



## TREASURY ACCEPTED MIP

2016

## FUNDING AMOUNT

\$1,000,000

## LOCATION

Mississippi Sound  
Hancock, Harrison, and  
Jackson Counties, MS

## PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE

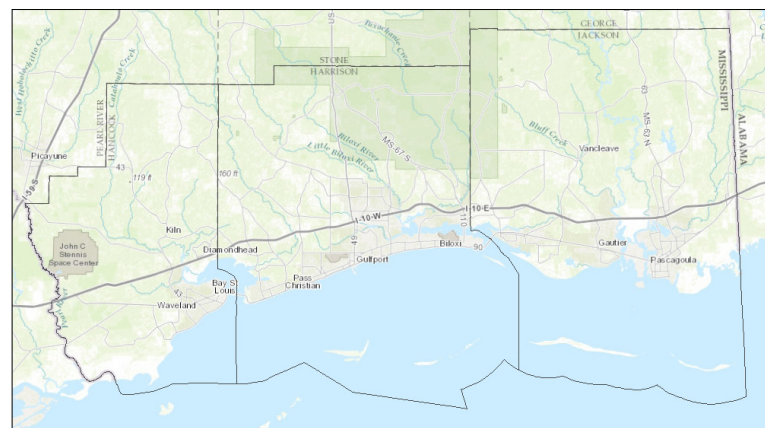
December 2020

## OFF BOTTOM OYSTER AQUACULTURE PROGRAM

This project will support workforce development and job creation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast by creating an off-bottom oyster aquaculture workforce training program. The program will develop and implement a two phase program for qualified and interested individuals to learn the ecological, economic, and business components of initiating and maintaining an off-bottom aquaculture operation. The Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program will provide future oystermen and fishermen with the training needed to start an off-bottom oyster aquaculture operation.

The Off Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program will provide training in off-bottom oyster aquaculture operations, including business development and aquaculture methodologies, and will result in hands-on training on state-owned farms. The project has two phases that will occur over a two year period. Phase 1 includes classroom and field education on aquaculture, business operations and demonstrations of off-bottom aquaculture techniques, while an optional Phase 2 allows participants a more hands-on opportunity to implement aquaculture methodologies.

Direct Component funds will be used to develop and implement the Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program. The project aligns with the seafood, economic development, and workforce development priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.



The purpose of this program is to create an off-bottom oyster aquaculture program to train and develop a new workforce that is able to support diversifying the oyster industry on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.