

Okaloosa County News Release

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Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill NRDA Phase III Update *Two Projects in Okaloosa Proposed by FDEP*

Phase III of the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) has proposed two recreational projects, as well as an additional regional nearshore reefs project. "The Norriego Point Restoration in Destin and the Estuarine Restoration in Fort Walton Beach were jointly proposed and supported by Okaloosa County and the cities in July 2011. These projects will enhance and protect the Destin Harbor fishing fleet economy and improve recreation and ecological activities for not only our local residents but also to enhance eco-tourism in Okaloosa County overall," stated Vice Chairman Dave Parisot, Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners. "We are very grateful to the NRDA Trustee Council and to FDEP Secretary Vinyard in supporting these projects."

The Phase III NRDA projects are the largest dollar value, with estimated costs of Norriego Point Restoration is \$10,228,130 and the Northwest Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration Protection project is estimated at \$4,643,547. Nearshore reefs are estimated at \$11,463,587 and incorporate Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton County projects. Okaloosa County previously was granted approximately \$1.5 million in NRDA projects for some storm water projects in the Gap Creek area and at the Destin Harbor.

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