



Why an Alliance?

Gulf of Mexico Alliance work is a critical effort to sustain the significant economic contribution of the region. The Gulf is the most productive body of water in the United States and Mexico.



- Gulf States have a combined gross domestic product of over \$2.2 trillion.¹
- The Gulf region is the 7th largest economy in the world when rated as a separate country.²
- 20 million jobs are produced in the robust economy of the Gulf region.
- Over 620,000 Gulf regional jobs are recreation and tourism.
- 44% of U.S. marine recreational catch comes from the Gulf of Mexico.
- 50% of the nation's wetlands are found in this region.
- The Gulf is home to many habitats and over 1500 valuable Living Marine Resources.
- 3 of the 6 largest ports in the United States are accessed through shipping routes in the Gulf.

The effects of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill demonstrated that healthy ecosystems are imperative for healthy economies.

1. Bureau of Economic Analyses, 2006.
 2. International Monetary Fund, 2006.



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*Photos courtesy of
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

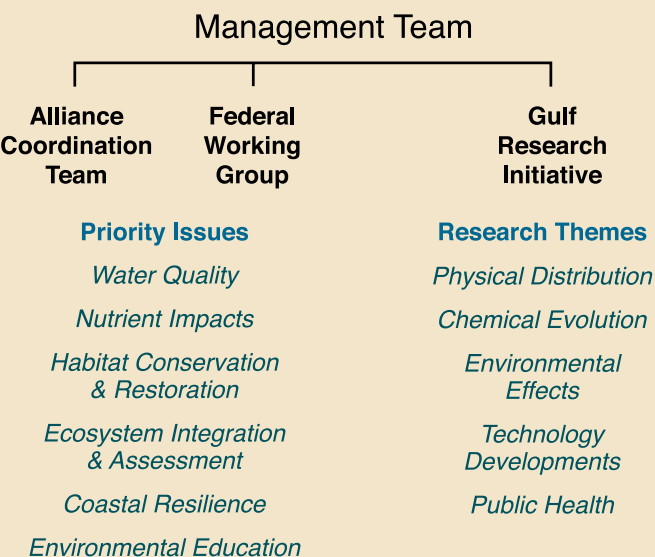
The mission of the
 Gulf of Mexico Alliance
 is to enhance the
 ecological and economic
 health of the Gulf of
 Mexico through increased
 regional collaboration.



Power of Partnership

The five U.S. Gulf States (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas) face similar challenges and concerns as they manage the Gulf Coast and its waters. The concept of a “Regional Ocean Partnership” came out of the 2004 U.S. Ocean Action Plan which recommends all states that border a shared water body work together to protect it. The five Gulf States have demonstrated leadership in managing Gulf resources through the Alliance; across the local, state and federal levels for comprehensive ecosystem management of the Gulf of Mexico. The Alliance structure allows federal and state agency partners to focus funding priorities on the needs of the Gulf, and it provides a forum to share knowledge, expertise, and collaborate to reduce duplication of efforts.

Gulf of Mexico Alliance



About the Gulf of Mexico Alliance

The mission of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance is to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf region by encouraging collaboration among government agencies, businesses, education providers and non-governmental organizations. With a shared vision for a healthy and resilient Gulf of Mexico region, the five Gulf States formalized the Alliance in 2004. The Alliance is a not-for-profit organization.

Priority issues:

- Water Quality for Healthy Beaches and Seafood
- Habitat Conservation and Restoration
- Ecosystems Integration and Assessment
- Nutrient Impact Reduction to Coastal Ecosystems
- Coastal Community Resilience
- Environmental Education

Leadership from the five Gulf States is the foundation of the Alliance. Each of the Gulf States has committed time and resources to its successful implementation. Through a collaborative approach, the priority issues of the Gulf are being addressed with scientific, technical and resource management experts who have the knowledge base and experience.

Neighboring countries also contribute to, experience the effects of, and reap the benefits of the Gulf of Mexico. To be truly successful in improving the ecological health of this region, a collaborative effort is necessary with neighbors in the Gulf, including Mexico. The Alliance supports the creation of a parallel Mexican Gulf Alliance and strongly encourages the continued pursuit of collaboration among countries in the region.

Measuring Progress with Accountability

The Alliance works to accomplish its mission by implementing steps outlined within the *Governor’s Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts*. The five U.S. Gulf State Governors released the first *Action Plan* in March 2006 and it challenged the new Alliance partnership to make tangible progress over its initial 36 months. Building on the unprecedented success of the first, the Alliance released its next *Governors’ Action Plan* in June 2009. This second, longer, more aggressive plan addresses some of the most pressing issues affecting the Gulf region.



Accomplishments

The successes that have affected change in the region are evident:

- Technical support from the Alliance with up-watershed stakeholders has provided farmers with funding and opportunities to reduce fertilizer run-off entering the Mississippi River. This effort supports resource managers working to control the size of the dead zone in the Gulf.
- Alliance partners have developed a prediction warning system to forecast the occurrence of harmful algal blooms. This has Gulf-wide applicability, allowing swimmers, fishermen and others to avoid these toxic waters until the bloom subsides.
- Community decision makers on the Gulf Coast are being trained to evaluate risk and improve community resilience to natural hazards using a tool developed by Alliance partners. The Resilience Index can be found at www.stormsmartcoasts.org.

A complete list of accomplishments can be found in the Alliance Accomplishments Report at www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org.