

Protecting and Restoring Natural Resources in Florida

Issues

- Florida has 1,800 miles of coastline, including 1,200 miles of sandy beach. It is the only state to have an extensive shallow coral reef system near its coast.
- Mangroves, seagrass, and salt marsh are critical to the health of estuaries that support more than 70% of Florida's recreationally and commercially important fisheries.
- Re-occurring ship groundings, and oil and chemical spills at Florida's 14 deep water ports put marine resources and the tourism economy at risk.

What we do

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) acts as a trustee for natural resources on behalf of the public. DARRP collaborates with federal, state, and tribal entities and also works with cleanup agencies (such as EPA), local organizations, the public, and those responsible for the incident to:

- protect coastal and marine natural resources;
- respond to discharges of oil and hazardous substances;
- assess risks and injuries to natural resources; and
- restore injured natural resources and related socioeco-nomic benefits.

How we do it

DARRP acts as a trustee for natural resources to:

- work cooperatively with those responsible for the incident;
- develop innovative approaches and techniques for remediation and restoration;
- work with the public to select restoration options to compensate for injuries to natural resources; and
- design and implement or oversee natural resource restoration projects and monitor their success.



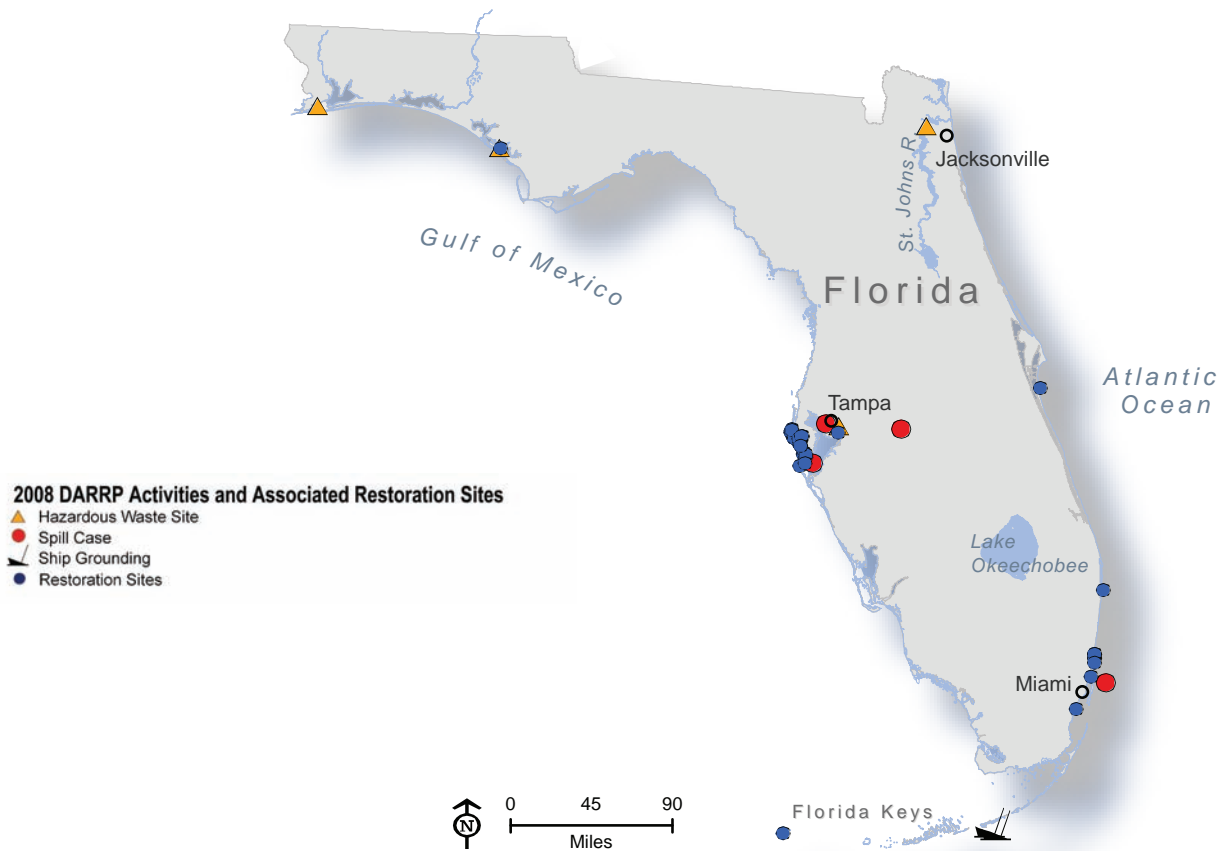
10 acres of mangrove habitat were restored as compensation for injuries resulting from the Tampa Bay Oil Spill.

DARRP Accomplishments

- Restoration and/or protection of 106 acres of marine habitats, 56 acres of freshwater and terrestrial habitats.
- Settlements have resulted in 44 protection and restoration projects in Florida.
- Cleanup actions promote recovery of coastal resources and communities at 8 hazardous waste sites.



Vessel collision resulting in the Tampa Bay Oil Spill.



Historic and ongoing case highlights

- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary – Assessed vessel grounding injuries at more than 230 seagrass and 60 coral sites, and completed restoration at more than 40 sites.
- Tampa Bay Oil Spill – Completed more than 20 ecological and recreational use restoration projects (*top restoration photo; bottom spill photo on page 1*).
- Mystery Oil Spill, Fort Lauderdale – Implementing 9 restoration projects with funding from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.
- Alafia River Acid Spill, Mulberry – Implementing 4 projects to restore estuarine wetland and oyster reef habitat.
- Kerr-McGee Chemical, Jacksonville – Providing technical support to EPA regarding ecological risks from contamination. The anticipated outcome is the reduction of risk to ecological resources in the St. Johns River.
- Raleigh Street Dump Site, Tampa – Providing technical support to EPA in order to reduce risks to ecological resources in Delaney Creek and McKay Bay.
- Mosaic Acid Spill, Tampa Bay – Currently working cooperatively with the responsible company to assess natural resource injuries and begin restoration planning.

For further information about DARRP, please visit
<http://www.darrp.noaa.gov>

