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GULF STAR

GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS
FOR A HEALTHIER GULF



Public-Private

- 5 Gulf States \$300,000/year
- Federal Agencies \$50,000 - \$200,000/agency
- Businesses \$25,000 - \$100,000/business
- NGOs/Academics \$10,000 - \$25,000/organization

GOAL

\$1,000,000 ANNUALLY

Message From Our Executive Director



Gulf Star projects are only made possible by the shared vision of our partners: Shell Exploration & Production, The Nature Conservancy, Freeport McMoRan, Inc., Anadarko, BHP, Hess Petroleum, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Their recognition that regional collaboration is essential to project success is what makes this program work.

Lama W. Bowie

Gulf Star Partner

“BHP is committed to working with communities to develop strategies to combat environmental challenges. GOMA’s Gulf Star program fits with our overall approach of being an active partner to help communities respond to risks in a sustainable way.”

SARAH DANIEL, BHP

Gulf Star Grant Recipient

“Through the Gulf of Mexico Alliance small grant program, the City was able to identify options that reduced vulnerability with comparable construction costs, reduced maintenance costs, and improved aesthetics for Inner Harbor Park. It is imperative that we keep this conversation going for the health and resiliency of our Gulf Coast.”

**CAROLYN MARTIN,
CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS**

Gulf Star Partner

“Participating in the Gulf Star program is a great way to make sure that our Federal dollars go further, making impacts beyond what we can do alone. It’s a great example of a public-private partnership and how we can work regionally with private industry, states, and others to have collective impact on shared needs.”

**JOHN TIRPAK
USFWS**



Partners

STATE Alabama Florida Louisiana Mississippi Texas

FEDERAL



THE PARTNERSHIP

PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES

Projects

Regional Coastal Resilience - Gulfwide

Linking Science Communication and Municipal Planning - TX

Cross-Sector Snapshot of Community Resilience - LA

Wind Engineering and Testing for Optimal Design for Wind Hazards - LA

Urban Youth Conservation Corps - LA

Microplastics Citizen Science Project - Gulfwide

Watershed Monitoring with Underserved High School Students - AL

Video Case Studies - Gulfwide

Citizen Science Water Monitoring in the Florida Panhandle - FL

Fostering Resilient Building Practices - MS, LA, TX

Pointe-Au-Chien Community Resilience - LA

Incorporating Additional Indicators into the Community Resilience Index - Gulfwide

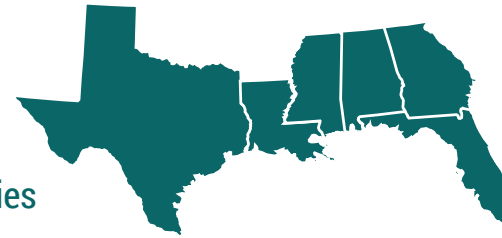
Gulf Coast Adaptation and Resilience Plan - Gulfwide



Impacts TO PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES

14

Communities Served



Morgan City, LA - Abita Springs, LA - Mobile County, AL - Baldwin County, AL - Rockport, TX - Aransas County, TX - South Padre Island, TX - Covington, LA - Terrebonne Parish, LA - Ocean Springs, MS - Fairhope, AL - New Port Richey, FL - Islamorada, FL - Treasure Island, FL

162

Outreach Activities

PRESENTATIONS

PUBLICATIONS

EVENTS

1,000

Volunteer Hours



MARINE DEBRIS PICK-UP

74

Organizations Benefitted



FEDERAL AGENCIES

STATE AGENCIES

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BUSINESSES



Impacts TO PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Investing in Resilience for the Florida Keys

The South Florida Regional Planning Council recently completed a project in the Florida Keys, focused on the village of Islamorada. Planners mapped storm surge for a Category 1 hurricane now, and in the future, when sea levels will be higher. “By knowing the risks, we know where to target resilience efforts,” said Regional Planner Alyssa Wood. Using new data allows for more localized recommendations and results from the project can help the community update evacuation

zones, building codes, and comprehensive plans. Understanding key assets at risk to flooding now and in the future is a valuable investment, as noted by Patxi Pastor, Founder and CEO of the Celebrations of the Sea Foundation, “\$1 in mitigation or planning can save \$4-6 on the recovery side.”

ECONOMY Projects

Regional Coastal Resilience - Gulfwide

Cross-Sector Snapshot of Community Resilience
- LA

Fostering Resilient Building Practices - MS, LA,
TX

Expansion of Harmful Algal Bloom Sensor
Network - FL

Additional Harmful Algal Bloom Gliders - FL

Nutrient Reduction Social and Civic Engagement
Survey - FL, AL, TX

Plastic Free Gulf Coast - Gulfwide



Impacts TO THE ECONOMY



2

Workforce
Development
Projects



11

Local
Businesses
Improved



16

Restaurants
Reducing
Single-Use
Plastic



Increased
Time That
Shellfish
Beds Are Open



Impacts TO THE ECONOMY

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Building a Local Green Economy

Plastic Free Gulf Coast is eliminating single-use plastics, such as straws and utensils, through education and incentives to local businesses. The project has two main goals: 1) empowering businesses and customers to make an immediate positive impact on the environment and 2) building a local green economy around quality, eco-conscious products. Because 80% of marine debris is plastic and 50% of that is single-use disposable items like straws, “skipping the plastic” can have an immediate impact on reducing pollution. So far, 16 restaurants in three states are participating in Plastic Free Gulf Coast and

additional businesses are interested in joining.

“We were going through 4,000 plastic straws per week... most were being used in the restaurant and then thrown away. This is something we’ve wanted to do for a long time... and it’s much cheaper than the traditional products we were using.”

**Whitney LaFrance, Manager, Mockingbird Café
Bay St. Louis, MS**

ENVIRONMENT

Projects

Nutrient Reduction Social and Civic Engagement Survey - FL, AL, TX

Tracking Trash - AL

Marine Debris Education & Prevention - LA

Seagrass Assessment - Gulfwide

Living Shorelines Suitability Modeling - FL

Updating & Upgrading GOMAportal - Gulfwide

Marine Debris Dash - FL

Connectivity of Sea Turtles in Gulf Habitats - FL, LA

Species Recovery Plan Review - Gulfwide

Understanding Recovery and Species Use of Restored Habitats - Gulfwide

Monitoring and Metadata Catalog - AL

Louisiana Inshore to Offshore Water Monitoring - LA

Seagrass Status and Trends - Gulfwide

Gulf Coast Vulnerability Assessment - Gulfwide

Gulf Coast Adaptation and Resilience Plan - Gulfwide

Expansion of Harmful Algal Bloom Sensor Network - FL

Additional Harmful Algal Bloom Gliders - FL

Plastic Free Gulf Coast - Gulfwide



Impacts

TO THE ENVIRONMENT

51

Citizen Scientist
Monitoring Sites
Across
the Gulf



Working In

8

Habitat
Types

open Gulf (offshore)

sargassum

seagrass

nearshore hard bottom

mangrove

marsh

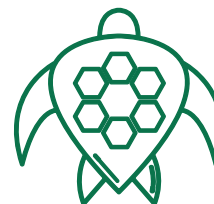
forest

beach

Improving
Recovery for

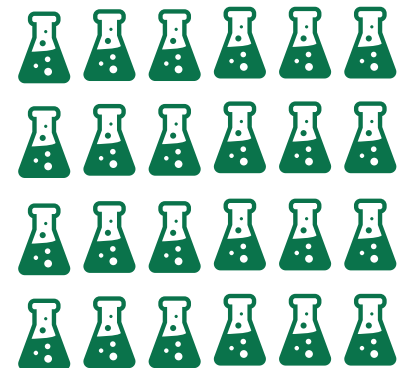
27

Threatened &
Endangered
Wildlife Species



24

New Water
Sampling
Sites





Impacts TO THE ENVIRONMENT

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Living Shorelines: Filling Data Gaps, Protecting Coastlines

Across the Gulf of Mexico, two projects are providing important information to enhance the success of living shorelines. These structures control erosion using natural materials, including marsh plants and oysters, and protect coastal property while enhancing habitat. Living shorelines are more resilient than traditional bulkheads, provide protection from storms, filter pollution, and create homes for fish and wildlife.

One project spans the entire region, identifying existing shoreline data needed for the construction of living shorelines and current gaps in coverage. The second

project focuses on Tampa Bay, where multiple threats have put a spotlight on the importance of coastal protection. Researchers modeled shorelines and identified only small portions of the bay that should be protected using current practices of hardened revetments or bulkheads. Nearly 90% of the bay would benefit from installing living shorelines or protecting and enhancing natural marshes and mangroves. Project maps are available online and results have been shared with homeowners, private businesses, and natural resource managers to help them make better decisions.

Gulf Star Program



\$2.3M
in Project Funding

100%
of private
dollars directly
fund projects

PRIVATE PARTNERS

ANADARKO

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

FREEMPORT MCMORAN

BHP

SHELL

HESS

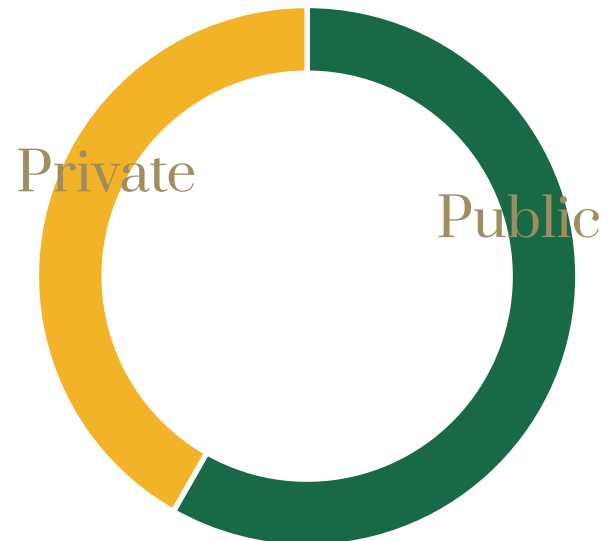
45
projects



Private/Public FUNDING



131
institutions &
participating
partners



Participating Communities



GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE

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