

# Gulf of Mexico Alliance Priority Issue Team Coastal Community Resilience

Gulf of Mexico Alliance  
2009 Implementation  
Workshop





# Successes from the past year

Created a Resilience Index as a Self-Assessment tool for Coastal Communities.

## Coastal Resilience Index

The Coastal Resilience Index is a tool communities can use to examine how prepared they are for storms and storm recovery. To complete the index, community leaders get together and use the tool to guide discussion about their community's resilience to coastal hazards.

### Purpose

- Provides a simple, inexpensive method for community leaders to perform a self-assessment of their community's resilience to coastal hazards
- Identifies weaknesses a community may want to address prior to the next hazard event
- Guides discussion within a community, not intended for comparison between communities



### Index details

- Uses information that is readily available
- Has eight pages and includes six sections (critical facilities and infrastructure, transportation issues, community plans and agreements, mitigation measures, business plans and social systems)
- Asks mainly "yes" or "no" questions
- Can be completed in less than three hours

### Pilot communities (completed index as of Feb. 5, 2009)

- Dauphin Island, Alabama
- Ocean Springs, Mississippi
- St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana
- Bayou La Batre, Alabama
- Orange Beach, Alabama
- Gulf Shores, Alabama





# Successes from the past year

## Development of a Resilience Clearinghouse/Portal



### StormSmart Coasts

[www.stormsmartcoasts.org](http://www.stormsmartcoasts.org)

The StormSmart Coasts Network is a Web resource dedicated to helping decision makers in coastal communities address the challenges of storms, flooding, sea-level rise and climate change.

This network of state and local sites gives coastal decision makers a definitive place to find and share the best resilience-related resources and tools available.

This spring, the site will be released to two pilot states: Mississippi and Massachusetts. The remaining states of the Gulf of Mexico and New England will follow this summer.



Each StormSmart Coasts site includes six main sections:

**BEFORE THE STORM**

- What communities can do to help protect themselves
- Options ranging from very basic (information on participating in the National Flood Insurance Program) to very progressive (Innovative land use planning using a range of tools, including no-build zones)

**DURING THE STORM**

- Emergency phone numbers
- Web sites
- Radio stations

**Coastal Storms Program**  
Gulf of Mexico





# 2009-2010 Annual Work Plan

## Highlights from the Work Plan

- Deployment of the Resilience Index
- StormSmart Coasts Network launched in all 5 states
- Coastal IQ base-line survey measures communities' hazard awareness and risk perception
- Increase knowledge of localized effects of SLR to coastal ecological and urban systems
- Incorporate Resilient best management practices in Clean Marina programs across the Gulf States



# Potential for Annual Work Plans

What would we do with additional funds:

- Create a bilingual edition of the Resilience Index
- Implementation and evaluation of tools we have created for assessments conducted over the 5 years
- Enhancement of the StormSmart Coasts Network
- Expand methods to reach more communities for Coastal IQ, (web-based surveys)
- A dedicated workshop coordinator for each state
- Technology transfer to international application
- Expand the spatial infrastructure network to better understand subsidence and SLR in the Gulf



# Measures of Success for 2009-2010

- 3 measures of success for the first year.
- Conducting SLAMM modeling of Sea Level Rise on natural environments for 3 sites
  - 5 states up and running on the StormSmart Coasts Network
  - 20 Communities identify vulnerabilities using the Resilience Index



# Measures of Success over the next five years

- 3 measures of success for the life of the action plan
- The number of coastal communities that have reduced their vulnerabilities as reflected by improved Resilience Index scores
  - Coastal marinas have adopted more resilient and environmentally responsible practices and volunteered to become designated Clean Marinas
  - The number of local decision makers who communicate and collaborate using StormSmart Coast Network



# Measures of Success over the next five years

- How will the Gulf be better in five years?  
We hope the communities and local government will be better informed and that more resources are made available to assist them in making more informed decisions
- How will we measure that?  
Coastal communities implement recommendations for enhancements to existing resilience policies.