

RESTORE NOW IS THE TIME

The Gulf Region is an Essential Part of the Nation's Economy

Recovery of the Gulf Coast is a national economic imperative. Many of the nation's key economic resources, and the underpinnings of economic production in states far beyond the Gulf Coast, depend on the region's fragile and threatened ecosystems.



→ Gulf energy helps power America. Roughly a third of all domestic oil comes from the Gulf. Ports and other infrastructure supported by the environment are essential to keeping that industry functioning.



→ Shipping and exports from across the country rely on a healthy Gulf. The Gulf region is home to 10 of our nation's 14 largest ports by tonnage.



→ The nation's seafood industry relies on healthy seas in the Gulf. The Gulf produces roughly 40 percent of all commercial seafood in the lower 48 states.



→ Tourism depends on the natural wonders of the Gulf. Restaurant, hotel, and other hospitality workers are part of the Gulf's \$34 billion a year tourism industry.

Clean Water Act Penalties – A Unique Opportunity for Restoration, Without Cost to Tax Payers.

All legislation projects would be funded by penalties from BP and others responsible.

Direct payments through both the Gulf Coast Claims Facility, and the Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) process address immediate spill impacts, but do nothing to restore the long-term degradation that has left the Gulf Coast vulnerable to repeated disasters.

The RESTORE Act (S. 861) and The Gulf Coast Restoration Act (H.R. 56) will renew the environmental and economic health of Gulf Coast resources our nation cannot afford to lose.



Without Action on the Clean Water Act, the Gulf's Environment & Economies Will Continue to Decline

Without legislation to direct BP's Clean Water Act penalties towards restoring the Gulf, the region's natural resources will continue to decline, jeopardizing the current economic recovery and long-term financial well-being across the country. The region and its communities, cultures and economies will also become increasingly susceptible to future disasters. Legislation will support efforts including:

→ Replenishing Coastal Ecosystems

Restoration projects will rebuild barrier islands, wetlands and oyster reefs – all of which will help provide jobs now, strengthen ecosystems and provide stronger protection to the Gulf Coast from natural and man-made disasters.

→ Rejuvenating Fisheries

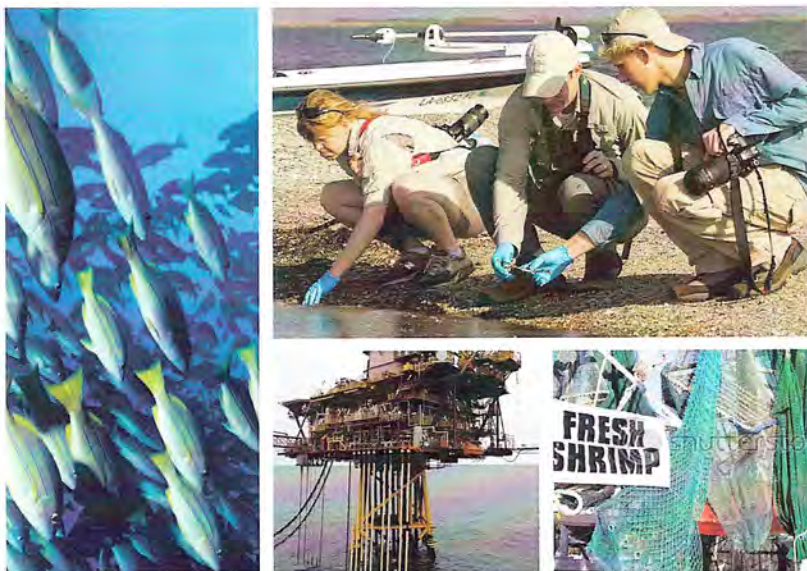
Restoration projects will support strategic investments in science, technology, fishing fleet performance and new strategies to rebuild depleted fish populations to help sustain the cornerstone of the nation's seafood industry.

→ Rebuilding the Economy

Restoration projects will bolster the economy by supporting stronger fisheries, recreation and tourism throughout the five Gulf states and by creating tens of thousands of local jobs designing, constructing and maintaining restoration projects.

RESTORE

Recovering & Strengthening the Gulf Coast and the American Economy



The Gulf Coast, with its unparalleled economic and natural resources, is a national treasure.

Last spring's BP oil spill was the latest assault on the region's ecosystems after years of degradation from human impacts and natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina. The continued environmental deterioration of the Gulf Coast poses a growing threat to ecosystems that support not only the regional communities and cultures, but also our nation's most critical energy, shipping, tourism, commercial seafood and other industries.

Leaders in the U.S. Senate and the House have introduced legislation that will make sure BP fines from the oil spill help restore the Gulf region. The BP oil disaster caused unprecedented damage in the Gulf, and now BP's fines should help rebuild and strengthen the Gulf environment and economy.

We need restoration now

Under current law, BP and others responsible for last year's oil spill will pay a Clean Water Act (CWA) penalty for each barrel of oil spilled into the Gulf. But without action from Congress, none of these fines will go to help the people, environments and economies that were directly impacted by the spill. Meanwhile, vital natural and economic resources on which our nation relies will continue to deteriorate.

Two official reports on the spill – one conducted by Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, the other from the bipartisan National Commission on the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling – recommended that CWA penalties be dedicated to Gulf Coast restoration.

BP's fines belong in the Gulf, where the damage was done.

Legislation in both Houses of Congress will make sure BP is held accountable for the oil spill and that BP keeps its promise to help restore the region. Under the legislation, BP's Clean Water Act penalties will be used to:

- Restore a region that is critical for our national economy – from shipping and energy to seafood and tourism.
- Restore a delicate ecosystem for birds, aquatic animals and other wildlife.

