

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

On April 20, 2010, the largest offshore oil spill in the United States occurred, exacerbating the effects of previous natural disasters. Oil flowed unchecked for three months. The cause was an explosion of the Deepwater Horizon, an oil rig drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. Before the well was capped, millions of barrels of crude oil were released, closing tens of thousands of square miles of federal waters to fishing, and causing extensive damage to marine and wildlife habitats, and tourism.

Beginning in FY 2016, any State of Texas agency or institution of higher education that receives, expends, or administers funds, appropriations, or donations related to the **Deepwater Horizon oil spill** shall submit reports at the end of each fiscal quarter to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB). In order to comply with the LBB reporting requirements, it is necessary to mark proposals and projects in Maestro that relate to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and effects on ecosystem restoration and protection in the Gulf of Mexico. This quarterly report is prepared by the Vice President for Research Office.

As a result of this disaster, various funding sources were established related to ecosystem restoration and protection in the Gulf of Mexico. Examples of funding sources include:

- 1) RESTORE Act (Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act). See <https://www.restorethegulf.gov/> .
- 2) National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (<http://www.nfwf.org/gulf/Pages/home.aspx>)
- 3) Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI - <http://gulfresearchinitiative.org/>)
- 4) Natural Resource Damage Assessment (Refer to <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/nrda.html>)
- 5) BP (British Petroleum America Production Co.) – Economic Damages (Refer to <http://www.deepwaterhorizonsettlements.com/Economic/SummaryNotice.aspx>)
- 6) MOEX Offshore 2007 LLC (Refer to <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/moex-offshore-agrees-90-million-partial-settlement-liability-deepwater-horizon-oil-spill>)
- 7) Foundations and non-profits
- 8) State funds
- 9) Federal funds
- 10) Local funds (city, county)