



Draft 2026 FUNDED PRIORITIES LIST

Texas Oyster Reef Restoration Program (New Program)

The Texas Oyster Reef Restoration Program seeks to restore and conserve habitat and replenish and protect living coastal and marine resources by restoring non-commercial oyster reef habitats in Texas estuarine waters. Over time, oyster reefs across Texas bays and estuaries have declined significantly. Oysters play a critical role in both the environment and the economy by providing essential habitat for many marine species and offering valuable ecosystem services such as filtering water, protecting shorelines, and supporting recreational and commercial fishing.

With a proposed budget of \$12.8M, the program will use restoration methods such as placing new substrate, building living shorelines and enhancing areas where oysters can spawn. Additional program activities will include planning, implementation and monitoring to ensure success. Priority will be given to projects that have undergone prior review and align with key criteria, such as project readiness, scalability and potential effectiveness. The overall goal of this program is to enhance the habitat and productivity of Texas's oyster resources. The program duration is 7 years.

Program at a Glance

The Texas Oyster Reef Restoration Program applies Planning Framework approaches and techniques to support Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. In support of the primary and secondary objectives, to *Restore, enhance, and protect habitats* and to *Protect and restore living coastal and marine resources*, stressors such as saltwater intrusion, disease, habitat destruction, natural disasters, nutrient runoff, coastal development and extremes in freshwater flow will be addressed using the *Substrate placement, Living shorelines, Enhance spawning and reserves* techniques to restore oyster reef habitat. Success using these restoration techniques to *Restore, enhance, and protect habitats* and to *Protect and restore living coastal and marine resources* may be tracked using acres of oyster reef restored, increases in oyster population density measured in numbers of oyster per acre, and miles of living shoreline installed.



**Draft FPL 2026 Public Comment Period:
November 20 - 11:59 PM MT January 2, 2026**

Visit restorethegulf.gov for info on public meetings & how to comment.



Oyster Reef Restoration Program



2026 FPL
State of
Texas

Coastal Texas

Oyster Reef Restoration Program

