




# Regional Collaboration in NOAA

10th Annual Southern and Caribbean Regional Meeting  
November 6, 2007

Buck Sutter – Gulf of Mexico Team Lead



An illustration of several trees with colorful trunks and roots. The roots are in shades of orange, red, purple, blue, and green, extending downwards into a light blue and white background. The trees are set against a backdrop of a blue sky with a white sun and a green landscape with more trees.

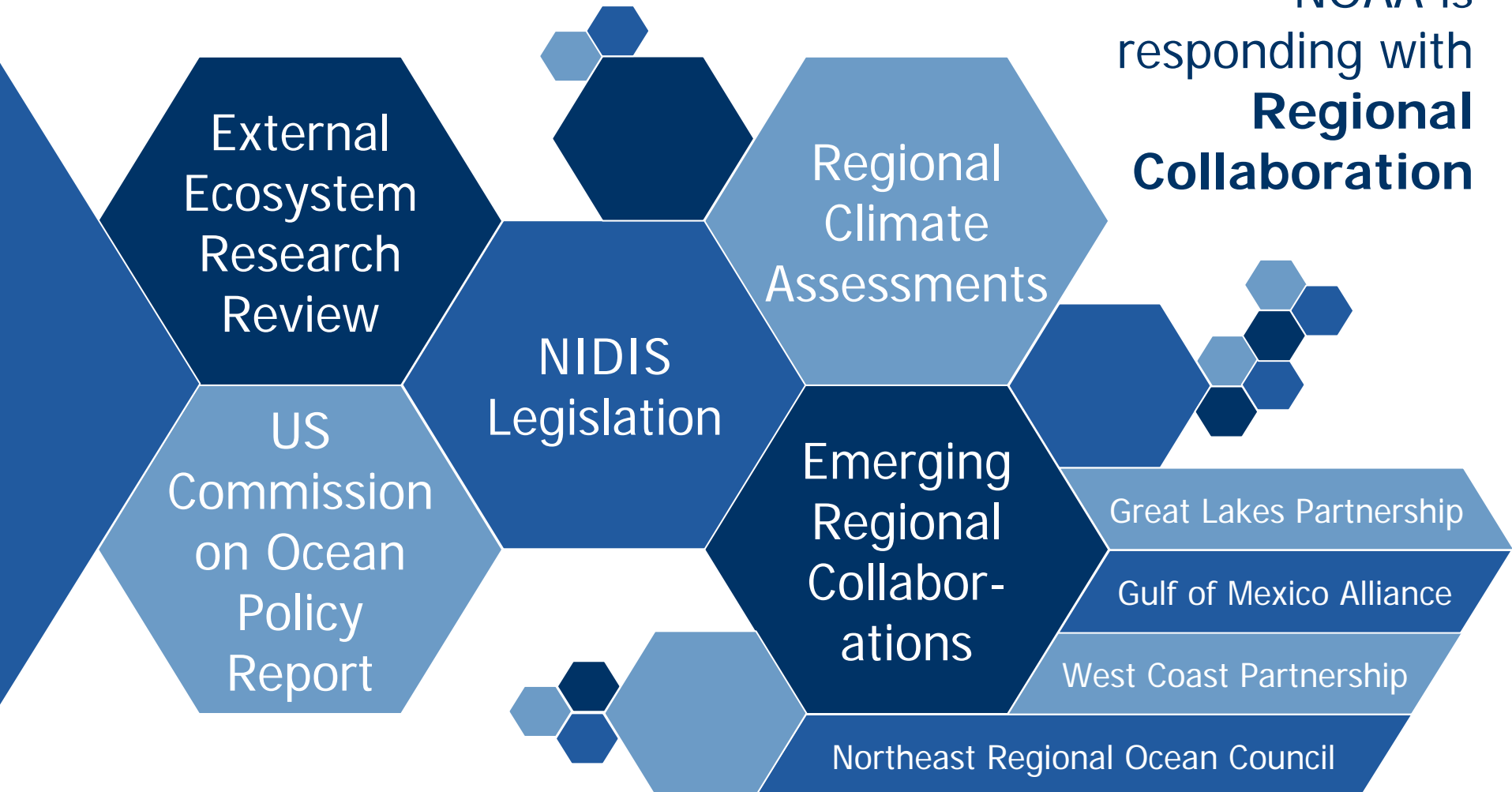
# Issue: What is Regional Collaboration?

- ◆ So, I have heard about this regional collaboration thing, but what does it really mean?
- ◆ The Goal of NOAA regional collaboration is to provide:
  - Improved services for the benefit of NOAA's customers
  - Increased value and productivity of partnerships
  - Improved stakeholder relations and support
  - Improved internal communications
  - But, Process will take time to mature
- ◆ NOAA regional collaboration is not:
  - A new boss or a new layer of clearance
  - Just some folks who have nothing else better to do

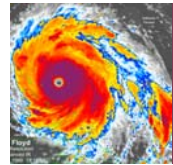
# Multiplying External Demands



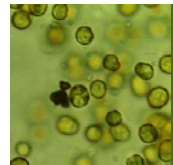
NOAA is responding with **Regional Collaboration**



# Initial Focus for NOAA's National Priorities



**Hazard Resilient Coastal Communities**



**Integrated Ecosystem Assessments**



**Integrated Water Resource Services**



**Outreach & Communication**

**Weather & Water**

**Climate**

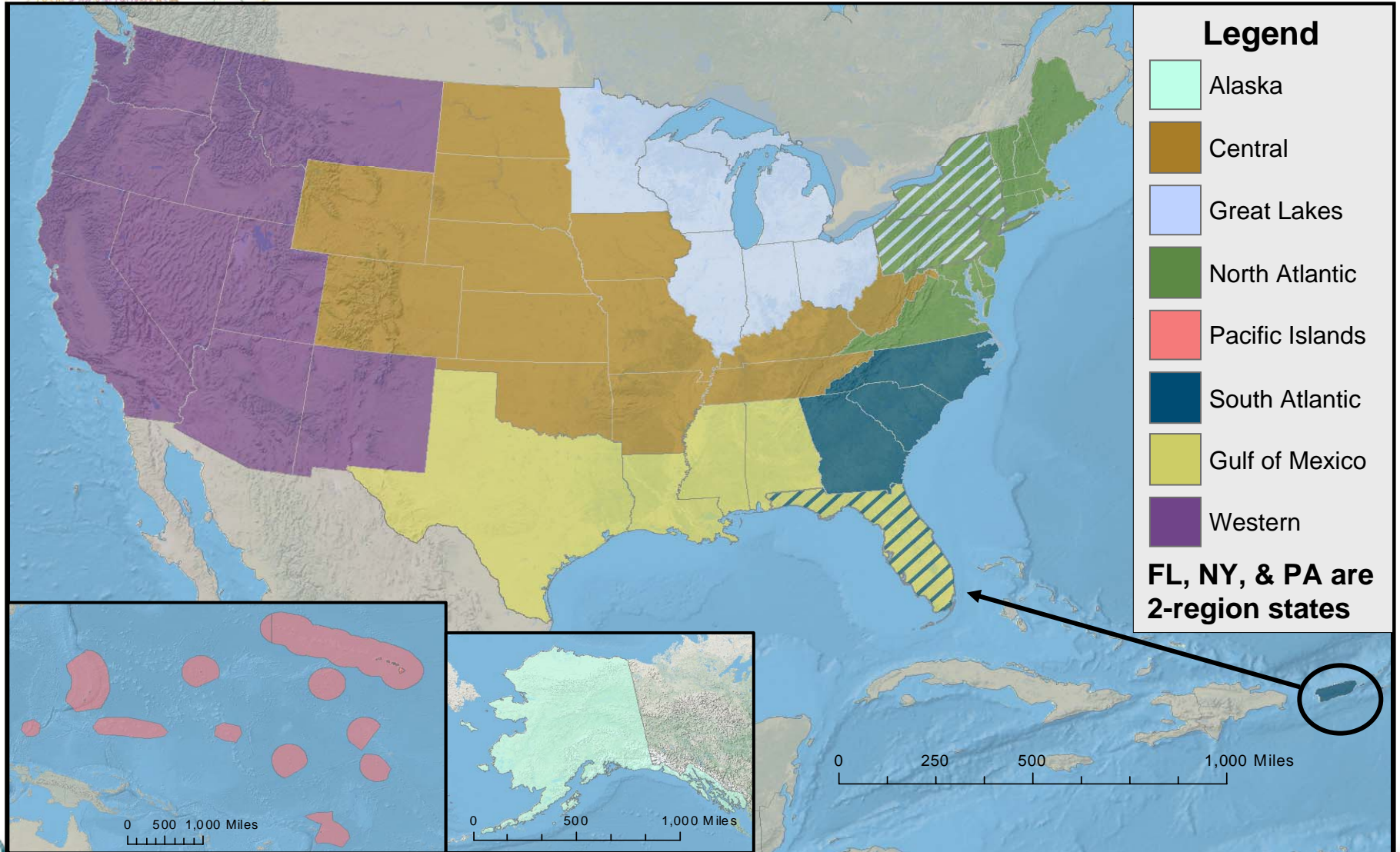
**Ecosystems**

**Commerce & Transportation**

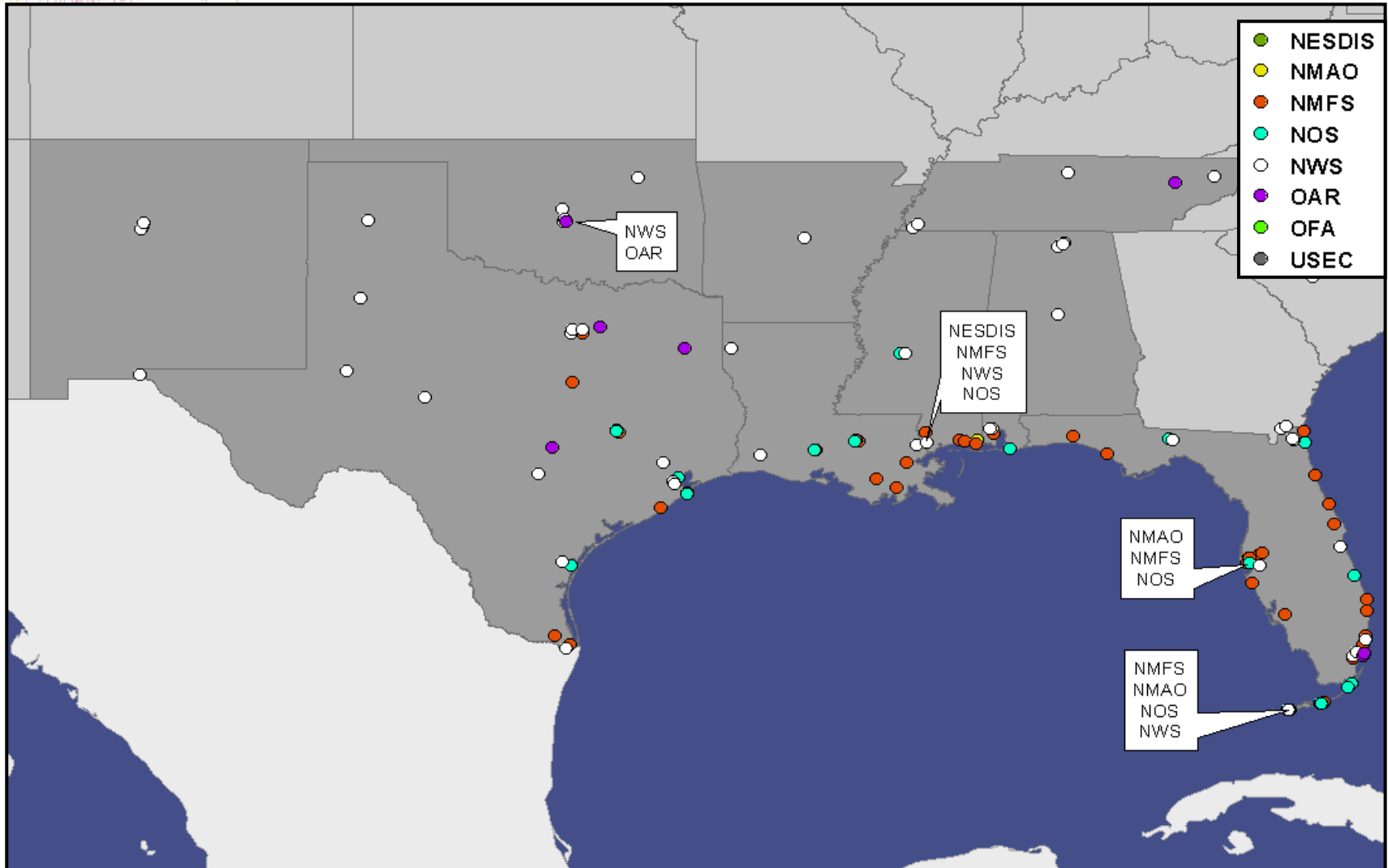
These initial focus areas are driven by NOAA's strategic Mission Goals and build upon existing regional efforts



# 2007 Framework for NOAA Regional Collaboration



# Where is NOAA in the GOM?



# Gulf of Mexico Regional Collaboration

## Environmental Opportunities

Marine Sanctuaries-  
Marine Protected Areas

Marine Debris-Navigation  
Hazards

Hypoxic Zone

Harmful Algal Blooms

Habitat Protection &  
Restoration

Endangered Species  
Protection

## NOAA's Commerce Responsibilities

Resilient Community  
Impacts: Prevention,  
Preparation, Recovery

Integrated Ecosystem  
Assessment

Ocean Observations

Shipping and Navigation  
Safety


Outreach & Education



Regional  
Collaboration Bridges  
Gaps



Rebuild Overfished Stocks



# Gulf of Mexico Environmental Problems and Challenges

- ◆ **Integrated Ecosystem Assessments**
  - Gulf of Mexico IEA – NOAA, States, University, Sea Grant
  - Northern Gulf Institute/Ecosystem Data Assembly Center
  - Priority Habitat Information System (PHINS)
- ◆ **Hazard Resilient Communities**
  - Coastal Storms Program Gulf of Mexico (GOMEX) Pilot
  - Mobile Bay Community Resilience Pilot
- ◆ **Integrated Water Resources**
  - Development of a Plan for Implementation of an Integrated Mississippi River/Coastal Gulf of Mexico Water Monitoring Network: A Gulf of Mexico Region Team/Central Region Team Collaboration
- ◆ **Outreach and Communication**
  - Gulf of Mexico Regional Team Intersections with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance
  - Assessment of NOAA's Gulf of Mexico Regional Resources



# Gulf of Mexico Regional Integrated Ecosystem





# Gulf of Mexico Region Partnership Dimensions

## ◆ Unique Regional Partnerships

- Gulf States Marine Fishery Commission; Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA)
- Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS)
- Interagency Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Reduction Task Force
- North Gulf of Mexico Institute
- Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnerships (SARP)

## ◆ Unique Constituents and Stakeholders

- Oil and Gas Industries
- Eco-tourism Industries
- Shipping and Ship Building Industries
- Recreational and Commercial Fisheries
- International Relationships: Mexico, Cuba, Caribbean Nations



# Leveraging State Resources in the Gulf of Mexico

- ◆ AL, FL, LA, MS, TX NOAA Coastal Management Programs
- ◆ Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- ◆ Alabama Department of Environmental Management
- ◆ Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- ◆ Florida DEP
- ◆ Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- ◆ Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- ◆ Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
- ◆ Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- ◆ Mississippi Dept. of Marine Res.
- ◆ Mississippi DEQ
- ◆ Texas General Land Office
- ◆ Texas Commission on Environ. Quality
- ◆ Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
- ◆ Texas Water Development Board
- ◆ Texas Railroad Commission
- ◆ Texas Soil and Water Conserv. Board
- ◆ Texas Department of Transportation





# Leveraging Federal Resources in the Gulf of Mexico

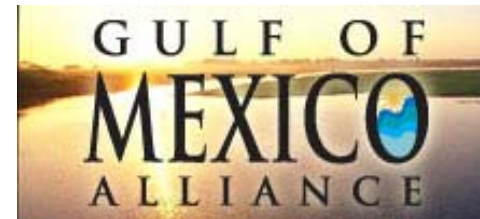
- ◆ **NOAA**
  - National Ocean Service
    - Coastal Service Center
    - NERR (5 reserves)
    - Nat'l Marine Sanctuaries (2)
  - NESDIS
    - National Coastal Data Development Center
  - NMFS
    - Numerous labs
  - NWS
    - National Hurricane Center
  - OAR
    - National Sea Grant
    - Cooperative Institute
- ◆ Environmental Protection Agency
  - Gulf of Mexico Program
  - National Estuary Program (7)
- ◆ Naval Oceanographic Office
- ◆ Army Corps of Engineers
- ◆ Dept. of Agriculture
- ◆ Dept. of Interior
  - US Geological Survey
  - Minerals Management Service
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
- ◆ Dept. of Homeland Security



# Multi-entity Organizations



- ◆ Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
- ◆ Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
- ◆ GCOOS
- ◆ Gulf of Mexico Alliance
- ◆ Gulf of Mexico States Accord
- ◆ MEXUS-Gulf Program
- ◆ White Water to Blue Water





# Academia and Laboratories



- ◆ Northern Gulf Institute (only NOAA CI)
- ◆ Harte Research Institute
- ◆ Universities and Labs
  - Alabama (5)
  - Florida (8)
  - Louisiana (9)
  - Mississippi (4)
  - Texas (15)
  - Southern Association of Marine Labs
- ◆ Multiple Sea Grant Facilities



# We are all in this together!

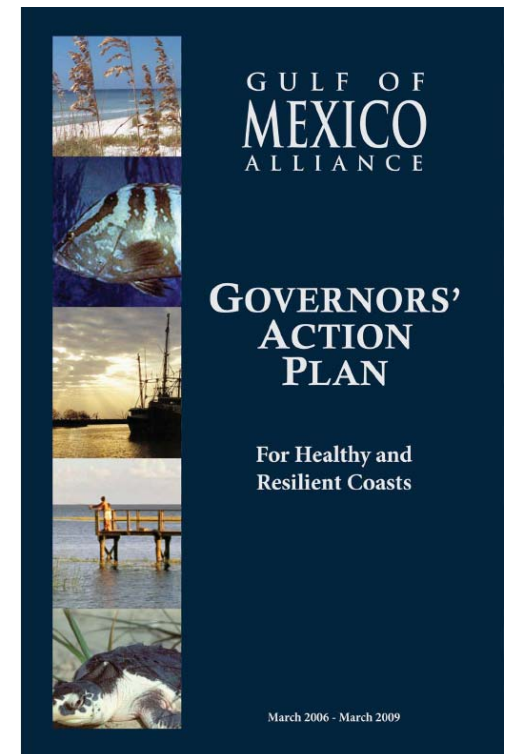


- ◆ Resources are limited, so cooperative efforts are imperative to move resource conservation forward
- ◆ Not going to happen over-night, but will take multi-year effort with regular adjustments
  - Feedback is vital in shaping the future of the effort
  - Using “best practices,” no need to “reinvent the wheel”
  - Open communication is vital
  - Can not afford “turf battles” because price of failure is too high
- ◆ Need to develop a common vision
- ◆ Regional Governance

# Governors' Action Plan

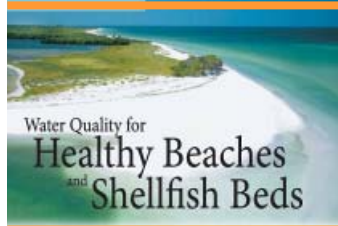


- ◆ Released March 2006
- ◆ Intentionally focused and 36-month action timeframe
  - To build regional “trust” through quick successes
- ◆ 11 actions containing 73 Action Blueprint Steps
- ◆ Signed by all 5 Gulf State Governors and CEQ Director
- ◆ Plan contains 2 actions in Mexico
- ◆ Public input solicited through a series of community workshops



*Related Enclosure:* Governors' Action Plan

# Governors' Action Plan Midcourse Status



**WQ-1:**  
Improve harmful algal bloom detection and forecasting in the U.S. and Mexican Gulf States

WQ-1.A.1	WQ-1.A.7
WQ-1.A.2	WQ-1.A.8
WQ-1.A.3	WQ-1.A.9
WQ-1.A.4	WQ-1.A.10
WQ-1.A.5	WQ-1.A.11
WQ-1.A.6	WQ-1.A.12

**WQ-2:**  
Improve beach water quality Management

WQ-2.A.1	WQ-2.A.7
WQ-2.A.2	
WQ-2.A.3	
WQ-2.A.4	
WQ-2.A.5	
WQ-2.A.6	

**WQ-3:**  
Improve government efficiency in water quality Monitoring

WQ-3.A.1
WQ-3.A.2
WQ-3.A.3
WQ-3.A.4



**N-1:**  
Increase regional coordination in the development of nutrient criteria

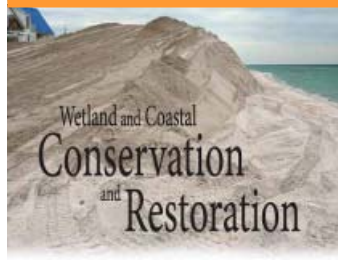
N-1.A.1	N-1.A.6
N-1.A.2	
N-1.A.3	
N-1.A.4	
N-1.A.5	

**N-2:**  
Implement Nutrient reduction activities during Gulf recovery and rebuilding

N-2.A.1	N-2.A.6
N-2.A.2	
N-2.A.3	
N-2.A.4	
N-2.A.5	

**N-3:**  
Assert an aligned, Gulf States position on the need to address Gulf of Mexico hypoxia

N-3.A.1
N-3.A.2
N-3.A.3
N-3.A.4
N-3.A.5

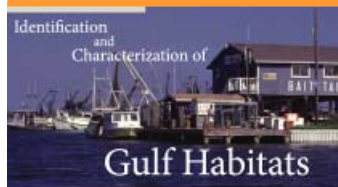


**R-1:**  
Streamline coastal restoration and conservation Efforts

R-1.A.1	R-1.A.8
R-1.A.2	R-1.A.9
R-1.A.3	
R-1.A.4	
R-1.A.5	
R-1.A.6	
R-1.A.7	

**R-2:**  
Increase the safety of Gulf communities by better understanding the risks of localized sea level rise, storm surge and subsidence

R-2.A.1	R-2.A.8
R-2.A.2	
R-2.A.3	
R-2.A.4	
R-2.A.5	
R-2.A.6	
R-2.A.7	



**ID-1:**  
Create and provide access to interactive habitat maps for priority Gulf of Mexico habitats

ID-1.A.1	ID-1.A.6
ID-1.A.2	ID-1.A.7
ID-1.A.3	
ID-1.A.4	
ID-1.A.5	



**ED-1:**  
Galvanize local communities to protect the Gulf of Mexico through targeted education

ED-1.A.1	ED-1.A.6
ED-1.A.2	ED-1.A.7
ED-1.A.3	
ED-1.A.4	
ED-1.A.5	

**ED-2:**  
Conduct a public awareness campaign for the Gulf of Mexico

ED-2.A.1
ED-2.A.2

## Status of 73 Action Blueprint Steps in the Governors' Action Plan

**Green** = Complete (22%)  
**Yellow** = In progress (70%)  
**Red** = Pending (8%)



# For more information on Regional Collaboration

Visit our Websites:

Internal NOAA: [https://www.ppbs.noaa.gov/regional\\_collaboration.html](https://www.ppbs.noaa.gov/regional_collaboration.html)

External: [http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/regional\\_collaboration.htm](http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/regional_collaboration.htm)

