



RESTORE Act Projects Oyster Habitat Restoration and Shell Recycling Program

Project Description

This project includes both the mapping of oyster habitats and the design and implementation of an oyster shell recycling program in Santa Rosa County.

Santa Rosa County will complete the design and implementation of an oyster shell recycling pilot program. The goal of this program will be to collect 2,400 pounds of oyster shell material from participating local seafood restaurants for future habitat restoration projects within the Pensacola Bay System. Collected shells will be cured for six months in the Santa Rosa County Old Class III landfill prior to being deposited back into the bay. These recycled shells are the building blocks of newly restored oyster beds, providing habitats for fish and crabs as well as prevent shoreline erosion.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has been subawarded \$235,636.50 of the total RESTORE Direct Component Funding award to conduct oyster habitat mapping and to analyze the conditions of oyster habitats in the East and Blackwater Bays. Information gathered by TNC will be vital in establishing comprehensive oyster habitat restoration and management objectives going forward.

RESTORE Direct Component Funding Award

\$308,686.35

