

Gulf of Mexico

- 9th Largest Water Body in the World
- Economic Engine valued at \$3 trillion annually
 - Energy
 - 43% of U.S. Dry Natural Gas
 - 50% of Liquid Natural Gas
 - 44% of U.S. Crude Oil
 - Most Productive Fishery in the World
 - 69% of Shrimp caught in U.S.
 - 70% of Oysters caught in U.S.
 - More Fish, Shrimp & Shellfish than Mid-Atlantic, Chesapeake Bay and New England combined.
- 33 Major River Systems
 - 60% of US drains into the Gulf (MS River 90% of Fresh Water entering the Gulf)

Alliance Strengths

- Governors' Initiative
- Action Oriented
- Cost Effective
- Integrated
- Locally Driven

Gulf Alliance

- Gulf States Governors recognized the importance of State Partnership in response to the Ocean Commission Report
- Governors Alliance organized in 2004
- Importance of Federal State Partnership Framework Recognized in the President's Ocean Action Plan

Value of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance

- A "working model" of regional ocean governance seen as a model by other regions
- State leadership in U.S. OAP implementation
- Will decrease overall costs and increase effectiveness of coastal management on regional scales
- Supporting Gulf Coast recovery and contributing to more resilient coastal communities – protecting lives and livelihoods

Gulf Alliance

- A State-Driven Alliance
- Support from "Federal Family" essential
- Emphasizes Common Gulf-Wide & Local Issues
- Opportunity to influence Congressional Resources
- Recognition that a single State Agency likely is not adequate to represent that State's issues

Gulf Alliance

- Success is Dependent On
 - Effective State Leadership by the Governors
 - Active participation at appropriate level by all
 5 States
 - Strategic Support from our Federal Partners

Organizational Timeline



Regional Concern, Governors' Initiative



- March 2006 GOMA Governors' Action Plan
- Identified regional priority issues and state leads
 - Water quality for healthy beaches and shellfish beds Florida
 - Coastal wetland restoration and conservation Louisiana
 - Environmental education Alabama
 - Identification and characterization of Gulf habitats Texas
 - Reductions in nutrient loading Mississippi
- Engagement of 6 Mexican Gulf States

On the Right Track

- Joint Ocean Commission Initiative's U.S. Ocean Policy Report Card recognized the Gulf Alliance as a bright spot in the nation
 - Regional ocean governance received highest grade
- Admiral Watkins Commends Gulf of Mexico Alliance's Governors' Action Plan



WHAT'S NEXT?

- Phase 2 What happens after 36 months?
- Create a Regional Leadership Council and a Regional Coordination Team
- Develop a 25-30 year Regional Priority
 Plan and Implementation Strategy
- Engage Congress and Congressional Delegations

Gulf of Mexico Governors' Alliance

Regional Priority Plan and Implementation Strategy

