EPA Gulf of Mexico Program
Grants Awarded in FY 2007

MX 96476107 – Nutrient Conference Support

This grant was awarded to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. The project's primary goal is to reduce nutrient loading in Gulf of Mexico waters by supporting State staff travel to technical workshops and conferences. Over the next several years, Gulf States will be establishing numerical criteria for nutrients in coastal ecosystems that will guide regulatory, land use and water quality protection decisions. Because the five States face similar nutrient management challenges at both the estuary level and as the receiving water for the entire Mississippi River watershed, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance is an important venue to build and test management tools to reduce nutrients in Gulf waters and achieve healthy and resilient coastal ecosystems. The MDEQ project supports the Alliance and the Clean Water Act by hosting a workshop in Late Spring/Early Summer of 2007. The objectives of this workshop are to 1) Identify and evaluate nutrient monitoring methodologies including both field and laboratory work; 2) Identify and evaluate nutrient models appropriate for the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia issue; and 3) Work to identify a common approach for the five Gulf of Mexico Alliance member states. The MDEQ is the Lead State organization pertaining to nutrients in the Action Plan and works with the Nutrient Reduction Team to promote and implement the ten priority action/activities outlined in the Nutrient Reduction Team Action Matrix.

MX 96475407 - Microbial Source Tracking Method Validation

This grant was awarded to the University of South Florida, Tampa. The project is a multi-year effort to conduct collaborative laboratory studies and field validations of several microbial source tracking methods (MST) with the aim of providing accurate methodologies thus allowing watershed and resource managers to determine the best strategies for controlling microbial inputs to Gulf of Mexico waters; and, to identify potential source(s) for remediation. The project is a collaborative partnership among scientists, academic institutions, state and federal agencies to support and increase "effective regional interaction" thereby improving the current state of the science knowledge and application of real-time, field-tested methods.

MX 96475407 – Harmful Algal Bloom Research

This grant was awarded to the University of South Florida, Tampa. This project will enable improved integration of existing human scientific and resource management infrastructure in the U.S. and Mexico focusing on Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) research and monitoring in the Gulf of Mexico. The objective is to establish a binational risk assessment and communications partnership to improve the state of the science and develop common approaches for detecting and monitoring HABs in the Gulf of Mexico.

MX 96479207 - Ocean Literacy Project

This grant was awarded to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, entitled "Gulf of Mexico Ocean Literacy Project" will focus on successful strategies for reaching underserved and underrepresented audiences through the provision of field-based activities for middle school teachers and students. The project will use the other Gulf Alliance Priorities such as water quality monitoring, wetland conservation, and nutrient issues in coastal watershed as the context for learning science and building ocean literacy.

MX96479507 - Florida Gulf Alliance

This grant was awarded to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The ultimate goal of this project is to improve water quality in Gulf of Mexico waters through education, outreach, and public awareness. This project will assist the Gulf of Mexico Alliance by providing financial assistance to engage a Florida Gulf Alliance Coordinator and an Assistant to partner with the media on a Gulf wide public awareness campaign. Also, the coordinator and assistant will support Florida related education and community involvement aspects of the five Alliance Priority Issue Action Plans.

MX 96468507 - Jackson County
MX 96469007 – Pearl River County
MX 96468907 – Harrison County
MX 96468407 – Hancock County

These grant projects were awarded and support four (4) Coastal Mississippi county Utility Authority's for their expansion and improvement of infrastructure, as well as the consolidation of water, wastewater and storm water services post Hurricane Katrina.

MX 964736 – Nature Serve

This grant was awarded to Nature Serve. The project will support the development of the Priority Habitat Information Network System (PHINS) by developing and implementing a standard habitat classification. Outputs will include a documented classification of Gulf of Mexico Habitats, a metadata standard, and demonstration for integrating existing habitat data into PHINS.

MX 96475307 - Gulf of Mexico Foundation

This grant was awarded to the Gulf of Mexico Foundation. From the date of the project award to March 2009, the project team will coordinate the Wetland and Coastal Habitat Conservation and Restoration committee established by the Governors' Action Plan of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. A series of workshops will be held in the Gulf States. The resulting output will include descriptions of the habitat issues of the Gulf States, recommendations of "priority" conservation and restoration needs, and suggested solutions to permitting and funding challenges that may exist. The project team will work with potential collaborators to leverage funding, develop and distribute educational

outreach efforts and materials, and build a strong habitat conservation stewardship ethic within the Gulf States and the Gulf of Mexico watershed states.

MX 96476507- Texas Parks & Wildlife

This grant was awarded to the Texas Parks and Wildlife. The grantee will hold an interstate workshop on Freshwater Inflow issues in the Gulf of Mexico coastal region. The conference will identify water management questions to be addressed regarding providing freshwater inflows to estuaries, update participants on the current scientific knowledge regarding the role of freshwater inflows in protecting estuaries, and identify management approaches and scientific work that the Gulf States should undertake to address the relevant water management questions.

MX 96475507- Dubuque County Historical Society

This grant was awarded to the Dubuque County Historical Society. The goal of this environmental education and awareness project is to inform the public of the existence and cause of hypoxic zones in the Gulf of Mexico. The project will develop two interactive displays that will connect the user community to the health of the Gulf and improve the environmental literacy of the people who live in the Mississippi watershed. These two self-contained units will each contain a 42-inch monitor and trackball navigation device. One unit will travel extensively throughout the Mississippi River Valley, and a second unit will be permanently installed at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium.

MX 96475607- Dauphin Island Sea Lab

This grant was awarded to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. The purpose of this project is to: (1) design and conduct a strategic public awareness campaign that will encourage Gulf stewardship and coastal hazard identification and prevention, (2) coordinate funding sources to sustain the public awareness campaign in the short-term and longer-term, and (3) develop and implement a comprehensive, 36-month public awareness campaign to promote stewardship messages associated with the other four Alliance priority issues and community hurricane preparedness.

MX 96476007- Florida Fish & Wildlife

This grant was awarded to the Florida Fish & Wildlife. The goal of this project is to identify, inventory and catalog existing data sets and information related to coastal and marine habitats in the U.S. and Mexican waters of the Gulf of Mexico. This effort will supply the means for the identification of data information gaps.

MX 96480007- Florida Department of Environmental Protection

This grant was awarded to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and directly supports the Gulf Alliance Governor's Action Plan priority issue area of "Water

Quality for Healthy Beaches and Shellfish Beds." It specifically supports the Water Quality Goal # 3 "Improve government efficiency in water quality monitoring." This project focuses on working with each of the Gulf States and their federal and local partners to encourage monitoring and analytical consistency for a key set of water quality parameters.

MX 96483607- Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

This grant was awarded to the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and will allow under-served and under-represented populations more access to environmental information and opportunities related to water quality, eutrophication, coastal habitats, and wetland loss through a series of seminars and the creation of an inter-active web site.