**Observational Data Plan**

**Project Name:** Gulf of Mexico Estuary Program (Planning)

**Agency:** U.S.Environmental Protection Agency

# Current Project Phase: \_X \_ Planning Implementation Post-Implementation

**Observational Data Plan Element Type (check all that apply):**

 X Planning ­­\_\_\_Implementation Post-implementation

**Project Observational Data Plan Point of Contact(s):**

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**Expected observational data collection start and end date for overall project:**

Data will be collected throughout the duration of the project from 01/01/2018 – 12/31/2022.

# Short description of the project location:

The project location includes the Pensacola Bay System and Perdido River and Bay Watershed. HUC Waterbodies include 03140103-03140105 (Pensacola Bay), 03140106-03140107 (Perdido Bay), and 03140301-03140305 (Escambia Bay).

**Short description of the overall project construction features:** N/A

# Consistency with Local or Regional Planning/Monitoring Efforts: For over 50 years, partners in these watersheds have conducted extensive monitoring and research studies documenting water quality impairments and their causes. These efforts have led to the development of a number of watershed management and restoration plans with recommendations for implementing remedial action, including the Pensacola Bay Watershed Management Plan (Bay Area Resource Council [BARC], 2005), Pensacola & Perdido Bay System Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plans (Northwest Florida Water Management District [NWFWMD], 2017), Bayou Chico Basin Management Action Plan (Florida Department of Environmental Protection [FDEP], 2011), Perdido Ecosystem Management Strategies (FDEP, 1998), and the Environmental Quality of the Pensacola Bay System (Lewis et al., 2016). Development of an Estuary Program for Pensacola, Perdido and Escambia Bays will also support progress toward USEPA Strategic Plan Goal 2.

# Overall Project Goals and Objectives:

Project will establish an Estuary Program which will include the hiring of key staff, developing the Management Conference comprised of a Policy Board as well as Technical, Community, Education, and Economic Advisory Committees, determining stressors, and developing, approving, and implementing a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) and a monitoring plan to identify where monitoring data is needed. The activities of the PPBEP will use best available science to achieve long-term measurable and sustainable water quality improvements in the program watersheds. These improvements will facilitate habitat recovery and preservation, support healthy populations of ecologically and economically important species, and enhance community resilience and public health.

# Specific Goals and Objectives:

Project will achieve four major tasks: Program Establishment, Development of the CCMP Development Workplan, Development and Finalization of the CCMP, and Development of the Monitoring Plan. Sub-tasks within the development of the CCMP Workplan include developing a strategic Outreach and Education Plan, long-term funding strategy, developing an Estuary Program website, Comprehensive Database and Quality Management Plan, and a Progress Tracking and Reporting System.

# Project Metrics:

1. **PRM003 –** **Management or Governance Planning - # Plans developed**
2. **PRM005 –** **Monitoring- # Monitoring plans developed**
3. **COI002 –** **Outreach/Education/Technical Assistance - # People reached**
4. **COI101 – Economic Benefits - # jobs created – full time permanent jobs**

**Identification of Metrics and Associated Measures/Variables/Parameters and Success Criteria:**

**Metric 1:** PRM003 - Management or Governance Planning - # Plans developed

**Success Criteria:** 1 Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan (CCMP)

 **Supporting Measure I:** CompleteDraft CCMP

 **Success Criteria:** Draft CCMP Completed

 **Supporting Measure II:** Final CCMP

 **Success Criteria:** FinalCCMP Completed and Approved by the PPBEP Policy Board.

**Metric 2: PRM005 -** Monitoring- # Monitoring plans developed

**Success Criteria:** Completion of one monitoring plan for the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program.

**Measure/Variable/Parameter:** Number of completed monitoring plans for Pensacola, Escambia, and Perdido Bays.

**Purpose:** Capture number of monitoring plans developed as a result of grant award.

**Methods:** To be determined during the development of the CCMP Development Workplan and CCMP Development.

**Schedule/Timing/Frequency:** The ODP will be updated once the types and frequencies of data collection become known.

# Metric 3: COI002 – Outreach/Education/Technical Assistance - # People reached

**Success Criteria:** 50 individuals reached

**Measure I:** Outreach/education to at least 50 individuals during the development of the CCMP through public meetings and events.

# Metric 4: COI101 – Economic Benefits - # jobs created – full time permanent jobs

# Success Criteria: 5 full time jobs

# Measure I: PPBEP will hire and employ 5 full time employees.

# Identification and Discussion of the Reference Sites/Conditions: Reference sites/conditions will be determined during the development of the CCMP Workplan and development of the CCMP.

# Baseline Condition Sampling/Data Mining Plan: Baseline condition sampling/data mining plan will be determined during the development of the CCMP Workplan and development of the CCMP.

# Observational Data Collection Plan: Observational data collection plan will be determined during the development of the CCMP Workplan and development of the CCMP.

# Unforeseen Event Contingency:

**Metric 1: PRM003 -** Management or Governance Planning - # Plans developed

**Measure I:** Time delay or cost discrepancies

**Contingency:** Reanalyze and reevaluate as necessary to determine adjustments necessary to schedule or budgets to meet original projections.

**Metric 2: PRM005 -** Monitoring- # Monitoring plans developed

**Measure II:** Time delay or cost discrepancies

**Contingency:** Reanalyze and reevaluate as necessary to determine adjustments necessary to schedule or budgets to meet original projections.

**Metric 3: COI002-** Outreach/Education/Technical Assistance - # People reached

**Measure III:** Scheduling challenges or difficulty in gaining participation

**Contingency:** Reanalyze and reevaluate as necessary to determine adjustments necessary to schedule or budgets to meet original projections.

**Metric 4: COI101 -** Economic Benefits - # jobs created – full time permanent jobs

**Measure IV:** Time delay or difficulty of finding qualified candidates

**Contingency:** Reanalyze and reevaluate as necessary to determine adjustments necessary to schedule or budgets to meet original projections.

# Data Review and Reporting:

Data collected will be used to evaluate overall project performance. Data analysis will determine statistical significance of differences between observed results and desired outcomes. Annual observational data reports will be developed and submitted in compliance with the grant reporting cycle as outlined in the RESTORE Council Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions and Part IV, Chapter II, Section G of the Recipient Guidance. The EPA will document each of the performed assessments and communicate the results to the public. The EPA will produce a final annual report for submission through RAAMS that will measure progress towards project goals and objectives.

# Estimated total budget for Observational Data Reporting: The cost of Observational Data Reporting is included in the indirect cost budget line item to Escambia County. The indirect cost is budgeted at $136,088 for the four-year grant period. Additional costs associated with data collection to support program metrics are to be determined at the time of the development of the CCMP Workplan.