

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



*Building Partnerships for a Healthier Gulf*

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## SAVE THE DATE:

### Marine Planning Meeting

A Marine Planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 14th at the Coastal Research and Extension Center (1815 Popp's Ferry Road; Biloxi, MS). For more information contact the organizers: Laura Bowie ([laura.bowie@gomxa.org](mailto:laura.bowie@gomxa.org)), Phillip Hinesley ([phillip.hineley@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:phillip.hineley@dcnr.alabama.gov)), Camille Destafney ([camille.r.destafney@navy.mil](mailto:camille.r.destafney@navy.mil))

Download a copy of the updated Marine Planning Handbook [here](#).

## 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 over 200 projects from GOMA, GoMRI, NFWF and early NRDA, with more to be added in the future. Coming soon are projects from states, Sea Grant, and National Academy of Sciences.

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



The 2014 Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference will be held

## RESTORE COUNCIL NEWS

### Ben Scaggs Appointed to RESTORE Council



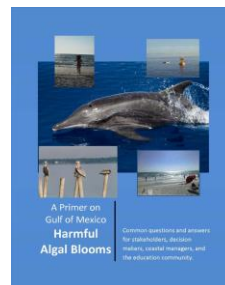
Ben Scaggs, Director of the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program, has been temporarily appointed as the Deputy Director for the RESTORE Council.

To download a copy of the recently-adopted *Initial Comprehensive Plan* and other related documents, go to [www.restorethegulf.gov](http://www.restorethegulf.gov).

## PRIORITY ISSUE TEAM SUCCESS

### Water Quality Team Releases HABs Primer

The Water Quality Team is in the final phases of releasing *A Primer on Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Blooms*. The Primer outlines common questions and answers for stakeholders, decision makers, coastal managers, and the education community. Contact Steve Wolfe, Water Quality Team Coordinator, for more information at [shwolfe@usf.edu](mailto:shwolfe@usf.edu).



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### EPA Gulf of Mexico Program Releases RFIP

The EPA Gulf of Mexico Program (GMP) is soliciting initial proposals under this announcement from eligible entities that address water quality monitoring and/or improvement, coastal habitat and ecosystems enhancement and/or protection, community resilience, and environmental education and outreach in the Gulf of Mexico region and its watersheds. The initial proposals will be short submissions describing a project's scope and environmental results, and will be evaluated to determine whether the applicant will be requested to submit a full proposal. The total amount expected to be awarded is \$2,000,000 (depending upon funding availability, quality or proposals) with an award range between \$50,000 to \$300,000. View the Full Announcement [here](#).

## NEW TOOL

### GoMexSI 1.0

The Gulf Species Interaction Database, version 1.0, is now available thanks to the hard work of the GoMexSI team at the Center for Coastal Studies at Texas A&M University. This open source tool can be used by the public and scientific community to better understand species interactions in the Gulf of Mexico. Dr. James Simons gives an overview of the tool in a video located [here](#). The GoMexSI team has recently added new functionality to the site which includes:

- Predator or prey searches refined by a specific species.
- Location based spatial queries based on user defined parameters.
- Raw data downloads in CSV format.
- Food web visualizations inside of the Exploration mode.
- Direct links to EOL for each species returned from the query.

Please contact Dr. James Simons for more information or if you are interested in contributing data to GoMexSI.

- Telephone: +1 (361) 825-3223
- Fax: +1 (361) 825-2770

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](#)

[Water Quality Priority Issue Team](#)

[Habitat Conservation & Restoration Priority Issue Team](#)

[Ecosystems Integration & Assessment Priority Issue Team](#)

[Nutrients & Nutrient Reduction Priority Issue Team](#)

[Coastal Community Resilience Priority Issue Team](#)

[Environmental Education Priority Issue Team](#)

[GOMA Headquarters Staff](#)

## Stay Connected



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- E-mail: [james.simons@tamucc.edu](mailto:james.simons@tamucc.edu)

## REGIONAL INITIATIVES

### Gulf Restoration

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

Federal Registry notice: NOAA Science Advisory Board is seeking members for a working group to advise NOAA's RESTORE Act Science Program. If you know of someone to nominate go to the Federal Register [here](#). Nominations must be received by October 9th.

Also, NOAA is currently taking applications for the position of Director of the NOAA RESTORE Science Program. [Click here](#) for more information.

The **National Academy of Sciences'** Gulf Program Advisory Group met in Washington D.C. on August 29-30, 2013 to continue planning a new science program focused on human health, environmental protection, and oil system safety in the Gulf of Mexico. To view presentations from this meetings and for a list of upcoming state and virtual meetings [click here](#).



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