The damages to the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) natural resources due to the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill (GOMOS) will take some time to be cleaned up. The restoration period to get the resources back to their original pre-GOMOS status is still indefinite. In the meantime, the production of goods and services by economic sectors located in the GOM states will be adversely affected, leading to possible reduction in the levels of economic activity, employment and personal income, and tax revenues.

In order to understand the magnitude of the potential economic impacts of the GOMOS to commercial fishing in the coastal counties, multi-year baseline economic information about the sector is compiled from various secondary sources.

Commercial fishing corresponds to economic sectors 114111 (Finfish Fishing) and 114112 (Shellfish Fishing) in the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). Finfish Fishing comprises establishments primarily engaged in the commercial catching or taking of finfish (e.g., bluefish, salmon, trout, tuna) from their natural habitat. Shellfish Fishing comprises establishments primarily engaged in the commercial catching or taking of shellfish (e.g., clams, crabs, lobsters, mussels, oysters, sea urchins, shrimp) from their natural habitat.

The direct employment impacts created by the commercial fishing sector shown below were compiled from the Economic Modeling Specialists (EMSI) website.
Figure 2