

E-Newsletter from the
Gulf of Mexico Alliance
August 30, 2013



Building Partnerships for a Healthier Gulf

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Mapping Restoration Projects in the Gulf



GOMA has been working hard on a map that will allow users to view restoration projects as well as research activities in progress across the Gulf. Currently, the site contains almost 200 projects from GOMA, GoMRI, NFWF and early NRDA, with more to be added in the future.

Click [here](#) to see the demonstration site. Your feedback is welcome!

HCRT Meeting in NOLA

The Habitat Conservation and Restoration Team will meet in New Orleans on September 17-18, 2013 at the Le Pavillon Hotel. The Gulf Regional Sediment Management Master Plan Subcommittee will meet on the 17th and the HCRT will meet on the 18th. Contact Mike Smith, HCRT

RESTORE Council Adopts Comprehensive Plan

On Wednesday, August 28, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council held a public meeting and officially adopted the *Initial Comprehensive Plan* that will guide regional restoration for the foreseeable future. The *Plan* was broadly circulated in draft form throughout most of the summer, receiving over 41,000 comments from the public meetings as well as written input.



Governor Bobby Jindal opened the meeting and noted the importance of building on existing efforts in a coordinated and intentional way. "Ecosystem restoration and resilience is important and must be coordinated. We must focus on planning and management as well as projects," Governor Jindal said.

After other Council representatives echoed the need for coordination, Secretary of Commerce and Council Chair Penny Pritzker noted that the Council's goal is to begin selecting and funding projects within the next 12 months.

Other presentations at the Council meeting included an update on NRDA by NRDA Trustee Council Chair Mimi Drew of Florida; an update on the NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program by Acting Director Russ Beard; and an update on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund by Vice President Tom Kelsch.

Russ Beard of NOAA's RESTORE Act Science Program noted, "The goal at the end of all this is a robust Gulf economy and a sustainable Gulf ecosystem."

To download a copy of the *Initial Comprehensive Plan* and other related documents, go to www.restorethegulf.gov.

PRIORITY ISSUE TEAM SUCCESS

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Highlights



Ten Years in the Making... This informational brochure highlights Alliance projects and documents the history of the Alliance from 2004 to present. Released by the Environmental Education Priority Issue Team in time for the Alliance All Hands meeting in June 2013, the *Gulf of Mexico Alliance Highlights* brochure can be found [here](#).

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Dauphin Island Sea Lab

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) was founded in

Coordinator, if you are interested in attending (mike@gulfmex.org). (*Room block has expired but anyone is welcome to attend*)

Annual Meeting: Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation

Held in conjunction with the Land Trust Alliance's 2013 Rally in New Orleans, Louisiana, the Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation will hold its 4th Annual Meeting on September 16, 2013. [Click here](#) for agenda and registration information.

Conservation Easement Workshop

The Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is hosting a Conservation Easement Workshop on September 26, 2013 from 8:00am-3:00pm at the Alabama Port Authority Building located at 250 Water Street in Mobile, AL. [Register Here](#)



The 2014 Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference will be held January 26-29, 2014 in Mobile, Alabama. Deadline for early registration is December 3rd. Don't miss it! [Conference Website](#)



Registration is now open for the 2014 Gulf Summit to be held March 24-27, 2014 at the Omni Hotel-Galleria in Houston, Texas. [Register Here](#)

Quick Links

[Alliance Management Team](#)

1971 with a mission that includes marine science education, marine science research, and coastal zone management. It is located on the east end of Dauphin Island, Alabama and is surrounded by Mobile Bay. DISL serves 22 colleges and universities in Alabama through summer courses and graduate programs. DISL is also home to The Discovery Hall Program which includes K-12 field programs, teacher training, and public outreach. Perhaps most noticeable to the public is the large aquarium, called the Estuarium, which has exhibits focusing on the Mobile-Tensaw Estuary System.



DISL has been an integral part of GOMA since the beginning. Lee Yokel, the Alliance Environmental Education Team Coordinator is housed at the Lab where she manages the outreach and education mini-grant program, releases the GOMAEEN Listserv news, and promotes public awareness of Alliance team activities.

TEAM PROPOSALS UPDATE

The Alliance Management Team (AMT) recently released a Request for Proposals to the Priority Issue Teams to submit projects for funding under *Action Plan II*. The **deadline for project proposals is September 27th** and includes a 10% cap on indirect costs. The AMT plans to fund the most meritorious proposals and announce selections around the end of November.

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Gulf Restoration

The **Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's** newly adopted *Initial Comprehensive Plan* can be found here: www.restorethegulf.gov.

Alabama: The Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council released its new web portal at: <http://www.restorealabama.org/>.

Mississippi: Visit the GoCoast 2020 site for restoration news and to submit NRDA project ideas: <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 **NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program** has released a [summary report](#) from the engagement session held during the June All Hands meeting in Tampa, FL. Over 100 people participated in the session which introduced the RESTORE Act's purpose, goals, focus areas, and short-term priorities as well as solicited input from the public. Themes emerging from the breakout session included the need for clear goals and objectives and frequent communication with stakeholders and the importance of coordination among programs and accountability.



The Science Program has also been conducting virtual engagement sessions for anyone interested in learning more about the program and providing additional input. If you missed the August sessions, look for more virtual sessions coming in September.

The **National Academy of Sciences'** Gulf Program Advisory Group will meet in Washington D.C. on August 29-30, 2013 to continue planning a new science program focused on human health, environmental protection,

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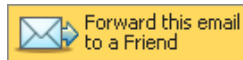
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and oil system safety in the Gulf of Mexico. Portions of the meeting are open to the public via webinar. To view the agenda for this meeting and upcoming state and virtual meetings [click here](#).

The **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** (NFWF) 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. An interactive map displays how NFWF will administer funds in the 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. [Click here](#) to read more about how the collaboration is pursuing socio-economic and business development objectives in the region.

Marine Planning

A preliminary meeting of the Gulf Regional Planning Body was held in conjunction with the Alliance All Hands meeting in June. Presentations and meeting minutes can be found [here](#).

In July, the National Ocean Council released the updated *Marine Planning Handbook*. [Click here](#) to download a copy.

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

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