

# GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM BUILD-OUT PLAN

## What is the GCOOS Build-out Plan?

The Plan is a long-term vision, with associated costs, of a comprehensive, user-driven Gulf of Mexico Observing System.

## How can the Plan be used?

The Plan outlines observing system elements and costs that can be used to help prioritize needs, identifies gaps in infrastructure, describes data management/modeling/analysis, justifies funding requests, and identifies potential partnerships based on existing capacities.



## BY THE NUMBERS

**2011**

The year Version 1 of the Plan was released in response to the U.S. Integrated Coastal Ocean and Observing System Act of 2009.

**2014**

The year Version 2 of the Plan was released, with significant updates prompted by needs identified during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 and additional stakeholder needs.

**631**

The total number of people participating in more than 17 workshops over seven years contributing to Versions 1 and 2 of the Plan. At least 50 others contributed via direct email.

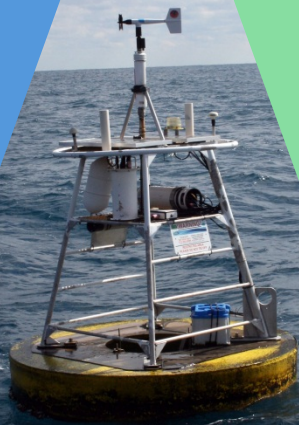
**297**

The number of unique organizations represented.

**32**

The minimum number of national, regional, and local plans reviewed and considered in the Build-out Plan\*.

\*For examples, Gulf of Mexico Alliance Governors' Action Plans, Gulf Monitoring Network Plan, Northern Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Monitoring Implementation Plan, Sea Grant Gulf Research Plan, GoMURC advocacy paper for a Gulf Observing System, The Ocean Conservancy's Restoring the Gulf of Mexico Framework paper, NOAA RESTORE Science Program framework document, NOAA Hydrographic Services Review Panel priorities, Network Gaps Analysis for the National Water Level Observation Network, and U.S. Coast Guard Search and Rescue Optimal Planning System.



# GCOOS BUILD-OUT PLAN BY THE NUMBERS

**19** The number of elements in the plan.

- Surface currents and waves network
- Autonomous meteorological measurement network
- Gliders, AUVs and surface vehicles
- Satellite observations and products
- Aircraft observations and unmanned aerial systems
- Harmful Algal Bloom Integrated Observing System
- Enhanced Physical Oceanographic Real-Time Systems (PORTS)
- Ecosystem modeling
- Circulation modeling
- Governance and management
- Ecosystem monitoring
- Enhanced water level network
- Bathymetry and topography mapping
- Hypoxia monitoring
- Monitoring of river discharge to the Gulf
- Integrated Water Quality Monitoring Network and Beach Water Quality Monitoring
- Mooring network
- Data management and communications
- Outreach and Education

**13** The number of teams of subject matter experts that wrote the Build-out Plan.

The number of regional programs coordinated with the Plan.

- 4**
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance
  - Gulf of Mexico University Research Collaborative
  - Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem
  - Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing System Regional Association

**2** The number of ways to provide input to the Plan.  
Contact GCOOS Executive Director, Dr. Barb Kirkpatrick:  
E-mail: [barb.kirkpatrick@gcoos.org](mailto:barb.kirkpatrick@gcoos.org)  
Phone: (941) 724-4320

**1** The number of opportunities the Gulf community will have to develop a sustainable, comprehensive, stakeholder-driven observing system!



Implementation of the Build-out Plan can be done by different entities, as capacities, mechanisms, and resources make sense. The GCOOS-RA intends to integrate and freely serve all data from the observing system, as well as non-proprietary data products.

For more information:

Dr. Barb Kirkpatrick, Executive Director

[Barb.kirkpatrick@gcoos.org](mailto:Barb.kirkpatrick@gcoos.org)

<http://gcoos.org/>

