

# Monday Workshops

Gulf Conference 2026



## Monday, May 4

Pre-Conference Workshops (conference registration required to attend)

**All Day (8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)**

**GCOOS Staff Retreat** (Open to GCOOS staff members)

Host: Gulf of America Coastal Ocean Observing System

Staff will discuss their work providing on-demand information about the Gulf's coastal and ocean waters.

**Improving HAB Communication around the Gulf** (Open to all registered attendees)

Host: Gulf of America Alliance Water Resources Team

This workshop will feature how the Gulf states can increase communication between and among state and federal agencies, academia, non-profits, and industries. Additionally, we will focus on gaps in communication, how to address those gaps, and how to address public messaging.

**Gulf Science Collaborative** (Open to all registered attendees)

Host: Gulf of America Alliance

Participants will continue to build on previous efforts by discussing priority actions for the collaborative, conducting a landscape analysis of additional activities needing scientific input, analyzing information gaps, and outlining next steps.

**Marine Debris Planning and Development Workshop** (Open to all registered attendees)

Host: Gulf of America Alliance Marine Debris Cross-Team

The Marine Debris Cross Team Initiative will hold a planning and development session to strengthen regional effectiveness in the areas of prevention, removal, and research.

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## Morning (8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

**Site Visits to D'Olive Watershed Restoration Areas** (Open to all registered attendees)

Host: Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

The D'Olive Watershed Restoration Program has demonstrated scalable solutions addressing stormwater runoff, loss of riparian and wetland habitat, and downstream pollutant transport to Mobile Bay. Attendees will learn about implementing a watershed approach and visit several restoration projects in the area.

**Next Generation Oil Spill Researchers Initiative** (Open to all registered attendees)

Host: NASEM Gulf Research Program

This enlightening session will feature emergency responders, industry representatives, researchers, and community leaders. Participants will learn more about what is needed to prepare for another spill of national significance and to explore potential opportunities for the next generation of oil spill research leaders.

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## Morning (8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) – continued

### **Gulf Coast Adaptation and Resilience Plan Project Working Session** (Open to all registered attendees)

Host: Gulf of America Alliance Integrated Planning Cross-Team

Participants will discuss anticipated project activities including updates to the Gulf Coast Adaptation and Resilience Plan Strategy, habitat-change numerical models, and vertical land motion data inputs.

### **Watershed-Scale Collaboration: Florida's Apalachicola Basin and Beyond** (Open to all registered attendees)

Host: Balmoral Group

This workshop will focus on sharing and refining tools, coordination strategies, and restoration priorities developed through the Apalachicola Watershed Coordination Blueprint. Discussion will revolve around best practices and strategies applicable to practitioners in any Gulf state.

### **Gulf Seagrass Community of Practice** (Open to Seagrass CoP members)

Host: Gulf Seagrass Community of Practice

Participants will provide an update for each state, with the goal of completing a revised and updated seagrass status and trends report by 2030. The subsequent group discussion will be moderated to form consensus on the next round of activities.

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## Morning (9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)

### **Assessing Stakeholder Feedback for Evolving the GOMOD Platform** (Open to all registered attendees)

Host: Gulf of America Alliance Data & Monitoring Team

This session will begin with a guided overview of the platform's current features and capabilities. Participants will then provide input on desired enhancements, suggest new utilities and data layers, and discuss the needs of regional stakeholders.

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## Afternoon (1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

### **CMAWG Annual Meeting** (open to CMAWG members)

Host: RESTORE Council Monitoring and Assessment Workgroup

Workgroup members will discuss their work coordinating region-wide habitat monitoring, mapping, and water quality programs in the Gulf.

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## Afternoon (1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

### **Gulf Coast Estuary and Geographic Programs** (Open to program members)

Host: Mississippi Sound Estuary Program

Calling all Gulf Estuary Programs and EPA Geographic Programs! You are invited to join in a collaborative meeting to discuss challenges and successes across our programs.

### **Examining Gulf Species Declines** (Open to all registered attendees)

Host: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Long-term data strongly indicate concurrent species declines in the pelagic Gulf since the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This workshop will bring together experts from the pelagic and benthic Gulf, physical oceanography, marine mammals, fish, and more to consider new theories, models, and tools to examine and explain declines.

### **Gulf Literacy Principles** (Open to all registered attendees)

Host: Dauphin Island Sea Lab

What are the Gulf Literacy Principles, and how can you use them to create an informed population?

### **Analysis of Common Water Quality Parameters and Field Protocols** (Open to all registered attendees)

Host: Gulf of America Alliance Data & Monitoring Team

This workshop will showcase the products of an initial effort compiling water quality parameters and corresponding analytical methods. Attendees will also participate in focused discussions on the future compilation of field procedures for water sampling, fostering critical dialogue to strategize next steps.

### **Resilient Housing Planning Workshop** (Open to all registered attendees)

Host: Smart Home America

This hands-on workshop will walk through the Resilient Housing Planning Workbook, guiding participants through exercises to assess existing housing vulnerabilities, create idealized land-use maps, and develop actionable resilience goals for their communities. Attendees will leave with actionable tools and strategies to position themselves for post-disaster funding opportunities.

### **Collaborative Modeling for Stakeholder-Driven Science** (Open to all registered attendees)

Host: University of South Alabama

Participants will gain hands-on training in collaborative modeling as a tool for scientific inquiry, data synthesis, and stakeholder engagement. After gaining a background in fuzzy-cognitive mapping (FCM) fundamentals, participants will leverage the open-source tool MentalModeler to build models and conduct "what if" scenario analyses based on real-world management schemes.



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## Afternoon (1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.) - continued

### **What's New in ArcGIS: GOMOD Community Engagement and Mapping** (Open to all registered attendees)

Host: Esri

Join Esri for an engaging session focused on the latest advancements in ArcGIS, tailored specifically for users of GOMOD. This session will demonstrate practical examples of leveraging ArcGIS's capabilities to streamline data integration, improve visualization, and enhance map accuracy. Participants will gain valuable strategies to maximize the impact of their GIS projects, foster community connections, and drive informed decision-making.

### **Local Action to Empower Communities** (Open to all registered attendees)

Host: University of South Alabama

This workshop will highlight six community-based projects supported by the Gulf Coast Environmental Engagement Center (GCEEC) that empower local initiatives in coastal Alabama. These projects focus on improving water quality, restoring habitats, and strengthening community resilience, bringing tangible benefits to the region.

### **Introduction to Strategic Risk Communication** (Open to all registered attendees)

Host: COMPASS Science Communication

Every day, we all make decisions that require us to consider risk, but it can be challenging to communicate risk to others in compassionate, meaningful ways. Participants will learn insights they can apply to risk communication, helping people understand risk and make more informed decisions about their health, safety, and the environment.

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## Afternoon (3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

### **Cross-TIG Monitoring and Adaptive Management Workgroup Meeting** (Open to workgroup members)

Host: DWH Cross-TIG Monitoring and Adaptive Management Workgroup

Workgroup members from Natural Resource Trustee agencies will meet to discuss responsibilities, coordination, and compatibility across monitoring and adaptive management products and procedures.