



## JEAN COWAN

### *Senior Project Manager*

Jean Cowan, Senior Project Manager, brings more than 35 years of experience in coastal science and project management to The Water Institute team.

After 15 years working on applied research at marine science laboratories, Jean worked at Louisiana Department of Natural Resource as a coastal resource scientist during a pivotal time in Louisiana's coastal work 2002–2007. In 2007, Jean moved to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration where she spent nine years as a marine habitat resource specialist working on Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration until May 2016.

As restoration from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill continued, Jean became the associate director of science, planning, and program operations for the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council.

Most recently, Jean was the director of the Ecosystem Restoration Programs for the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council where she led the development of programmatic documents that guide the Council's restoration decisions, worked to develop consensus among council members and coordinated the development of the Council's science-based monitoring and adaptive management guidelines.

#### **ORGANIZATION ROLE**

Senior Project  
Manager

#### **PROJECT ROLE / FOCUS AREAS**

Ecosystem restoration  
planning and  
implementation

Project management

Consensus-building

Research and  
monitoring

#### **EDUCATION**

MS, Marine Biology,  
University of South  
Alabama, 1996

BA, Environmental  
Sciences, University of  
Virginia, 1987

#### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2022–Present: Senior Project Manager, The Water Institute

2020–2022: Director, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

2017–2020: Associate Director Science, Planning and Programs Operations, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

2016–2017: Ecosystem Restoration Specialist, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

2007–2016: Marine Habitat Resource Specialist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

2002–2007: Coastal Resources Scientist, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

1987–2002: Research Associate, Chesapeake Biological Lab, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Louisiana State University



## SELECTED PROJECTS

**Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (2016–2022)** Led development of programmatic decision documents for the Council. Maintained schedules, managed teams, ensured timely completion of dependent tasks; facilitated discussions to reach consensus among Council members; Provide leadership in the development and implementation of a science-based monitoring and adaptive management approach; Coordinated with other restoration funding streams, technical experts, and the public on restoration priorities to ensure effective, comprehensive Gulf-wide ecosystem restoration was being supported by Council funding.

**Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan Development (2010–2016)**, Senior NOAA team member to develop the programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan. Led restoration component of the document that was basis for resolution of the case; coordinated NOAA staff activities (up to 50 staff), and with multiple agency and academic technical experts (hundreds of individuals) to identify restoration and science priorities to best compensate for injuries to all affected natural resources and habitats.

**Louisiana Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast (2005–2007)**. Senior team member of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Integrated Planning Team that developed the first Louisiana State Master Plan. Oversaw document creation; managed activities including development of decision process, data collection and analyses, modeling, and stakeholder and public meetings; delivered presentations to interest groups and the public. This document provided the foundation for today's State Master Plan.

**Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Projects (2002–2005)**. Staff ecologist; aided in the design and implementation of Louisiana coastal restoration projects, applying best available science and adaptive management strategies to ensuring success of a variety of projects. Wrote project evaluation documents; performed literature searches; data retrieval, syntheses, and analyses of scientific literature and technical reports to increase

likelihood that project designs meet ecological goals; Worked with other agency personnel to improve project design based on findings of above activities.

**Mobile Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program (1997–1999)**. Senior Research Technician. Managed the Water Quality Monitoring Program in Mobile Bay through an EPSCoR EPA grant. Supervised the organization and execution of monthly 2-day research cruises to collect and process water from 31 stations in Mobile Bay, Mississippi Sound, and the Gulf of Mexico for analysis of water quality parameters; Supervised the organization and performance of sample analyses for this project; supervised the entry, verification, and processing of data; Aided in the production of two reports; Helped organize and participated in two, 2-week long research cruises in the Gulf of Mexico.

## SELECTED PUBLICATION

1. Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council. 2022 Comprehensive Plan Update: Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem and Economy.
2. Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council. 2020, 2021. Funded Priorities Lists 3a & 3b. *FPL 3a*: [https://www.restorethegulf.gov/sites/default/files/Final\\_FPL%203a\\_Final\\_Perdido\\_EC\\_508\\_3\\_2\\_2020.pdf](https://www.restorethegulf.gov/sites/default/files/Final_FPL%203a_Final_Perdido_EC_508_3_2_2020.pdf)
3. *FPL 3b*: <https://www.restorethegulf.gov/sites/default/files/FPL3b%20Final%20Document.pdf>
4. Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council. 2019. Planning Framework.
5. Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Trustees. 2016. Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP) and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).
6. Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. 2007. Integrated Ecosystem Restoration and Hurricane Protection: Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast. 117 pp; 11 appendices.