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# GULF STAR

GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE





# gulf star program

The Alliance's **Gulf Star Program** is a unique public-private partnership that leverages contributions from agencies and businesses. Gulf Star provides funding for projects that support healthy beaches, clean waters, productive ecosystems, and thriving coastal communities.

The Gulf Star Program includes four theme areas: **Coastal Community Resilience, Environmental Education, Habitats & Wildlife, and Clean Water.**

For more information or to become a Gulf Star partner, visit [gulfofmexicoalliance.org/gulfstar](https://gulfofmexicoalliance.org/gulfstar).

**Front cover:**  
*roseate spoonbills in Florida*

**Current page:**  
*Anna Maria Island, Florida*



# message from the executive director

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For 18 years, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance has strived to advance the concept of collaboration to address priority issues in the Gulf of Mexico region. This past year, we continued to pursue that interest through our Gulf Star Program, investing in our commitments to coastal community resilience, environmental education and stewardship, habitats and wildlife, and clean water. Our success is built upon the strength of GOMA's collaborative formula and the Gulf Star projects described in this report are only made possible by the shared vision of our partners.

This annual report celebrates the evolution of the Gulf Star program since 2016 and highlights collaboration and projects from 2022. We recognize that these efforts require a collective effort and we would not be where we are today without the financial support of each of our Gulf Star partners. Thank you to all of our funders, project partners, staff, and volunteers for supporting these efforts to advance a healthy and resilient Gulf of Mexico.

*Lana W. Bowie*

# 2022 gulf star partners

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Alabama

Florida

Louisiana

Mississippi

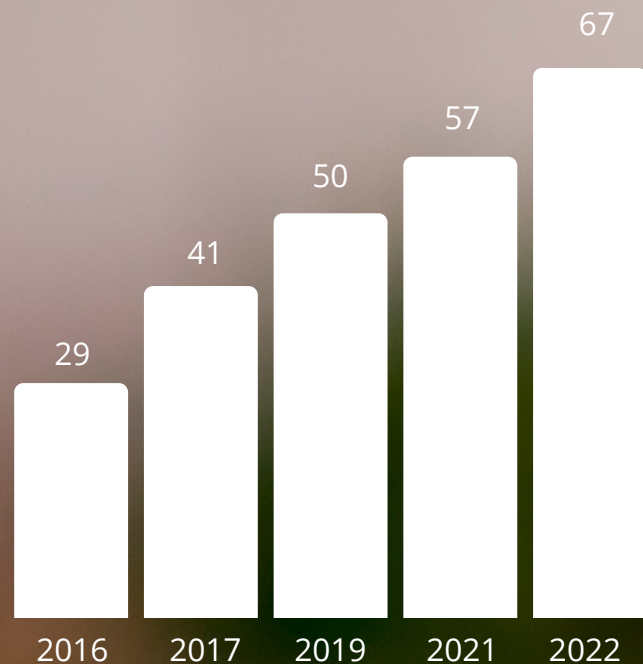
Texas





# by the numbers

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number of projects

**10** new projects  
this year

**67** total projects  
(2016-2022)

**\$3.3**

million in  
total funding

**15** community-based  
resilience projects

**60%** include underserved (rural,  
minority, and/or low income)  
populations





# coastal community resilience

Gulf Coast communities are deeply shaped by a sense of place and their connections to the natural environment. Communities that plan and prepare for storms, flooding, and other coastal impacts are able to recover from disasters more quickly.

The following GOMA Priority Issue Teams and Cross-Team Initiatives worked on projects in this theme: Coastal Community Resilience, Human Benefits of Nature, and Integrated Planning.

2022 projects funded by:





# coastal community resilience



Corpus Christi, Texas

## new projects

### **Port Sulphur Community Resilience Implementation**

*Plaquemines Parish Government | Louisiana*

The town of Port Sulphur is improving emergency communications and educating community members on how to protect their homes from flooding.

### **Increasing Community Resilience Using Green Design Practices**

*Backcountry Hunters & Anglers | Texas*

Volunteers are planting 15 acres of marsh grass to decrease ongoing coastal shoreline erosion and protect nearby communities.

### **Training to Support Community Resilience Assessments**

*Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant | Gulfwide*

Practitioners across the Gulf are being trained to facilitate the *Community Resilience Index*, increasing capacity for community resilience assessments.

### **Understanding the Economic Benefits of Eco-Tourism**

*Mississippi State University | Mississippi*

Economists are providing information on the current status of eco-tourism businesses, their impacts on the economy, and ways to foster growth.

### **Public Awareness Videos Promoting Eco-Tourism**

*Mississippi State University Television Center | Mississippi*

Partners are creating a public service announcement and video posts for social media to educate the public and promote eco-tourism.



# coastal community resilience

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Mobile, Alabama

## completed projects

### **Integrated Resilience and Conservation Planning**

*Texas AgriLife Extension | Mississippi and Alabama*

### **Port Sulphur Community Resilience Assessment**

*Louisiana Sea Grant | Louisiana*

### **Pointe-Au-Chien Community Resilience**

*First People's Conservation Council, Lowlander Center, and LA Sea Grant | Louisiana*

### **Incorporating Socio-Economic Indicators into the Community Resilience Index**

*Harte Research Institute | Gulfwide*

### **Updated Homeowner Handbooks**

*Gulf of Mexico Alliance | Gulfwide*

### **Fostering Resilient Building Practices**

*Smart Home America | Gulfwide*

### **Linking Science Communication and Municipal Planning**

*University of Texas Marine Science Institute | Texas*

### **Cross-Sector Snapshot of Community Resilience**

*Louisiana Sea Grant | Louisiana*

### **Design Testing for Wind Hazards**

*Louisiana State University | Louisiana*

### **Regional Coastal Resilience Mini-Grants**

*Various Coastal Communities | Gulfwide*



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Equinor shares the Gulf Star Program's vision of thriving Gulf Coast communities and ecosystems, supported by strong collaboration between governments, industry, and society. As a company, we seek to have a positive impact wherever we're present, and being a Gulf Star partner is one way we fulfill Equinor's purpose of turning natural resources into energy for people and progress for society.

David Hartz, Head of U.S. Land, Regulatory and Government Affairs  
**Equinor**

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# environmental education

2022 projects funded by:

Diverse education, outreach, and engagement opportunities create better Gulf stewardship. We are committed to engagement that makes measurable impacts and increases diversity and inclusion.

The following GOMA Priority Issue Teams and Cross-Team Initiatives worked on projects in this theme: Education & Engagement and Marine Debris.





# environmental education



green heron in Florida

## new projects

### **What the Gulf Gives Awareness Campaign**

*Gulf of Mexico Alliance | Gulfwide*

This year-long awareness communications campaign celebrates connections between the Gulf of Mexico and the benefits it provides people.

### **Environmental Stewardship with Students**

*Lincoln Middle School | Texas*

Students are adopting sustainability practices and developing a local conservation project to become recognized as a "NOAA Ocean Guardian" school.

## in progress projects

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Intern Program**

*Gulf of Mexico Alliance | Gulfwide*

### **Water Bottle Refill Stations in Local Schools**

*Gulf of Mexico Alliance and Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program | Louisiana*

### **Fully Serving the Underserved Training and Guidebook**

*Gulf of Mexico Alliance | Gulfwide*



# environmental education

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New Orleans, Louisiana

## completed projects

### **Embrace the Gulf Initiative**

*Hummingbird Ideas and MS Congeniality TV | Gulfwide*

### **Watershed Monitoring with Underserved High School Students**

*Mobile Baykeeper | Alabama*

### **Video Case Studies**

*Mississippi State University Television Center and Dauphin Island Sea Lab | Gulfwide*

### **Urban Youth Conservation Corps**

*Limitless Vistas | Louisiana*

### **Tracking Trash**

*Dauphin Island Sea Lab | Alabama*

### **Marine Debris Dash**

*Ocean Hour | Florida*

### **Plastic Free Gulf Coast**

*Gulf Coast Community Design Studio | Mississippi*

### **Microplastics Citizen Science Project**

*Mississippi State University | Gulfwide*

### **Marine Debris Education and Prevention**

*Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program | Louisiana*



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At Motiva, we know how vital it is to protect not only our environment, but all the people in it. That's why we are a proud partner of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, supporting environmental sustainability and educational outreach programs for our local community.

Brenda Allen, Vice President, Corporate HSSE

**Motiva**

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# habitats & wildlife

2022 projects funded by:

Conservation and management of coastal habitats and wildlife species are essential to healthy Gulf ecosystems and economies. Stakeholders benefit from access to data and information that can be used for local, state, and regional decision-making.

The following GOMA Priority Issue Teams and Cross-Team Initiatives worked on projects in this theme: Data & Monitoring, Habitat Resources, and Wildlife & Fisheries.





# habitats & wildlife



mangroves in Florida

## new projects

### **Diamondback Terrapin Habitat Research**

*Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi | Texas*

Scientists are working to fill gaps in understanding of terrapin habitat use in coastal Texas, a need identified in the recent *Terrapin Conservation Action Plan*.

### **Homeowner Training for Living Shorelines Permitting**

*Mississippi State University | Gulfwide*

Researchers are identifying obstacles to living shorelines permitting and training homeowners to navigate the permitting process.

### **Louisiana Coastal Bird Stewardship and Outreach**

*National Audubon Society | Louisiana*

Education, outreach, and monitoring activities are supporting the conservation of vulnerable beach nesting birds, such as least terns and plovers.



# habitats & wildlife

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brown pelican in Mississippi

## in progress projects

### **Gulf of Mexico Open Data Platform Expansion**

*CPC, Inc. | Gulfwide*

### **Terrapin Education and Outreach**

*Galveston Bay Foundation | Texas*

## completed projects

### **Diamondback Terrapin Conservation Plan**

*The Nature Conservancy | Gulfwide*

### **Understanding Recovery and Species Use of Restored Habitats**

*Abt Associates | Gulfwide*

### **Gulf of Mexico Open Data Platform Development**

*NatureServe | Gulfwide*

### **Developing Capacity for Adaptation and Resilience Planning**

*Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | Gulfwide*

### **Sea Level Rise Workshop**

*Gulf of Mexico Alliance and Northern Gulf of Mexico Sentinel Site Cooperative | Gulfwide*

### **Living Shorelines Data Inventory**

*Gulf Coast Research Lab | Gulfwide*

### **Monitoring and Metadata Catalog**

*University of South Florida Water Institute | Gulfwide*



# habitats & wildlife

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Apalachicola, Florida

## completed projects

### **Seagrass Assessment**

*CNL World | Gulfwide*

### **Living Shorelines Site Suitability Modeling**

*Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | Florida*

### **Sediment Resource Database**

*Aptim | Louisiana*

### **Updating and Upgrading GOMAportal**

*Harte Research Institute | Gulfwide*

### **Seagrass Status and Trends**

*CNL World | Gulfwide*

### **Connectivity of Sea Turtles in Gulf Habitats**

*Inwater Research Group | Louisiana and Florida*

### **Species Recovery Plan Review**

*Ashley Ballou Consultant | Gulfwide*





# clean water

2022 projects funded by:



Clean, healthy water resources are vital to strong communities and a thriving economy within the Gulf of Mexico region. Advancing science, improving stewardship, and enhancing partnerships protects waterways vital to the Gulf of Mexico region.

The following GOMA Priority Issue Teams and Cross-Team Initiatives worked on projects in this theme: Water Resources and Marine Debris.



# clean water

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Gulf Shores, Alabama

## in progress projects

### **Marine Debris Awareness and Outreach**

*Florida Aquarium | Florida*

### **Texas Water Quality Economics Study**

*Harte Research Institute | Texas*

### **Citizen Science Water and Marine Debris Monitoring**

*Galveston Bay Foundation | Texas*

### **Citizen Science Water and Marine Debris Monitoring**

*Pontchartrain Conservancy | Louisiana*

## completed projects

### **Florida Water Quality Economics Study**

*The Balmoral Group | Florida*

### **Inshore to Offshore Monitoring**

*Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority | Louisiana*

### **Citizen Science Water Monitoring**

*University of Florida | Florida*

### **Expansion of Harmful Algal Bloom Sensor Network**

*Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | Florida*

### **Additional Harmful Algal Bloom Gliders**

*Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | Florida*

### **Nutrient Reduction Social and Civic Engagement Survey**

*Mississippi State University | Texas, Alabama, Florida*



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Clean Gulf Associates is extremely proud to support and be a part of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, whose work is so vital in not only promoting the economic importance of the Gulf of Mexico to the nation, but in maintaining its long-term environmental sustainability.

Frank Paskewich, President  
**Clean Gulf Associates**

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Gulf Star membership for Hess is founded on the confidence we have in the team at the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. Working together, sharing the same values, the partnership has resulted in a series of successful projects that contribute to a resilient and healthy Gulf of Mexico, while supporting the Gulf Coast's communities.

Joel Noyes, Senior Manager,  
Government & External Affairs  
**HESS Corporation**

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*Fairhope, Alabama*







# the gulf of mexico alliance

The **Gulf of Mexico Alliance** is a regional partnership focused on enhancing the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. Led by the five Gulf states, our network includes over 1,000 members and 165 participating organizations. Our actions support commitments to strengthening community resilience, increasing regional data sharing, serving underrepresented communities, and improving management of habitats and wildlife species.

**5** states  
(AL, FL, LA, MS, TX)

**1,000+** members

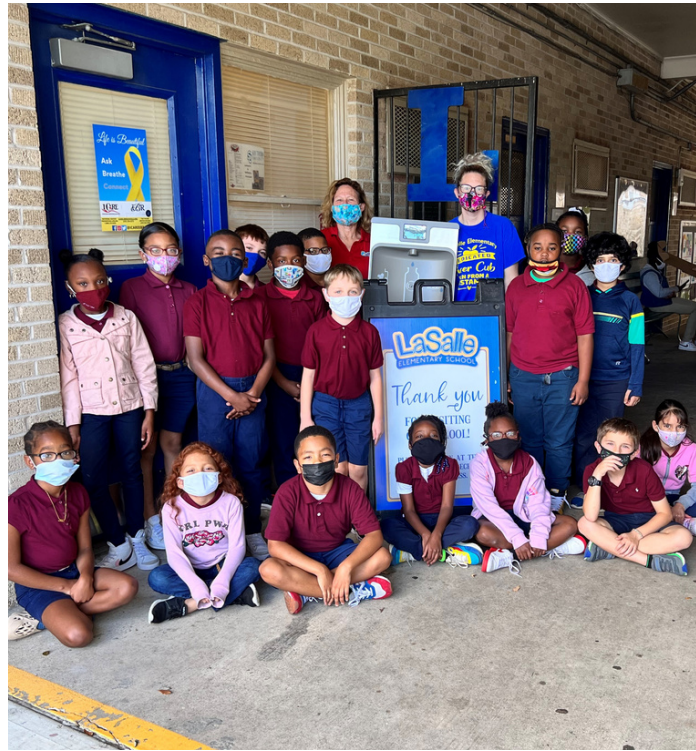
**9** priority issues

**165+** organizations

**Current page:**  
*Islamorada, Florida*

**Back cover:**  
*ghost crab in Alabama*





building partnerships for a healthier gulf







# GULF STAR

GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE





# Gulf of Mexico Alliance

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gulfofmexicoalliance.org

