Words in This Story

bluefin tuna

金枪鱼；蓝鳍金枪鱼

marine

英 [mə'riːn] 美 [mə'rin]

adj. 船舶的；海生的；海产的；航海的，海运的

n. 海运业；舰队；水兵；（海军）士兵或军官

rigorous

英 ['rɪg(ə)rəs] 美 ['rɪɡərəs]

adj. 严格的，严厉的；严密的；严酷的

Protecting the Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem

In support of efforts to protect fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced, in mid-July, that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, has issued awards totaling $16.7 million from its RESTORE Act Science Program. This year, the awardees' proposed projects support research into bluefin tuna, blue crabs, Mississippi oyster farmers and other parts of the Gulf ecosystem.

“These grants highlight the vital role NOAA plays in the Gulf of Mexico," said Secretary Ross. “The fisheries which will be studied through the RESTORE Act Science Program are critical to local economies along the Gulf.”

The RESTORE Act authorized NOAA to establish and administer the RESTORE Act Science Program, which funds programs assisting research monitoring Gulf's recovery and protecting the long-term sustainability of local fisheries to ensure that American jobs are secure far into the future.

Awards will go to researchers and resource managers from 37 institutions including universities, federal and state agencies, and non-governmental organizations. The competition focused on living coastal and marine resources and their habitats in the Gulf of Mexico.

“These projects will have a measurable effect on our understanding of finfish, shellfish and other important species in the Gulf,” said Dr. Julien Lartigue, director of the NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program.

Of the 15 projects, 13 are being led by institutions located in the Gulf of Mexico region. In total, 78 researchers and resource managers will be involved, with 58 of them located in the region. The awards range from 231,671 to 2,312,275 dollars. These projects were selected following a rigorous and highly competitive process, which included a review by a panel of outside experts.

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was pleased to work with our counterparts in NOAA on this round of funding awards under the RESTORE Act Science Program," said Dr. Kevin Reynolds, case manager for the Department of the Interior's Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration.

“The cooperative spirit between our agencies ensured a focus on science that will meaningfully benefit the management of our trust resources and improve our understanding of the Gulf ecosystem.”