

# Ideas for OSW Mitigation Projects International Mitigation

Compensatory  
Mitigation for  
Offshore Wind  
Workshop  
State of the  
Science  
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Caleb Spiegel, USFWS

Photo: P. Paton



Photo: USFWS



Photo: USFWS



Photo: S. Maddock



Photo: USFWS

# When to Consider International Mitigation?

- ***Options for Avoidance & Minimization Poorly Understood:*** Post-construction → feathering/shut down... expensive; still habitat loss
- ***Few Viable Options at Site of Impact:*** Limited mitigation options exist at sea w/in development footprints?
- ***Effectiveness & Efficiency of Actions Can Be Maximized:*** Biggest measurable benefits may be elsewhere (nesting?)
- ***Proven Partnerships and/or Projects Exist:*** International threats best addressed through collaboration w/ proven local leads
- ***In Line w/Regulatory Policy:*** ESA Compensatory Mitigation Policy (Appendix 1, 501 FW 3) → Calls for Landscape Approach...“Best conservation outcome...may not be an offset of the same habitat type or ecological attribute”. *NOTE:* international work *not* mentioned in policy





# International Conservation & NRDA Deep Water Horizon\*

- **Apr/May 2010: 210M gallons into Gulf of Mexico**

- Oil Pollution Act (1990) → Damage Assmt → field data → models → up to 100K birds/100 spp → basis for...

- **2016 BP Settlement = \$8.1B**

- 13 restoration types for birds

- **2023 Open Ocean TIG Restoration Plan 3**

- All species injured at sea → restore ~15 spp.
- 7 preferred alternatives → \$26M over ~8 years
- 6 of 7 projects outside of U.S.

- **International Projects**

- Highest likelihood of success (nest habitat restoration)
- Proven partners/existing projects
- Robust reporting and success measurement; adaptive

## \*Differences from OSW:

- **Regulatory authority**
- **Data & Injury calculation**
- **Fixed mitig. cost / timeframe**



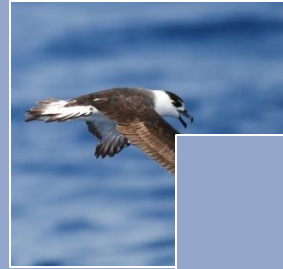
*Deepwater Horizon*  
Natural Resource Damage Assessment  
Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group  
Final Restoration Plan 3 and Environmental  
Assessment: Birds

September 2023



# International Options for OSW?\*

- **Measurable threats** outside U.S. during critical stages:
  - **Roseate Tern:** Powerline collisions in Brazil during winter
  - **Red Knot:** wintering habitat loss & change; pollution; hunting in S. America
  - **Piping Plover:** Disturbance & winter habitat loss in Bahamas
  - **Black-capped Petrel:** nest habitat loss, collisions, & predation in Hispanola
- **International threats/actions in conservation plans**
- **Viable partnerships & ongoing projects** (US agreements with Governments, NGOs, Universities)



**\*Ultimate Decision =  
USFWS Ecological Services**

