

A satellite-style map of the Gulf of Mexico region, showing the Gulf of Mexico, Florida, and parts of the Caribbean. A white grid is overlaid on the map. The text is centered over the Gulf of Mexico.

GCOOS

GOMA

HABs Workshop II

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GCOOS and GOMA collaborating to design a HABs monitoring system

- GCOOS-RA – interested in providing HABs information as part of the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System.
- GOMA – coastal managers need improved information about HABs and improved understanding of HABs ecology on which to base short- and long-term management decisions and to guide mitigation and control efforts.

GOMA Governors' Action Plan

- *Action Plan II: Water Quality Team*
 - Reduce the effects of HABs by improving the ability to detect, track, and forecast HAB movement and effects in waters along the Gulf Coast
 - *5 HAB Actions with 21 Action Items -*

Governors' Action Plan II

- **WQ-2.1: Provide decision-making information regarding HAB ecology and toxicity to coastal managers. [7 Action Items]**
- **WQ-2.2: Improve the capabilities of Gulf-wide HAB monitoring networks to support HAB detection and tracking. [4 Action Items]**
- **WQ-2.3: Determine the significance of ballast water introduction and transfer of native and invasive HAB species in the Gulf of Mexico. [3 Action Items]**
- **WQ-2.4: Determine the connection between HABs and human/wildlife health effects. [4 Action Items]**
- **WQ-2.5: Develop and evaluate methods and technologies for the prevention, control, and mitigation of HABs and their impacts. [3 Action Items]**

Joint GCOOS/GOMA HABs Workshop Series

- Workshop 1 – Nov 2007: Created conceptual design for HABs monitoring system and initial system design.
- Workshop 2 – Apr 2009: Identify HABs information user needs and gaps in existing monitoring system and technology.
- Workshop 3 – Fall 2009: Complete HABs monitoring system design. Create HABs system implementation plan with implementation priorities.



Goals of This Workshop:

Things we want to have in hand when the workshop ends

1. Identify the user groups for HABs information.

- User group: those needing particular kinds of data or information delivered in a particular way and for a particular purpose or set of purposes.

2. Identify the specific data and product needs for the various user groups.

- All user groups do not need the same data or the same information. What is needed and what are the products needed to deliver them?

3. Define the gaps in HABs data and products, and in the four phases of HABs observing.

Phases: prediction, detection, tracking/monitoring, and forecasting

- What data or products are not available in some or all areas where needed?
- What is missing from each phase of HABs observing that prevents delivering the needed data and products?

4. Provide input on the structure of an observing system to provide the identified data and products.

- How might a HABs observing system be best configured to address the gaps that are identified?

5. Identify the preferred sequence for delivering the data and products that are identified.

- Building out a HABs observing system will need to be done in phases. What data or information is most needed? What data or information is most easily delivered?
- This sequence will help guide the implementation priorities for the system construction.



*Go Forth and
Do Good*