



Habitat Conservation & Restoration Team

Gulf of Mexico Alliance

Texas | Louisiana | Mississippi | Alabama | Florida

Technology Development Governor's Action Plan II Action Item: H-3

Action: *Identify and resolve specific scientific and technical issues so that conservation and restoration of Gulf habitats are more successful.*

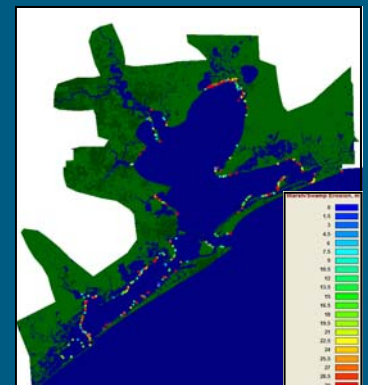
Sub-actions:

1. Conduct topical working sessions on uncertainties (e.g. sea level rise) that limit the state of conservation science and the development of science-based management tools.
2. Provide scientific and technical solutions to improve on-the-ground restoration results.
3. Develop a list of Mexican technical issues that can be integrated into Alliance habitat conservation and restoration programming.

Implementation:

Sea-level rise Affecting Marsh Model (SLAMM) Runs and Conservation Planning Data Platform Development

The HCRT partnered with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in 2008 to assess potential impacts to coastal habitat with sea level rise. TNC's expertise and work with ecosystem assessment made them a logical choice to lead the project. Models for three sites - Jefferson County, TX; Grand Bay, MS; and Galveston Bay, TX - have been run. In each area, stakeholder concerns and suggestions have strengthened results and confidence in them. During the conduct of this project, the HCRT set data criteria for SLAMM modeling to guide future site selection and to improve the reliability of results and thereby make the best use of project funding. Results from the Galveston Bay project will feed into the ecosystem services project being conducted under GAP II action H-5.



Swamp and Marsh Erosion in Galveston Bay under 1 m SLR by 2100 scenario.

Sea-level rise Affecting Marsh Model (SLAMM) Analyses for GOM National Wildlife Refuges

Individual reports on model results will be produced for each of five study areas: 1) Great White Heron NWR, FL; 2) Ten Thousand Islands, FL; 3) Lower Suwannee NWR, FL; 4) Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR, MS; and 5) San Bernard & Big Boggy NWR, TX. These sites were selected from a list of 21 refuges that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service had proposed modeling for but that had not been funded. Proposed sites for which available data did not meet HCRT minimum data requirements were trimmed from that list. All five reports should be finalized by July 2011.

See project presentations and newsletters at www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/working.

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