

Gulf of Mexico Regional Collaborative

The Gulf of Mexico Regional Collaborative (GoMRC) is a partnership of Battelle/Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), and the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC). It was established to provide resource managers and policy-makers in the U.S. and Mexico with a broad understanding of the Gulf of Mexico's marine and coastal environments through the use of an integrated Earth observing system.

GoMRC will enable decision-makers and coastal practitioners to identify and test options for natural resources planning and management through an integrated ecosystem science, data management, modeling and decision-support system. The underlying GoMRC information technology (IT) platform will support a range of natural resource and management issues, many of which require or benefit from common underlying datasets and models for analysis. The GoMRC team will use this platform to bring together existing datasets, models, and applications from various sources, allowing users to create new tools and insights.

During its first year, GoMRC will demonstrate the ability of the IT platform to help decision-makers understand critical Gulf-scale issues through a *Coastal Wetlands Restoration* pilot project. We will work with local scientists and end users to develop a tool for setting priorities for wetlands restoration, and disseminate the information broadly. GoMRC will also explore the value of integrating existing data and systems into the IT platform to support Gulf-wide *Harmful Algal Bloom (HABs)* monitoring and prediction capability.

In future years, GoMRC plans to work with regional managers in the Gulf of Mexico to incorporate a broader set of natural resource issues, such as sea level change, oxygen depletion, and air quality. As more resource issues are incorporated into the GoMRC system, policy-makers and resource managers will be able to make more informed and timely decisions about resource issues in the Gulf of Mexico, which will in turn enhance and sustain the environment and economy of the region.

Initial funding for GoMRC is provided by NASA. Direct and in-kind resources from participating agencies will be critical to provide the basis for a long-term, sustainable regional collaboration.

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