Building the GCOOS

Environmental Education

Sharon Walker
Long-Term Alliance Partnership Education Goals

- Enhance environmental literacy concerning the GOM resources and issues.
- Increase stewardship of the GOM through measurable, targeted education.
- Improve cross-Alliance communication and collaboration to assist other Priority Issue Teams with public E&O.
Galvanize local communities to protect the GOM through education programs and projects.

Five-Year Outcomes:

• Continue to implement PD programs for a wide range of audiences;
• Conduct annual environmental education and outreach meetings;
• Increase access to volunteer/service-learning opportunities and activities;
• Identify and strengthen relations with local, state and regional organizations; and
• Develop at least five projects that engage the public.
Conduct Public Awareness Activities for the GOM.

Five-Year Outcomes:

- Complete and expand the pilot, CBSM program.
- Develop and disseminate regional messages for the GOM.
- Utilize current or advanced technologies to reach audiences.
Galvanize the K-20 community to elevate environmental literacy to create a future informed citizenry who engages in action for the health and welfare of the Gulf and connected ecosystems.

Five-Year Outcomes:
• Expand experiential learning opportunities across all grade levels;
• Incorporate state standards and OLEP&FC into programs and field exercises;
• Continue to build programs targeted toward underrepresented/underserved populations; and
• Provide PD and training with data and best available technology.
Include information on the economic value of the Gulf of Mexico and its ecosystems in targeted environmental communications.

Five-Year Outcomes:

• Incorporate the economic value of the GOM and its ecosystems into local, regional and national environmental education and public awareness;
• Include in the online digital library information on the economics of Gulf coastal ecosystems;
• Develop a Teacher’s Guide on the ecological benefits of the GOM; and
• Develop media to communicate the results of the clearinghouse, as well as examples of results of economic value on GOM natural resources.
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Discussion