

## Team Meetings

**Resilience:**

Jan 19-21  
(Spanish Fort, AL)

**HCRT Steering Committee:**

Jan 31-Feb 2  
(New Orleans)

**EIA:**

Feb 2-4  
(New Orleans, LA)

**HCRT Full Team:**

Apr/May  
(TBD)

## Upcoming Events

**Coastal Training:  
"Water Words that  
Work and Social Skills  
of Social Media"**

Feb 17-18  
(Weeks Bay, AL)

**Large  
Marine Ecosystem  
Meeting**

Feb 21-23  
(Veracruz, MX)

**Resilience Index  
Training**

Feb 22-23  
(Biloxi, MS)

# Gulf of Mexico Alliance Newsletter

Volume I

1st Quarter 2011

## GOMRI is under way!

Throughout the fall, the Alliance has been in negotiations with BP to formalize an agreement to administer the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GOMRI). GOMRI is a voluntary \$500 million research program resulting from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. It is designed to promote research along the following themes:

- 1 - distribution and fate of contaminants;
- 2 - chemical evolution and biological degradation of the contaminants;
- 3 - environmental effects of the contaminants;
- 4 - technology development for improved detection, characterization, mitigation and remediation; and
- 5 - integration of the previous four in the context of human health.



BP will fund the 10-year program while the Alliance will administer it. Decisions regarding funding of research proposals will be conducted by an independent panel called the GOMRI Research Board. The Research Board consists of 20 members - 10 selected by the Gulf States and 10 selected by BP.

The Alliance has enlisted the help of Mike Carron, Ph.D., formerly of NGI, to lead the effort to direct the GOMRI administrative responsibilities. Mike is working closely with the representatives of the Research Board

**Coastal Wetlands  
Review Meeting**

Feb 23  
(Galveston, TX)

**Microbial Source  
Tracking, Pathogen  
Indicators & Rapid  
Methods Workshop -**

Tentative: Mar 16-18  
(Miami, FL)

**Harmful Algal Blooms  
Training**

Spring 2011  
(TBD)

**HAB Design &  
Implementation**

Spring/Summer 2011  
(TBD)

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**GOMA ALL HANDS  
Meeting**

Aug 2-4  
(New Orleans, LA)  
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**Priority Issue Team  
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**Coastal Community**

and BP to ensure that GOMRI gets off to a successful start.

The first Request for Proposals is anticipated to be released in January 2011. It will likely be posted on GOMRI's new website: [www.gomri.org](http://www.gomri.org). The Alliance's website will also have a link to it.

Currently, the GOMRI is a developing story, so more information will be provided as it becomes available!

*ACTION PLAN SUCCESS STORY*

**Integration Workshop in Mexico is successful**

GOMA's HCRT hosted the first international workshop on integration efforts in Veracruz, Mexico in October. Addressing one of the HCRT's primary Action Items in the APII, habitat experts from both the U.S. and Mexico worked

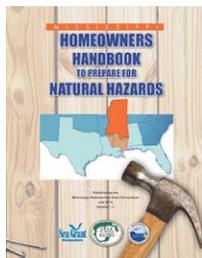


together for two days to identify common issues and ways to tackle those issues collaboratively. As a result of the workshop, two workgroups were established to determine potential pilot projects. The workgroups will focus on sediment management, sea level rise and education as well as the legal framework of policy and management issues. Future workshops will address funding, landuse planning and technology.

Congratulations to the HCRT for a job well done! For more information about HCRT activities, contact the HCRT Coordinator, Ryan Fikes, at (361) 882-3939 or email at [ryan@gulfmex.org](mailto:ryan@gulfmex.org).

*ACTION PLAN SUCCESS STORY*

**Mississippi Homeowner's Handbook now available**



Developing state-specific guidebooks is a specific action step in the APII, so the Resilience Team created the first of its kind for Mississippi. The *Mississippi Homeowner's Handbook* is designed to help homeowners prepare for natural hazards to reduce risks to family and property. While it is never possible to eliminate all damage from a natural hazard, homeowners can take action and implement many small and cost effective steps that could significantly lower risk.

A pdf version of the *Mississippi Homeowner's Handbook*

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can be downloaded from the StormSmart Coasts website: [www.StormSmart.org](http://www.StormSmart.org).

The Alabama version of the handbook is currently being prepared in time for the 2011 hurricane season. For more information about the Homeowner's Handbooks, contact Rhonda Price at (228) 523-4150 or email [rhonda.price@dmr.ms.gov](mailto:rhonda.price@dmr.ms.gov).

## GOMA submits proposals for NOAA's ROP funding

In December 2010, the Alliance was one of nine Regional Ocean Partnerships that submitted proposals for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning funding from NOAA. GOMA submitted four proposals totalling \$8.7 million.

Since the federal budget is now under a Continuing Resolution, it is unclear when NOAA's Regional Ocean Partnership funding will be available to make award announcements.

For more information about GOMA's NOAA proposals, contact Laura Bowie at (228) 523-4013 or email [Laura.Bowie@gomxa.org](mailto:Laura.Bowie@gomxa.org).

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance is a non-profit organization with a mission to enhance the ecological and economic health of the region through six basic priority issues: improving water quality, increasing habitat conservation and restoration, evaluating ecosystems, reducing nutrient impacts, enhancing coastal resilience and promoting environmental education.

Please visit [www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org](http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org)