



NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

**RECIPIENT**

Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

**AMOUNT**

\$12,760,187

**LOCATION**

Jefferson and Plaquemines Parishes, LA

**ANNOUNCEMENT DATE**

November 2013

**PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Water Institute has completed modeling related to the Lower diversions. Fish Modeling is complete and being used to evaluate effects of individual projects. The LSU-led "Review of Coastal Fishing in Coastal Louisiana" task is complete and the final Royal SEIA report was submitted and finalized. Coordination with CSS on visualization is ongoing and the Advisory Panel's seventh meeting is scheduled for Late Summer 2016. Atkins has completed their ITR task and completing the final deliverable from the Water Institute on the Model Peer Review task. (August 2016)

The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about NFWF, go to [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org).

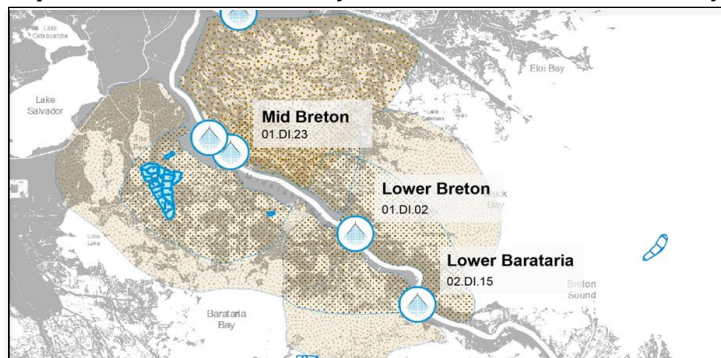
## LOUISIANA

# Lower Mississippi River Sediment Diversions: Planning

This project will conduct initial planning studies for sediment diversions in the lower Mississippi River. This planning effort is intended to result in a preferred location, size and operation regime for the diversion structures; an evaluation of the sediment distribution (river and basin side), flooding, fisheries, nutrients and economic effects of the projects; and a 10% conceptual design for each project. The planning studies are needed for these projects before engineering and design can commence.

The study will examine additional lower Mississippi River sediment diversions designed to reconnect the Mississippi River to degrading marshes east (Mid Breton and Lower Breton) and west (Lower Barataria), building land in shallow open water and introducing sediment and nutrients to sustain existing stressed wetlands. Planning for each of these projects will include robust stakeholder involvement. The diversion of water through these river reconnection projects will be planned in an integrated manner such that sediment and freshwater resources are optimized for maximum benefit within coastal Louisiana.

The Barataria Basin is projected to lose between 105,000 – 150,000 acres of land by 2060 depending on the future environmental conditions. The Lower Barataria diversion is expected to reduce this loss by 9,000-11,000 acres. Without any restoration action, the



Pontchartrain/Breton Basin is expected to lose 39,000 acres of land; the Mid Breton and Lower Breton diversions are expected to reduce this loss by 26,000-33,000 acres.



If constructed, these diversions would reduce land loss in the Barataria and Pontchartrain/Breton basins.