



Texas
Louisiana
Mississippi
Alabama
Florida

Building Partnerships for a Healthier Gulf

Volume v GOMA E-News 2nd Quarter 2012



In This Issue

[Alliance to Hold Annual Meeting in Texas](#)

[GOMA Seeks Members for Business Advisory Council](#)

[EPA Names New Director for Gulf Program](#)

[Regional Initiative Updates](#)

[GRI Update](#)

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

Alliance to Hold Annual Meeting in Texas

GOMA's annual "All Hands" meeting is set for June 19-21, 2012, at the Omni Bayfront & Marina Hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas. Leaders from the five Gulf States, Mexico, Federal and State agencies, and coastal organizations will be present to discuss current and upcoming strategies for a resilient future for the Gulf of Mexico. A strong emphasis will be on Gulf restoration.

Plenary sessions are planned for Tuesday and Wednesday (June 19-20), while PIT meetings will be held Thursday (June 21). For more information, visit the [2012 All Hands Meeting event website](#).

Attendees should register their attendance at the event link found at www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org.

Hotel group rates and reservation information is also available at www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org. The deadline for the hotel guest room group rate is **May 18, 2012**.



2011 Gulf of Mexico Alliance "All Hands" Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana

GOMA Seeks Members for Business



Omni Bayfront & Marine Towers

REGISTRATION

Omni Hotel Reservations
Group Code: 14500811329

DEADLINE is May 18th

Omni Hotel Reservations

or call

1-800-843-6664

**PARTNER
EVENTS**

**2012 Restore America's
Estuaries Conference**

October 20-24, 2012

Tampa, Florida

**Bays and Bayous
Symposium 2012**

November 14-15, 2012

Biloxi, Mississippi

For more information on these
and other upcoming events log
onto

www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org.

**Priority Issue Team
Contacts**

Water Quality

Steve Wolfe
(850) 245-2102

steven.wolfe@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

Advisory Council

To ensure industry sector participation and advisement in regional initiatives, GOMA is currently accepting applications for 16 seats on the newly-established GOMA Business Advisory Council (BAC). **Applications are available at www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org and are due the week of May 14th.**

The following BAC industry sector seats are available at this time:

- Tourism
- Oil and gas
- Manufacturing
- Utilities / Energy (including power generation and alternative sources)
- Transportation (including shipping and harbors)
- Commercial and recreational fishing
- Seafood processing
- Agriculture

"GOMA anticipates that the BAC will prove to be an invaluable source of advice and input from industries operating in and around the Gulf region," said Phil Bass, Acting GOMA Director. "We look forward to working with these new partners on issues of regional importance."

Candidates will be selected based on their industry sector expertise and experience, community and professional affiliations, and knowledge regarding the protection and management of marine resources. Council members will serve as liaisons to others in their industry regarding regional issues addressed by GOMA.

Applications are found on the GOMA website or by contacting Laura Bowie at Laura.Bowie@gomxa.org.

EPA Names New Director for Gulf Program

Ben Scaggs has been selected as the Director of the U.S. EPA Gulf of Mexico Program (GMPO) and will be responsible for overseeing this collaborative program to protect, maintain, and restore the health and productivity of the Gulf of Mexico.

Ben comes to the GMPO following exemplary service as Director of the Office of Administration and Resource Management at EPA's Research Triangle Park, North Carolina location. Ben recognizes that the Gulf of Mexico is of tremendous ecological, economic, and social value to our region and is home to magnificent beaches, critical wetland habitats, some of the most productive fisheries in the world, and a quarter of U.S. domestic natural gas and one-eighth of its oil. Both the resilience and the vulnerability of this region have been on national display in the last ten years, first in the impacts of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and more recently in the dramatic oil spill following the explosion and



Ben Scaggs
Director,
EPA GMPO

Reduction

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

Coastal Community Resilience

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

Environmental Education

Lee Yokel
(251) 861-2141 x7507
lyokel@disl.org
For more information visit
www.gulfofmexicoalliance.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!

collapse of the Deepwater Horizon in 2010, the largest marine spill in the history of the petroleum industry.

Ben is no stranger to the Gulf Coast; he has family in Texas and Florida as well as his native Mississippi. His roots in and understanding of the region will serve well in collaboration with the diverse set of partners working together to create a healthy and resilient Gulf. He assumed his new duties at the Gulf of Mexico Program Office on April 23, 2012.

REGIONAL INITIATIVE UPDATES

Hypoxia Task Force

The Mississippi River Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force (a.k.a., Hypoxia Task Force) consists of five federal agencies and 12 state and tribal agencies within the Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin. It was established in 1997 to reduce and control hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.

Alliance Engagement

Several members of the Hypoxia Task Force are also actively engaged with the Alliance and work to ensure that common Alliance and Task Force goals, such as development and implementation of state nutrient reduction strategies, are prioritized and opportunities for leveraging are realized.

Recently, the Spring Hypoxia Task Force (biannual) meeting was held in Memphis, Tennessee. Over 70 representatives from state and federal agencies attended the two-day event which included a field trip to Stovall Farms in Coahoma County, Mississippi. Participants viewed an "on the ground" project which highlighted innovative practices on a farm-scale watershed that is monitored for changes in water quality by comparison to a nearby control site.

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.

The GCERTF is currently preparing a Gulf Restoration Implementation Plan to follow the Gulf Restoration Strategy that was finalized and presented last December.

Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning

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

On April 2, 2012, GOMA submitted proposals for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning funding from NOAA. GOMA submitted two proposals totalling \$1 million. GOMA's proposals were focused on the development of a regional data repository and a stakeholder engagement process as well as coordination support for GOMA's Priority Issue Teams.

In addition, the new National Ocean Council Director, Mr. Deerin Babb-Brott, will be a keynote speaker at the All Hands Meeting in Corpus Christi in June. The Alliance looks forward to showing Mr. Babb-Brott the unique approach that the Alliance has in tackling issues of common interest.

GoMRI UPDATE

Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) will be hosting an Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference in January 2013 in New Orleans. A Call for Proposals is currently out for those interested in presenting at the conference and is available online at [GoMRI Conference Call for Proposals](#).

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.