

P.O. Box 1770
Manomet, MA 02345
Ph: 508-224-6521
Fax: 508-224-9220



Science at Work
— for a —
Sustainable World

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: September X, 2010

Contact:

Robert Kluin
Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences
(508) 224-6521 x223, rkluin@manomet.org

Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences Selected to Lead Assessments of Gulf Oil Disaster's Impact on Shorebirds

PLYMOUTH, MA , September X, 2010—Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences (Manomet) has been selected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to lead the development and implementation of coordinated shorebird surveys along the U.S. Gulf Coast on behalf of the federal Natural Resources Damage Assessment. This large-scale effort, to be carried out by Manomet's Shorebird Recovery Project, will provide the vital information needed to assess the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster's impact on migrating shorebirds.

More than 30 species of migratory shorebirds depend directly on the Gulf of Mexico's rich diversity of food and coastal habitats to sustain them during all or part of their life cycle. Manomet will coordinate and conduct shorebird surveys throughout the U.S. Gulf Coast region, working with partners such as the USFWS, regional and state natural resource agencies, non-profit organizations (including the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory and Coastal Bird Conservation/Conservian), as well as Entrix, a natural resources management firm representing BP. The surveys will continue through the fall migration period. In addition to assessing the effects of this particular oil disaster, these surveys may serve as the basis for establishing long-

term shorebird monitoring in the Gulf via Manomet's Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring (PRISM).

"The coordinated shorebird surveys are essential to understanding the impact of the spill as the basis for determining priority recovery actions and as the baseline for ongoing monitoring," said Shorebird Recovery Project Director, Dr. Charles Duncan. "We are dedicated to providing the technical resources, expertise, and outreach needed to help prevent this regional disaster from having hemispheric consequences for shorebird populations."

"This assessment is critical to the long-term viability of shorebird populations that depend on the Gulf Coast for their survival," said Chuck Hunter, Chief of the Division of Planning and Resource Management for the USFWS National Wildlife Refuge System. "We look forward to working with Manomet and our other partners in this major coordinated effort."

Manomet has a long history of shorebird research, monitoring, and conservation and for that reason is being called upon to share its science and expertise in assessing the impacts of the Gulf oil spill on shorebirds. In response to the Gulf disaster, Manomet used its authoritative Species Conservation Plans to identify all the important places in the Gulf for priority shorebirds. Manomet mapped these sites and then overlaid them with NOAA's oil spill trajectory map to identify and update those places and species most at risk (including Wilson's Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and American Oystercatcher). These maps will be guide surveys of shorebirds to assess the damage from the oil at known important sites. Manomet also has provided an array of comprehensive species-specific information to partners to direct survey and restoration efforts. Immediate steps underway to help shorebird species include working with agricultural producers in the Mississippi Flyway to maintain water on their lands at levels attractive to shorebirds for fall migration.

To learn more about Manomet's work related to the Gulf oil disaster, [click here](#).

About the Shorebird Recovery Project: Manomet's Shorebird Recovery Project seeks to recover and maintain shorebird populations with a three-pronged approach: (1) building the science foundation, (2) advancing site-based conservation, and (3) using explicit success measures to evaluate and demonstrate progress. Manomet has played a leadership role in shorebird research and conservation for nearly 40 years. Its long-term commitment to understanding populations of shorebirds and the factors that affect them has revealed dramatic decreases for many species. Read more about this initiative at www.manomet.org.

About Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences: As one of the nation's oldest non-profit environmental research organizations, **Manomet** is dedicated to conserving natural resources for both humans and wildlife. Through science and public engagement, Manomet works to integrate society's social, economic, and environmental values to create sustainable systems for present and future generations. Manomet's headquarters are in Plymouth, Massachusetts, with offices in Maine, Vermont, and Chile. Learn more about Manomet at www.manomet.org.