

2026 Gulf Conference
Marine Debris Planning and Development Workshop
Monday, May 4, 2026

All times CDT. Mobile Convention Center. Room 107A

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- 8:30 AM** **Welcome and Introductions**
Objective: Establish the objectives of the workshop.
Presented by Katie Wallace (GOAA)
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- 8:45 AM** **GOAA 101**
Objective: Participants will learn The Alliance's history since its inception in 2004 and learn about the Marine Debris team to gain an understanding of the work accomplished.
Presented by Katie Wallace, Jennifer McGee (FWCC), Sandra Chupinsky (FDEP), Calista Mills (EPA), Tashenna Powers (EPA), Katie Swanson (University of Texas Marine Science Institute)
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- 9:15 AM** **GOAA Partnerships**
Objective: Participants will learn about the GOAA funding tool box.
Presented by Becky Ginn (GOAA)
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- 9:30 AM** **Emergency Response to Remove Large Marine Debris in Florida**
Presented by Jennifer McGee
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- 10:00 AM** **NETWORKING BREAK**
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- 10:30 AM** **Microplastics and Beyond Session and Topical Engagement**
Microplastics Sensor Technology. Presented by Marc Cheng (Indiana University) and Anthony Vedral (Alabama Water Institute)
- 10:50 AM** Understanding, Mitigation and Prevention of Waste Plastic Marine Debris in the Gulf Coast. Presented by Dr. Shenghua Wu and team at the University of South Alabama
- 11:10 AM** Plastic Pellet Spills and Leakage Along Railroads. Presented by Jace Tunnell (Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi)
- 11:30 AM** Operation TRAP - Using Interceptor Devices for Trash Reduction in Florida's Aquatic Preserves. Presented by Monica Wilson (University of Florida)
- 11:50 AM** Open discussion.
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- 12:00 PM** **Lunch on your own**

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- 1:30 PM** **GOAA Project Updates**
Abandoned Derelict Vessel and Large Marine Debris Removal. Presented by Katie Wallace
- 1:50 PM**
K-12 Education and Engagement at the Florida Aquarium. Presented by Jenn Wan (The Florida Aquarium)
- 2:10 PM**
Reducing Urban Trash into Galveston Bay. Presented by Natasha Zarnstorff and Rachel Thorne (Galveston Bay Foundation)
- 2:30 PM**
Open discussion.
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- 3:00 PM** **NETWORKING BREAK**
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- 3:30 PM** **Interactive Activity with Osprey Initiative**
Objective: Participants will learn about litter collection devices developed by the Mobile, AL company Osprey Initiative and take part in hands-on activities.
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- 5:00 PM** **ADJOURN**
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