case of a natural re-  
15          source protection or restoration  
16          project, is based on the best available  
17          science;

18          “(iii) certify that the project or pro-  
19          gram and the awarding of a contract for  
20          the expenditure of amounts received under  
21          this subsection are consistent with the  
22          standard procurement rules and regula-  
23          tions governing a comparable project or  
24          program in that State, including all appli-



1 cable competitive bidding and audit re-  
2 quirements; and

3 “(iv) develop and submit a multiyear  
4 implementation plan for use of those  
5 funds.

6 “(E) APPROVAL BY STATE ENTITY, TASK  
7 FORCE, OR AGENCY.—The following Gulf Coast  
8 State entities, task forces, or agencies shall  
9 carry out the duties of a Gulf Coast State pur-  
10 suant to this paragraph:

11 “(i) ALABAMA.—

12 “(I) IN GENERAL.—In the State  
13 of Alabama, the Alabama Gulf Coast  
14 Recovery Council, which shall be com-  
15 prised of only the following:

16 “(aa) The Governor of Ala-  
17 bama, who shall also serve as  
18 Chairperson and preside over the  
19 meetings of the Alabama Gulf  
20 Coast Recovery Council.

21 “(bb) The Director of the  
22 Alabama State Port Authority,  
23 who shall also serve as Vice  
24 Chairperson and preside over the  
25 meetings of the Alabama Gulf

1 Coast Recovery Council in the  
2 absence of the Chairperson.

3 “(cc) The Chairman of the  
4 Baldwin County Commission.

5 “(dd) The President of the  
6 Mobile County Commission.

7 “(ee) The Mayor of the city  
8 of Bayou La Batre.

9 “(ff) The Mayor of the town  
10 of Dauphin Island.

11 “(gg) The Mayor of the city  
12 of Fairhope.

13 “(hh) The Mayor of the city  
14 of Gulf Shores.

15 “(ii) The Mayor of the city  
16 of Mobile.

17 “(jj) The Mayor of the city  
18 of Orange Beach.

19 “(II) VOTE.—Each member of  
20 the Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery  
21 Council shall be entitled to 1 vote.

22 “(III) MAJORITY VOTE.—All de-  
23 cisions of the Alabama Gulf Coast Re-  
24 covery Council shall be made by ma-  
25 jority vote.

1           “(ii) LOUISIANA.—In the State of  
2           Louisiana, the Coastal Protection and Res-  
3           toration Authority of Louisiana.

4           “(iii) MISSISSIPPI.—In the State of  
5           Mississippi, the Mississippi Department of  
6           Environmental Quality.

7           “(F) COMPLIANCE WITH ELIGIBLE ACTIVI-  
8           TIES.—If the Secretary of the Treasury deter-  
9           mines that an expenditure by a Gulf Coast  
10          State or coastal political subdivision of amounts  
11          made available under this subsection does not  
12          meet 1 of the activities described in subpara-  
13          graph (B)(i), the Secretary shall make no addi-  
14          tional amounts from the Trust Fund available  
15          to that Gulf Coast State or coastal political  
16          subdivision until such time as an amount equal  
17          to the amount expended for the unauthorized  
18          use—

19                   “(i) has been deposited by the Gulf  
20                   Coast State or coastal political subdivision  
21                   in the Trust Fund; or

22                   “(ii) has been authorized by the Sec-  
23                   retary of the Treasury for expenditure by  
24                   the Gulf Coast State or coastal political

1 subdivision for a project or program that  
2 meets the requirements of this subsection.

3 “(G) COMPLIANCE WITH CONDITIONS.—If  
4 the Secretary of the Treasury determines that  
5 a Gulf Coast State or coastal political subdivi-  
6 sion does not meet the requirements of this  
7 subsection, including the conditions of subpara-  
8 graph (D), where applicable, the Secretary of  
9 the Treasury shall make no amounts from the  
10 Trust Fund available to that Gulf Coast State  
11 or coastal political subdivision until all condi-  
12 tions of this subsection are met.

13 “(H) PUBLIC INPUT.—In meeting any con-  
14 dition of this subsection, a Gulf Coast State  
15 may use an appropriate procedure for public  
16 consultation in that Gulf Coast State, including  
17 consulting with 1 or more established task  
18 forces or other entities, to develop recommenda-  
19 tions for proposed projects and programs that  
20 would restore and protect the natural resources,  
21 ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habi-  
22 tats, beaches, coastal wetlands, and economy of  
23 the Gulf Coast.

24 “(I) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PROJECTS  
25 AND PROGRAMS.—A Gulf Coast State or coastal

1 political subdivision shall be considered to have  
2 met the conditions of subparagraph (D) for a  
3 specific project or program if, before the date of  
4 enactment of the Resources and Ecosystems  
5 Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Re-  
6 vived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act  
7 of 2011—

8 “(i) the Gulf Coast State or coastal  
9 political subdivision has established condi-  
10 tions for carrying out projects and pro-  
11 grams that are substantively the same as  
12 the conditions described in subparagraph  
13 (D); and

14 “(ii) the applicable project or program  
15 carries out 1 or more of the activities de-  
16 scribed in subparagraph (B)(ii).

17 “(J) CONSULTATION WITH COUNCIL.—In  
18 carrying out this subsection, each Gulf Coast  
19 State shall seek the input of the Chairperson of  
20 the Council to identify large-scale projects that  
21 may be jointly supported by that Gulf Coast  
22 State and by the Council pursuant to the Com-  
23 prehensive Plan with amounts provided under  
24 this subsection.

25 “(K) NON-FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS.—

1           “(i) IN GENERAL.—A Gulf Coast  
2           State or coastal political subdivision may  
3           use, in whole or in part, amounts made  
4           available to that Gulf Coast State from the  
5           Trust Fund to satisfy the non-Federal  
6           share of the cost of any project or program  
7           authorized by Federal law that meets the  
8           eligible use requirements under subpara-  
9           graph (B)(i).

10           “(ii) EFFECT ON OTHER FUNDS.—  
11           The use of funds made available from the  
12           Trust Fund to satisfy the non-Federal  
13           share of the cost of a project or program  
14           that meets the requirements of clause (i)  
15           shall not affect the priority in which other  
16           Federal funds are allocated or awarded.

17           “(L) LOCAL PREFERENCE.—In awarding  
18           contracts to carry out a project or program  
19           under this subsection, a Gulf Coast State or  
20           coastal political subdivision may give a pref-  
21           erence to individuals and companies that reside  
22           in, are headquartered in, or are principally en-  
23           gaged in business in, a Gulf Coast State.

24           “(M) UNUSED FUNDS.—Any Funds not  
25           identified in an implementation plan by a State

1 or coastal political subdivision in accordance  
2 with subparagraph (D)(iv) shall remain in the  
3 Trust Fund until such time as the State or  
4 coastal political subdivision to which the funds  
5 have been allocated develops and submits a plan  
6 identifying uses for those funds in accordance  
7 with subparagraph (D)(iv).

8 “(N) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—If the Secretary  
9 of the Treasury determines that a Gulf Coast  
10 State or coastal political subdivision does not  
11 meet the requirements of this subsection, in-  
12 cluding the conditions of subparagraph (D), the  
13 Gulf Coast State or coastal political subdivision  
14 may obtain expedited judicial review within 90  
15 days of that decision in a district court of the  
16 United States, of appropriate jurisdiction and  
17 venue, that is located within the State seeking  
18 such review.

19 “(2) COUNCIL ESTABLISHMENT AND ALLOCA-  
20 TION.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the total amount  
22 made available in any fiscal year from the  
23 Trust Fund, 60 percent shall be disbursed to  
24 the Council to carry out the Comprehensive  
25 Plan.

1 “(B) COUNCIL EXPENDITURES.—

2 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In accordance  
3 with this paragraph, the Council shall se-  
4 lect, and the Council shall undertake,  
5 projects and programs that would restore  
6 and protect the natural resources, eco-  
7 systems, fisheries, marine and wildlife  
8 habitats, beaches, coastal wetlands, and  
9 economy of the Gulf Coast.

10 “(ii) ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE  
11 PROCEDURES.—The Secretary of the  
12 Treasury shall develop such conditions, in-  
13 cluding audit requirements, as the Sec-  
14 retary of the Treasury determines nec-  
15 essary to ensure that amounts disbursed  
16 from the Trust Fund to the Council to im-  
17 plement the Comprehensive Plan will be  
18 used in accordance with this paragraph.

19 “(iii) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—  
20 Of the amounts received by the Council  
21 under this subsection, not more than 3  
22 percent may be used for administrative ex-  
23 penses.

24 “(C) GULF COAST ECOSYSTEM RESTORA-  
25 TION COUNCIL.—



1           “(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is es-  
2           tablished as an independent entity in the  
3           Federal Government a council to be known  
4           as the ‘Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration  
5           Council’.

6           “(ii) MEMBERSHIP.—The Council  
7           shall consist of the following members, or  
8           in the case of a Federal agency, a designee  
9           at the level of the Assistant Secretary or  
10          the equivalent:

11                   “(I) The Chair of the Council on  
12                   Environmental Quality.

13                   “(II) The Secretary of the Inte-  
14                   rior.

15                   “(III) The Secretary of the  
16                   Army.

17                   “(IV) The Secretary of Com-  
18                   merce.

19                   “(V) The Administrator of the  
20                   Environmental Protection Agency.

21                   “(VI) The Secretary of Agri-  
22                   culture.

23                   “(VII) The head of the depart-  
24                   ment in which the Coast Guard is op-  
25                   erating.

1                   “(VIII) The Governor of the  
2                   State of Alabama.

3                   “(IX) The Governor of the State  
4                   of Florida.

5                   “(X) The Governor of the State  
6                   of Louisiana.

7                   “(XI) The Governor of the State  
8                   of Mississippi.

9                   “(XII) The Governor of the State  
10                  of Texas.

11                  “(iii) ALTERNATE.—A Governor ap-  
12                  pointed to the Council by the President  
13                  may designate an alternate to represent  
14                  the Governor on the Council.

15                  “(iv) CHAIRPERSON.—From among  
16                  the Federal agency members of the Coun-  
17                  cil, the representatives of States on the  
18                  Council shall select, and the President  
19                  shall appoint, 1 Federal member to serve  
20                  as Chairperson of the Council.

21                  “(v) PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT.—  
22                  All Council members shall be appointed by  
23                  the President.

24                  “(vi) COUNCIL ACTIONS.—

1           “(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to  
2           subclause (IV), significant actions by  
3           the Council shall require the affirma-  
4           tive vote of the Federal Chairperson  
5           and a majority of the State members  
6           to be effective.

7           “(II) INCLUSIONS.—Significant  
8           actions include but are not limited  
9           to—

10                   “(aa) approval of a Com-  
11                   prehensive Plan and future revi-  
12                   sions to a Comprehensive Plan;

13                   “(bb) approval of State  
14                   plans pursuant to paragraph  
15                   (3)(B)(iii); and

16                   “(cc) approval of reports to  
17                   Congress pursuant to clause  
18                   (vii)(X).

19           “(III) QUORUM.—A quorum of  
20           State members shall be required to be  
21           present for the Council to take any  
22           significant action.

23           “(IV) AFFIRMATIVE VOTE RE-  
24           QUIREMENT DEEMED MET.—For ap-  
25           proval of State plans pursuant to

1 paragraph (3)(B)(iv), the certification  
2 by a State member of the Council that  
3 the plan satisfies all requirements of  
4 clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraphs  
5 (3)(B), when joined by an affirmative  
6 vote of the Federal Chairperson of the  
7 Council, is deemed to satisfy the re-  
8 quirements for affirmative votes under  
9 subclause (I).

10 “(V) PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY.—

11 Appropriate actions of the Council, in-  
12 cluding votes on significant actions  
13 and associated deliberations, shall be  
14 made available to the public.

15 “(vii) DUTIES OF COUNCIL.—The

16 Council shall—

17 “(I) develop the Comprehensive  
18 Plan, and future revisions to the Com-  
19 prehensive Plan;

20 “(II) identify as soon as prac-  
21 ticable the projects that—

22 “(aa) have been authorized  
23 prior to the date of enactment of  
24 this subsection but not yet com-  
25 menced; and

1                   “(bb) if implemented quick-  
2                   ly, would restore and protect the  
3                   natural resources, ecosystems,  
4                   fisheries, marine and wildlife  
5                   habitats, beaches, barrier islands,  
6                   dunes, and coastal wetlands of  
7                   the Gulf Coast ecosystem;

8                   “(III) coordinate the development  
9                   of consistent policies, strategies,  
10                  plans, and activities by Federal agen-  
11                  cies, State and local governments, and  
12                  private sector entities for addressing  
13                  the restoration and protection of the  
14                  Gulf Coast ecosystem;

15                  “(IV) establish such other advi-  
16                  sory committee or committees as may  
17                  be necessary to assist the Council, in-  
18                  cluding to address public policy and  
19                  scientific issues;

20                  “(V) coordinate scientific and  
21                  other research associated with restora-  
22                  tion of the Gulf Coast ecosystem;

23                  “(VI) seek to ensure that all poli-  
24                  cies, strategies, plans, and activities  
25                  for addressing the restoration of the

1 Gulf Coast ecosystem are based on  
2 the best available physical, ecological,  
3 and economic data;

4 “(VII) make recommendations to  
5 address the particular needs of espe-  
6 cially economically and socially vulner-  
7 able populations;

8 “(VIII) develop standard terms  
9 to include in contracts for projects  
10 and programs awarded pursuant to  
11 the Comprehensive Plan that provide  
12 a preference to individuals and com-  
13 panies that reside in, are  
14 headquartered in, or are principally  
15 engaged in business in, a Gulf Coast  
16 State;

17 “(IX) prepare an integrated fi-  
18 nancial plan and recommendations for  
19 coordinated budget requests for the  
20 amounts proposed to be expended by  
21 the Federal agencies represented on  
22 the Council for projects and programs  
23 in the Gulf Coast States; and

24 “(X) submit an annual report to  
25 Congress that—

1           “(aa) summarizes the poli-  
2           cies, strategies, plans, and activi-  
3           ties for addressing the restora-  
4           tion and protection of the Gulf  
5           Coast ecosystem;

6           “(bb) describes the projects  
7           and programs being implemented  
8           to restore and protect the Gulf  
9           Coast ecosystem; and

10           “(cc) makes such rec-  
11           ommendations to Congress for  
12           modifications of existing laws as  
13           the Council determines necessary  
14           to implement the Comprehensive  
15           Plan.

16           “(viii) APPLICATION OF FEDERAL AD-  
17           VISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Council, or  
18           any other advisory committee established  
19           under this subsection, shall not be consid-  
20           ered an advisory committee under the Fed-  
21           eral Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.  
22           App.).

23           “(D) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.—

24           “(i) PROPOSED PLAN.—

1           “(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later  
2 than 180 days after the date of enact-  
3 ment of the Resources and Eco-  
4 systems Sustainability, Tourist Op-  
5 portunities, and Revived Economies of  
6 the Gulf Coast States Act of 2011,  
7 the Chairperson, on behalf of the  
8 Council, shall publish a proposed plan  
9 to restore and protect the natural re-  
10 sources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine  
11 and wildlife habitats, beaches, and  
12 coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast  
13 ecosystem.

14           “(II) CONTENTS.—The proposed  
15 plan described in subelause (I) shall  
16 include and incorporate the findings  
17 and information prepared by the  
18 President’s Gulf Coast Restoration  
19 Task Force.

20           “(ii) PUBLICATION.—

21           “(I) INITIAL PLAN.—Not later  
22 than 1 year after date of enactment of  
23 the Resources and Ecosystems Sus-  
24 tainability, Tourist Opportunities, and  
25 Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast



1 States Act of 2011 and after notice  
2 and opportunity for public comment,  
3 the Chairperson, on behalf of the  
4 Council and after approval by the  
5 Council, shall publish in the Federal  
6 Register the initial Comprehensive  
7 Plan to restore and protect the nat-  
8 ural resources, ecosystems, fisheries,  
9 marine and wildlife habitats, beaches,  
10 and coastal wetlands of the Gulf  
11 Coast ecosystem.

12 “(II) COOPERATION WITH GULF  
13 COAST RESTORATION TASK FORCE.—  
14 The Council shall develop the initial  
15 Comprehensive Plan in close coordina-  
16 tion with the President’s Gulf Coast  
17 Restoration Task Force.

18 “(III) CONSIDERATIONS.—In de-  
19 veloping the initial Comprehensive  
20 Plan, the Council shall consider all  
21 relevant findings or reports submitted  
22 by a center of excellence participating  
23 in the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restora-  
24 tion Science, Monitoring, and Tech-  
25 nology Program established pursuant

1 to section 5(c) of the Resources and  
2 Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist  
3 Opportunities, and Revived Economies  
4 of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2011.

5 “(IV) CONTENTS.—The initial  
6 Comprehensive Plan shall include—

7 “(aa) such provisions as are  
8 necessary to fully incorporate in  
9 the Comprehensive Plan the  
10 strategy, projects, and programs  
11 recommended by the President’s  
12 Gulf Coast Restoration Task  
13 Force;

14 “(bb) a list of any project or  
15 program authorized prior to the  
16 date of enactment of this sub-  
17 section but not yet commenced,  
18 the completion of which would  
19 further the purposes and goals of  
20 this subsection and of the Re-  
21 sources and Ecosystems Sustain-  
22 ability, Tourist Opportunities,  
23 and Revived Economies of the  
24 Gulf Coast States Act of 2011;

1           “(cc) a description of the  
2 manner in which amounts from  
3 the Trust Fund projected to be  
4 made available to the Council for  
5 the succeeding 10 years will be  
6 allocated; and

7           “(dd) subject to available  
8 funding in accordance with clause  
9 (iii), a prioritized list of specific  
10 projects and programs to be  
11 funded and carried out during  
12 the 3-year period immediately  
13 following the date of publication  
14 of the initial Comprehensive  
15 Plan, including a table that illus-  
16 trates the distribution of projects  
17 and programs by Gulf Coast  
18 State.

19           “(V) PLAN UPDATES.—The  
20 Council shall update—

21           “(aa) the Comprehensive  
22 Plan every 5 years in a manner  
23 comparable to the manner estab-  
24 lished in this subsection for each  
25 5-year period for which amounts

1 are expected to be made available  
2 to the Gulf Coast States from the  
3 Trust Fund; and

4 “(bb) the 3-year list of  
5 projects and programs described  
6 in subclause (IV)(dd) annually.

7 “(iii) RESTORATION PRIORITIES.—Ex-  
8 cept for projects and programs described  
9 in subclause (IV)(bb), in selecting projects  
10 and programs to include on the 3-year list  
11 described in subclause (IV)(dd), based on  
12 the best available science, the Council shall  
13 give highest priority to projects that ad-  
14 dress 1 or more of the following criteria:

15 “(I) Projects that are projected  
16 to make the greatest contribution to  
17 restoring and protecting the natural  
18 resources, ecosystems, fisheries, ma-  
19 rine and wildlife habitats, beaches,  
20 and coastal wetlands of the Gulf  
21 Coast ecosystem, without regard to  
22 geographic location.

23 “(II) Large-scale projects and  
24 programs that are projected to sub-  
25 stantially contribute to restoring and

1 protecting the natural resources, eco-  
2 systems, fisheries, marine and wildlife  
3 habitats, beaches, and coastal wet-  
4 lands of the Gulf Coast ecosystem.

5 “(III) Projects contained in exist-  
6 ing Gulf Coast State comprehensive  
7 plans for the restoration and protec-  
8 tion of natural resources, ecosystems,  
9 fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats,  
10 beaches, and coastal wetlands of the  
11 Gulf Coast ecosystem.

12 “(IV) Projects that restore long-  
13 term resiliency of the natural re-  
14 sources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine  
15 and wildlife habitats, beaches, and  
16 coastal wetlands most impacted by the  
17 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

18 “(E) IMPLEMENTATION.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Council, act-  
20 ing through the member agencies and Gulf  
21 Coast States, may carry out projects and  
22 programs adopted in the Comprehensive  
23 Plan.

24 “(ii) ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBI-  
25 LITY.—

1           “(I) IN GENERAL.—Primary au-  
2           thority and responsibility for each  
3           project and program included in the  
4           Comprehensive Plan shall be assigned  
5           by the Council to a Gulf Coast State  
6           represented on the Council or a Fed-  
7           eral agency.

8           “(II) TRANSFER OF AMOUNTS.—  
9           Amounts necessary to carry out each  
10          project or program included in the  
11          Comprehensive Plan shall be trans-  
12          ferred by the Secretary of the Treas-  
13          ury from the Trust Fund to that Fed-  
14          eral agency or Gulf Coast State as the  
15          project or program is implemented,  
16          subject to such conditions as the Sec-  
17          retary of the Treasury, in consultation  
18          with the Secretary of the Interior and  
19          the Secretary of Commerce, estab-  
20          lished pursuant to section 3 of the Re-  
21          sources and Ecosystems Sustain-  
22          ability, Tourist Opportunities, and Re-  
23          vived Economies of the Gulf Coast  
24          States Act of 2011.

25          “(iii) COST SHARING.—

1                   “(I) IN GENERAL.—A Gulf Coast  
2                   State or coastal political subdivision  
3                   may use, in whole or in part, amounts  
4                   made available to that Gulf Coast  
5                   State or coastal political subdivision  
6                   from the Trust Fund to satisfy the  
7                   non-Federal share of the cost of car-  
8                   rying a project or program that—

9                   “(aa) is authorized by other  
10                  Federal law; and

11                  “(bb) meets the criteria of  
12                  this paragraph.

13                  “(II) INCLUSION IN COMPREHEN-  
14                  SIVE PLAN.—A project or program de-  
15                  scribed in subclause (I) shall be se-  
16                  lected and adopted by the Council as  
17                  part of the Comprehensive Plan in the  
18                  manner described in this paragraph.

19                  “(F) COORDINATION.—The Council and  
20                  the Federal members of the Council may de-  
21                  velop Memorandums of Understanding estab-  
22                  lishing integrated funding and implementation  
23                  plans among the member agencies and authori-  
24                  ties.

1           “(3) OIL SPILL RESTORATION IMPACT ALLOCA-  
2           TION.—

3           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
4           paragraph (4), of the total amount made avail-  
5           able to the Council under paragraph (2) in any  
6           fiscal year from the Trust Fund, 50 percent  
7           shall be disbursed by the Council as follows:

8           “(i) FORMULA.—Subject to subpara-  
9           graph (B), for each Gulf Coast State, the  
10          amount disbursed under this paragraph  
11          shall be based on a formula established by  
12          the Council by regulation that is based on  
13          a weighted average of the following cri-  
14          teria:

15          “(I) Forty percent based on the  
16          proportionate number of miles of  
17          shoreline in each Gulf Coast State  
18          that experienced oiling as of April 10,  
19          2011, compared to the total number  
20          of miles of shoreline that experienced  
21          oiling as a result of the Deepwater  
22          Horizon oil spill.

23          “(II) Forty percent based on the  
24          inverse proportion of the average dis-  
25          tance from the Deepwater Horizon oil



1           rig to the nearest and farthest point  
2           of the shoreline that experienced oil-  
3           ing of each Gulf Coast State.

4                   “(III) Twenty percent based on  
5           the average population in the 2010  
6           decennial census of coastal counties  
7           bordering the Gulf of Mexico within  
8           each Gulf Coast State.

9                   “(ii) MINIMUM ALLOCATION.—The  
10          amount disbursed to a Gulf Coast State  
11          for each fiscal year under clause (i) shall  
12          be at least 5 percent of the total amounts  
13          made available under this paragraph.

14                   “(B) APPROVAL OF PROJECTS AND PRO-  
15          GRAMS.—

16                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall  
17          disburse amounts to the respective Gulf  
18          Coast States in accordance with the for-  
19          mula developed under subparagraph (A),  
20          subject to the condition that each Gulf  
21          Coast State submits a plan for the expend-  
22          iture of amounts disbursed under this  
23          paragraph which meet the following cri-  
24          teria:

1           “(I) All projects, programs, and  
2 activities included in that plan are eli-  
3 gible activities pursuant to paragraph  
4 (1)(B)(i).

5           “(II) The projects, programs,  
6 and activities included in that plan  
7 contribute to the overall economic and  
8 ecological recovery of the Gulf Coast.

9           “(III) The plan takes into con-  
10 sideration the Comprehensive Plan  
11 and is consistent with its goals and  
12 objectives, as described in paragraph  
13 (2)(B)(i).

14           “(ii) FUNDING.—

15           “(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as  
16 provided in subclause (II), the plan  
17 described in clause (i) may use not  
18 more than 25 percent of the funding  
19 made available for infrastructure  
20 projects eligible under subclauses (X)  
21 and (XI) of paragraph (1)(B)(i).

22           “(II) EXCEPTION.—The plan de-  
23 scribed in clause (i) may propose to  
24 use more than 25 percent of the fund-  
25 ing made available for infrastructure

1 projects eligible under subclauses (X)  
2 and (XI) of paragraph (1)(B)(i) if the  
3 plan certifies that—

4 “(aa) ecosystem restoration  
5 needs in the State will be ad-  
6 dressed by the projects in the  
7 proposed plan; and

8 “(bb) additional investment  
9 in infrastructure is required to  
10 mitigate the impacts of the Deep-  
11 water Horizon Oil Spill to the  
12 ecosystem or economy.

13 “(iii) DEVELOPMENT.—The plan de-  
14 scribed in clause (i) shall be developed  
15 by—

16 “(I) in the State of Alabama, the  
17 Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council  
18 established under paragraph (1)(E)(i);

19 “(II) in the State of Florida, the  
20 State or a consortia of local political  
21 subdivisions;

22 “(III) in the State of Louisiana,  
23 the Coastal Protection and Restora-  
24 tion Authority of Louisiana; and

1                   “(IV) in the state of Texas, the  
2                   Office of the Governor or an ap-  
3                   pointee of the Office of the Governor.

4                   “(iv) APPROVAL.—Not later than 60  
5                   days after the date on which a plan is sub-  
6                   mitted under clause (i), the Council shall  
7                   approve or disapprove the plan based on  
8                   the conditions of clause (i).

9                   “(C) DISAPPROVAL.—If the Council dis-  
10                  approves a plan pursuant to subparagraph  
11                  (B)(iv), the Council shall—

12                   “(i) provide the reasons for dis-  
13                   approval in writing; and

14                   “(ii) consult with the State to address  
15                   any identified deficiencies with the State  
16                   plan.

17                   “(D) FAILURE TO SUBMIT ADEQUATE  
18                  PLAN.—If a State fails to submit an adequate  
19                  plan under this subsection, any funds made  
20                  available under this subsection shall remain in  
21                  the Trust Fund until such date as a plan is  
22                  submitted and approved pursuant to this sub-  
23                  section.

24                   “(E) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—If the Council  
25                  fails to approve or take action within 60 days

1 on a plan described in subparagraph (B)(iv),  
2 the State may obtain expedited judicial review  
3 within 90 days of that decision in a district  
4 court of the United States, of appropriate juris-  
5 diction and venue, that is located within the  
6 State seeking such review.

7 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF INTEREST TRANS-  
8 FERS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the total amount  
10 made available in any fiscal year from the  
11 Trust Fund, an amount equal to 50 percent of  
12 the interest earned by the Trust Fund and pro-  
13 ceeds from investments made by the Trust  
14 Fund for the preceding fiscal year shall be  
15 transferred to the Gulf of Mexico Research En-  
16 dowment established by subparagraph (B).

17 “(B) GULF OF MEXICO RESEARCH ENDOW-  
18 MENT.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—There is estab-  
20 lished in the Treasury of the United States  
21 a trust fund to be known as the ‘Gulf of  
22 Mexico Research Endowment’, to be ad-  
23 ministered by the Secretary of Commerce,  
24 solely for use in providing long-term fund-  
25 ing in accordance with section 5 of the Re-

1 sources and Ecosystems Sustainability,  
 2 Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Econo-  
 3 mies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2011.

4 “(ii) INVESTMENT.—Amounts in the  
 5 Gulf of Mexico Research Endowment shall  
 6 be invested in accordance with section  
 7 9602 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
 8 1986, and any interest on, and proceeds  
 9 from, any such investment shall be avail-  
 10 able for expenditure and shall be allocated  
 11 in equal portions to the Gulf Coast Eco-  
 12 system Restoration Science, Monitoring,  
 13 and Technology Program and Fisheries  
 14 Endowment established in section 5 of the  
 15 Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability,  
 16 Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Econo-  
 17 mies of the Gulf Coast States Act of  
 18 2011.”.

19 **SEC. 5. GULF COAST ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION SCIENCE,**  
 20 **OBSERVATION, MONITORING, AND TECH-**  
 21 **NOLOGY PROGRAM.**

22 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
 24 trator” means the Administrator of the National  
 25 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

1           (2) FISHERIES AND ECOSYSTEM ENDOW-  
2           MENT.—The term “Fisheries and Ecosystem En-  
3           dowment” means the endowment established by sub-  
4           section (d).

5           (3) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means  
6           the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Ob-  
7           servation, Monitoring, and Technology Program es-  
8           tablished by subsection (b).

9           (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—There is estab-  
10          lished within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
11          ministration a program to be known as the “Gulf Coast  
12          Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring,  
13          and Technology Program”, to be carried out by the Ad-  
14          ministrator.

15          (c) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—

16           (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Pro-  
17          gram, the Administrator shall make grants in ac-  
18          cordance with paragraph (2) to establish and oper-  
19          ate 5 centers of excellence, 1 of which shall be lo-  
20          cated in each of the States of Alabama, Florida,  
21          Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

22           (2) GRANTS.—

23           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
24          shall use the amounts made available to carry  
25          out this section to award competitive grants to

1 nongovernmental entities and consortia in the  
2 Gulf Coast region (including public and private  
3 institutions of higher education) for the estab-  
4 lishment of centers of excellence as described in  
5 paragraph (1).

6 (B) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to re-  
7 ceive a grant under this paragraph, an entity or  
8 consortium described in subparagraph (A) shall  
9 submit to the Administrator an application at  
10 such time, in such manner, and containing such  
11 information as the Administrator determines to  
12 be appropriate.

13 (C) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under  
14 this paragraph, the Administrator shall give  
15 priority to entities and consortia that dem-  
16 onstrate the ability to establish the broadest  
17 cross-section of participants with interest and  
18 expertise in any discipline described in para-  
19 graph (3) on which the proposed curriculum of  
20 the center of excellence will be focused.

21 (3) DISCIPLINES.—Each center of excellence  
22 shall focus the curriculum of the center on science,  
23 technology, and monitoring in at least 1 of the fol-  
24 lowing disciplines:



1 (A) Coastal and deltaic sustainability, res-  
 2 toration and protection; including solutions and  
 3 technology that allow citizens to live safely and  
 4 sustainably in a coastal delta.

5 (B) Coastal fisheries and wildlife eco-  
 6 system research and monitoring.

7 (C) Offshore energy development, including  
 8 research and technology to improve the sustain-  
 9 able and safe development of energy resources.

10 (D) Sustainable and resilient growth, eco-  
 11 nomic and commercial development in the Gulf  
 12 Coast.

13 (E) Comprehensive observation, moni-  
 14 toring, and mapping of the Gulf of Mexico.

15 (4) COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS.—

16 The Administrator shall develop a plan for the co-  
 17 ordination of projects and activities between the Pro-  
 18 gram and other existing Federal and State science  
 19 and technology programs in the States of Alabama,  
 20 Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, as well  
 21 as between the centers of excellence.

22 (d) ESTABLISHMENT OF FISHERIES AND ECOSYSTEM  
 23 ENDOWMENT.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
 25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Council

1 shall establish a fishery and ecosystem endowment  
2 to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, the  
3 long-term sustainability of the ecosystem, fish  
4 stocks, fish habitat and the recreational, commercial,  
5 and charter fishing industry in the Gulf of Mexico.

6 (2) EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS.—For each fiscal  
7 year, amounts made available to carry out this sub-  
8 section may be expended for, with respect to the  
9 Gulf of Mexico—

10 (A) marine and estuarine research;

11 (B) marine and estuarine ecosystem moni-  
12 toring;

13 (C) data collection and stock assessments;

14 (D) pilot programs for—

15 (i) fishery independent data; and

16 (ii) reduction of exploitation of spawn-  
17 ing aggregations; and

18 (E) cooperative research.

19 (3) ADMINISTRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION.—

20 The Fisheries and Ecosystem Endowment shall be  
21 administered by the Administrator of the National  
22 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with guid-  
23 ance provided by the Regional Gulf of Mexico Fish-  
24 ery Management Council.

1           (4) SPECIES INCLUDED.—The Fisheries and  
2 Ecosystem Endowment will include all marine, estu-  
3 arine, aquaculture, and fish and wildlife species in  
4 State and Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

5           (5) RESEARCH PRIORITIES.—In distributing  
6 funding under this subsection, priority shall be given  
7 to integrated, long-term projects that—

8                   (A) build on, or are coordinated with, re-  
9 lated research activities; and

10                   (B) address current or anticipated marine  
11 ecosystem, fishery, or wildlife management in-  
12 formation needs.

13           (6) DUPLICATION.—In carrying out this sub-  
14 section, the Administrator shall seek to avoid dupli-  
15 cation of other research and monitoring activities.

16           (e) FUNDING.—Except as provided in subsection  
17 (t)(4) of section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Con-  
18 trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1321), of the total amount made avail-  
19 able for each fiscal year for the Gulf Coast Restoration  
20 Trust Fund established under section 3, 5 percent shall  
21 be allocated in equal portions to the Program and Fish-  
22 eries and Ecosystem Endowment established by this sec-  
23 tion.

1 **SEC. 6. EFFECT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act or any  
3 amendment made by this Act—

4 (1) supersedes or otherwise affects any provi-  
5 sion of Federal law, including, in particular, laws  
6 providing recovery for injury to natural resources  
7 under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C.  
8 2701 et seq.) and laws for the protection of public  
9 health and the environment; or

10 (2) applies to any fine collected under section  
11 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33  
12 U.S.C. 1321) for any incident other than the Deep-  
13 water Horizon oil spill.

14 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available under  
15 this Act may be used only for eligible activities specifically  
16 authorized by this Act.

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