

E-Newsletter from the
Gulf of Mexico Alliance
June 19, 2013



Building Partnerships for a Healthier Gulf

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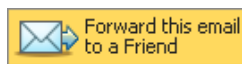
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2013 All Hands

Public Invited to Learn About Partnerships and Gulf Restoration at 2013 All Hands Meeting

On June 25-27, 2013, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance will hold its 8th Annual Meeting in Tampa, FL. The overall theme for the three-day meeting is *Collaboration is the Key to Successful Gulf Restoration*.

Tuesday's agenda includes RESTORE Act Council presentations, a presentation by Scott Burns of the Walton Family Foundation, and Restoration and Science Q&A sessions. Wednesday's agenda includes presentations on GOMA in the Community, Environmental Justice, Gulf Networks, and Regional Ocean Partnerships. Individual PIT meetings will take place on Thursday.



The meeting will be held at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay and is open to interested organizations and the public. Links to registration and a full schedule of events are available at www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org

PRIORITY ISSUE TEAM SUCCESS STORY

Building Better Marinas

The Clean & Resilient Marina Guidebook is now available as a free download from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance website, providing marina owners with useful information on tools and recommended best practices at marinas. [Read more](#)



Released by the Coastal Community Resilience Priority Issue Team, the guidebook can be found on the GOMA website: <http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/issues/resilience.php>.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Harte Research Institute Releases Gulf 360°

A yearlong effort has finally come to completion with the release of the booklet, *Gulf 360° : State of the Gulf of Mexico*. This project, which was made possible by a grant from the Shell Exploration and Production Company provides extensive data on the economic and ecological challenges facing the United States, Mexico and Cuba. [Read more](#)



GULF HYPOXIA UPDATE

Large Dead Zone Predicted for the Gulf of Mexico

NOAA and USGS, in partnership with LUMCON, LSU, U. Michigan, and U. Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences (UMCES) issued a press release announcing the 2013 Hypoxia Forecasts for the Gulf of Mexico and

Meeting Sponsors

Shell Exploration & Production
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LA Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority
AL Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources
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2013 All Hands Meeting
Tampa Bay Grand Hyatt

Chesapeake Bay. Scientists are expecting a very large "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico and a smaller than average hypoxic level in the Chesapeake Bay this year, based on several NOAA-supported forecast models. [Read more](#)

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Gulf Restoration

The **Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council** recently named Justin Ehrenwerth as Executive Director and released its *Draft Initial Comprehensive Plan*. Public engagement meetings have taken place in all five Gulf States and the deadline to submit written comments regarding the *Plan* is Monday, June 24th. To review the *Comprehensive Plan* and to make comments, go to www.restorethegulf.gov.



Mississippi recently announced a new website to summarize restoration news, submit NRDA project ideas, and learn more about Go Coast 2020: <http://www.restore.ms/>.

Florida projects can be submitted through their website: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/>.

Louisiana NRDA project proposals can be submitted through their website: <http://losco-dwh.com/LouisianaPlanProjects.aspx>

The **Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring and Technology Program (NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program)** will soon release its website and will hold a public engagement meeting from 4-6pm on June 24th in conjunction with the GOMA All Hands meeting.

The **National Academy of Sciences'** Gulf of Mexico Program recently appointed an advisory group to create a strategic vision and guide the program's development and implementation. Six members of the new advisory group are from the Gulf Region! [Read more](#)

The **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** announced the public launch of their Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund through which NFWF will administer funds from plea agreements resolving certain criminal cases and outline procedures for project selection in all five Gulf States. [Read more](#)

The **Gulf Renewal Project** was developed by the Walton Family Foundation, convening a coalition of environmental groups to support environmental and economic restoration in the region, including Environmental Defense Fund, GNO Inc, National Audubon Society, Ocean Conservancy, Oxfam, National Wildlife Federation, and The Nature Conservancy. [Read more](#)

Gulf Regional Planning Body

The final **National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan** was released in April 2013. The Implementation Plan itself and other key documents can be found at the following link: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans>.

A preliminary Gulf Regional Planning Body meeting will take place on Thursday, June 27th in Tampa in conjunction with the GOMA All Hands meeting.

NEW PARTNER UPDATE

Business Advisory Council Announces New Members

GOMA's Business Advisory Council recently accepted new members representing the following Gulf industries: ports and harbors, agriculture, recreational fishing and commercial seafood. Welcome to:

Mark McAndrews, Port of Pascagoula and Current Chair of the Gulf Ports

of America Association

Chris Nelson, Bon Secour Fisheries

Brandon Shuler, Texas Tech University and recreational angler

Bryan Grantham, South Baldwin Farmer's Association

GOMRI UPDATE

Call for Proposals for 2014 Conference



The 2014 Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference is soliciting proposals from the community for sessions to address the Conference Themes and Integrative Topics. For guidelines and submission instructions, visit

<http://gulfofmexicoconference.org/program/scientific-sessions/>.

The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2013.

Gulf of Mexico Alliance | 1151 Robinson Street | Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Contact me: Laura.Bowie@gomxa.org.

Visit us at <http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org>

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