



The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Releases Virtual Boat Tour as a Part of Major Environmental Planning for the Mobile-Tensaw Delta

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program kicked off the public outreach component of its Mobile-Tensaw-Apalachee Watershed Management Plan with the release of a virtual boat tour through the Delta and a survey soliciting community feedback. The virtual boat tour demonstrates the MBNEP's commitment to continuing public involvement in its watershed management planning process during the COVID-19 pandemic. The video can be viewed and the survey can be taken at www.mobilebaynep.com/delta.

The Mobile-Tensaw-Apalachee Watershed Complex straddles Mobile and Baldwin counties and drains into three rivers – the Mobile, Tensaw, and Apalachee – all flowing into Mobile Bay. Funded through a *Deepwater Horizon*-related Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States (RESTORE) Act grant, the plan will develop a roadmap for improving environmental management of what is locally known as America's Amazon. It is expected to be complete by July 2021.

The Mobile-Tensaw-Apalachee Watershed covers 366.6 square miles and includes the Farris Creek-Barrow Creek, Big Chippewa Lake, Mifflin Lake, The Basin, Grand Bay, and Tensaw River-Apalachee River subwatersheds. This extensive area is home to a stunning diversity of plants and animals as well as a base for important local utility, industrial, and manufacturing facilities.

The Mobile-Tensaw-Apalachee Watershed Management Plan is a part of the MBNEP's strategy of bringing together governmental leaders, business interests, environmental experts and activists, property owners, and community members to restore and maintain the ecological integrity and economic productivity of the waters of Mobile Bay.

The mission of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program is to provide the necessary tools and support community-based efforts to promote the wise stewardship of the water quality and living resources of Alabama's estuarine waters.

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