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Building Partnerships for a Healthier Gulf

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2013 ALL HANDS MEETING and GULF GUARDIAN AWARDS CEREMONY

Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay
2900 Bayport Drive

Alliance Announces 2013 All Hands Meeting

The **2013 All Hands meeting** will be held in Tampa, Florida, at the Tampa Bay Grand Hyatt June 25-27, 2013. This will be the Alliance's ninth consecutive year of annual meetings.

Over the years, All Hands meetings have grown to over 500 people and include high profile speakers. This year's meeting will be no exception, with a theme of *"Partners for Progress - Restoring the Gulf Together,"* agenda items include Gulf Restoration, Gulf Science and Research, Alliance in Gulf Communities, Regional Ocean Partnerships, and of course, priority issue team meetings.

The EPA Gulf of Mexico Program will also present the 2013 Gulf Guardian Award winners at a ceremony on the evening of June 26th.

Specific agenda and registration information can be found at [2013 All Hands Meeting](#).



Tampa, FL 33607
(813) 874-1234

June 25-27, 2013
Group Reservation
Deadline:
May 27, 2013

[Agenda and
Registration
Information](#)

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2013 ALL HANDS MEETING SPONSORS



Priority Issue Team Contacts

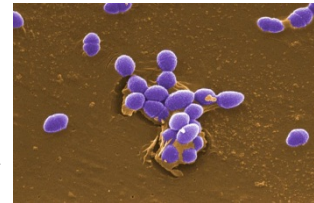
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Exhibiting and sponsorship information can be found at [All Hands Exhibit and Sponsorship Information](#).

PRIORITY ISSUE TEAM SUCCESS STORY

New Water Quality Tool Helps Ensure Healthy Beaches and Seafood



Residents along the Gulf of Mexico have been concerned about the quality of their swimming and fishing waters for years. The Gulf of Mexico Alliance has taken a step closer to improving the methods used in water quality testing. A new Molecular Marker Registry has been developed that is based on genetic information from microbes. This modern, ground-breaking tool is just one of the many water quality tools designed by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to help ensure healthy beaches, wetland habitat, and safe seafood in Gulf coastal areas. The registry can be found at http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/issues/water_quality.php.

[Read more](#)

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Gulf of Mexico Environmental Justice Conference

Environmental justice, as defined by the EPA, is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of laws, regulations, and policies. By revamping measures to include actions with direct impact to vulnerable communities, the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program has made environmental justice the cornerstone of its priorities.

As one approach to ascertaining issues of environmental justice communities and developing partnerships, the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program sponsored a Gulf of Mexico Environmental Justice Conference on March 1-2 in Biloxi, MS.

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With a theme of "Environmental Justice: Systems, Symptoms, and Solutions," the conference created opportunities for networking and relationship-building. The sessions centered on systems in place that promote equality; symptoms of environmental injustice; and solutions to environmental injustice in communities. Over 200 participants received valuable information on developing sustainable communities, accessing resources available to vulnerable communities, promoting green transit measures, and identifying information and resources for improving the overall health of communities.

As a result of the conference, the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program will work with a diverse array of partners to develop an Environmental Justice Strategy. The strategy will outline measures for addressing environmental justice in the Gulf.

GoMRI UPDATE

Subscribe to the Quarterly GoMRI Newsletter

For up-to-date information on GoMRI research and a re-cap of the first annual Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science Conference, be sure to subscribe to the quarterly GoMRI's Newsletter using this link:



<http://gulfresearchinitiative.org/news-and-events/gomri-newsletter/>.

REGIONAL INITIATIVE UPDATES

Gulf Restoration

With the passage of the RESTORE Act in July 2012, 80% of Clean Water Act penalties will go to the five Gulf States for restoration and recovery efforts. As part of the RESTORE

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Act, a Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council was established, which is comprised of governors from the five Gulf States, the Secretaries from the U.S. Departments of the Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, and Homeland Security as well as the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Secretary of Commerce is the Council's Chair.

On January 29, 2013, the Restoration Council released ***The Path Forward to Restoring the Gulf***, an initial step in developing a more detailed Comprehensive Plan. The Council recognizes this unique and unprecedented opportunity to implement a coordinated Gulf region-wide restoration effort in a way that restores and protects the Gulf Coast environment, reinvigorates local economies, and creates jobs in the Gulf Coast region. The Restoration Council held a series of public meetings to gather input from local communities relevant to the up-coming Comprehensive Plan, a draft of which is expected in late spring 2013.

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.

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