

# GOVERNORS' REGIONAL COLLABORATION BLUEPRINT

G U L F O F M E X I C O A L L I A N C E | M A Y 2 0 0 8

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE?

Halfway through the three year implementation period of the Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts, the U.S. Gulf State Governors convened in August 2007 to celebrate the initial successes of the Alliance toward Gulf of Mexico regional collaboration. When the Governors' Action Plan was released in March 2006, it was intended to set the stage for a longer-term regional partnership that could address an expanded suite of issues – and the Governors recognized that this has been realized beyond original expectations. Building upon the momentum created by the Governors' Action Plan, significant next steps for the Alliance include:

### Enhance and Expand Alliance Partnerships

*The Alliance will strengthen existing relationships with supporting federal partners and will actively solicit direct involvement from non-governmental organizations, business, and industry offering opportunities to develop and execute regional collaborative actions. In addition, the Alliance will continue to pursue regional collaboration opportunities with the six Mexican Gulf States, and support the creation of a parallel Mexican Gulf of Mexico Alliance.*

### Develop a Farther-reaching, Five-year Regional Action Plan and Associated Legislative Strategy

*Building on the success of a targeted Governors' Action Plan, the Alliance will expand the breadth and scope of Gulf of Mexico regional collaboration activities. To this end, the Alliance will begin work on a Governors' Regional Collaboration Blueprint, planned for release in early 2009. The Alliance will actively encourage broad participation and input into the planning process.*

### Formalize Alliance Governance

*The Alliance will adopt bylaws and create a permanent, assured governance structure, which will allow the Alliance to establish stronger partnerships, better leverage complementary activities, and seek additional sources of funding.*

THE ALLIANCE IS A PARTNERSHIP OF THE STATES OF ALABAMA, FLORIDA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, AND TEXAS.



SUPPORTING FEDERAL AGENCIES: COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY • NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION • NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION • U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: *Natural Resources Conservation; Forest Service* • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE: *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration* • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE: *U.S. Navy* • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR: *Minerals Management Service; National Park Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Geological Survey* • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: *Food and Drug Administration* • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION • U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

## WHAT IS THE GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE?

The Alliance is a partnership, initiated in 2004, of the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, with the goal of significantly increasing regional collaboration to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf States have identified six initial priority issues that are regionally significant and can be effectively addressed through increased collaboration at state, local, and federal levels:

- *Water quality for healthy beaches and shellfish beds;*
- *Wetland and coastal conservation and restoration;*
- *Coastal community resilience;*
- *Environmental education;*
- *Identification and characterization of Gulf habitats; and*
- *Reducing nutrient inputs to coastal ecosystems*

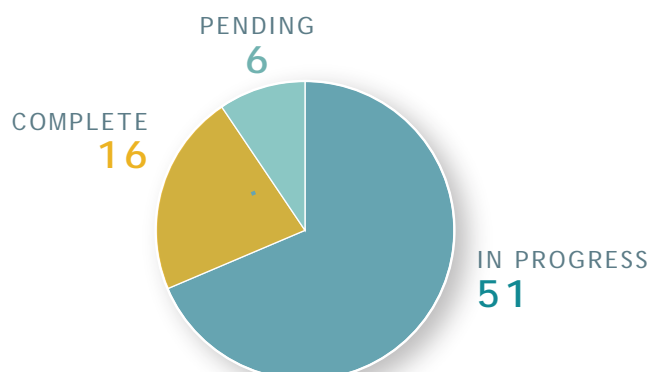
## FEDERAL SUPPORT TO THE ALLIANCE

The Bush Administration's U.S. Ocean Action Plan calls for increased integration of resources, knowledge, and expertise to address Alliance priorities. As a result, thirteen federal agencies committed to supporting the Gulf Alliance have been brought together under the coordination of the U.S. EPA and NOAA to support Gulf State leadership and coordinate an integrated federal response to Alliance priorities.

## WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE GOVERNORS' ACTION PLAN?

The Gulf State Governors put forward 73 specific activities in their March 2006 Governors' Action Plan. Under the leadership of the five Gulf States, multi-stakeholder Priority Issue Teams developed strategies to advance, and coordinate the implementation of, these activities. As of January 2008, results have exceeded expectations.

### Implementation Status of 73 Action Blueprint Steps in Governor's Action Plan



## How Do I Get Involved?

### ALABAMA

#### PHILLIP HINESLEY

Coastal Section Chief, ADCNR  
251-929-0900

[phillip.hensley@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:phillip.hensley@dcnr.alabama.gov)

### FLORIDA

#### GARY LYTTON

Director, Rookery Bay NERR  
239-417-6310

[gary.lytton@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:gary.lytton@dep.state.fl.us)

#### SETH BLITCH

Director, Apalachicola NERR  
850-670-4783

[seth.blitch@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:seth.blitch@dep.state.fl.us)

### LOUISIANA

#### LOUIS BUATT

Assistant Secretary, LDEQ  
Office of Environmental Assessment  
225-219-3233

[louis.buatt@la.gov](mailto:louis.buatt@la.gov)

#### DUGAN SABINS

Senior Environmental Scientist, LDEQ  
225-219-3553

[dugan.sabins@la.gov](mailto:dugan.sabins@la.gov)

### MISSISSIPPI

#### BILL WALKER

Executive Director, MDMR  
228-374-5000

[bill.walker@dmr.ms.us](mailto:bill.walker@dmr.ms.us)

#### TRUDY FISHER

Executive Director, MDEQ  
601-961-5000

[trudy\\_fisher@deq.state.ms.us](mailto:trudy_fisher@deq.state.ms.us)

### TEXAS

#### BRUCE MOULTON

TCEQ  
512-239-4809

[bmoulton@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:bmoulton@tceq.state.tx.us)

#### LARRY MCKINNEY

Director of Coastal Fisheries, TPWD  
512-389-4636

[larry.mckinney@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:larry.mckinney@tpwd.state.tx.us)