



Draft 2026 FUNDED PRIORITIES LIST

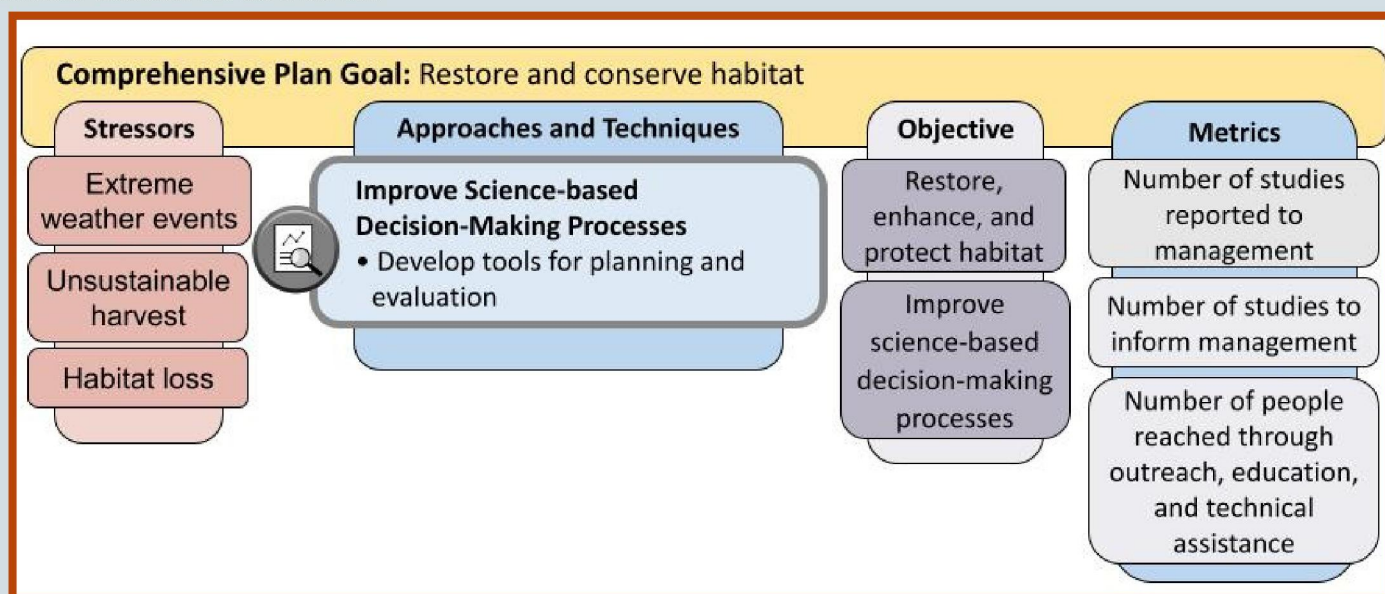
Development of Indicators and Identification of Thresholds to Support Reef Restoration (New Project)

With the *Development of Indicators and Identification of Thresholds to Support Reef Restoration* project, the Department of the Interior is requesting \$1.2M to build on recent work that has already identified priority restoration sites and calculated restoration and aquaculture suitability indices. This project will expand on this work by studying oysters at the reef level, focusing on population characteristics and how these link to restoration activities, environmental conditions and different management approaches. Across the northern Gulf, restoration and management goals include ensuring resilience and sustainability of oysters, the reefs they create and the services the reefs and oysters provide. This project supports the primary Comprehensive Plan goal of restoring and conserving habitat.

In Texas, managers aim to balance oyster reef restoration and sustainable fisheries through the use of passive (i.e., harvest management), and active (i.e., material in the water) methods. This project will provide critical data to inform management decisions by providing outcome indices based on proposed restoration management and environmental conditions related to oyster reef structure, population dynamics and biodiversity and food web support. The project duration is 4 years.

Project at a Glance

The *Development of Indicators and Identification of Thresholds to Support Reef Restoration* project applies Planning Framework approaches and techniques to support Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. In support of the primary objective, to *Restore, enhance, and protect habitat* and the secondary objective to *Improve science-based decision-making processes*, stressors such as extreme weather events, unsustainable harvest, and habitat loss will be addressed using the *Develop tools for planning and evaluation* technique. *Restoring, enhancing, and protecting habitats* and *Improving science-based decision-making processes* may be tracked using the number of studies reported to management, number of studies to inform management, and the number of people reached through outreach, education, and technical assistance as metrics.



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.



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2026 FPL

***U.S. Department
of the Interior***

Coastal Texas



Development of Indicators and
Identification of Thresholds to
Support Reef Restoration



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0 30 60 90 km