

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force?

- The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force was created by President Obama through an Executive Order on October 5, 2010, and is the result of a recommendation made in Secretary Mabus' report on long term recovery following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.
- The Within one year of the Executive Order, the Task Force is charged with development of a restoration strategy that proposes a Gulf Coast ecosystem restoration agenda. The task force is directed to:
 - Define ecosystem restoration goals and describe milestones towards reaching those goals;
 - Consider existing research and ecosystem restoration planning efforts;
 - Identify major policy areas where coordinated actions between government agencies is needed; and
 - Evaluate existing research and monitoring programs and gaps in data collection
- To view the Executive Order, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/10/05/executive-order-gulf-coast-ecosystem-restoration-task-force>.
- To view Secretary Mabus' report, go to <http://www.restorethegulf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/gulf-recovery-sep-2010.pdf>.

Q: Who is on the Task Force?

- The Task Force is an advisory body comprised of lead officials from the five Gulf states appointed by the President upon recommendation of each Governor, and 11 Federal agencies and White House offices.
 - State of Alabama
 - State of Florida
 - State of Louisiana
 - State of Mississippi

- State of Texas
 - Council on Environmental Quality
 - Department of Agriculture
 - Department of Commerce
 - Department of Defense
 - Department of the Interior
 - Department of Justice
 - Department of Transportation
 - Domestic Policy Council
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Office of Management and Budget
 - Office of Science and Technology Policy
- The Environmental Protection Agency's Administrator, Lisa P. Jackson, serves as Chair of the Task Force and the Chair of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana, Garret Graves, serves as Vice-chair. John Hankinson serves as Executive Director. The Task Force is staffed by various executive branch personnel.
 - The Task Force may also include representatives from affected federally recognized Tribes.
 - The Task Force shall, in collaboration with these tribes, determine the areas for tribal participation in matters within the scope of the Task Force's responsibilities. To this end, the Task Force has initiated a tribal coordination and consultation process.
 - For more information on the coordination and consultation process, go to www.epa.gov/tribal or contact Angela Bandemehr at 202-5641427 or bandemehr.angela@epa.gov.

Q. How can tribes participate in the Strategy development?

- The Task Force Chair Agency, EPA, has initiated formal coordination and consultation with tribes per the Agency's tribal consultation policy (for more on the consultation policy and the consultation on the Gulf Strategy, see www.epa.gov/tribal).
- Tribes can participate in Webinars to learn more about the Strategy and provide input.
- Tribes can review background information and documents, sign up for the webinars, as well as submit comments via EPA's Tribal Portal, www.epa.gov/tribal.

Q: Where is the Task Force located?

- The Task Force has an administrative home at EPA, and has points of contact in both Washington, D.C. and throughout the Gulf region.

Q: What is the Task Force meeting schedule?

- Task Force meeting schedule is:
 - November 8, 2010 – Pensacola, Florida
 - February 28, 2011 – New Orleans, Louisiana
 - May 6, 2011 – Mobile, Alabama
 - June 27, 2011 – Southeast Texas
 - August 29, 2011 – Biloxi, Mississippi

Q: How do I contact the Task Force?

- You may contact the Task Force by:

Email:

GulfCoastTaskForce@epa.gov

Mail:

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

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