

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science Program Overview

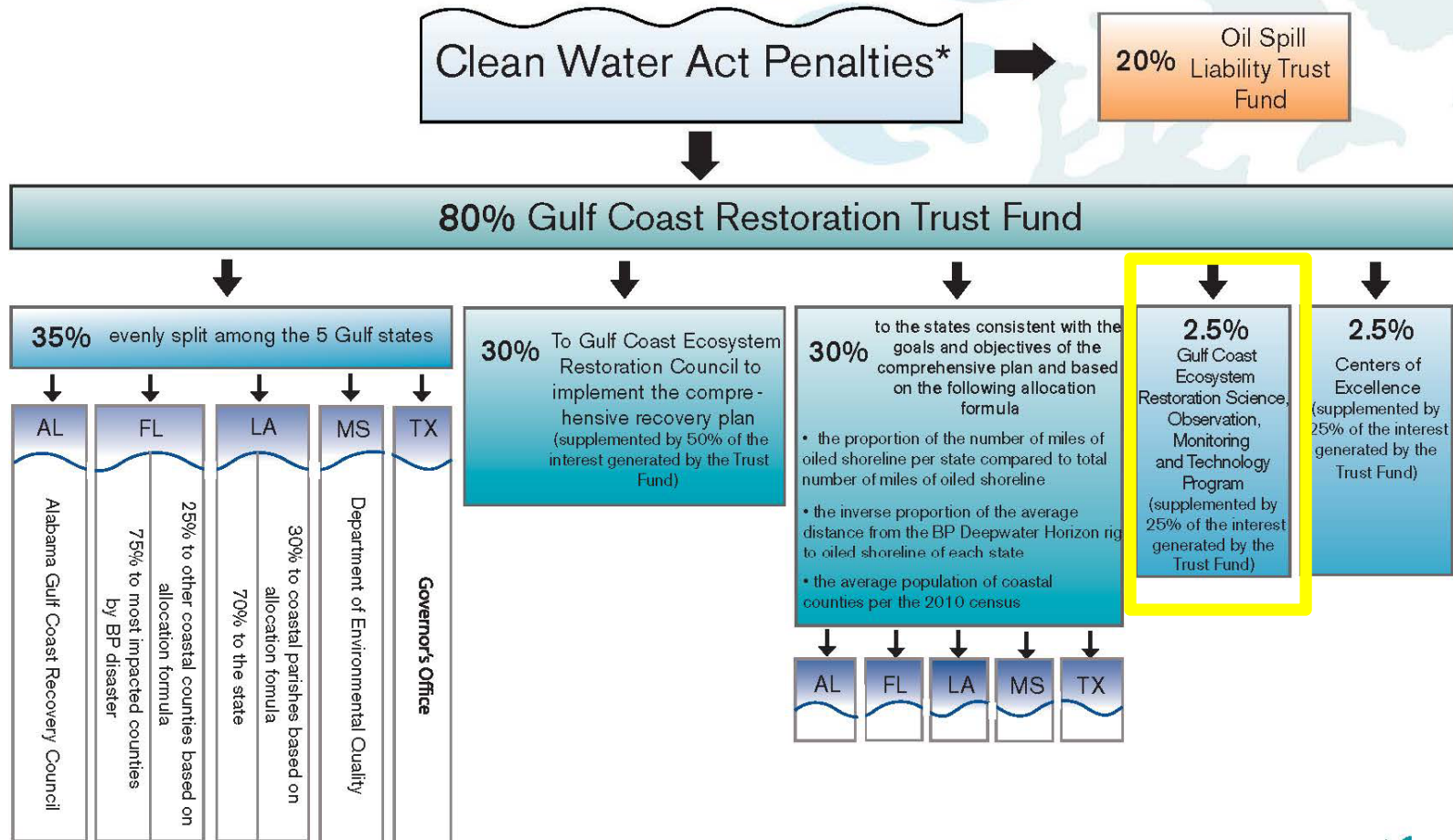
Marine Board, National Academies
Dr. Paul Sandifer, National Ocean Service
April 10, 2013

Task

Section 1604 of the RESTORE Act

- Develop framework to establish the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring, and Technology Program (Program).
- Funding
 - Funded by 2.5% of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Trust Fund, established by the RESTORE Act, which comprises 80% of Clean Water Act civil penalties to be recovered from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
 - Funded by 25% of annual Trust Fund earned interest and investment proceeds.

Distribution of Clean Water Act penalties to Gulf recovery per the RESTORE Act

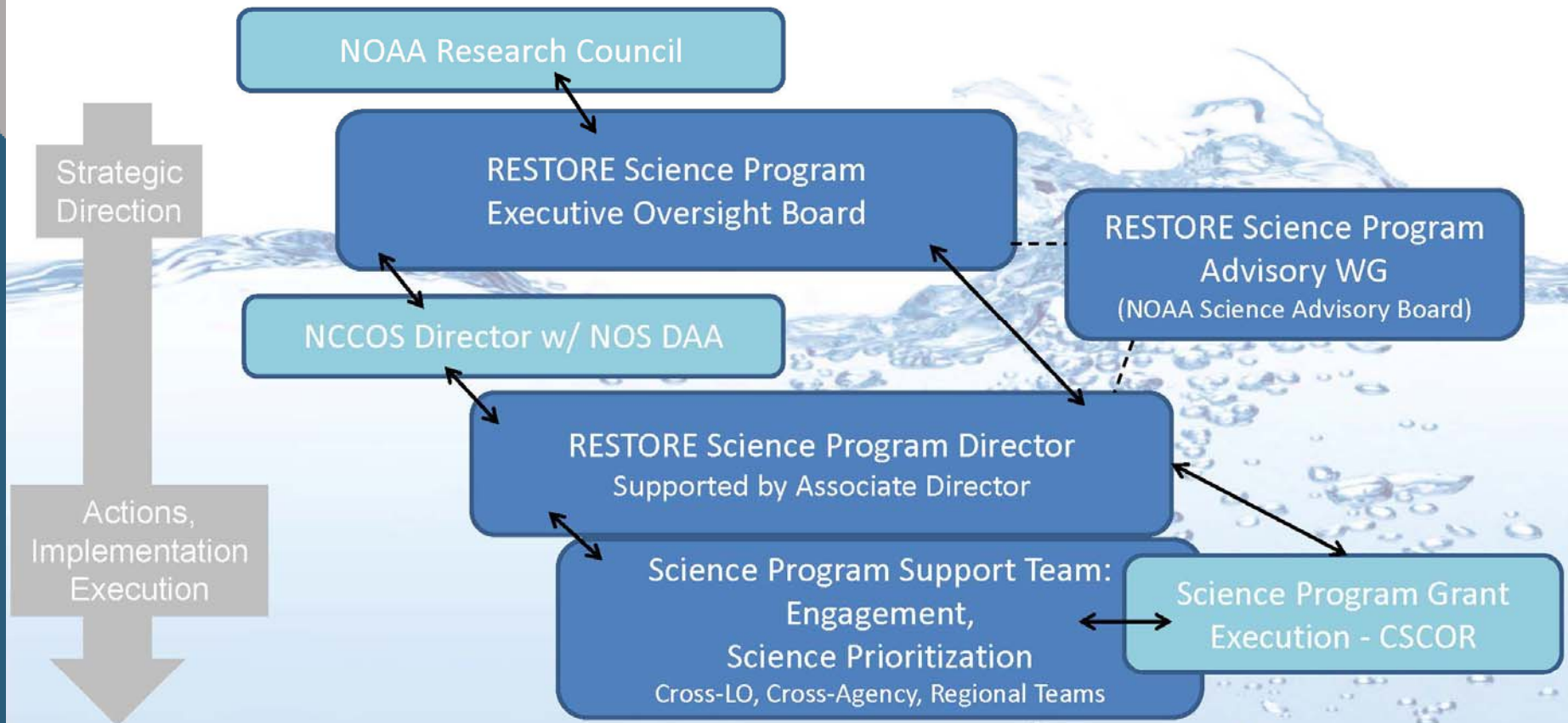


* Clean Water Act penalties are a per barrel penalty of \$1100 for release of pollution into the environment. If 'gross negligence' is determined in release of the pollution, the penalty per barrel increases to \$4300. In the case of the BP Deepwater Horizon incident the following are estimates:

\$1100 X (4.9 million barrels of oil released into the environment) = approx \$5.39 billion
 \$4300 X (4.9million barrels of oil released into the environment) = approx \$21.07 billion [gross negligence]

All amounts are subject to negotiation via a settlement between the government and responsible parties.

RESTORE Science Program Planning and Execution Organizational Structure



Color Key:



NOAA Infrastructure Support



RESTORE Science Program Structures

NOAA- Administered Science Program Background & Discussion

- RESTORE Act Requirements
 - Program purpose - "to carry out research, observation, and monitoring to support the long-term sustainability of the ecosystem, fish stocks, fish habitat, and the recreational, commercial, and charter fishing industry in the Gulf of Mexico"
- NOAA and USFWS shall consult with the Regional Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GOMFMC) and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC).
- Funds may not be used for any existing or planned research led by NOAA, unless agreed to in writing by the grant recipient; implement existing regulations or initiate new regulations promulgated or proposed by NOAA; or develop or approve a new limited access privilege program

Science Program: Purpose & Guiding Principles

Purpose: Achieve an *integrative, holistic understanding of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem* and support, to the maximum extent practicable, restoration efforts and the long-term sustainability of the ecosystem, including its fish stocks, habitat, and fishing industries.

Guiding Principles (selected):

- Require an *ecosystem approach*
- *Integrate and build on* existing research, monitoring, and modeling efforts a
- *Leverage partnerships* and develop new ones as appropriate
- *Work within a management and policy framework*
- Design a *scalable and modular approach*

Focus Areas

To achieve the broad categories articulated in the RESTORE Act, four focus areas have been identified:

- ***“State of health”*** for the Gulf
- ***Integrated analysis and synthesis of data*** - inform ecosystem perspective, and produce policy-relevant information
- ***Ecosystem processes, functioning and connectivity*** to support restoration planning and implementation and fisheries science
- ***Holistic approaches to observing and monitoring***

Questions?

Executive Oversight Board

Chair (NMFS): Richard Merrick

NOS: Paul Sandifer

OAR: Gary Matlock

NMFS: Bonnie Ponwith

NWS: Ming Ji

NESDIS: Margarita Gregg

USFWS: Gabriela Chavarria

Other Resources for Gulf Restoration and Science

RESTORE Act

- \$1B from Transocean settlement (pending)
- ?? from BP civil settlement

NRDA

- ?? From NRDA settlement
- Litigation possible

NFWF

- \$2.4B from BP criminal settlement
- \$150M from Transocean settlement (pending)

National Academy of Science

- \$350M from BP criminal settlement
- \$150M from Transocean settlement (pending)