

# **Work Plan Addendum to Deepwater Horizon (MC 252) Osprey Rapid Assessment (Bird Study #9, Part 3)**

## **Proposed Osprey Fledging Rates – Gulf Islands National Seashore**

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**PREPARED BY**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Deepwater Horizon (MC 252) oil spill began on April 20, 2010 in the Gulf of Mexico off the Louisiana coastline and the well was capped on August 4, 2010. Spill-related injury to wildlife is of major concern to the Natural Resource Trustees, BP and the public. At least 30 state wildlife refuges, National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks, occur in the area potentially threatened by the oil. Seabirds, colonial water birds, coastal marsh birds, raptors, shorebirds, and waterfowl are particularly susceptible to impacts from the oil at sea and on land. Several work plans have been developed to concurrently evaluate oil spill related injuries to these different avian guilds. This plan is a supplement to the ninth in a series of avian injury ephemeral data collection studies and specifically seeks to address potential injury to ospreys.

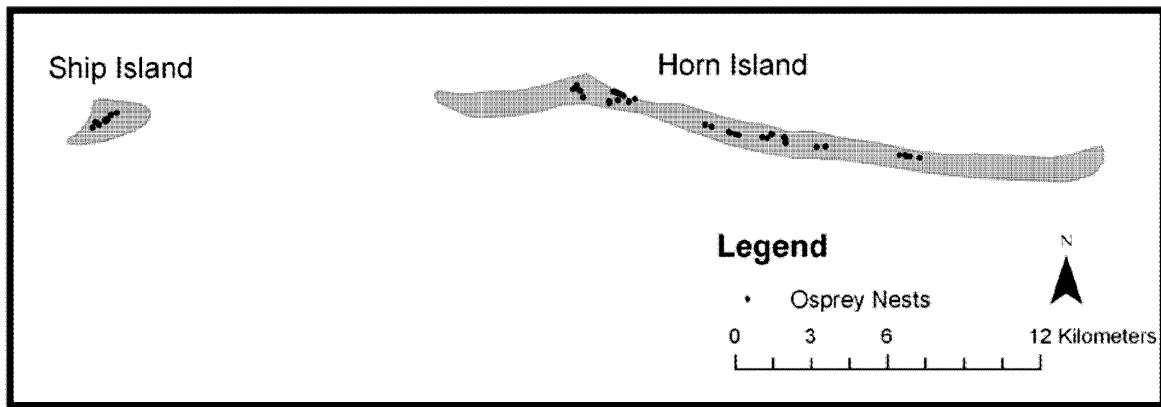
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) and bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) have been chosen as focal species for this cooperative data collection effort for two reasons. First, of the 35 to 40 raptor species that use the Gulf of Mexico, ospreys and eagles have a relatively high potential for exposure due to their use of aquatic and estuarine habitat and prey; second, ospreys and bald eagles have been studied throughout their respective ranges and within the Gulf. These studies have been used to inform the current data collection effort and may provide useful information regarding baseline conditions. Nests inspected on Horn Island (Gulf Islands National Seashore) showed evidence of oiled nest material in surveys performed in January, 2011. This supplement proposes to evaluate osprey fledging success at a limited number of osprey nests on Horn and Ship Island (Gulf Islands National Seashore).

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. Determine activity status of nest, count adults, count eggs (where feasible), count young, and determine fledging rates (defined as the number of fledglings per active nest) for all surveyed nests of breeding ospreys at Horn and Ship Islands (Gulf Islands National Seashore).
2. Compare 2011 reproductive data with pre-spill data collected by the National Park Service. To the extent possible, using similar protocols to those used by NPS in previous years. The timing of monitoring efforts will be based on the chronology of nesting provided by NPS.

## **STUDY AREA**

The Study Area consists of Horn and Ship Islands, located at the Gulf Islands National Seashore, Mississippi.



### **STUDY METHODS**

1. Two ground surveys will be conducted at osprey nests on Horn Island ( $n \sim 37$ ) and Ship Island ( $n \sim 10$ ) within Gulf Island National Seashore in Mississippi. Surveyors will walk the beach and determine activity status of nest, count adults, count eggs (where feasible), count young, and determine fledging status for all surveyed nests.

### **Project Schedule**

Nest Activity surveys: April – June 2011

Fledging surveys: June-August 2011

### **GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES**

All field data will be collected, managed and stored in accordance with US EPA Good Laboratory Practice regulations (GLPs) to the extent practicable. In accordance with GLPs, all field work, and the calibration and use of field equipment (e.g., scales, hand held GPS devices, etc.) shall be conducted using written SOPs. The appropriate training on particular equipment or in the conduct of specific field studies for all personnel involved with the project shall be documented, and those records kept on file by the implementing entity for the duration of this project. Copies of all data (including electronically archived data) and data sheets or electronic files, must be promptly transferred to USFWS, BP or their representative, and (LOSCO) on behalf of Louisiana. Original data will be provided to USFWS. All data sheets will be transferred with appropriate chain of custody forms.

**Scheduling Field Efforts** - A good faith effort will be made to conduct all study elements that fall within the BP safety policy with cooperative, integrated teams of observers and field technicians. Where study elements fall outside of BP safety policy, teams will be integrated to the extent possible. A weekly schedule describing the number of teams and their general area of operation will be prepared by the Trustee's project coordinator and provided to BP or its designated contractor two weeks in advance. BP or its designated representative will provide the Trustee's project coordinator and other Trustee

agencies a list of the field efforts in which it will participate at least 10 days prior to the beginning of the designated week. If these agreed-upon notification and communication procedures are followed, yet circumstances prevent BP or its designated representative from participating in a field effort, the field effort may be carried out without BP or its designated representative's participation.

**Durable Equipment** - All durable equipment (such as cameras, GPS, etc.) purchased by BP for this study will be returned to BP or their designated representatives at the conclusion of its use for this study unless otherwise agreed.

**Safety** - Field teams will comply with all existing training and safety protocols as applicable to operations. Prior to commencement of field activities, BP and the Trustees will agree upon a person or persons to whom study participants may report any safety concerns. Such person(s) will take action to address and resolve reported concerns in a timely fashion.

#### BUDGET

The budget listed below represents additional costs incurred by William & Mary to accomplish the new objectives. Because of cost savings during the original project, these costs can be covered by the existing osprey contract and would not require a budget increase.

	<b>Total</b>
<b>A. Personnel</b>	
Salary	\$0
Fringe	\$0
<b>B. Equipment</b>	\$0
<b>C. Tuition &amp; Academic fees</b>	\$0
<b>D. Travel</b>	\$26,188
<b>E. Materials/Supplies</b>	\$0
<b>F. Contractual Services</b>	\$0
<b>G. Subcontracts</b>	\$0
<b>H. Total Direct Cost</b>	\$26,188
Costs (a-h)	
<b>I. Indirect Cost</b>	\$12,570
Costs (a-e, reduced rate f-g)	
<b>J. Total Cost</b>	\$38,758

D. Commercial air flight for 2 people for two trips to Mississippi @ /trip. Per diem for 2 people for 14 days @ /day. Boat rental plus captain for 10 days @ /day. Car rental 14 days @ /day.

I. Indirect fees calculated at %.

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 approved scope of this work plan that may arise. The Trustees will make a good faith effort to notify BP in advance of any such increased costs.

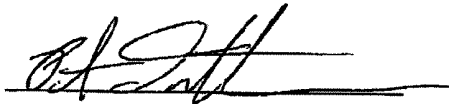
**Work Plan Supplement to Deepwater Horizon (MC 252) Osprey Rapid Assessment (Bird Study #9)**

**Proposed Productivity Surveys**

**\*\*\*Approval of this work plan is for the purpose of obtaining data for the Natural Resources Damage Assessment. Each Party signing below reserves its right to produce its own independent interpretation and analysis of any data collected pursuant to this work plan\*\*\***

This plan will be implemented consistent with existing Trustee regulations and policies. All applicable state and federal permits must be obtained prior to conducting work.

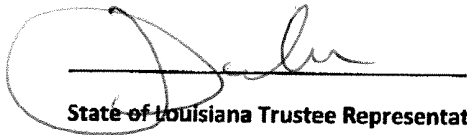
**APPROVAL**



**Trustee NRDA Bird Group Lead**

4/25/11

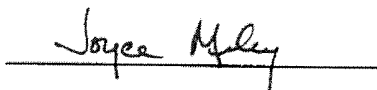
**Date**



**State of Louisiana Trustee Representative**

5/9/11

**Date**



**BP Representative**

4/27/11

**Date**