

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Sustainable Living Coastal and Marine Resources



Presented by
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Gulf of Mexico Alliance



The Gulf of Mexico

Most productive body of water in the US and Mexico:

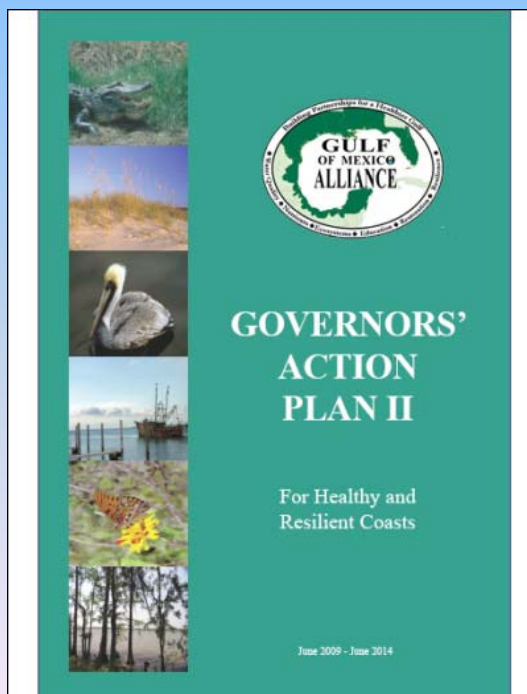
- 1.2 billion pounds of seafood
- 50% of the nation's wetlands
- Over 15,000 species in Gulf
- 44% of US marine recreational catch
- Diverse habitats – LMR: marsh & mangroves, corals and seagrasses, fish, oysters, turtles, marine mammals, shorebirds, crabs and shrimp





REGIONAL Restoration

Gulf of Mexico Alliance - positions the States and Feds as a partnership to identify and implement actions needed to restore the region and enhance resiliency



- Governors' Initiative
- State Led: *AL, FL, LA, MS, TX*
- Federally-supported
- Action Oriented
- Cost Effective
- Integrated
- Locally Driven



Gulf of Mexico Alliance

Capabilities:

- A proven partnership actively addressing Gulf priorities and used as a model by other Regional Ocean Partnerships
- Working with Sea-Grant established regional research priorities
- Managing the Gulf Research Initiative
- Collaboration with the Harte Research Institute to develop a Gulf of Mexico Report
- Regionally-based sediment management that will enable Gulf restoration and protection
- Established relationships with partners in Mexico
- Actively reaching out to other partnerships
 - Hypoxia Task Force
 - Ag Research Centers
 - Gulf Marine Fisheries Council



Regional Alliance Projects

Reducing the Hypoxic Zone

Regional Sediment Management Plan

Restoration of Deer Island

EcoWatch

Homeowner's Handbook

Sea Level Rise Modeling

HABs Alert System

StormSmart Coasts

Mercury Cycle Modeling

Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers





REGIONAL Restoration

GOMA and TF Priorities are Identical:

Improved Water Quality

Habitat Conservation & Restoration

Protected & Enhanced Living Coastal & Marine Resources

Resilient Coastal Communities





Specific Actions

- Provide long term, sustainable resources, address issues upstream of the Gulf , engage Mexican states and Cuba
- Restore and enhance living resources directly impacted by the event – shorebirds, mollusks, marine turtles and mammals, fish species
- Enhance ecosystem services through restoration of impacted wetlands and creation of “new” wetlands and establish a comprehensive method for ecosystem services valuation
- Collect baseline and hydrodynamic information necessary to develop and implement state/regional nutrient reduction strategies
- Promote a consistent *regional* message about seafood safety



Example Restoration Programs

Barrier Island Restoration (AL & MS)

Restoring the footprint of barrier islands to that of 1850s as protection from storms



Berm

Restoration (LA)

Building a chain of sand berms off the coastline to prevent oil penetration and enhance storm protection



Oyster Reef

Restoration (AL, LA, MS, & TX)

Creating additional habitat and breakwater reefs to reduce shoreline erosion





Coordinate Efforts & Funding





Sustainable Living Coastal & Marine Resources

HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS = HEALTHY ECONOMIES



- Economy in the Gulf region is dependent on a healthy ecosystem.
- Environmental Stewardship and Economic Development are not mutually exclusive activities; they can and should move forward together.



Questions?

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