



Support Children & Youth in Louisiana by...

ENSURING COASTAL RESTORATION & PRESERVATION

In the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on April 20, 2010, more than 650 miles of Gulf coastal habitats were oiled. More than 130 miles have been designated as “moderately to heavily oiled.” The economic and environmental damage to the five Gulf States was significant, as well as the harm to the waters of the Gulf itself. The Restore Act will send 80% of BP fine dollars under the Clean Water Act back to the Gulf Coast States. While the Restore Act presents opportunities for the Gulf Coast region, we most remain attentive to the effective and efficient allocation of those dollars for relevant programs.

The current picture...

- NOAA reports that the Gulf Coast and its natural resources produced 30% of the nation’s gross domestic product in 2009.
- The Gulf of Mexico’s shores and beaches support a \$20 billion tourist industry, as stated by the EPA.
- NOAA also reports that over 90% of the U.S. oil and gas production occurs in the Gulf of Mexico.
- 33% of seafood consumed in the U.S. comes from Gulf Coast waters, according to NOAA.

As young people, our humble recommendations are...

- To remain vigilant to ensure that approved allocations of funds be made quickly to begin and continue restoration and protection of the vital Gulf Coast region.
- To ensure that the oversight of funds distribution be done by a representative body of the affected region, including young people.
- To ensure that funds going to States be allocated to cost effective and relevant projects that promote coastal restoration and preservation.
- To create a research, science, and technology center located in the Gulf Coast region with educational components to engage young people in new environmental science and technology.
- To review and support a relevant coastal restoration and protection plan that helps mitigate future damage to the Gulf Coast.