

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Resilience Working Group



Action Plan II Kickoff Meeting

April 9-10, Five Rivers

Working Group Mission

Coordinate and enhance efforts of local, state, federal, business and non-profit partners to assist coastal communities and ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico region in becoming more resilient in structure and function.

Definition of Resilience

- **Resilience is the capacity of human and natural/physical systems to adapt to and recover from change.**
- **Focus areas within the working definition include:**
 - **culture and heritage**
 - **ecological systems**
 - **economics**
 - **insurance**
 - **smart growth**

Working Group Structure

- **State Co-Chairs:**
 - Tina Shumate, MS Department of Marine Resources
 - Rod Emmer, LA Sea Grant
- **Federal Co-Facilitators:**
 - Heidi Recksiek, NOAA Gulf Coast Services Center
 - John Bowie, EPA Gulf of Mexico Program
- **Initial Members:** Approximately 40, representing state and federal agencies, non-profit groups, and academic institutions
- **Current Members:** Approximately 100 on email list
- **AMT Action Needed:** Recommend forming a core team

Work to Date

- **First meeting held in July of 2007 at All Hands Meeting in Florida.**
- **Meetings hosted by Mississippi/Alabama (Sept. '07), Texas (Dec. '07), and Louisiana (April '08) showcased resilience-related efforts in each state.**
- **Group has learned about and is tracking completion of the resilience actions in the first Governors' Action Plan**
- **Group has identified and prioritized a series of seven draft actions.**
- **Group is planning stakeholder engagement workshops to validate and augment the draft actions.**

Seven Draft Priority Actions

1. Resiliency Index

- **Develop a resiliency index that can be used as a vehicle to introduce and promote the concept to local governments and communities.**
- **Pilot the index with Gulf communities and prepare a final version based on feedback.**

2. Gulf of Mexico Resiliency Clearinghouse

- **Compile resiliency-related information sources, projects, tools, and policies from across the Gulf of Mexico region.**
- **Identify local, state, federal, private, non-profit, and academic efforts, and develop a mechanism for sharing this information (e.g. an atlas or directory of partners, policies, and tools in each of the five Gulf States.)**

3. Resiliency Workshops & Networking Across Professions

- **Improve coordination and communication between coastal emergency managers, floodplain managers, natural resource managers, and county officials to foster and integrate pro-active resiliency and mitigation measures.**
- **Hold workshops across the Gulf region, providing counties and parishes with helpful tools to make their communities more resilient.**

4. Improved Spatial Reference Framework

- **Enhance the vertical accuracy, geographic distribution, and real-time availability of the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), by building out the National CORS Network and supporting repeat observations of gravity and the passive survey control network throughout the Gulf coast.**
- **Establish connections between the NSRS and all local tidal datums, and support the development of a coast-wide vertical datum transformation tool to enable integration of topographic and bathymetric surveys and enhancement of hydrodynamic models.**

5. Incentives Research

- **Research economic and other drivers/incentives that encourage and/or enable sustainable and hazard resilient development. Consider how changes in incentives will impact land use (e.g. type of development.)**
- **Evaluate existing development practices and incentives in high-risk areas and make recommendations... Need some mechanism to identify the gaps. (Group will continue working on language.)**

6. Culture / Heritage Documentation

- **Document the culture and heritage of traditional coastal communities in the Gulf region.**
- **Document traditional uses of coastal resources to demonstrate the connections between healthy ecosystems and healthy communities (sense of place.)**
- **Group will add bullet about research into attitudes/perceptions/beliefs re: resilience**

7. Coastal Community Engagement

- **Enable coastal communities to choose locally appropriate paths to resilience and sustainability through a variety of outreach and engagement tools (e.g. workshops, factsheets, websites, videos, charrettes, etc.)**
- **Work with the education group to get the resiliency message out via variety of partners (e.g. PBS stations, EarthGuage, etc.)**

Recommendations to the Alliance Management Team

- **Formalize the Working Group as a sixth Priority Issue Team.**
- **Identify state representatives to form a “core team.”**
- **Do not broaden the formal charge to the group to include marine debris, oil and gas, and ports/transport... but these issues are incorporated as they relate to resilience of communities.**
- **Encourage other groups to think about these as well...**

An aerial photograph showing a coastal region. A river or estuary flows from the top left towards the center, where it meets a large body of water. The water is dark blue, and the surrounding land is green with some brown patches, possibly indicating urban areas or cleared land. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in white text on the right side of the image.

Questions?

WORKING WEBSITE:

www2.nos.noaa.gov/gomex/