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Business and Industry Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
Business and Industry	What kind of programs will be implemented for restoration?
Business and Industry	Reviews Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program (MsCIP), barrier island rebuilding, home buy-outs. Notes political backlash with buy-outs, notes Alabama interested in a similar plan.
Business and Industry	Wants projects that have community benefits in addition to the ecosystem benefits. Needs economic benefits. Audubon Center Ecosystem projects identified.
Business and Industry	Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) projects mentioned. Partnerships between industries to provide better habitat, such as warm water areas for dolphins.
Business and Industry	About 75% of oil still unaccounted for. Any future damage restoration to be considered.
NGO	Erosion and invasive plants are a problem. Chinese Tallow and cogon grass pose major plant problems. Tilapia displacing native fish species. Oyster reefs have huge ecosystem services value. Need to restore and protect these reefs.
Business and Industry	Concern that Louisiana storm buffer or other work may be pushing storm surge to Mississippi, specifically Hancock County. Surge believed to be worse now than pre-Katrina. Nutrient levels are 'off' in the Mississippi sound. Mississippi River forecast to reach a top five record high by May 21. Concerns that the Bonnet Carre spillway opening will degrade ecosystem specifically oyster beds.
Business and Industry	Sand on roads from beaches a problem. Route US 90 almost impassible yesterday. Beach dune plants in past have done a lot to mitigate these impacts.

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Business and Industry	Policy: Is the Army Corps of Engineers assisting with the Task Force? Wants a strong push for beneficial use of dredged materials.
Business and Industry	Add mudlumps for pelican nesting
Business and Industry	Need programs cleaning barrier islands and marshes for the long-term
Business and Industry	Stream restoration projects needed to control sediment, enhance wetlands.
Business and Industry	Vision is to build upon investments post-Katrina. Tourism makes up 20-30% of economy. Wants to see growth, better brand coastal Mississippi, looking to improve ecotourism. Port of Gulfport is the 3rd largest produce port, connects to truck delivery, expect increased container ship traffic. Wants to prepare for future growth along these lines. Current Port draft typically 35 feet, needs to be 45 feet.
Business and Industry	Gaming makes up about 35% of income. Gaming and non-gaming activities compliment each other.
Business and Industry	Barrier island restoration needed. Need to build back stronger. Big storm surge protection. Seen as a mitigation project. Restore to pre-spill, pre-Katrina, pre-Camille.
NGO	Focus on the Gulf is good. We need to strike while iron is hot. Let's get the good stuff lined up and in place. A terrible opportunity, but let's make good use of it.



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Business and Industry	Impediments: Needed research not happening because funding not freed up yet. After Katrina, federal funds mixed with state and regulations bogged down moving funds and projects. Hopefully, this effort will not be the same.
Business and Industry	Need to promote "Gulf" seafood, rather than seafood by state. Combine resources for a branding campaign.