



Building Partnerships for a Healthier Gulf

Volume IV

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Welcome

New Alliance Partners

Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation
[Land Trust Alliance](#)

Weeks Bay Foundation
[www.weeksbay.org](#)

ALLIANCE MEETINGS

2012 ALL HANDS MEETING

June 19 - 21, 2012

Corpus Christi, Texas



Omni Bayfront & Marine Towers

REGISTRATION

Omni Hotel Reservations
Group Code: 14500811329

[Omni Hotel Reservations](#)
or call
1-800-843-6664

PARTNER EVENTS

2012 Restore America's Estuaries Conference

October 20-24, 2012

Tampa, Florida

For more information on these and other upcoming events log onto [www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org](#).

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Alliance Celebrates Change in Leadership



Jerome Zeringue

or "Zee"

Jerome Zeringue ("Zee") has become the new management Chair of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, taking an active lead on behalf of Governor Bobby Jindal. Zeringue made Alliance history, shifting state leadership for only the second time since the Alliance was established in 2004. Louisiana takes over following a long and active tenure by Dr. Bill Walker and Ms. Trudy Fisher with the State of Mississippi.

As the director for the Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration, Jerome Zeringue steps in as the new Chair of the Alliance Management Team. Their role is to act on behalf of the states' governors to oversee Alliance direction to address the six regional issues identified as priorities by all five Gulf States. Zeringue presided over his first meeting in January 2012 and said, "Thank-you to the State of Mississippi for their outstanding leadership of the Alliance. As the in-coming Chair from Louisiana, I look forward to working with everyone as we continue the good work of the Alliance. No matter the unfortunate circumstances that have led us to this point, we stand here today facing a great opportunity and an even greater challenge. We eagerly accept the challenge of restoring and enhancing the Gulf during this critical time. It is a responsibility we embrace." Zeringue hopes to accomplish several items while Louisiana serves as the chair of the Alliance, namely the completion of objectives in the regional action plan as well as Alliance integration into the regional restoration strategy resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The five state regional organization will hold its annual conference, the "All Hands" meeting, this summer June 2012, in Corpus Christi, Texas. More information can be found at [www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org](#).

The state leadership change became official at the Gulf Summit in Corpus Christi, Texas. Out-going co-chairs, Dr. Bill Walker and Ms. Trudy Fisher, were recognized for their dedicated service to the five state, Governor-endorsed Alliance and were presented with beautiful crystal awards. Through their leadership the Alliance completed its second regional action plan, established a regional non-profit, successfully negotiated with BP to form the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative, and oversaw federal and state appropriated funds to support the priority issues.

ALLIANCE SUCCESS STORY

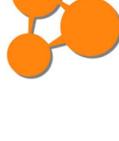
Storm Smart Training Now Being Conducted

Supported by the Alliance's Coastal Community Resilience team, StormSmart Coasts is hosting a series of Gulf of Mexico coastal storm planning, response, and recovery trainings. Each training will include an overview of tools provided on the StormSmart Coasts. Each webinar is approved for 1 continuing education credit by the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM). The first webinar was last month, but three more remain:

March 8 - Before the Storm (Part 2)

March 22 - Before the Storm (Part 3)

April 5 - During the Storm and After the Storm



All webinars are free of charge, but registration is required. Details here: <http://stormsmart.org/webinars/>.

ACTION PLAN SUCCESS STORY

Water Quality Team is Published in *Journal of Water and Health*

The Alliance's Water Quality team recently announced that USEPA intends to revise its recreational water quality criteria and some of those changes reflect points raised by Water Quality Team members. In a paper published in the *Journal of Water and Health*, the Water Quality team outlined a number of concerns regarding existing and proposed methods and criteria.

The Water Quality team made several recommendations including ensuring that criteria formulation uses data that include Gulf of Mexico-specific conditions, that rapid test methods be feasible and adequately controlled, and that USEPA maintains investments in water quality research once the new criteria are promulgated in order to assure that outstanding scientific questions are addressed and that scientifically defensible criteria are achieved for the Gulf of Mexico.

The paper was completed by Alliance partners on the Water Quality Pathogens Workgroup, including Janet Gooch-Moore (NOAA), Kelly D. Goodwin (NOAA), Carol Dorsey (ADPH), R.D. Ellender (USM), Joanna B. Mott (TA&M-CC), Mark Ornelas (ADEQ), Chris Sinigalliano (NOAA), Bob Vincent (FDoH), David Whiting (FDEP) and Steven H. Wolfe (FDEP).

The paper can be accessed at <http://www.iwaponline.com/jwh/009/jwh0090718.htm>.



Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis Now Available

The Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem Project managed by the United States and Mexico has prepared a transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA), focusing on the Gulf's overall health assessment, which includes not only the biological and natural productivity areas of interest but it also covers the social, economic and institutional framework of the region. The large marine ecosystem model included the assessment of the following five key areas:

- Productivity,
- Fish and Fisheries,
- Ecosystem and Pollution,
- Socioeconomic, and
- Governance,

Considering the significance of global climatic conditions and its particular effects in the Gulf of Mexico, the project has also proposed the insertion of a new chapter related to climate change and sea level rise.

[Read more...](#)

To obtain a copy of the report, contact: contact@gulfofmexicoproject.org.

GoMRI UPDATE

Research Board Introduces New Chief Science Officer

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) Research Board recently announced the selection of Dr. Charles "Chuck" A. Wilson to serve as the GoMRI Chief Science Officer.

The Chief Science Officer is a new position created by the Research Board to provide scientific research advice and leadership to the GoMRI. Dr. Wilson will coordinate the work of the GoMRI Research Board with the various administrative units implementing the research program and with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. Additionally, he will support the Research Board's efforts to ensure the intellectual quality, research effectiveness, and scientific independence of the \$500 million GoMRI research initiative.



Dr. Chuck Wilson

"This is an exciting opportunity," said Dr. Wilson. "My career has spanned the conduct of research, administration, and the management of a research, outreach and education programs." He recently commented, "I enjoy envisioning partnerships and motivating people towards common goals. There are numerous opportunities for collaboration and interaction between the research consortia and other scientific teams funded by the GoMRI and I look forward to helping facilitate this collaboration."

Dr. Wilson is a distinguished scientist and academic leader. He has held faculty and administrative posts at Louisiana State University (LSU), where he joined the faculty in 1984 as an assistant professor in the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences. Since then, he has risen through the academic ranks to full professor and department chairman. Most recently, he has served as Executive Director of the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program, and prior to that as the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. During his tenure at LSU, Dr. Wilson has received more than \$15,000,000 in private, state, and federal funding for research and education programs, and has authored or co-authored more than 100 scientific publications.

A search committee was established by the GoMRI Research Board to conduct a rigorous review of candidates for the Chief Science Officer position. The committee carefully considered applications and interviewed candidates before it ultimately recommended Dr. Wilson for the post. Dr. Wilson will continue to serve on the GoMRI Research Board until the Gulf of Mexico Alliance announces a replacement or until he begins work as the Chief Science Officer, whichever occurs first.

To read more about the GoMRI, visit: www.gulfresearchinitiative.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](#) for more information about the Alliance.