Gulf of Mexico Alliance
GOMA

- “Birthed” in 2004 by FL Gov. Jeb Bush
- Leadership assumed in 2006 by MS Gov. Haley Barbour
- State lead, federally supported partnership
- Academia, NGOs, non-profits, businesses
- Action Plan I, 2006-2009, 73 specific actions, 95% completed
- Action Plan II, 2009-2014, just released, 6 priority areas, 25 focus areas, 97 specific actions
Alliance Organization

Alliance Management Team
Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi (Chair), Texas

Federal Workgroup
Co-Chairs
EPA, DOI, NOAA

- CEQ
- NASA
- NSF
- USACE
- USDA – NRCS, USFS
- USDOC – NOAA
- USDOD – U.S. Navy
- USDOE
- USDOI – MMS, NPS, USFWS, USGS
- USDHHS – FDA
- USDOS
- USDOT
- USEPA

Priority Issue Teams

Water Quality
*Florida lead*
AL, LA, MS, TX
EPA & NOAA lead support

Restoration
*Louisiana lead*
AL, FL, MS, TX
DOI & USACE lead support

Education
*Alabama lead*
FL, LA, MS, TX
EPA & NOAA lead support

Habitat ID
*Texas lead*
AL, FL, LA, MS
DOI & NASA lead support

Resilience
*Mississippi lead*
AL, FL, LA, TX
NOAA & EPA lead support

Nutrients
*Mississippi lead*
AL, FL, LA, TX
EPA & USDA lead support
Alliance Partnership Successes

- Gulf-wide approach and plan for nutrient characterization in support of numeric criteria development
- Strategic Storm Recovery Rebuilding Toolbox for local, state and federal decision managers
- Resiliency Index developed for Coastal Communities
- Working with Corps of Engineers and other federal & state partners to change the Federal Standard to allow the Corps to value environmental benefits
- Provided HABs sampling vessels to Campeche & Veracruz
- Significant # of septic systems taken off line
- Established DEQ beach monitoring program
Alliance Partnership Successes

- Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Plan completed for 5 southern most MS Counties
  - Low cost/low maintenance de-centralized Wastewater Systems planned for low density communities in Mississippi
- Clean Marina Program established in the Gulf States
- National Heritage Area dedicated in Mississippi
- 109 rivers and streams *delisted* as polluted in Mississippi
- 7 hydrological monitoring stations installed
  - 16,000 trees planted in Coastal Mississippi
  - 50-acre marsh created thru beneficial use in Mississippi
Alliance Partnership Successes

- 870 acres of wetlands acquired; restoration done on 250 acres in Coastal Mississippi
- 1,200 acres of oyster habitat created
- 51 inshore and 16 offshore artificial reefs created in Coastal Mississippi
- 1,000,000 Acres enrolled in conservation practices in the Yazoo basin of Mississippi
Governors’ Action Plan II
Released June 2009

- Sets a course for actions designed to improve the health of coastal ecosystems and economies of the Gulf in ways that a single entity could not achieve
- Five-year regional plan
- Expanded partnerships including international partners, business, NGOs, academia
- A strategy for tangible results
Challenges Addressed in Action Plan II

Gulf Challenges

- Sustaining Gulf Economy
- Improving Ecosystem Health
- Mitigating the Impacts of and Adapting to Climate Changes
- Mitigating Harmful Effects to Coastal Water Quality
Priorities in Action Plan II

Water Quality for Healthy Beaches and Seafood - FL

Habitat Conservation and Restoration - LA

Ecosystems Integration and Assessment - TX

Reducing Nutrient Impacts to Coastal Ecosystems - MS

Coastal Community Resilience – LA/MS

Environmental Education - AL
Current Map

Bottom Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)
July 21-27, 2008

Data source: N. Rabalais, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
Map by B. Babin
MS&LA Provide $1 million each for nutrient reduction actions

USDA Announces $320M over four years

NOAA Announces $40M for monitoring and reduction strategies

EPA Provides $15 million to 319 (one year)

NASA Provides $15M • (2 years)

NASA/EPA Partner to provide modelling & satellite data

MS&LA STIMULUS PACKAGE TO THE FEDS
Current MDMR/USGS Hydrological Monitoring Stations on the Mississippi Gulf Coast

1) Biloxi Bay at Point Cadet Harbor
2) Biloxi East Channel Range Light
3) Back Bay Biloxi at Popp’s Ferry Bridge
4) West Pascagoula River at Gautier, MS
5) Pascagoula River at Pascagoula, MS
6) Jourdan River at Kiln, MS
7) USCG St. Josephs Light No 22
8) East Pearl River at CSX crossing
9) Ft. Bayou at Ocean Springs, MS
10) USCG Merrill Shell Bank Light
11) USGS Gulfport Light
12) East Ship Island Light
13) Round Island Light