

JUSTICE *for the* GULF COAST

Sen. Mary L. Landrieu

#RESTOREAct

The RESTORE the Gulf Coast Act

The RESTORE the Gulf Coast Act is a bipartisan, regional approach in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010. To address the immense economic and environmental damage to America's working coast, this legislation will direct 80 percent of the Clean Water Act penalties to the Gulf Coast, which will represent the largest single investment in environmental restoration in our nation's history. This legislation will:

Dedicate 80 percent of Clean Water Act penalties paid by responsible parties for the restoration of the Gulf Coast environment and economies

- Under existing law, Clean Water Act civil penalties go into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. The RESTORE Act directs 80 percent of the penalties resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to a Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund to be spent in the Gulf Coast where the damage occurred.

Provide needed resources directly to Gulf Coast States to start recovery immediately

- 35 percent of the funds in the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund will be allocated directly and equally to the five Gulf Coast states for ecological and economic recovery along the coast. The legislation ensures that funds are spent responsibly and for their intended purpose. Under this provision, 30 percent of Louisiana's portion will be allocated directly to its 20 coastal zone parishes based on a formula.

Establish a Federal-State Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

- The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, established in the RESTORE Act, will develop and fund a comprehensive plan for the ecological recovery and resiliency of the Gulf Coast. The Council will be comprised of both federal agency and state representatives.
- 30 percent of the funds in the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund will be allocated to the Federal-State Council to implement the comprehensive plan.
- 30 percent of the funds in the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund will be allocated to the states based on actual impact to implement state plans, which must be approved by the Federal-State Council.

Gulf Coast Research, Science and Technology

- 2.5 percent of the funds in the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund will be allocated for the establishment of a Gulf Coast fisheries monitoring program.
- 2.5 percent of the funds will be allocated directly and equally to the five Gulf Coast states for the establishment of a Gulf Coast Center of Excellence in each state.

The RESTORE Act in Louisiana

Coastal Master Plan

- The Louisiana legislature unanimously approved the 2012 Coastal Master Plan on May 22, 2012. We have the science and the will, and now the RESTORE Act will provide the significant downpayment needed to jumpstart the restoration and protection projects included in the plan.

Parish Allocations

- The funding allocated to Louisiana's coastal zone parishes will be based on formula that considers shoreline miles oiled, population and land mass.
- Eligible parishes will have a comprehensive land use plan in place prior to receiving funds.

The Clean Water Act allows the collection of \$1,100 per barrel of oil spilled, or \$4,300 per barrel if there is a finding of gross negligence, from any party found responsible for an oil spill in federal waters. Based on the estimated 4.9 million barrels of oil spilled in the Gulf of Mexico, BP could face fines between \$5.4 billion and \$21.1 billion.

The RESTORE Act Timeline

2010

- April 20** The Deepwater Horizon oil rig explodes, killing 11 people, and begins spilling oil into the Gulf of Mexico
- September 28** The Obama Administration, led by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, releases a long-term Gulf recovery plan, including a recommendation to dedicate a significant amount of the Clean Water Act penalties to restore the Gulf Coast and to create a Gulf Coast Recovery Council
- October 5** President Obama signs an Executive Order to create the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, chaired by EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson

2011

- January 11** The National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling releases its final report, including a recommendation to dedicate 80 percent of the Clean Water Act penalties to restore the Gulf Coast
- July 21** Sens. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) and Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) introduce the RESTORE Act, S. 1400, with the support of both environmental and business organizations
- September 21** Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approves S. 1400 by voice vote with the support of Chairman Boxer
- October 5** Reps. Steve Scalise (R-La.) and Cedric Richmond (D-La.) introduce the RESTORE Act House companion bill, H.R. 3096
- December 5** The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force releases its final Gulf of Mexico Regional Ecosystem Restoration Strategy, echoing prior Administration recommendations to dedicate a significant portion of the Clean Water Act penalties to restore the Gulf Coast
- December 7** House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure holds hearing on H.R. 3096

2012

- February 16** The House passes a *RESTORE framework amendment by voice vote to H.R. 3408, a House energy bill intended to offset a five-year transportation bill
- March 14** The Senate passes the full RESTORE Act as an amendment to S. 1813, a two-year transportation bill by a vote of 76-22; the transportation bill also passes the Senate by a vote of 74-22
- April 18** The House passes H.R. 4348, a short-term transportation bill, including the RESTORE Act framework, by a vote of 293-127
- June 29** The House and Senate pass the two-year transportation bill conference report, including the RESTORE Act, by a vote of 373-52 in the House and 74-19 in the Senate
- July 6** President Barack Obama signs the two-year transportation bill, including the RESTORE Act, making it law

**The House RESTORE Act framework included broad legislative language to establish the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund and reserve 80% of the Clean Water Act penalties for the Gulf Coast states, but it did not include details or direct spending and would have still required passage of the full RESTORE Act.*