

Gulf of Mexico Alliance

Habitat Conservation and Restoration Team

Exploring Regional Sediment Management Partnership Opportunities:

Presentation to the USACE Galveston District
Dredging Conference
October 26, 2011

Ray Newby, Texas General Land Office
Coastal Resources Program

Prepared by Carl Ferraro
Alabama DCNR-State
Lands Division-Coastal Section



Goals:

- Present Brief Overview The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) Habitat Conservation and Restoration Team (HCRT)
- Overview Gulf Regional Sediment Management Master
- Partnership Opportunities Between Ports & HCRT
- Next Steps

What is GOMA?

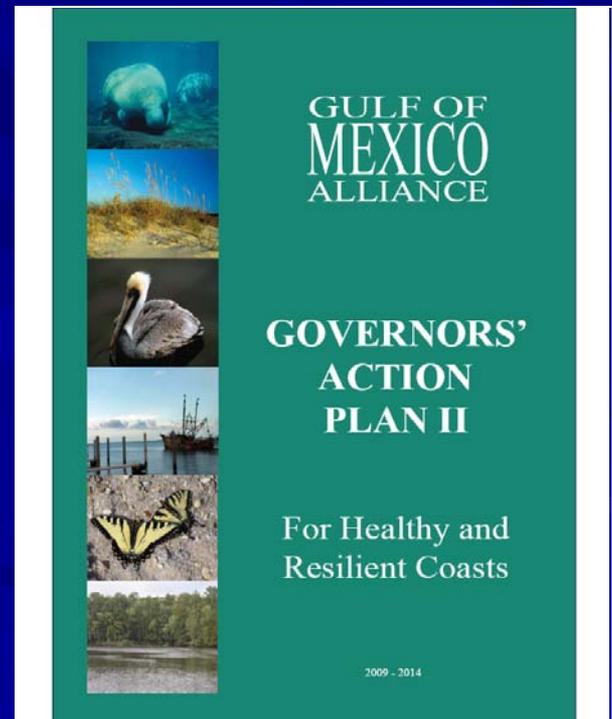


The Alliance is a regional ocean governance partnership among the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, with the goal of significantly increasing collaboration to significantly enhance the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico.

- Initiated 2004 by the Governors with strong support from Federal partners and NGOs
- Emphasis on regional integration of resources, knowledge, & expertise
- Governors Action Plan I (2006- 2009)
- Governors Action Plan II (2009-2014)

GOMA Composition: 6 Priority Issue Teams (PITs)

- Water Quality
- Nutrients & Nutrient Impacts
- Coastal Community Resilience
- Environmental Education
- Ecosystem Integration & Assessment
- Habitat Conservation & Restoration



HCRT Mission Statement & Goals

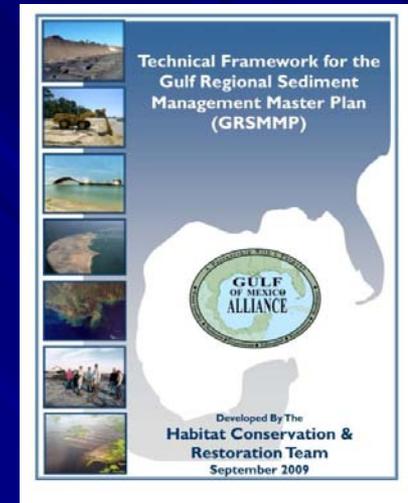
Provide leadership to advance conservation and restoration of coastal habitats and ecosystems throughout the Gulf of Mexico and associated watersheds to reverse the downward trend in habitat quantity, quality and ecosystems services.

HCRT Goals:

- Expanded Partnerships
- Policy Changes
- Science and Technology Development
- Reversing the Downward Trend in Habitat & Ecosystem Services
- Gulf Regional Sediment Management Master Plan

GRSMMP Goals

- More efficient use of sediment from inlets, navigation channels and other sources in support of environmental and economic objectives
- Better integrate regional sediment processes into management and planning decisions by coordinating the collection and dissemination of data about sediment movement
- Facilitate cooperation among states, federal agencies and other stakeholders (e.g.: Ports) in sediment management



Finalized the Technical Framework for the Gulf of Mexico Regional Sediment Management Master Plan (GRSMMP) <http://www.gulfmex.org/goma/docs.htm>

GRSMMP Chapters:

- Gulf of Mexico Processes
- Ecological Aspects of Sediment Management
- Sediment Availability & Sediment Budget
- Information Management
- Funding and Policies

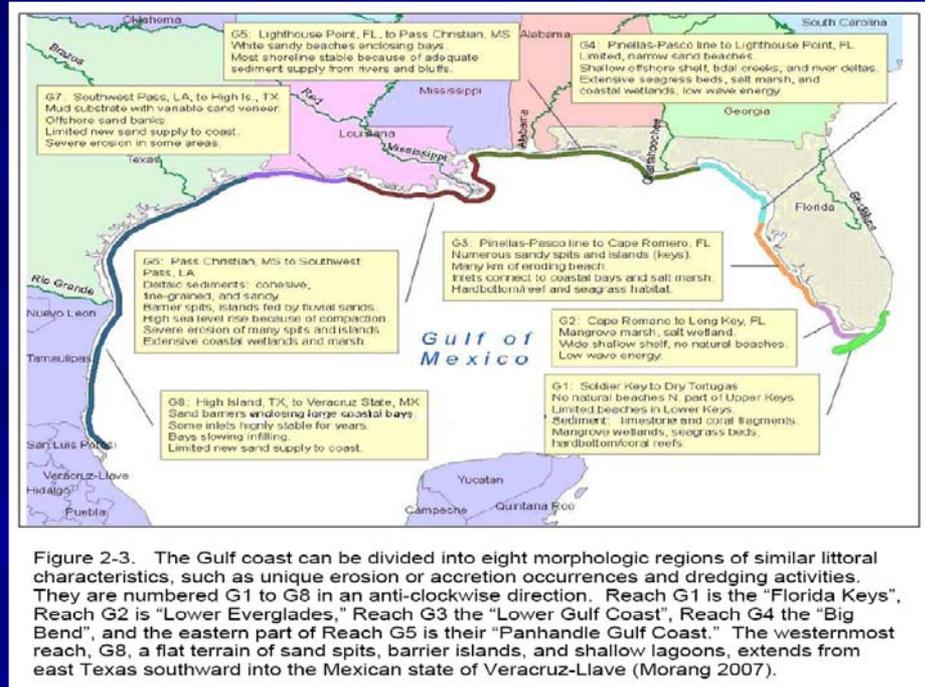


Figure 2-3. The Gulf coast can be divided into eight morphologic regions of similar littoral characteristics, such as unique erosion or accretion occurrences and dredging activities. They are numbered G1 to G8 in an anti-clockwise direction. Reach G1 is the "Florida Keys", Reach G2 is "Lower Everglades," Reach G3 the "Lower Gulf Coast", Reach G4 the "Big Bend", and the eastern part of Reach G5 is their "Panhandle Gulf Coast." The westernmost reach, G8, a flat terrain of sand spits, barrier islands, and shallow lagoons, extends from east Texas southward into the Mexican state of Veracruz-Llave (Morang 2007).

GRSMMP Next Steps

- **Formation of Gulf Regional Dredge Team**
 - **Currently split between eastern and western teams**
 - **Proposed on the NDT Conf. Call on February 22, 2011**
 - **Proposal Supported by NDT and USACE-Mobile District**
- **Publish Technical Framework in Journal of Coastal Research**
- **Translation of the GRSMMP Executive Summary and GRSMMP JCR Special Issue into Spanish**
- **West Galveston Bay RSM Plan**
- **RSM Case Studies Compilation**
- **Mississippi RSM/Beneficial Use Master Plan Update**

Other HCRT Activities of Interest:

- Recommendations for Changes in Federal Policy & Law:
 - Revision of the Federal Standard to Facilitate Beneficial Use
 - Redefining *Environmentally Acceptable* and *Cost Effective* under the Fed Standard to account for the environmental considerations of beneficial use.
 - Changes to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund
 - Congressional Reconsideration of the Industry Capability Act
 - Formal adoption of a Regional Sediment Management Program in all USACE Districts
 - Streamlining of Permitting & Regulatory Programs

Port Authority

Involvement in the HCRT

- Interests of the HCRT and the Ports are in many case mutual.
- The HCRT believes that our efforts would benefit from Port Authority involvement.
- Similar discussions are taking place across the Gulf States.
- The HCRT would like your input.

Questions?



Ray Newby, Texas General Land Office
(512) 475-3624
Ray.newby@glo.state.tx.us

