

GULF COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT PRE-PROPOSAL FORM

Project Name: Enhance Sea Turtle and Marine Mammal Stranding response in Gulf County

Submitting Entity: Gulf World Marine Institute (GWMI)

I. Please select one or more eligible activity that the project is classified under:

- Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources.
Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
- Workforce development and job creation.
Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
- Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.
- Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.
- Planning assistance.
- Promotion of tourism and seafood in the Gulf Coast region.

II. Please provide an executive summary of the project. Describe/quantify the economic (jobs, infrastructure, tourism, etc.) and environmental benefits (habitat, quality, knowledge, long-term sustainability, etc.).

GWMI is a Florida and Federal 501C3 non-profit organization that is permitted by Florida Wildlife Commission and National Marine Fisheries Services to provide stranding response and rehabilitation services for Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles in Gulf and Bay counties. The proposal is to enhance our response to stranded marine mammals and sea turtles. Construct a facility that will store response equipment and can be used during major stranding events as a base facility. This building will be a satellite branch to the major facility that is housed at Gulf World Marine Park in Panama City Beach.

Construction of this facility will help local contractors and stimulate the local economy.

III. Please provide a cost summary/budget. Detail any matching/cooperative funds available for use, and any cooperative support from governmental or other agencies.

Construction of 2000 square feet Facility- \$200,000.00 (Could be an existing building provided by Gulf County.)

Facility Equipment-\$70,000.00

Stranding Response Equipment-\$5000.00 (for large response equipment we have an agreement with the South Gulf County Volunteer Fire Department to be a special asset provider with equipment and personnel when needed)

Personal Protective Equipment-\$1000.00. Other miscellaneous startup expenses \$10,000.

IV. Please provide a timeline for project completion. Explain the technical and environmental feasibility (including any permitting considerations) of the project.

From date of inception this could be operation within 30 days except for the facilities. That time frame would be determined by renovating an existing facility or building a new facility.

The permits required to operate this facility come from FWC and NMFS, in which Gulf World Marine Institute is already operating under these permits. Building permits would be needed to construct a new facility.

V. Please provide the qualifications of the Submitting Entity, the financial feasibility/sustainability and the economic feasibility and sustainability of the project (probability of success, etc.).

Gulf World Marine Institute has been responding to stranding events in the Florida Panhandle which includes Gulf County for over 30 years. This includes Bottlenose Dolphins, mass strandings of rough-toothed dolphins, and several species of whales. We respond to annual cold stunned events of endangered sea turtles, and many single stranding events that have occurred in Gulf County these have been concentrated in Cape San Blas and St Joe Bay. GWMI is funded through donations and grants. Gulf World

Marine Park in Panama City subsidizes any short fall in GWMI's operational budget.

VI. Please provide the anticipated results of the project, and whether it is included in a City of Port St. Joe, City of Wewahitchka or Gulf County Comprehensive and Mitigation Plan?

While we have provided stranding services to Gulf County for many years we are unsure if we are included in the comprehensive plan. This facility would help provide faster and more efficient response times to stranded animals in distress before they are brought back to the primary facility in Panama City Beach, FL. This would increase our ability to collect and provide the required NMFS data and tissue samples faster and in a more efficient manner. This becomes extremely important in times when there are live animals that have stranded; as well as, when the area is undergoing an NMFS declared unusual mortality event like it is at this time.

Submitted By: Gulf World Marine Institute


Signature

02/27/13
Date

Gulf World Marine Institute _____
Company Name

__15412 Front Beach Road _____
Address

__Panama City Beach, FL 32413 _____
Address

__850-258-0949 _____
Telephone Number

ron@gulfworldmarinepark.com
E-mail Address (if applicable)

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

RESTORE ACT COMMITTEE (R.A.C.)

1000 CECIL G. COSTIN SR. BLVD., ROOM 312, PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA 32456
PHONE (850)229-6144 • FAX (850) 229-9252 • EMAIL: tkopinsky@gulfcounty-fl.gov

**PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY AND PUBLIC ACCESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR
GULF COUNTY RESTORE ACT APPLICANTS**

I, Ronald Hardy the undersigned authority and/or representative of the entity Gulf World Marine Institute and or the individual who has submitted the Gulf County RESTORE Act Proposal/Pre-Proposal titled ENHANCE SEA TURTLE AND MARINE MAMMAL STRANDING RESPONSE IN GULF COUNTY hereby acknowledge, consent and accept the following representations that coincide with my/our submission for consideration, evaluation and possible recommendation and approval by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners for funding from the RESTORE Act distribution that strictly complies with the guidelines and regulations set forth under the Restoration and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012:

1. I/We am the authorized representative of the application/pre-proposal referenced above.
2. I/We have thoroughly reviewed and familiarized myself and/or my entity on which I have submitted the application/pre-proposal on behalf of with the entirety of the Gulf County Public Records policy.
3. I/We have thoroughly reviewed and familiarized myself and/or my entity on which I have submitted the application/pre-proposal on behalf of with the entirety of the Florida Statute Chapter 119 which controls and permits public access to information.
4. I/We hereby acknowledge, consent and agree to the controlling policies and statutes above as well as the free and open exchange of any and all submissions provided hereunder this application/pre-proposal and all information exchanged hereafter including but not limited to further amendments to these proposals as well as surveys, studies, research, data production, books, drawings, property records, work papers, county owner lists, files, forms, reports, accounts, documents, manuals, handbooks, instructions, printouts relating in any manner for the production of the application. In addition, all papers, notes, data, reference material, documentation, programs, printouts, and all other media and forms of expression that in any way include, incorporate or reflect any confidential information of what ultimately shall become the Gulf County plans for use and application of the RESTORE Act funding.
5. I/We acknowledge, agree and fully consent to cooperate with the appointed Gulf County RESTORE ACT committee, county officials and staff as a continuing obligation and condition of final review for this RESTORE Act application/pre-proposal.
6. I/We have submitted this acknowledgment to Gulf County RESTORE Act Committee and the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners for the purpose and intent of receiving an evaluation, review and possible recommendations for anticipated funding from the Restoration and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012.

Ronald Hardy President
Signature of RESTORE Act Applicant

Date: 2-27-2013

Ronald Hardy
Printed Name