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# GOMESA PHASE II PROJECT FUNDING

## Request for Funding FY2026

Submission ID: #202509291360

### PROJECT SUMMARY

#### 1. Title of Project

Mississippi Sound Public Oyster Reef Habitat Survey

#### 2. Location of Project

Western Mississippi Sound

#### 3. Requesting Organization:

National Oceans Applications Research Center (NOARC)

#### 4. Requesting Agency Representative

a. Name:

David P. Brannon

b. Phone:

2288606769

d. Email:

dbrannon@noarc.org

c. Address:

7250 Stennis Airport Drive

Suite 206

Kiln Mississippi

#### 5. Funding Requested:

\$731780

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

No

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

\$

#### Source of Additional Funds:

#### 8. Total Project Funds

\$731780



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

#### Habitat Survey Area Description

The oyster habitats to be surveyed are found in Western Mississippi Sound; generally south of Pass Christian, Mississippi and Bay St. Louis

Mississippi. these reefs constitute the majority of harvestable, public reefs in Mississippi water. The survey area encompasses approximately 5,681

hectares (56.8 square kilometers) and includes:

- > Henderson Point Reef
- > Pass Christian Reef
- > Pass Marianne Reef
- > Telegraph Reef
- > St. Joe Reef

### 10. LIST Project Goals/Objectives:

The goals of this project include: (1) Delineating the spatial extent, dimensions, and area measurements of the public oyster reefs in Western

Mississippi Sound; (2) Providing high-resolution bathymetric maps of the reefs; and (3) geographically-correct mosaics of the surveyed reefs for

future change detection and analysis.

The survey operation will be conducted in areas averaging 9 feet in depth. The resulting baseline delineation of the public reefs will permit

subsequent, replicable surveys over the reefs to determine changes over time as a result of agency management and restoration strategies.

### 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**

This project specifically addresses the State's long-term goal of restoring oyster production in Mississippi Sound. The results enable informed

resource management and restoration strategies focused on increased oyster production. Improving conservation and restoration of important

natural benthic habitats such as oyster reefs represents the overarching purpose of the GoMESA act to conserve and restore critical coastal

habitats. This comprehensive survey directly addresses strategic management decisions associated with oyster cultch placement and new private



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oyster reef leasing operations.

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

(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.



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### 12. Project Timetable/Milestones:

1. Complete initial reef survey (4 month duration) November 2026
2. Complete data analysis and survey results (6 month duration) February 2027
3. Complete data integration into NOARC Tidelands Atlas for future change detection reference April 2027.
4. Project complete June 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:**

Not Applicable

**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 directly addresses MDMR stated goals of applying best practices and technologies in all phases of oyster fishery production, management, and sustainment. Providing baseline assessments of the oyster reefs to be harvested enables agile resource management decisions to be made by MDMR managers to respond to annual harvest numbers with a goal to increase harvest numbers each year.

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

1

**17. Estimated Completion Date:**

June 2027

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

1



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### BUDGET

Category	Total
Salaries	145592
Travel	
Architecture & Engineering	
Legal	
Consulting	
Construction	
Site Work	
Equipment	
Indirects	83188
Other	503000
Total	731780

#### Attachments

1. bafo-oyster-habitat-mapping-of-western-sound-budget.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

David P. Brannon

2288606769

09/29/2025

**Oyster Habitat Mapping of Western Mississippi Sound  
Estimated Costs and Detailed Budget**

**Direct:**

1 Personnel		
• Project Management		99,415
• Project Control/Procurement		46,177
2 Contracts		
• Hydrographic Survey		144,000
• Public Outreach		45,000
• Data Integration/Archive		48,000
3 Equipment Lease/Rentals		
• ASV		120,000
• Hydro Sensor		60,000
• Support Vessel		60,000
4 Software License/Subscription		
• Data Collection/Processing		16,000
5 Supplies		
• Dedicated work station		5,000
• Data Storage Cube		5,000

**Indirect:**

1 NOARC G&A		83,188
		<hr/>
	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>731,780</b>