



Highlights

Texas

Louisiana

Mississippi

Alabama

Florida

The mission of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance is to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico through increased regional collaboration.

www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org

Water Quality for Healthy Beaches and Seafood ■ Habitat Conservation and Restoration ■ Ecosystems Integration and Assessment
Nutrient Impact Reduction to Coastal Ecosystems ■ Coastal Community Resilience ■ Environmental Education

TEN YEARS IN THE MAKING...

In 2004, former Florida Governor Bush collaborated with then Mississippi Governor Barbour to address regional Gulf State issues related to the President's Ocean Action Plan. The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) was established as a regional collaborative between Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. It became a network of partners, led by the States, working on shared priorities established by the Governors. GOMA was strongly supported by the White House's Council on Environmental Quality and 13 federal agencies were identified to assist the ocean partnership.



In 2006, the five-state alliance was formalized through the release of the *Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts* to address actions needed to support coastal storm recovery. The partnership results far exceeded initial expectations. Building on this success, a second, farther-reaching plan was adopted and endorsed by the Governors in 2009.

Today, GOMA is a 501c3 organization with broad partner support including state and federal agencies, international organizations, academia, non-profits, and businesses. It is through this unique enterprise that GOMA has accomplished a variety of strategies related to shared regional priority issues. The following are

highlights of Alliance projects affecting change in the region. For more information about these programs and the Alliance, please visit www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org.

Water Quality for Healthy Beaches and Seafood

- Created a Molecular Marker Registry – where information about pathogen DNA and RNA markers can be stored and compared
- Developed a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) prediction warning system – to improve the ability to detect, track, forecast, and mitigate their effects
- Improved methods to identify causes of beach and shellfish closures – for better public health protection



Habitat Conservation and Restoration

- Developed Sea Level Rise Affecting Marsh Modeling (SLAMM) – an initiative to assess the potential impacts of sea level rise to a selection of coastal habitats



- Developed the Gulf of Mexico Regional Sediment Management Master Plan (GRSMMP) – for the effective use of dredged material and sediment resources
- Completed the Gulf Conservation Policy

Analysis – an initiative designed to evaluate and provide recommendations regarding habitat

protection policies, laws and programs in the Gulf region

Ecosystems Integration and Assessment

- Launched GOMAportal – a Gulf of Mexico, FGDC-compliant, geospatial-data repository that allows for spatial and text searches of metadata records, downloads of datasets, and viewing of map services <http://gomaportal.org>

- Launched GecoServ – an inventory of ecosystem services valuation studies relevant to the Gulf region www.gecoserv.org

Nutrient Impact Reduction to Coastal Ecosystems

- Developed the Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity for Estuarine and Near-Coastal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico – a collection of data that grades ecosystems based on indicators found at monitoring sites
- Developed a Primer on Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia – to provide answers to common questions for stakeholders, decision makers, coastal managers and the education community
- Launched the Nutrient Reduction Decision Support Toolbox – a web-based compendium of technical guidance and case studies designed to inform Gulf policy decision makers about nutrient runoff



Coastal Community Resilience

- Piloted a Resilience Index Gulf State – trained community decision makers on the Gulf Coast to evaluate risk and improve community resilience to natural hazards
- Launched Storm Smart Coasts – a Gulf of Mexico Alliance Web resource dedicated to helping decision makers address the challenges of storms, flooding, sea-level rise and climate change – <http://stormsmartcoasts.org/>

Environmental Education

- Conducted a Mini-grant Program – to increase environmental literacy and promote stewardship of citizens and children in the five Gulf States
- Established interactive electronic kiosks at the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers – to engage local audiences on Gulf issues

Regional and International Collaboration

- International education through Global Water Watch – taught animal producers, middle and high school students and teachers, and volunteer water-monitors about Gulf of Mexico issues, water protection and monitoring
- Established the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GRI) – to study the fate and effects of the Deepwater Horizon incident



Water Quality



Habitat Conservation and Restoration



Ecosystems Integration and Assessment



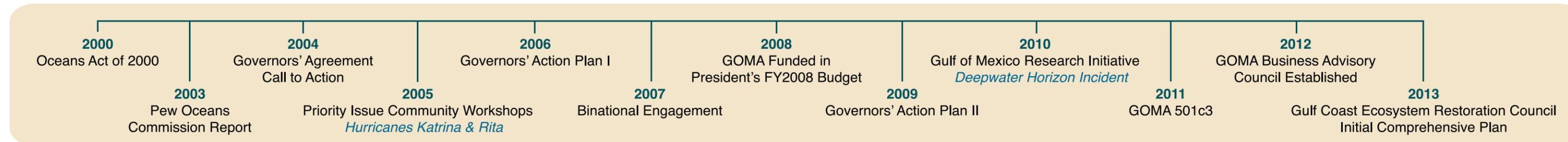
Nutrients and Nutrient Impacts



Coastal Community Resilience



Environmental Education





Alabama



Florida



Louisiana



Mississippi



Texas



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