



# LITTLE SABINE BAY RESTORATION PROGRAM

## AWARD AMOUNT

\$2 million

## LEVERAGE AMOUNT

N/A

## PURPOSE

Design/Permitting/Implementation

## DURATION

2 Years

## ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY

Planning assistance and restoration and protection of natural resources in the Gulf Coast Region

## MEASURE OF SUCCESS

Preservation and restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation in Little Sabine Bay.

## PRIMARY BENEFITS

Project will improve water quality and submerged aquatic vegetation habitat in Little Sabine Bay through a multi-tiered restoration/preservation approach.

The RESTORE Act, signed into law in 2012, directs 80% of civil penalties received as a result of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Gulf of Mexico oil spill be deposited in the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund. Escambia County will receive approximately \$70 million through 2031 from the RESTORE Act Direct Component (Pot 1) allocation. For more information on the County's RESTORE Program, please visit [myescambia.com/RESTORE](http://myescambia.com/RESTORE).

This project will fund planning, design, permitting, and implementation of a multi-tiered restoration approach to improve both water quality and submerged aquatic vegetation habitat in Little Sabine Bay. Little Sabine Bay is a waterbody that has historically been impacted by untreated stormwater runoff, mismanagement of vessel holding tanks, oily bilge discharges, prop-scarring of submerged aquatic vegetation, and lack of water circulation because of a narrow restricted inlet. This proposed suite of water quality and habitat improvement projects will:

- 1 — provide new stormwater treatment for the runoff from large asphalt parking lots;
- 2 — upgrade the existing water circulation pumping system to increase dissolved oxygen;
- 3 — reduce prop-scarring and damage to submerged aquatic vegetation habitat with signage and buoys;
- 4 — install a vessel holding tank and bilge pump-out system to reduce fecal coliform bacteria levels and oily discharges;
- 5 — install vessel anchorage moorings to reduce resuspension of sediment and damage to benthic habitat caused by frequent anchoring; and
- 6 — remediate areas of contaminated sediment and muck.

Phase I includes planning, design, and permitting of the restoration program. A Best Available Science review will be conducted as part of the Phase I due diligence. Phase I planning and Best Available Science review may identify one or more additional and/or alternative actions than those listed above to improve water quality and submerged aquatic vegetation habitat in Little Sabine Bay. Phase II includes the implementation and construction of the identified restoration strategies.

