The Alliance's Gulf Star Program is a unique public-private partnership that leverages contributions from agencies and businesses. Gulf Star provides funding for projects that support healthy beaches, clean waters, productive ecosystems, and thriving coastal communities.


For more information or to become a Gulf Star partner, visit gulfofmexicoalliance.org/gulfstar.
message from the executive director

For 18 years, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance has strived to advance the concept of collaboration to address priority issues in the Gulf of Mexico region. This past year, we continued to pursue that interest through our Gulf Star Program, investing in our commitments to coastal community resilience, environmental education and stewardship, habitats and wildlife, and clean water. Our success is built upon the strength of GOMA’s collaborative formula and the Gulf Star projects described in this report are only made possible by the shared vision of our partners.

This annual report celebrates the evolution of the Gulf Star program since 2016 and highlights collaboration and projects from 2022. We recognize that these efforts require a collective effort and we would not be where we are today without the financial support of each of our Gulf Star partners. Thank you to all of our funders, project partners, staff, and volunteers for supporting these efforts to advance a healthy and resilient Gulf of Mexico.
2022 gulf star partners

Alabama    Florida    Louisiana    Mississippi    Texas

[Logos of various organizations related to marine and environmental protection]
by the numbers

$3.3$ million in total funding

10 new projects this year

67 total projects (2016-2022)

15 community-based resilience projects

60% include underserved (rural, minority, and/or low income) populations

least tern chick in Texas
Gulf Coast communities are deeply shaped by a sense of place and their connections to the natural environment. Communities that plan and prepare for storms, flooding, and other coastal impacts are able to recover from disasters more quickly.

coastal community resilience

new projects

**Port Sulphur Community Resilience Implementation**  
*Plaquemines Parish Government | Louisiana*  
The town of Port Sulphur is improving emergency communications and educating community members on how to protect their homes from flooding.

**Increasing Community Resilience Using Green Design Practices**  
*Backcountry Hunters & Anglers | Texas*  
Volunteers are planting 15 acres of marsh grass to decrease ongoing coastal shoreline erosion and protect nearby communities.

**Training to Support Community Resilience Assessments**  
*Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant | Gulfwide*  
Practitioners across the Gulf are being trained to facilitate the *Community Resilience Index*, increasing capacity for community resilience assessments.

**Understanding the Economic Benefits of Eco-Tourism**  
*Mississippi State University | Mississippi*  
Economists are providing information on the current status of eco-tourism businesses, their impacts on the economy, and ways to foster growth.

**Public Awareness Videos Promoting Eco-Tourism**  
*Mississippi State University Television Center | Mississippi*  
Partners are creating a public service announcement and video posts for social media to educate the public and promote eco-tourism.
coastal community resilience

completed projects

Integrated Resilience and Conservation Planning
Texas AgriLife Extension | Mississippi and Alabama

Port Sulphur Community Resilience Assessment
Louisiana Sea Grant | Louisiana

Pointe-Au-Chien Community Resilience
First People’s Conservation Council, Lowlander Center, and LA Sea Grant | Louisiana

Incorporating Socio-Economic Indicators into the Community Resilience Index
Harte Research Institute | Gulfwide

Updated Homeowner Handbooks
Gulf of Mexico Alliance | Gulfwide

Fostering Resilient Building Practices
Smart Home America | Gulfwide

Linking Science Communication and Municipal Planning
University of Texas Marine Science Institute | Texas

Cross-Sector Snapshot of Community Resilience
Louisiana Sea Grant | Louisiana

Design Testing for Wind Hazards
Louisiana State University | Louisiana

Regional Coastal Resilience Mini-Grants
Various Coastal Communities | Gulfwide
Equinor shares the Gulf Star Program’s vision of thriving Gulf Coast communities and ecosystems, supported by strong collaboration between governments, industry, and society. As a company, we seek to have a positive impact wherever we’re present, and being a Gulf Star partner is one way we fulfill Equinor’s purpose of turning natural resources into energy for people and progress for society.

David Hartz, Head of U.S. Land, Regulatory and Government Affairs
Equinor
Diverse education, outreach, and engagement opportunities create better Gulf stewardship. We are committed to engagement that makes measurable impacts and increases diversity and inclusion.

The following GOMA Priority Issue Teams and Cross-Team Initiatives worked on projects in this theme: Education & Engagement and Marine Debris.

environmental education

2022 projects funded by:
environmental education

new projects

What the Gulf Gives Awareness Campaign
Gulf of Mexico Alliance | Gulfwide

This year-long awareness communications campaign celebrates connections between the Gulf of Mexico and the benefits it provides people.

Environmental Stewardship with Students
Lincoln Middle School | Texas

Students are adopting sustainability practices and developing a local conservation project to become recognized as a "NOAA Ocean Guardian" school.

in progress projects

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Intern Program
Gulf of Mexico Alliance | Gulfwide

Water Bottle Refill Stations in Local Schools
Gulf of Mexico Alliance and Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program | Louisiana

Fully Serving the Underserved Training and Guidebook
Gulf of Mexico Alliance | Gulfwide
environmental education

completed projects

**Embrace the Gulf Initiative**
*Hummingbird Ideas and MS Congeniality TV | Gulfwide*

**Watershed Monitoring with Underserved High School Students**
*Mobile Baykeeper | Alabama*

**Video Case Studies**
*Mississippi State University Television Center and Dauphin Island Sea Lab | Gulfwide*

**Urban Youth Conservation Corps**
*Limitless Vistas | Louisiana*

**Tracking Trash**
*Dauphin Island Sea Lab | Alabama*

**Marine Debris Dash**
*Ocean Hour | Florida*

**Plastic Free Gulf Coast**
*Gulf Coast Community Design Studio | Mississippi*

**Microplastics Citizen Science Project**
*Mississippi State University | Gulfwide*

**Marine Debris Education and Prevention**
*Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program | Louisiana*
At Motiva, we know how vital it is to protect not only our environment, but all the people in it. That’s why we are a proud partner of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, supporting environmental sustainability and educational outreach programs for our local community.

Brenda Allen, Vice President, Corporate HSSE
Motiva
Conservation and management of coastal habitats and wildlife species are essential to healthy Gulf ecosystems and economies. Stakeholders benefit from access to data and information that can be used for local, state, and regional decision-making.

The following GOMA Priority Issue Teams and Cross-Team Initiatives worked on projects in this theme: Data & Monitoring, Habitat Resources, and Wildlife & Fisheries.
habitats & wildlife

new projects

**Diamondback Terrapin Habitat Research**
*Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi | Texas*

Scientists are working to fill gaps in understanding of terrapin habitat use in coastal Texas, a need identified in the recent *Terrapin Conservation Action Plan*.

**Homeowner Training for Living Shorelines Permitting**
*Mississippi State University | Gulfwide*

Researchers are identifying obstacles to living shorelines permitting and training homeowners to navigate the permitting process.

**Louisiana Coastal Bird Stewardship and Outreach**
*National Audubon Society | Louisiana*

Education, outreach, and monitoring activities are supporting the conservation of vulnerable beach nesting birds, such as least terns and plovers.
habitats & wildlife

in progress projects

Gulf of Mexico Open Data Platform Expansion
*CPC, Inc. | Gulfwide*

Terrapin Education and Outreach
*Galveston Bay Foundation | Texas*

completed projects

Diamondback Terrapin Conservation Plan
*The Nature Conservancy | Gulfwide*

Understanding Recovery and Species Use of Restored Habitats
*Abt Associates | Gulfwide*

Gulf of Mexico Open Data Platform Development
*NatureServe | Gulfwide*

Developing Capacity for Adaptation and Resilience Planning
*Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | Gulfwide*

Sea Level Rise Workshop
*Gulf of Mexico Alliance and Northern Gulf of Mexico Sentinel Site Cooperative | Gulfwide*

Living Shorelines Data Inventory
*Gulf Coast Research Lab | Gulfwide*

Monitoring and Metadata Catalog
*University of South Florida Water Institute | Gulfwide*
habitat & wildlife

completed projects

Seagrass Assessment
CNL World | Gulfwide

Living Shorelines Site Suitability Modeling
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | Florida

Sediment Resource Database
Aptim | Louisiana

Updating and Upgrading GOMAportal
Harte Research Institute | Gulfwide

Seagrass Status and Trends
CNL World | Gulfwide

Connectivity of Sea Turtles in Gulf Habitats
Inwater Research Group | Louisiana and Florida

Species Recovery Plan Review
Ashley Ballou Consultant | Gulfwide
Clean, healthy water resources are vital to strong communities and a thriving economy within the Gulf of Mexico region. Advancing science, improving stewardship, and enhancing partnerships protects waterways vital to the Gulf of Mexico region.

The following GOMA Priority Issue Teams and Cross-Team Initiatives worked on projects in this theme: Water Resources and Marine Debris.
clean water

in progress projects

**Marine Debris Awareness and Outreach**
*Florida Aquarium | Florida*

**Texas Water Quality Economics Study**
*Harte Research Institute | Texas*

**Citizen Science Water and Marine Debris Monitoring**
*Galveston Bay Foundation | Texas*

**Citizen Science Water and Marine Debris Monitoring**
*Pontchartrain Conservancy | Louisiana*

completed projects

**Florida Water Quality Economics Study**
*The Balmoral Group | Florida*

**Inshore to Offshore Monitoring**
*Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority | Louisiana*

**Citizen Science Water Monitoring**
*University of Florida | Florida*

**Expansion of Harmful Algal Bloom Sensor Network**
*Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | Florida*

**Additional Harmful Algal Bloom Gliders**
*Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | Florida*

**Nutrient Reduction Social and Civic Engagement Survey**
*Mississippi State University | Texas, Alabama, Florida*
Clean Gulf Associates is extremely proud to support and be a part of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, whose work is so vital in not only promoting the economic importance of the Gulf of Mexico to the nation, but in maintaining its long-term environmental sustainability.

Frank Paskewich, President
Clean Gulf Associates

Gulf Star membership for Hess is founded on the confidence we have in the team at the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. Working together, sharing the same values, the partnership has resulted in a series of successful projects that contribute to a resilient and healthy Gulf of Mexico, while supporting the Gulf Coast's communities.

Joel Noyes, Senior Manager,
Government & External Affairs
HESS Corporation
The Gulf of Mexico Alliance is a regional partnership focused on enhancing the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. Led by the five Gulf states, our network includes over 1,000 members and 165 participating organizations. Our actions support commitments to strengthening community resilience, increasing regional data sharing, serving underrepresented communities, and improving management of habitats and wildlife species.
building partnerships for a healthier gulf