

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OCEAN AND COASTAL ACTIVITIES REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

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Representatives from the Department of the Interior co-chair the Federal Working Groups that support the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Northeast Regional Ocean Council, West Coast Governors Agreement, and the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance, and participates in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration and the Chesapeake Bay Program. Each of these Alliances have identified priority areas such as coastal health, community resilience, education, sustainable development, habitat characterization, and ocean energy resource planning and management. The panel will address how DOI supports the Alliances and will continue to bring critical mission and resource capabilities to partnership opportunities with the States and thereby further the long-term goals and objectives of the regional alliances.

The Department of the Interior has significant ocean and coastal responsibilities including management of 177 island and coastal National Wildlife Refuges, 74 coastal National Parks, 35,000 miles of coastline, and 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf. As an integral part of our Ocean and Coastal Activities Implementation Plan, DOI continues to recognize and support existing regional alliances around the nation through the collaborative work of the Minerals Management Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey. These partnerships allow the Interior bureaus to better leverage and more effectively direct resources, coordinate multiple uses and conservation roles, and communicate more productively with jurisdictions and stakeholders. These collaborations enhance the ecological and economic health of these valuable ecosystems.

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