# GOMESA PHASE II PROJECT FUNDING

## Request for Funding FY2026

Submission ID: #202509161353

## PROJECT SUMMARY

**1. Title of Project**

Graveline Bayou Inlet Restoration Study

**2. Location of Project**

The Inlet (mouth) of Graveline Bayou, directly adjacent to the Mississippi Sound in Gautier, MS

**3. Requesting Organization:**

Jackson County Board of Supervisors

**4. Requesting Agency Representative**

a. Name: Barry Cumbest

b. Phone: 2287693403

d. Email: Barry_Cumbest@co.jackson.ms.us

c. Address: P.O. Box 998

2915 Canty Street

Pascagoula Mississippi

**5. Funding Requested:**

$750000

**6. Have any other State or Federal funding sources been identified for the project?**

Yes

**7. If yes, enter amount and source of additional funds:**

$100000.00

**Source of Additional Funds:**

Jackson County

**8. Total Project Funds**

$850000

**9. Provide Brief Project Description/Overview:**

The Graveline Bayou Inlet Restoration Study involves modeling, engineering design and permitting necessary for restoring the western shoreline of the Graveline Bayou Inlet. The intent of this study is to make the inlet more resilient to natural eroding forces and replenish the lost coastal ecosystems in and adjacent to the Graveline Bayou Inlet.

Over the years, the inlet width has increased due to the loss of marsh grass from the effects of tropical weather events and normal wave/current/tidal hydraulic forces. The widening of the inlet has decreased the inlet's ability to self-scour, which in turn makes the depth of the inlet shallower. Due to this, the frequency of dredging has had to increase in order to maintain adequate depths for navigation.

The modeling, design and permits needed to restore the Graveline Bayou Inlet will ultimately help reduce the frequency of channel dredging and the replenishment of lost ecosystems. The reduced requirement for future dredging will also support marine traffic/water access to hundreds of residences and a public boat launch facility within Graveline Bay/Bayou.

The Partners associated with this project are the Jackson County Board of Supervisors, the City of Gautier, and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. The implementation of this study will ultimately benefit the local residents of Jackson County.

**10. LIST Project Goals/Objectives:**

The tasks involved with this study and design project include reviewing existing data on hydraulic effects, determining the best inlet channel alignment to utilize the inlet's self-scouring ability to minimize the siltation in the inlet channel that is effecting boat navigation, and complete construction documents and permitting. These tasks will result in the goals and objectives established for the project as listed below:

Project Goals:
1. Evaluate various shoreline stabilization methods.
2. Design/develop construction documents.
3. Obtain required permits.

Project Objectives:
1. Increased shoreline resiliency.
2. Expand/Improve coastal ecosystems.
3. Decrease dredging frequency.

**11. Which of the following authorized uses set forth in the GOMESA Act does this project fall under? Explain SPECIFICALLY and in detail how the project meets the required criteria. Check all that apply - At least one must be checked.**

**☒ (A) Projects and activities for the purposes of coastal protection, including conservation, coastal restoration, hurricane protection, and infrastructure directly affected by coastal wetland losses**

The effects of tropical weather events and normal wave/current/tidal hydraulic forces are eroding the Graveline Bayou Inlet. In turn, this is causing a loss of the shoreline wetlands adjacent to and along the inlet and bayou. The eroding of the shoreline is causing a widening of the inlet and has decreased the inlet's ability to self-scour. This erosion is subsequently causing the depth of the inlet and channel to become shallower, and the frequency of dredging has had to increase in order to maintain adequate depths for navigation. The study and engineering design will facilitate the replenishment of the lost

coastal ecosystem and make the inlet more resilient to natural forces.

☒ **(B) Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources.**

Additionally, the effects of tropical weather events and normal wave/current/tidal hydraulic forces causing the Graveline Bayou Inlet to widen is also causing the loss of wetlands marsh grass in the inlet and bayou area. The study and engineering design will facilitate the replenishment of the lost coastal ecosystem and make the inlet more resilient to natural forces.

☐ **(C) Implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, or conservation management plan**

☐ **(D) Mitigation of the impact of Outer Continental Shelf activities through funding of onshore infrastructure projects.**

**12. Project Timetable/Milestones:**

1. Request Funding: September 2025
2. Funding Award: April 2026
3. Select Engineering Firm: June 2026
4. Begin Design & Permitting: July/August 2026
5. Design Complete: March 2027
6. Permit Approvals: July 2027

**13. Project Timing**

Short-term (3 year or less)

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## APPLICATION SUMMARY QUESTIONNAIRE

**14. Current status of architectural/engineering plans & specifications for this project (if applicable):**

**Group 1:**

Planning

**Group 2:**

Funds not budgeted

**15. In what way does this project meet the goals and objectives of the Department of Marine Resources, which includes enhancing, protecting and conserving the marine interest of Mississippi for present and future generations.?**

This Project meets the goals and objectives of the Department of Marine Resources and the authorized uses of the GOMESA Act funds as it facilitates coastal protection, including conservation, coastal restoration, and hurricane protection. Additionally, this project provides for the mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources from future events that may affect the loss of coastal wetlands. The specific areas this project will target are stated again below:

The effects of tropical weather events and normal wave/current/tidal hydraulic forces are eroding the Graveline Bayou Inlet, and in turn, has caused a loss of the shoreline wetlands adjacent to and along the inlet and bayou. The eroding of the shoreline is causing a widening of the inlet and has decreased the inlet's ability to self-scour. This erosion is subsequently causing the depth of the inlet and channel to become shallower, and the frequency of dredging has had to increase in order to maintain adequate depths for navigation.

Additionally, the effects of tropical weather events and normal wave/current/tidal hydraulic forces causing the Graveline Bayou Inlet to widen is also causing the loss of wetlands marsh grass in the inlet and bayou area.

The study and engineering design will facilitate the replenishment of the lost coastal ecosystem and make the inlet more resilient to natural forces.

**16. Estimated number of years to completion:**

2

**17. Estimated Completion Date:**

July 2027

**18. Prioritize if your agency has submitted multiple projects:**

2

# GOMESA PHASE II PROJECT FUNDING

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# BUDGET

| Category | Total |
|---|---|
| Salaries | |
| Travel | |
| Architecture & Engineering | 850000 |
| Legal | |
| Consulting | |
| Construction | |
| Site Work | |
| Equipment | |
| Indirects | |
| Other | |
| Total | 850000 |

**Attachments**

1. graveline-bayou-inlet-restoration-study.pdf

**☒ I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that all information contained in this application packet is true and correct. I have not knowingly or intentionally provided any false information. I understand that a false statement on this application may be grounds for rejection of my application or termination of the award. In addition, a false statement may be punishable under applicable state or federal laws, which may also result in a fine and/or imprisonment.**

**☒ I certify that the above referenced agency / entity has given me the authority to submit this application.**

| Name | Phone | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Barry Cumbest | 228-769-3403 | 09/16/2025 |

# PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

## Graveline Bayou Inlet Restoration Study in Gautier, MS

**PROJECT NAME**:
Graveline Bayou Inlet Restoration Study

**PROJECT LOCATION**:
The Inlet (mouth) of Graveline Bayou, directly adjacent to the Mississippi Sound in Gautier, MS

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**:
The project involves the design and permitting necessary for restoring the western shoreline of the Graveline Bayou Inlet in an effort to make the inlet more resilient and replace lost coastal ecosystems. Over the years, the inlet width has increased due to the loss of marsh grass from the effects of tropical weather events and normal wave/current/tidal hydraulic forces. The widening of the inlet has decreased the inlet's ability to self-scour, which in turn makes the depth of the inlet shallower, and the frequency of dredging has had to increase in order to maintain adequate depths for navigation. The project would consist of modeling, design, and permitting restoring the inlet to help reduce dredging efforts and support marine traffic/water access to hundreds of residences and a public boat launch within Graveline bay/bayou.

**PROJECT GOALS**:
1. Evaluate various shoreline stabilization methods.
2. Design/develop construction documents.
3. Obtain required permits.

**PROJECT BENEFITS**:
1. Increased shoreline resiliency.
2. Expand/Improve coastal ecosystems.
3. Decrease dredging frequency.

**PROJECT TASKS**:
1. Review existing data on hydraulic effects.
2. Determine best inlet channel alignment to utilize inlet's self-scouring ability for navigation.
3. Complete construction documents and permitting.

**PROJECT TIMETABLE**:
- Request Funding Sept. 2025
- Funding Award April 2026
- Select Eng. Firm June 2026
- Design/Permitting July/Aug. 2026
- Design Complete March 2027
- Permit Approvals July 2027

**FUNDING REQUESTED**:
$ 750,000.00

**MATCHING FUNDS**:
$ 100,000.00 from JCBOS

**TOTAL PROJECT COST**:
$ 850,000.00

**PROJECT PARTNERS/BENEFICIARIES**:
Jackson County Board of Supervisors
City of Gautier
MS Dept. of Marine Resources
Local Residents

**PROJECT CATEGORY**:
- ✓ Coastal Restoration/Protection
- ✓ Hurricane Protection


Jackson County Information Systems, GIS Division, 04/14/2024

Sources: Jackson County / GIS



# Graveline Bayou Inlet Restoration Project

Esri, CGIAR, USGS, Baylor University, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, Esri Community Maps Contributors, CONANP, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, Maxar

2025

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