

WORKSHOP DATES

SPANISH FORT,
ALABAMA
JAN. 15, 2008

BILOXI,
MISSISSIPPI
JAN. 17, 2008

ST. PETERSBURG,
FLORIDA
FEB. 19, 2008

BATON ROUGE,
LOUISIANA
FEB. 26, 2008

GALVESTON,
TEXAS
FEB. 28, 2008

GULF OF MEXICO RESEARCH PLANNING WORKSHOPS

The Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant College Programs and numerous federal, state, academic and non-governmental partners invite you to attend a workshop to help identify and prioritize research needs and contribute to a plan that will address the most pressing needs in the region.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Gulf of Mexico Research Planning project is a regional interagency planning effort sponsored by NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program. The purpose of the project is to identify the research priorities and information needs for the Gulf of Mexico and determine strategies to collaboratively address the research priorities.

WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

If you sponsor or conduct Gulf of Mexico coastal or marine research or use Gulf of Mexico research findings, you are invited to attend one of the five planning workshops.

By identifying the topics that you believe are most important, you can help guide the future direction of Gulf of Mexico research, discovery and information dissemination. This is an opportunity for you to share your priorities and provide a service to the Gulf of Mexico research community.

THE WORKSHOP

Over 115 strategic plans have been examined and more than 1,500 individuals already have provided input on Gulf of Mexico research priorities. A synthesis of these data will be a starting point for group discussions at each half-day workshop.

Workshops will be co-facilitated by state Sea Grant College Programs and NOAA's Gulf Services Center.

Workshop participants will be asked to identify specific regional research priorities and gaps that fall within the broad research themes of:

- Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Ocean Resources
- Increasing Resilience to Natural Hazards
- Enabling Marine Operations, Business and Commerce
- The Ocean's Role in Climate
- Improving Ecosystem Health
- Enhancing Human Health



SPONSORS

National and Gulf of Mexico
Sea Grant College Programs

FACILITATION SUPPORT
NOAA Gulf Services Center

HOSTS

Alabama Department
of Conservation
and Natural Resources

Louisiana State University

Mississippi State University

NOAA Fisheries Service

U.S. Geological Survey

OBJECTIVES

- Examine regionally relevant research themes
- Prioritize specific research needs and gaps by building on the results of a regional research survey

REGISTRATION

Registration is available online at <http://masgc.org/gmrp/workshop>. There is no fee to register; however registration is required. Registration is limited, so register early. We cannot guarantee lunch for late registrants.

MORE INFORMATION

Preliminary results of the regional research survey and more information about the Gulf of Mexico Research Project can be found on the Web at: <http://masgc.org/gmrp>.

Contact Steve Sempier, Sea Grant Gulf of Mexico Research Planning Coordinator, at stephen.sempier@usm.edu or (662) 325-5509 for more information.

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL RESEARCH PLAN WORKSHOP

Register online at <http://masgc.org/gmrp/workshop> or complete the following form and send to *Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, 703 East Beach Drive, Ocean Springs, MS 39564* or fax to (228) 818-8841.

Title: Dr. Mr. Ms. Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____ City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Workshop you will attend (check one): Spanish Fort, Ala., Jan. 15 Baton Rouge, La., Feb. 26
 Biloxi, Miss., Jan. 17 Galveston, Texas, Feb. 28
 St. Petersburg, Fla., Feb. 19

Lunch preference (check one): Vegetarian Non-vegetarian

Workshop participants will break into groups according to the societal themes defined in the Ocean Research Priorities Plan. The topics for the breakout groups are listed below. Please choose which group you would like to attend. Place a 1 in front of your first choice, a 2 in front of your second choice, and a 3 in front of your third choice.

___ *Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Ocean Resources* (e.g., examine resource dynamics, value resources)

___ *Increasing Resilience to Natural Hazards* (e.g., forecast hazard events, predict impact of hazards)

___ *Enabling Marine Operations, Business and Commerce* (e.g., predict maritime conditions, enhance transportation, understand interactions between the environment and marine operations)

___ *The Ocean's Role in Climate* (e.g., study and model ocean-climate interactions, examine impact of climate on biogeochemistry and ecosystems, project future climate change)

___ *Improving Ecosystem Health* (e.g., understand and predict natural and anthropogenic impacts to ecosystems, produce socioeconomic assessments to evaluate human impacts, develop metrics for management)

___ *Enhancing Human Health* (e.g., examine and model impacts of marine-based natural resources, value ocean-borne human health threats, develop ocean-based products to enhance human health)