

## **Deepwater Horizon/Mississippi Canyon 252**

### **ASSESSMENT PLAN: INTEGRATION OF AVIAN EXPOSURE AND INJURY ASSESSMENT DATA**

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Approval of this Assessment Plan: Integration of Avian Exposure and Injury Assessment Data (“Work Plan”) is for the purposes of obtaining data for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment.

The Trustees have developed a preliminary conceptual model of the *Deepwater Horizon/Mississippi Canyon 252* release, potential pathways and routes of exposure, and potential receptors. This preliminary model has informed the trustees' decision to pursue the activities outlined in the work plan.

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Department of the Interior Trustee Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Louisiana Trustee Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
BP Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **I. Introduction**

As part of the ongoing *Deepwater Horizon*/Mississippi Canyon 252 (“DWH”) Natural Resource Damage Assessment (“NRDA”), the U.S. Department of the Interior and its co-Trustees have developed and implemented over thirty work plans to assess potential oil exposure and oil related injuries to various avian guilds in the Gulf of Mexico caused by the DWH Oil Spill. To augment ephemeral pre-assessment data collection, the Trustees identified assessment activities to evaluate exposure and quantify injury to affected birds. Many of these activities were cooperative with BP. Upon the inception of each activity, the Department assigned lead responsibility to an individual biologist or principal investigator. This assignment was done to take advantage of matching expertise of these biologists with specific activities for the NRDA. Many individual work plans, reports and data sets relevant to the evaluation of specific effects of oil exposure and related injuries to birds and their supporting habitat have been implemented; however, while coordination has occurred among lead investigators and among the Department and co-Trustees, no comprehensive, integrated evaluation of all of this work has yet been completed.

## **II. Activities**

The purpose of this Work Plan is to provide for integration of the findings of all avian exposure, pre-assessment, and injury assessment activities performed as part of the DWH NRDA into a comprehensive report regarding the effects of the DWH oil spill on birds and their supporting habitat. The product to be developed will be a Trustee bird interpretive report summarizing data and findings for all of the bird assessment activities, with references to the work plans and other supporting reports previously developed. Development of this report will involve integrating data and information generated by the Trustees through other activities and studies completed as part of the DWH NRDA, as well as other relevant and publically available data. Integration of information will inform the Trustees determination of appropriate restoration projects needed to compensate the public for injuries to birds and their supporting habitats.

## **III. Budget for Integration of Avian Exposure and Injury Assessment**

The estimated costs for this activity are \$350,000. The Parties acknowledge that this budget is an estimate, and that actual costs may prove to be higher. BP's commitment to fund the costs of this work includes any additional reasonable costs within the scope of this approved work plan that may arise. The trustees will make a good faith effort to notify BP in advance of any such increased costs.