



GULF STAR

GULF OF AMERICA ALLIANCE

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Front cover:
Galveston, Texas

Current page:
Meadow beauty, Mississippi

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 gulfofamericaalliance.org/gulfstar.



— MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR —



The Gulf Star Partnership reflects the power of collaboration. We bring together public agencies, private businesses, and nonprofit organizations and we are united in our commitment to healthy beaches, clean waters, productive ecosystems, and thriving coastal communities across the Gulf.

The public-private partnership advances projects that strengthen ecosystem health while supporting the economies and communities that depend on them. Our success is rooted in the Alliance's collaborative model and the shared vision of our partners. We are especially grateful to our funding partners, whose continued investment makes this important work possible.

I am incredibly proud of the partners who bring dedication and expertise to this program and of the results highlighted in this report. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient Gulf region — and I am confident that our collective efforts will continue to make a lasting difference for years to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura W. Bowie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Laura Bowie, Executive Director

2025 GULF STAR PARTNERS

Alabama Florida Louisiana Mississippi Texas



NATIONAL ACADEMIES
Sciences
Engineering
Medicine
GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM



MOTIVA



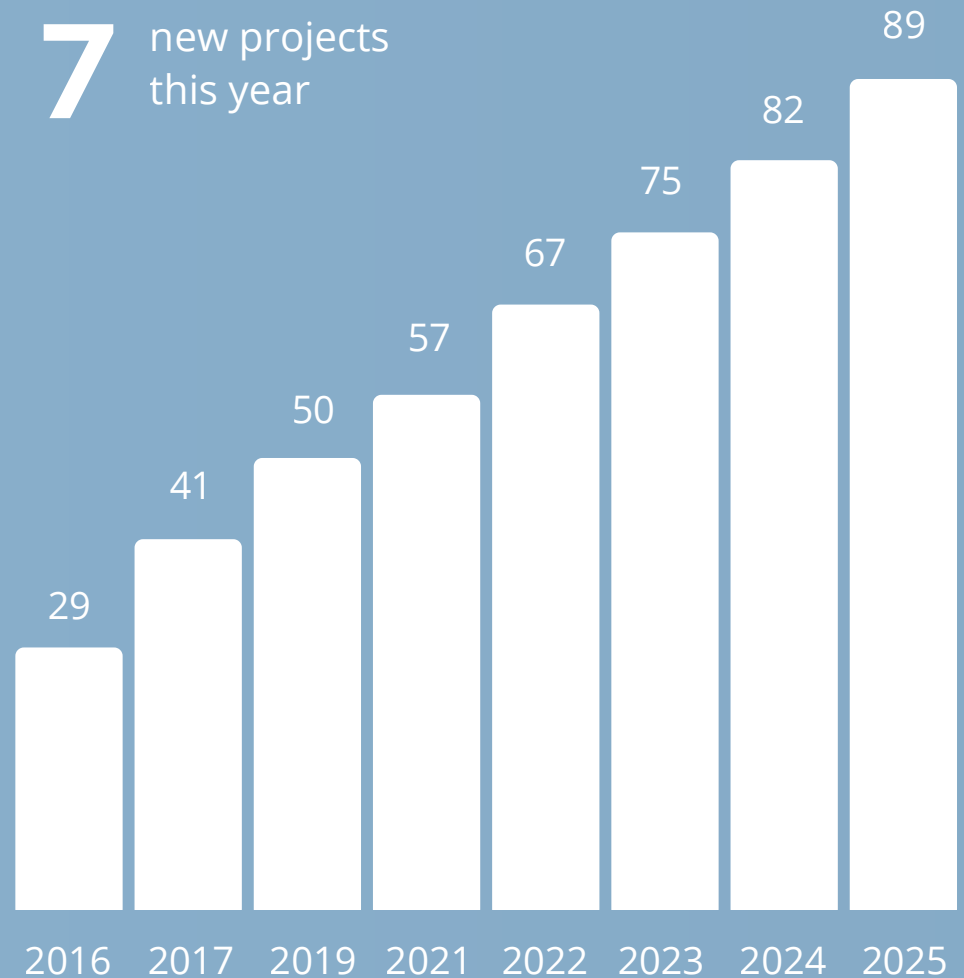
GULF STAR GROWTH

working together brings exponential results

\$6.5 million in total funding

89 total projects (2016-2025)

7 new projects this year



number of projects



Osprey

NEW PARTNERS



Williams

Funding from Williams will support hands-on community resilience workshops and provide a robust process for community leaders in each of the five Gulf states to assess vulnerabilities and identify opportunities for improved resilience.

“At Williams, strengthening communities and enhancing safety are central to our mission,” said Robert Biffle, vice president Susquehanna River Supply Hub (formerly vice president of commercial - Gulf of America). “We are dedicated to fostering strong, resilient communities while upholding our commitment to being a trusted neighbor in the places where we live and work.”

Williams is an energy infrastructure company that delivers one third of the nation’s natural gas to families and businesses nationwide.



Sempra Infrastructure

The investment from Sempra Infrastructure will support scientists and coastal managers working to understand the impacts of tropical species moving north and how habitats, fisheries and wildlife will need to be managed in the future.

“We strive to be responsible stewards of natural resources while making a meaningful impact in the communities where we operate,” said Selby Bush Lilley, regional vice president of external affairs and communications at Sempra Infrastructure. “Supporting this initiative is an exciting opportunity to help promote biodiversity, safeguard vital ecosystems and build more resilient communities for the future.”

Sempra Infrastructure develops, builds, operates, and invests in LNG facilities and other infrastructure critical to meet the world’s energy and climate needs.

“

Doing the right thing is a fundamental value for Motiva. Our commitment to environmental stewardship goes beyond what is required – it means being a force to do good within our community. As a Gulf of America Alliance partner, Motiva is proud to put this core value into action by supporting the health of our environment and advancing conservation in the Gulf Coast region.

Claire Jackson, Social Responsibility and Community Affairs Manager, Motiva Enterprises LLC

“

At Equinor, we believe strong partnerships are essential to protecting the Gulf's ecosystems and supporting resilient coastal communities. Our support of the Gulf Star Program reflects our commitment to advancing environmental stewardship and science, while delivering energy for people, contributing to progress for society, and continuing to search for better solutions for the future.

David Hartz, Head of Land, Regulatory and Government Affairs, Exploration Production International - US, Equinor



Panama City, Florida

NEW PROJECTS IN 2025

New 2025 projects funded by:

Seven new projects were funded this year to further improve the health of the Gulf Coast. Information for each of these projects is included on the following pages. This includes projects funded by our Gulf Star partners Chevron, Equinor, Motiva, Sempra Infrastructure, Williams, and 1PointFive.



NEW PROJECTS



Least Tern

Hands-on Community Resilience Planning

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension | Gulfwide

Work with leaders in communities in each of the five Gulf states to assess and identify vulnerabilities using the Coastal Community Resilience Index

Environmental Stewardship with Students

Crenshaw Environmental Magnet School | Texas

Students adopt sustainability practices and develop local conservation projects to become recognized as an “Ocean Guardian School”

Improving Hatching Success of Ground Nesting Shorebirds

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program | Louisiana

Improve hatching success for beach and ground nesting shorebirds such as terns, egrets, herons, Brown Pelicans, and Roseate Spoonbills by removing invasive predator species

Effects of Tropical Species Moving North

Gulf of America Alliance and USGS | Gulfwide

Support scientists and coastal managers working to understand the effects of tropical species moving north and how habitats, fisheries, and wildlife need to be managed in the future

NEW PROJECTS



Gulf fritillary

Inventory of Regional Sediment Resources

Gulf of America Alliance | Gulfwide

Complete an inventory of available regional sediment resources; make data available to resource managers for coastal habitat restoration and resilience goals now and into the future

Enhancing Pipeline Right-of-Way to Increase Pollinator Habitat

Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve | Mississippi

Demonstrate how utility corridors can be managed as productive, low-maintenance habitats for pollinator conservation; project is a collaborative effort between the Williams Companies, Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Gulf of America Alliance

Hans & Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge Living Shoreline

Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program | Texas

Address ongoing erosion by installing a living shoreline to reduce wave energy and restore marsh habitat; the Hans & Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge is a popular park and wildlife viewing location within the City of Corpus Christi, Texas



Fairhope, Alabama

COASTAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Ongoing 2025 projects funded by:

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.

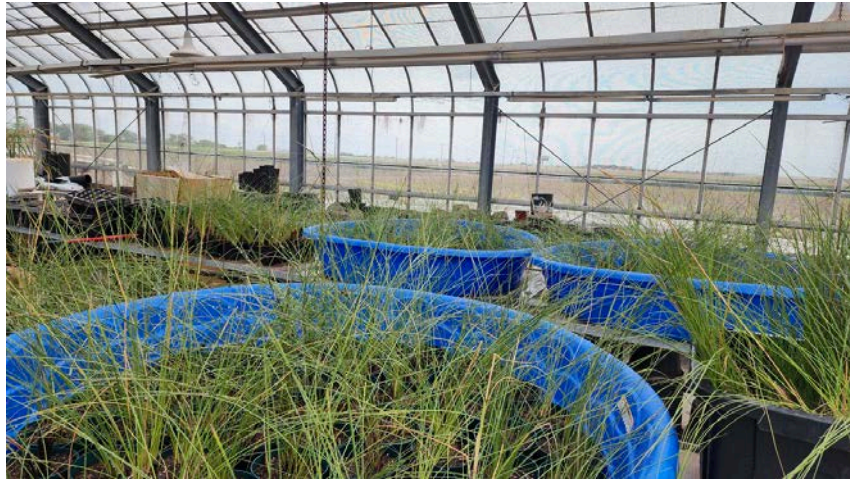
This section includes previously funded projects that are still ongoing to support coastal community resilience.



ONGOING PROJECTS

Project Spotlight: Planting Marsh Grasses for Nature-based Infrastructure

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension | Texas



Credit: Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

Connecting hands-on conservation and resilience to fill a critical need for small-scale coastal restoration

Marsh and dune habitats protect coastal communities from storm surge and erosion, filter water, and provide habitat for fish and wildlife species. But, much of our coastal habitat has been lost because of development, hurricanes, and other stressors.

This year, nearly 120 middle and high school students from six schools in Nueces and Aransas counties grew native marsh plants in their classrooms, learning valuable STEM career skills and gaining hands-on experience. They planted 1,220 of these native marsh and dune plants to restore 2.5 acres of degraded habitat and increase local resilience.

Project Spotlight: Community Resilience Assessment and Implementation

City of Corpus Christi | Texas



Credit: Sushil Pallemoni

Addressing an immediate need to improve community resilience and safety

The Coastal Community Resilience Index (CRI) is a valuable tool for helping communities identify resilience challenges and potential solutions. During the City of Corpus Christi CRI workshop, over 20 participants from planning, public works, emergency management, utilities, business, industry, and regional planning discussed community successes and outlined areas for future action in the short- and long-term.

To address an immediate need identified in the workshop, the community purchased radios for the city's emergency management team. They will be used to communicate during catastrophic events and evacuations, improving the community's resilience and safety.



Students at Ecole Pointe-Au-Chien (Credit: Louisiana Sea Grant)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Ongoing 2025 projects funded by:

Diverse education, outreach, and engagement opportunities create better Gulf stewardship. We are committed to engagement that leverages resources, builds partnerships, and results in measurable impacts.

This section includes previously funded projects that are still ongoing to support environmental education.



ONGOING PROJECTS

Project Spotlight: Youth Ambassador Program

Gulf Reach Institute | Gulfwide



Credit: Gulf Reach Institute

Empowering the next generation and putting hope into action

The Gulf Youth Ambassador Program provides leadership training, hands-on experiences, and networking opportunities for 14-18 year old students from across the region. To date, 13 students have completed the program and led projects including clean up events, marsh planting for restoration, and encouraging less plastic use.

“The Youth Ambassador Program allowed me to take that first step in making a difference. It turned my love for the Gulf and my environment into positive action.” - Elizabeth Xu, Louisiana

Environmental Stewardship with Students

Robertsdale High School | Alabama

Ecole Pointe-Au-Chien | Louisiana

Bob Hope Elementary | Texas

Install recycling bins, educate peers, and hold clean up events at a high school in Alabama; Build a community garden with kindergarten and first graders in Louisiana; Install a native garden with elementary students in Texas

Educating the Public through Social Media

Gulf of America Alliance | Gulfwide

Encourage people to learn more about the Gulf and take simple actions to make a difference through social media campaigns and messaging



Fiddler crab

HABITATS & WILDLIFE

Ongoing 2025 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.

This section includes previously funded projects that are still ongoing to support habitats and wildlife.



ONGOING PROJECTS

Project Spotlight: Diamondback Terrapin Habitat Research

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi | Texas



Credit: Shawn McCracken

Searching for a rare, coastal turtle before its too late

Diamondback terrapins are the only turtle that lives in coastal marshes and are vital to keeping these ecosystems healthy. Because of habitat loss and other threats, terrapin populations across their range are at risk of becoming endangered.

In Texas, a research team is working to identify suitable nesting sites in San Antonio and Matagorda Bays. They are also using eDNA sampling, a novel survey method, to potentially detect terrapins from water samples collected in places where they might occur. This work fills an important gap in understanding the current status of Texas diamondback terrapins and future management needs.

Seagrass Status and Trends

CNL World | Gulfwide

Review available seagrass data and monitoring guidance and complete the initial planning for a 2030 Seagrass Status and Trends Report

Advancing Regional Data Sharing for Coastal Management

Gulf of America Alliance | Gulfwide

Support continued expansion of the Gulf of Mexico Open Data Platform (GOMOD) to make it easier for users to discover, explore, and access mapping data for the Gulf of America region

Understanding Reddish Egret Habitat Use

Texas State University | Gulfwide

Combine information on tidal flat habitat and reddish egret movement to help scientists prioritize important locations for conservation and restoration

Stewardship of Coastal Bird Rookeries

Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program | Texas

Engage volunteers to protect and monitor 20 coastal bird nesting sites around Corpus Christi, Texas; Install protective signs around key rookery sites to limit disturbance by people

Understanding Design Requirements to Promote Seagrass Success

Moffatt & Nichol | Gulfwide

Identify requirements needed to reduce wave energy and promote seagrass growth when planning shoreline restoration and similar projects



Apollo Beach, Florida

CLEAN WATER

Ongoing 2025 projects funded by:

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

This section includes previously funded projects that are still ongoing to support clean water.



MOTIVA



ONGOING PROJECTS

Project Spotlight: New Techniques for Early Detection of *Vibrio* Bacteria

Florida Institute of Technology | Florida



Credit: University of West Florida

Working on cutting-edge ways to find *Vibrio* bacteria in oysters

Vibrio is a type of bacteria that lives naturally in waters along our Gulf coast. People can become seriously ill or die if they get an infection after eating oysters that have the bacteria. But, there is no quick, easy way to test for *Vibrio* that could prevent people from getting infections. That's why scientists across Florida are working together to understand what causes more bacteria in some areas. They are also developing cutting-edge science using AI to test oysters for *Vibrio* before it can harm people. The result - safer seafood for us all to enjoy!

Marine Debris Awareness and Outreach

Florida Aquarium | Florida

Reduce marine debris by engaging students in the classroom, leading local clean-up events, and creating art using collected debris

Citizen Science Water and Marine Debris Monitoring

Galveston Bay Foundation | Texas

Understand marine debris impacts on bottlenose dolphins that live in Galveston Bay through citizen science surveys; educate the public about dolphin safe fishing practices

Reducing Urban Litter in Local Waterways

Galveston Bay Foundation | Texas

Install litter booms to capture and remove trash from Houston-area waterways before it goes downstream into Galveston Bay and the Gulf

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Freeport-McMoRan recognizes the pivotal role of collaborative partnerships to create greater capacity and long-term sustainability in our communities, which is why we have been a Gulf Star partner since the program's beginning in 2016. We look forward to continuing this long-term relationship and *Transforming Tomorrow Together*.

Pam Masson, Executive Director, Freeport-McMoRan Foundation

COMPLETED PROJECTS



Gulfport, Mississippi

Building Resilience in Port Sulphur, Louisiana

Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management | Louisiana

Understanding the Economic Benefits of Eco-Tourism

Mississippi State University | Mississippi

Coastal Resource Management Internship Program

Gulf of Mexico Alliance | Gulfwide

Coastal Bird Conservation and Outreach

National Audubon Society | Florida

Supporting Interns Conducting Offshore Microplastic Sampling

Mississippi State University | Mississippi

Citizen Science Water and Marine Debris Monitoring

Pontchartrain Conservancy | Louisiana

Increasing Community Resilience Using Green Design Practices

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers | Texas

Training to Support Community Resilience Assessments

Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant | Gulfwide

Public Awareness Videos Promoting Eco-Tourism

Mississippi State University Television Center | Mississippi

Environmental Stewardship with Students

Lincoln Middle School | Texas

Water Bottle Refill Stations in Local Schools

Gulf of Mexico Alliance | Louisiana

Fully Serving the Underserved Training and Guidebook

Gulf of Mexico Alliance | Gulfwide

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Homeowner Training for Living Shorelines Permitting

Mississippi State University | Gulfwide

Louisiana Coastal Bird Stewardship and Outreach

National Audubon Society | Louisiana

Terrapin Education and Outreach

Galveston Bay Foundation | Texas

Texas Coastal Bird Conservation and Outreach

National Audubon Society | Texas

Texas Water Quality Economics Study

Harte Research Institute | Texas

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,
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

What the Gulf Gives Awareness Campaign

Gulf of Mexico Alliance | Gulfwide

Water Bottle Refill Stations in Local Schools

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program | Louisiana

Linking Science Communication and Municipal Planning

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Fully Serving the Underserved Training & Guidebook

Gulf of Mexico Alliance | Gulfwide

Embrace the Gulf Initiative

Hummingbird Ideas and MS Congeniality TV | Gulfwide

Watershed Monitoring with Underserved High School Students

Mobile Baykeeper | Alabama

COMPLETED PROJECTS

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

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

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

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

ABOUT US

The Gulf of America Alliance is a regional partnership focused on enhancing the environmental and economic health of the Gulf. Led by the five Gulf states, our network includes over 1,100 members and 175 participating organizations. Our actions support commitments to strengthening community resilience, increasing regional data sharing, and improving management of habitats and wildlife species.

1,100+ members

175+ organizations

\$532M in funding since 2012

RECENT SUCCESSES

\$1.96M to increase collaboration and support region-wide priorities

2,409 acres using improved farming practices to reduce runoff

65 abandoned and derelict vessels removed in AL, MS, and TX





GULF OF AMERICA ALLIANCE

1151 Robinson Street, Ocean Springs, MS 39564
gulfofamericaalliance.org

