



Texas
Louisiana
Mississippi
Alabama
Florida

Building Partnerships for a Healthier Gulf

Volume II

2nd Quarter 2011



In This Issue

[Action Plan Success Story](#)

[Spotlight on NGO Partners](#)

[Regional Initiatives](#)

[GRI Update](#)

[New Alliance Members](#)

Alliance Events

Joint
Gulf of Mexico Alliance -
Hypoxia Task Force
Meeting
(All Hands)

August 2-4, 2011
The Westin Canal Place
New Orleans, Louisiana

Click
[HERE](#)
for early registration!

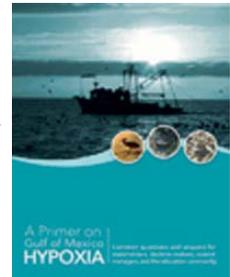
Partner Events

Gulf Ecosystem

ACTION PLAN SUCCESS STORY

Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Primer

Hot off the presses! Released during the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Research Coordination Workshop held in Bay St. Louis in April, the *Primer on Hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico* is a product of last year's Hypoxia Coordination Workshop sponsored by the Northern Gulf Institute, Mississippi State University, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Louisiana State University, and Florida State University. The Gulf of Mexico Alliance and the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force also participated in the conference. In addition to addressing the Alliance Nutrients Team's action items, the *Primer* also supports the goals and actions of the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force identified in the *Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan*. It uses existing communication networks to increase awareness of hypoxia, its causes and its impacts to stakeholders, coastal managers and decision makers, as well as the general public.



For a complete copy of the Primer, go to:
<http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/community/pubs.html>.

For more information, please contact Ann Porter at
ann_porter@deq.state.ms.us.

SPOTLIGHT ON NGO PARTNERS

Gulf of Mexico Foundation

The strength of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance lies in its firm foundation of partnerships. One of those dedicated partners is the **Gulf of Mexico Foundation (GMF)**. The GMF is a non-

Restoration Task Force Meetings:

June 27, 2011
Galveston, Texas

August 29, 2011
Biloxi, Mississippi

HAB Design & Implementation

July 2011
(TBD)

State of the Gulf Summit II

December 4-8, 2011
Houston, Texas

For more information on these and other upcoming events log onto www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org.

Priority Issue Team Contacts

Water Quality

Steve Wolfe / Heather Ritchie
(850) 245-2102
steven.wolfe@dep.state.fl.us
heather.ritchie@dep.state.fl.us

Habitat Conservation & Restoration

Ryan Fikes
(361) 882-3939
ryan@gulfmex.org

Ecosystems Integration & Assessment

Seneca Holland
(361) 825-2082
seneca.holland@tamucc.edu

Nutrients & Nutrient Reduction

Ann Porter
(601) 961-5394
ann_porter@deq.state.ms.us

Coastal Community Resilience

profit organization with the mission of promoting and facilitating conservation of the health and productivity of the Gulf of Mexico and its resources through education, public awareness, research, and leadership programs.

The GMF has a staff of ten, led by Dr. Quentin Dokken, and has coordinated the Alliance's HCRT team since 2007. As such, the HCRT has enjoyed many successes, including development of a charter Gulf Regional Sediment Management Team, modeling sea-level rise for prioritization of critical habitats, and conducting surveys regarding conservation policies, obstacles and funding programs. At the recent HCRT meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida, over 50 participants from across the Gulf exchanged ideas and resources regarding conservation and habitat protection.

Se habla español? In addition to coordinating the efforts of the HCRT, the GMF has been instrumental in engaging the Mexican Gulf States in Alliance activities by nurturing relationships south of the border. Recent successful events in Veracruz have spotlighted the need for mutually beneficial projects regarding habitat identification, water quality monitoring as well as education and outreach. With the strong guidance of the GMF, the Mexican Gulf States are expected to announce the beginning of a Mexican Gulf Alliance this summer at the All Hands meeting.

Alliance co-Chair, Dr. Bill Walker said, "The Gulf of Mexico Foundation provides outstanding leadership on priority issues such as habitat conservation and ecosystems management. And, as such, the Foundation is an invaluable partner in protecting and improving the ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico, one of our basic objectives."

So, many thanks go to the GMF for being a fundamental reason for the continued success of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. For more information about the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, log onto www.gulfmex.org.



REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) is a regionally-based

Rhonda Price
(228) 523-4150
rhonda.price@dmr.ms.gov

Environmental Education

Lee Yokel
(251) 861-2141 x7507
lyokel@disl.org



Staff Contacts

Acting Director

Phil Bass
228-523-4014
Phil.Bass@gomxa.org

Program Manager

Laura Bowie
228-523-4013
Laura.Bowie@gomxa.org

Business Manager

Connie Ziegler
228-523-4017
Connie.Ziegler@gomxa.org

Physical Address

Gulf of Mexico Alliance
11411 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530

Website

www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org

Join Our Mailing List!

planning process for analyzing current and anticipated uses of coastal and marine areas. Executive Order 13547 established a National Ocean Policy and created an interagency National Ocean Council tasked with developing actions to address issues challenging our oceans and coastal areas, including CMSP.

Alliance Engagement

To assist the National Ocean Council, a Governance Coordinating Committee has been established with representation from each region. As co-chair of the Alliance, Dr. Bill Walker will serve on the Governance Coordinating Committee as the State Regional Representative for the Gulf of Mexico. At this point, the primary goal is to develop a national framework for nine priority objectives, one of which is CMSP.

In addition, several members of the AMT are going to represent the Gulf region at the National CMSP Workshop in Washington, D.C. in June 2011. Once the national CMSP framework is presented, the Gulf and other regions will establish Regional Planning Bodies (RPB) to develop customized CMS Plans for the regions. The Alliance hopes to play a significant role on the RPB for the Gulf and to provide leadership in the development of the regional CMS Plan.

On behalf of the Alliance, the AMT recently submitted comments to the National Ocean Council regarding the development of the national Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Strategic Action Plan. A copy of the letter can be found here:

[Comments regarding CMSP Strategic Action Plan](#)

More information regarding the CMSP process can be found at www.cmsp.noaa.gov.

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

As a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, President Obama commissioned Secretary Mabus to develop recommendations for full restoration of the Gulf Coast. As a result of the report, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force was established through Executive Order and tasked with defining ecosystem restoration goals, coordinating government policies, proposing additional actions (where necessary), and identifying monitoring, assessment, research and restoration gaps.

To gather information necessary for development of a Gulf-wide restoration plan, the Task Force is holding public meetings in each Gulf State. Meetings have been held in Pensacola in November 2010, New Orleans in February 2011, and Mobile in May 2011. Future meetings are scheduled for Galveston in June 2011 and Biloxi in August 2011.

Alliance Engagement

At the most recent Task Force meeting on May 6, 2011 in Mobile, Alabama, Dr. Bill Walker presented a topical presentation regarding living marine resources in the Gulf on behalf of the Alliance. In addition, many members of the Alliance currently sit on the Task Force itself or on the variety of Coordination Teams working to establish a comprehensive restoration plan for the Gulf of Mexico as a result of the

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

More information regarding the Gulf Coast Ecosystems Restoration Task Force can be found at www.epa.gov/gulfcoasttaskforce.

GRI UPDATE

RFP for Research Activities in the Gulf is Released



The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GRI) Research Board recently announced the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to select research activities involving research consortia. The GRI is an independent scientific research program and is separate from the Natural Resources Damages Assessment process. The objectives of the GRI are to investigate the impacts of the oil, dispersed oil, and dispersant on the ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico and affected coastal States in a broad context of improving fundamental understanding of the dynamics of such events and the associated environmental stresses and public health implications.

[Read more...](#)

WELCOME NEW ALLIANCE MEMBERS!

SAAESD and ASRED

A new partnership between the Gulf of Mexico Alliance and members of the Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (SAAESD) and Association of Southern Region Extension Directors (ASRED) will expand efforts to balance agricultural needs with improved water quality. The Alliance is a regional partnership of the five U.S. Gulf Coast States, numerous federal agencies, academia and non-governmental organizations. SAAESD and ASRED include Agricultural Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension Services of the southern states from Virginia to Oklahoma.

[Read more...](#)

Gulf Coast Fishery Management Council

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance welcomes the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council as the newest member of the Alliance family. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, one of eight regional fishery management councils established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act, helps manage fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, the Council prepares fishery management plans consistent with national standards for fishery conservation and management. [Read more...](#)

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.