



# **COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SUMMARY REPORT**

**May 2006**

Gulf of Mexico Alliance: Community Workshop Report Summary  
Prepared by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
Coastal Services Center

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We appreciate the community workshop hosts for their commitment and dedication to making these workshops a success. We would also like to extend a special thanks to Tabitha Whalen Stadler, CTP Coordinator at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, as well as the staff from NOAA's Special Projects Office for their contributions to this process.

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[www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org](http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org)

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## Executive Summary

From the early stages of planning for the *Governors' Action Plan*, it was recognized that citizen input is critical for identifying priority issues and affecting on-the-ground change in the Gulf region. It is in local communities—both small and large—where the effects of a healthy Gulf are most clearly realized in day-to-day life. To capture this input, a series of eight workshops, plus two evening meetings for the general public were held in communities across all five Gulf States. Participants at each workshop represented a broad range of community interests including state and local government, private business, non profit, academia, and local residents. While the series was interrupted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Gulf States managed to conduct all eight workshops prior to the release of the *Governors' Action Plan*. In addition, input received at these workshops was incorporated into the Plan.

To highlight common priorities identified across the various workshops, a table presenting the priority issues identified at each community workshop is presented below.

<b>Top five priority issues identified during the Alliance community workshops</b>								
Top five priority issues for each workshop are based on popular vote by participants at each community workshop. Common issues across workshops are shaded in the same color to show similarities in citizens' concerns across the Gulf.								
#	Naples, FL 6/9/2005	Tampa, FL 8/23/2005	Apalachicola, FL 8/25/2005	Sarasota, FL 9/14/2005	Galveston, TX 9/20/2005	Port Aransas, TX 1/19/2006	Mississippi-Alabama 2/1/2006	Thibodaux, LA 2/21/2006
1	Habitat Loss	Population Growth and Development	Habitat Loss	Lack of Funding	Lack of Land Use Planning	Habitat Loss	Habitat Loss	Habitat Loss
2	Water Quality and Quantity	Habitat Loss	Water Quality and Quantity	Habitat Loss	Water Quality and Quantity	Population Growth and Development	Education	Hurricane Protection
3	Education	Water Quality and Quantity	Population Growth and Development	Water Quality and Quantity	Habitat Loss	Education	Balancing Environmental and Economic Interests	Education
4	Population Growth and Development	Apathy and Societal Perceptions	Lack of Enforcement	Red Tide	Population Growth and Development	Balancing Environmental and Economic Interests	Invasive Species	Water Quality and Quantity
5	Lack of Enforcement	Education	Lack of Coordination	Education	Education	Water Quality and Quantity	Water Quality and Quantity	Implementation: Turning Planning into Action
			Loss of Cultural and Economic Viability in Coastal Communities					

The community workshops identified the topics that people see as priority issues for the health of the Gulf of Mexico, gathered information on current efforts and constraints to addressing these issues, and collected numerous suggestions of actions that should be taken in both the public and private arenas. When results from all eight workshops were compiled, five overall themes emerged.

**Theme 1: People care about the five priority issues and want to stay involved:** The Alliance has identified five issues that are regionally significant and can be effectively addressed through increased collaboration at the local, state, and federal levels:

- Water quality for healthy beaches and shellfish beds;
- Wetland and coastal conservation and restoration;
- Environmental education;
- Identification and characterization of Gulf habitats; and
- Reductions in nutrient inputs to coastal ecosystems.

The community workshops validated these issues as priorities for action. Attendees of the workshops are concerned about the five issues because they have real impacts on their day-to-day lives and the futures of their children. Because the issues are so important to them, attendees are very interested in staying engaged with the work of the Alliance, both by staying informed and by actively contributing to actions the Alliance is pursuing.

**Theme 2: Citizens understand and are concerned about the “big picture” issues that impact states’ ability to address priority issues:** Gulf citizens are not only informed about specific environmental issues, but are also savvy about the context within which state agencies operate. Attendees understand that over-arching or “big picture” issues influence how and if problems related to the health of the Gulf can be effectively addressed. Three issues frequently raised were:

- The need to balance economic and environmental interests,
- The need for both funding and political will, and
- The idea that societal perceptions, attitudes, and beliefs are critical variables because these drive individual behavior as well as people’s support for governmental actions.

**Theme 3: Participants identified the lack of land use planning, enforcement, and coordination as key constraints:** During break out groups to discuss their priority issues, workshop attendees were asked to identify constraints that have prevented these issues from being addressed. Three key constraints emerged:

- A lack of land use planning, which attendees connected to a variety of issues, including habitat loss and water quality and quantity concerns,
- A lack of enforcement of existing regulations, and
- A lack of coordination, both across governmental agencies and levels as well as across sectors (public entities, private industry, nonprofit organizations, and citizens).

**Theme 4: The Alliance should consider additional issues beyond the five priority issues:** In addition to verifying that the Alliance’s priority issues are important to citizens, the workshops also raised additional topics that are of concern to Gulf communities. Four additional topics were discussed at multiple workshops and emerged as a top issue in at least one workshop: loss of traditional coastal communities, red tide, invasive species, and hurricane protection.

**Theme 5: Hurricane issues permeated discussions in the post-Katrina workshops:** Participants from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama discussed the impacts of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and they made connections to the priority issues they identified. Attendees talked about how recovery needs such as wetland restoration are related to Alliance priorities, and discussed the idea that recovery and rebuilding efforts, if carefully planned, can help to address environmental health issues that existed before the storm, and mitigate future impacts of development.

## Background

### The Gulf of Mexico Alliance

In 2004, the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas formed the Gulf of Mexico Alliance with the intent of significantly increasing regional collaboration to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. The Alliance has identified five regionally significant issues that can be effectively addressed through increased collaboration at the local, state, and federal levels. These priority issues represent an initial focus for action.

- Water quality for healthy beaches and shellfish beds
- Wetland and coastal conservation and restoration
- Environmental education
- Identification and characterization of Gulf habitats
- Reductions in nutrient inputs to coastal ecosystems

The Bush Administration, through the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, recognized the leadership that these five Gulf States have demonstrated in forming the Gulf Alliance and called for increased integration of resources, knowledge, and expertise to address these regional priorities.

The *Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts* is the culmination of 12 months of collaboration between the Gulf States, the Federal Workgroup, interested citizens, and numerous other partners. The 11 actions outlined in this plan, which were supported by Gulf citizens as well as specific state and federal agency commitments, represent concrete projects in which significant on-the-ground results will be realized within the next 36 months.

### Soliciting Input from Gulf Coast Citizens

In planning for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance *Governors' Action Plan*, it was recognized early on that citizen input was necessary for identifying priority issues and affecting on-the-ground change in the Gulf region. It is in these local communities where the effects of an environmentally and economically healthy Gulf are most clearly realized in day-to-day life. To capture this input, a series of eight community workshops were held across all five Gulf States (see Figure 1). Two host sites also opted to hold an additional evening session specifically for the general public.



**Figure 1: Locations of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Community Workshops**

Participants at each workshop represented a broad range of community interests including state and local government, private business, non profit, academia, and local residents. The community workshops were designed to:

- Gain local perspectives on priority issues related to the environmental and economic health of the Gulf region
- Gain local perspectives on the five issues being tackled by the Gulf Alliance
- Identify successful programs and partnerships that can support Alliance efforts
- Build better relationships between state, local, and federal entities
- Build public awareness about the importance of a healthy Gulf of Mexico to local communities, the Gulf region, and the nation

While the series of workshops was interrupted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Gulf States managed to conduct all eight workshops prior to the release of the *Governors' Action Plan* (see Table 1). In addition, input received at these workshops was incorporated into the Plan.

**Table 1: Community Workshop Dates, Locations, and Hosts**

<b>DATES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>	<b>HOSTS</b>
06/09/05	Naples, Florida	Rookery Bay NERR
08/23/05	Tampa, Florida	Tampa Bay NEP and Florida Aquarium
Public Session 08/23/05	Tampa, Florida	Tampa Bay NEP and Florida Aquarium
08/25/05	Apalachicola, Florida	Apalachicola NERR
09/14/05	Sarasota, Florida	Charlotte Harbor NEP and MOTE Marine Laboratory
09/20/05	Galveston, Texas	Galveston Bay NEP and Texas A&M - Galveston
01/19/06	Port Aransas, Texas	University of Texas Marine Science Institute, and Mission-Aransas NERR
Public Session 01/31/06	Biloxi, Mississippi	Grand Bay NERR
02/01/06	Biloxi, Mississippi	Grand Bay NERR and Weeks Bay NERR
02/21/06	Thibodaux, Louisiana	Barataria-Terrebonne NEP

Hosts, which included National Estuary Programs (NEPs) and National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRs) along the Gulf Coast, played a key role in carrying out these workshops. Hosts were responsible for (1) recruiting a broad range of participants that represent various sectors within the community; (2) providing a packet of information for workshop attendees; (3) coordinating workshop logistics including venue and food; and (4) summarizing workshop results.

One of the unique features about this series of workshops is that hosts had flexibility to tailor these community workshops to fit their needs given the local context, while also meeting the

overall goals for the process. Some elements of the agenda were standardized to ensure consistency in gathering participant's information, but other elements were flexible. (Note: See generic workshop agenda below.)

<b>Generic Workshop Agenda</b>	
	<b>Reception, Coffee</b>
30 min	<b>Welcome and Introductions/ Review of Agenda</b> <i>Host Director and Lead Facilitator</i>
30min	<b>The Gulf of Mexico: A Conservation Perspective and Review of U.S. Ocean Action Plan and Opportunities for the Gulf of Mexico</b> <i>Speaker (Gulf-wide Perspective)</i>
60 min	<b>Challenges from Local Perspectives: Brainstorming Possibilities</b> <i>Lead Facilitator</i>
15 min	<b>Break</b>
45 min	<b>Overview of White Papers</b> <i>Speaker (State Perspective)</i> 1. Reductions in nutrient loading 2. Improving water quality, emphasis on beaches and shellfish beds 3. Restoration of coastal wetlands 4. Identification of Gulf habitats 5. Gulf of Mexico environmental education
60 min	<b>Lunch</b>
30 min	<b>Case studies (2-3)</b> <i>Speakers, TBD</i>
60 min	<b>Breakout Sessions on Gulf Issues</b> <i>Facilitated Small Group Sessions</i>
15 min	<b>Break</b>
60 min	<b>Summary of Breakouts and Wrap Up</b> <i>Lead Facilitator</i> <b><i>Announcement of additional efforts that complement this effort</i></b>

The “Challenges from Local Perspectives: Brainstorming Possibilities” and “Breakout Sessions on Gulf Issues” sections were both designed with a specific purpose and process that was carried out consistently across all community workshops. During the brainstorming session, participants had the opportunity to identify sources of information they currently utilize, followed by environmental and economic issues of concern related to Gulf health. After this large-group brainstorm, participants wrote down their two most important issues on note cards and handed them in to the facilitation team. While the hosts continued with the program (i.e. white paper presentations), the facilitation team organized all the cards into topic areas. Typically there would be a hundred or more note cards, each with individual issues, which would be organized into approximately 20 larger topics. These topics were then written on flipcharts and posted for participants to vote, using dots, during the appropriate place in the agenda. After the voting process was completed, the votes were tallied and the top five or six topics were announced and assigned to breakout spaces for subsequent small group discussions.

When it was time for the “Breakout Sessions,” participants selected a topic of choice, and proceeded to their breakout location. Facilitators led the participants through a discussion of the following questions:

1. How do you define this issue with respect to the health of the Gulf of Mexico?

2. Where do you go for information and assistance (e.g. technical, financial, etc.) on this issue?
3. What constraints have kept you from helping to resolve this issue?
4. What role should the public play in helping to resolve this issue?
5. What role should the government play at the local, state, and/or federal level in helping to resolve this issue?

## **Workshop Results and Plans for Continued Citizen Engagement**

Results from the community workshops were written up consistently to allow compilation and comparison of all workshop data prior to the March summit in Corpus Christi, Texas. More specifically, each host reported on the following: 1) notes from the group brainstorm on sources of information and local issues of concern; 2) individual participant issues from note cards, categories, and top priority issues with the number of votes for each; 3) summary of the breakout sessions; and 4) summary of the evaluation. While all of the individual workshop summaries are posted on the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Web site ([www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org](http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org)), the purpose of this full report is to synthesize all the information gathered during these workshops, and highlight some common themes and implications.

The Gulf Alliance recognizes that long-term success will only occur if federal, state, and local communities are all engaged in playing their part to achieve a healthier Gulf of Mexico. To gain local perspectives and direction as the Alliance moves forward, the states intend to continue this community workshop process in the future.

## Priority Issues

### Priority issues identified during the Alliance community workshops (including public sessions)

Top five priority issues for each workshop are based on popular vote by participants at each community workshop.  
Common issues across workshops are shaded in the same color to show similarities in citizens' concerns across the Gulf.

#	Naples, FL 6/9/2005	Tampa, FL 8/23/2005	Tampa, FL PUBLIC SESSION 8/23/2005	Apalachicola, FL 8/25/2005	Sarasota, FL 9/14/2005	Galveston, TX 9/20/2005	Port Aransas, TX 1/19/2006	Mississippi-Alabama PUBLIC SESSION 1/31/2006	Mississippi-Alabama 2/1/2006	Thibodaux, LA 2/21/2006
1	Habitat Loss	Population Growth and Development	Population Growth and Development	Habitat Loss	Lack of Funding	Lack of Land Use Planning	Habitat Loss	Water Quality and Quantity	Habitat Loss	Habitat Loss
2	Water Quality and Quantity	Habitat Loss	Habitat Loss	Water Quality and Quantity	Habitat Loss	Water Quality and Quantity	Population Growth and Development	Lack of Enforcement	Education	Hurricane Protection
3	Education	Water Quality and Quantity	Water Quality and Quantity	Population Growth and Development	Water Quality and Quantity	Habitat Loss	Education	Sustainable Fisheries	Balancing Environmental and Economic Interests	Education
4	Population Growth and Development	Apathy and Societal Perceptions	Lack of Enforcement	Lack of Enforcement	Red Tide	Population Growth and Development	Balancing Environmental and Economic Interests	Strengthening and Standardizing Environmental Standards Across States	Invasive Species	Water Quality and Quantity
5	Lack of Enforcement	Education	Political Agendas	Lack of Coordination Loss of Cultural and Economic Viability in Coastal Communities	Education	Education	Water Quality and Quantity	Habitat Loss	Water Quality and Quantity	Implementation: Turning Planning into Action

## **Breakout Groups**

*Coming Soon!*

## Priority Actions

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance identified five issues that are regionally significant and can be effectively addressed through increased collaboration at the local, state, and federal levels. These priorities represent an initial focus for action through the Alliance:

- Water quality for healthy beaches and shellfish beds
- Wetland and coastal conservation and restoration
- Environmental education
- Identification and characterization of Gulf habitats
- Reductions in nutrient inputs to coastal ecosystems

Participants at the community workshops were asked to identify one thing they would want to see accomplished under each of these five priority issues. The following information summarizes the priority actions participants identified related to each of the states' top issues.

### Water Quality for Healthy Beaches and Shellfish Beds

Citizens recognized that people must begin to care about water quality as a key to the Gulf's health. It was also understood that no single entity or individual is responsible for the problem; therefore, no single entity or individual can fix the problem. In fact, citizens acknowledged the need for a "holistic look at the system," the ability to evaluate cumulative impacts, and recommended that a regional approach be taken in order to link sources to effects.

Across the Gulf, the use of technology was widely recognized as a way of helping solve environmental problems such as water quality. Source tracking, in particular, was the leading recommended strategy to address bacterial contamination. Citizens reported that they are actively seeking reliable sources of information and need the tools to help control harmful algal blooms. A real-time bacteria tracking and monitoring program was encouraged to more effectively guide local responses such as beach and harvest closures.

The need for increased coordination and integration of monitoring programs was also widely recognized. Citizens called for a "baseline of comparison" and "historical references for the natural conditions" to aid managers in determining appropriate targets. More specifically, they recommended standardization of data from their regional ambient monitoring programs—including those used by volunteer programs. In addition, comprehensive strategies such as research, education, and funding were also advised to help address this problem. A comprehensive approach may help the public better understand water quality issues, but perhaps more importantly, find ways to contribute to solutions.

### Specific Recommendations

- Coordinate water quality data in a centralized location.
- Install central sewage treatment and get rid of all septic systems.
- Allocate storm water runoff into wetland filtration system prior to being released in the Gulf.
- Provide sewer service to get rid of septic tanks in low-lying coastal areas.
- Establish Gulf-wide volunteer monitoring program to bring people into the solution equation.
- Enforce current regulations (i.e. clean water act).
- Develop, implement, and enforce total maximum daily load standards.
- Identify sources of degradation and prioritize based on impact.

- Acknowledge that land use planning is necessary to control nonpoint source pollution (farming, highways, urban areas) and requires buffers and filters.
- Develop tools that define and illustrate the relationship between land use and water quality.
- Pick one or two well understood measures related to water quality—as was done with air quality (ozone, pollution rating)—and frequently communicate them to the public.
- Improve science indicators (bacteriological, etc.) and study ways of controlling red tide.
- Improve spatial extent of observations.
- Re-establish historical hydrology.
- Require mandatory planting and, where possible, offer credit to homeowners who follow through.
- Adopt sustainable tourism practices.
- Stop issuing permits to industries that pollute.
- Enforce more restrictions on industry dumping.
- Really address freshwater management issues and buy land for retention zones.
- Use local media to educate the general public about water quality and how it affects everyone.
- Reassess zoning that allows development too close to the beach.
- Develop and maintain geographic information system (GIS) tools to support best management practices for water quality.
- Increase knowledge of, and dissemination of, water quality parameters through an Integrated Ocean Observation System across the Gulf of Mexico watershed.
- Implement best management practices to help with erosion and sediment control.

## **Wetland and Coastal Conservation and Restoration**

Gulf-wide, citizens recognized the magnitude and rate of wetland loss and specifically identified isolated wetlands as a common concern. Issues and impacts surrounding development permeated these concerns particularly as they relate to wetland function, and overall conservation. For this reason, the importance of conserving these habitats in their natural state and reducing the impacts of development through education and physical means, such as set backs, was highly recommended. Lack of regulation and enforcement of existing rules was another concern related to habitat loss. Citizens recognized that other habitats, such as coastal prairies, dunes, and riparian forests, also needed protection in order to secure the ecosystem as a whole.

Citizens further identified the need for partnerships and priority-setting schemes to focus on critical sites that would currently benefit from restoration. The concept of providing directed funds to focused restoration efforts by all constituents—and leveraging funds where they can be most effectively used—was also strongly supported. Overall, citizens endorsed the need to improve coordination and communication among agencies to reduce unnecessary duplication of effort, gaps in management, and also improve consistency across agency lines.

One topic specific to the Louisiana workshop was the connection between wetland restoration and hurricane protection. Attendees said that coastal wetlands have historically mitigated storm impacts, and that recent wetland losses have left coastal areas in Louisiana increasingly vulnerable. Community members feel that wetland restoration must be a priority as the Gulf region strives to recovery from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

## **Specific Recommendations**

- Have state and local government agencies pick up regulation where federal agencies leave off (by their mandate).
- Use high school students to grow native grasses and help restore coastal wetlands.
- Improve regulation and enforcement related to wetland protection.
- Stop habitat destruction and regulate development.
- Develop uniform setbacks and zoning restrictions for all coastal wetland areas, riparian areas, and watersheds.
- Eliminate filling of coastal wetlands by more stringent Corps-permitting requirements. Stop issuing permits to fill or destroy wetlands, marshes, and tidal marsh areas. Stop permitting the destruction of wetlands and drainage of flow-ways and then restore hydrology of the remaining wetlands.
- Require more stringent permitting of coastal development.
- Create more volunteer opportunities.
- Initiate a mass planting of native, erosion control species, and remove invasive plant species.
- Require set backs with no variances (easier to preserve than restore).
- Acquire land adjacent to coastal wetlands.
- Buy now and restore later.
- Increase monitoring so we know how the restoration efforts are working.
- Think long-term with respect to data collection and monitoring.
- Use transitional habitats between intertidal and upland habitats.
- Prohibit building in coastal hazard zones.
- Continue current protection and develop a wetland development initiative to strategically locate the function of wetlands in areas safe from rising sea levels.
- Assess the coastline to determine where the greatest need for restoration is located in order to prioritize projects and include restoration of adjacent upland habitats (buffers).
- Restore 10 percent of Gulf-wide wetland systems.
- Establish more protected areas like sanctuaries and parks.
- Enhance education in schools to promote young stewards that will continue working on restoration as they mature.
- Form partnerships with entertainment media to promote funding and recognition of restoration efforts—perhaps through a reality show, fundraiser, or positive public relations.
- Produce education events for property owners and citizens who value the role and function of wetlands.
- Increase use of remote sensing technologies to provide baseline and monitor wetland systems.
- Incorporate importance of wetlands into development planning.
- Provide economic incentive.
- Supply tax development to pay for restoration.
- Motivate businesses and residents to pursue native landscaping.
- Increase funding for land acquisition.
- Improve awareness of the need for restoration.

## **Environmental Education**

Community workshop attendees recognized the importance of all citizens understanding the link between a healthy Gulf and the economic and human health of local communities. They readily acknowledged that an educated public is essential for local communities to feel like part of the

solution. Strengthening stewardship ethics among individuals and local communities was also a key idea supported by citizens. It was generally accepted that education is a lifelong pursuit and comprehensive efforts should be made to educate people across age groups and across different walks of life.

Improved coordination among existing education and outreach providers was specifically requested by a number of citizens across the Gulf—who also advocated for sharing models or case studies from successful programs. Citizens also voiced the need to provide a consistent message across various levels of education and state curriculums to infuse critical facts about the Gulf.

Across the Gulf, citizens reinforced the need to make the connection between activities in their own back yards and impacts in other parts of the region. It was, in fact, recommended that a multi-media approach be used to more effectively educate the general public in an entertaining fashion, build awareness of the quality of life at risk if current practices continue, and reveal diverse perspectives related to each issue. Citizens were particularly aware of, and concerned about, reaching out to citizens “upstream” who may not understand the national importance of the Gulf and how their actions affect this important resource.

### **Specific Recommendations**

- Develop a recognizable brand or insignia for the Gulf of Mexico that resonates across social and academic environments throughout the Gulf.
- Include education on the Gulf in public places such as on televisions in banks and government buildings.
- Create and distribute free book covers to all middle and high school students that feature facts and photos of the Gulf of Mexico.
- Expand use of GIS in schools and public outreach for various environmental issues in the Gulf.
- Increase the number of environmental programs on cable television, Animal Planet, and the Public Broadcasting System.
- Establish a curriculum resource center that incorporates Gulf environmental issues into curriculum in coastal county schools.
- Mandate environmental education programs throughout all U.S. public schools in every grade level.
- Emphasize lifelong learning to allow for continuing re-enforcement and reward for good environmental behavior and promote stewardship for coastal resources.
- Reach out to multicultural and minority audiences, specifically inner city and rural communities, with materials marketed to their languages, needs, concerns, and desires.
- Target low-income communities who do not generally have the same access to the Gulf as the wealthy (who own boats or waterfront property).
- Create partnerships to share and disperse information.
- Target specific groups of the public to inform and educate to their specific interests, rumors, or beliefs.
- Tell stories relating to environmental issues.
- Teach the public and businesses about sustainable lifestyles and practices.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of education programs to understand whether the goals of the program being met, what works, and what doesn't.
- Fight apathy through education.
- Empower the public to engage in citizen science.

- Connect people to the resources themselves by engaging them in field trips.
- Develop job training programs that lead to environmental education jobs for locals.
- Hold regional festivals to disperse information to general public.
- Inform America how important the Gulf of Mexico is to our country and the rest of the world by focusing on “what’s in it for me?”
- Incorporate educational materials in utility bills.
- Educate consumers to the costs and value of the environmental service provided by our natural heritage by establishing credible values and spreading the knowledge about environmental functions.
- Fund hands-on programs for legislators, county commissioners, and other decision makers.
- Educate groups beyond the usual suspects, such as realtors associations.

## **Identification and Characterization of Gulf Habitats**

Citizens across the Gulf identified the need to define and describe the full suite of habitat types throughout the Gulf (i.e. upland to pelagic)—and how these habitats fit into the global perspective. Creating this level of baseline data was strongly encouraged in order to accurately measure impacts from various sources such as anthropogenic, catastrophic events, or others. Many also recognized the importance of science-based approaches to management that are well coordinated among agencies.

Citizens suggested that information related to habitat not only be coordinated, but also disseminated in a way decision makers can use it to help “tell the story.” It was consistently recommended for maps to be developed that characterize all habitats at the state and regional level, advising specifically that they be user-friendly, easy to access, and updated continuously. Similarly, citizens advocated for an on-line inventory that not only describes various habitats, but also identifies factors that influence habitat quality and quantity such as existing land uses. It was suggested that providing standardized mapping and data collection techniques among the five states and all levels of government would also be beneficial to this effort.

## **Specific Recommendations**

- Continue to use available technologies such as GIS, Global Positioning System, and remote sensing to map habitats and monitor/evaluate change over time as they relate to preservation goals.
- Increase “ground-truthing” (i.e. validation of data in the field) for use in GIS and remote sensing.
- Refine remote sensing techniques for spatial and temporal characterization of Gulf habitats.
- Increase research funding to inventory sensitive and critical habitats.
- Provide training for habitat assessment and identification.
- Educate the public and community leaders on the linkages between different habitat types and impacts from upland sites on the Gulf of Mexico.
- Make a visual (e.g. video) of each habitat that demonstrates the impacts of change. A picture speaks a thousand words.
- Take a member of Congress on a diving trip.
- Engage the research community in comprehensive assessment of existing data to help identify gaps.
- Transfer science to managers in a useful format.

- Utilize local knowledge to help identify habitats.
- Incorporate data into decision making as it gets developed. Do not delay action until “everything” is understood.
- Collect and maintain useful data for *all* Gulf habitats.
- Coordinate existing data and distribute widely across the region.
- Bridge the gap between products and decision makers.
- Compile existing large-scale information that relates to, or affects, Gulf habitats—including circulation and other transient features.
- Involve the public through education, monitoring, and reporting.
- Identify indicator habitats to help inform on ecosystem health issues.
- Implement land and water use policy changes instead of funding field studies.
- Coordinate ecosystem focused studies for the entire watershed.
- Add habitat themes to applicable Web pages.
- Place educational signs in high access areas or in areas of special interest.
- Ensure protection of all functioning ecosystems.

## **Reductions in Nutrient Inputs to Coastal Ecosystems**

Across the Gulf, citizens grasped the correlation between land-use and development activities and their influence on nutrient loading. Consequently, citizens recognized the need to better manage these practices so as to help control nutrient levels and ultimately sustain ecosystem health. Citizens further acknowledged the function that wetlands play in the system—and advocated for improving the resiliency of these sites in order to increase absorption of nutrients and to reduce overall negative impacts from nutrient loading.

Gulf citizens recommended implementing nutrient criteria and adopting state water quality standards for nutrients in all Gulf States. Improving data collection efforts to develop baseline data and increasing monitoring was also highly advised. Overall, citizens recognized the need to share and coordinate information and data across geographic boundaries and all levels of government.

Citizens Gulf-wide advocated for a multi-faceted approach to reducing nutrient inputs, including stronger enforcement of existing laws to help diminish future violations and improving education—particularly of upstream communities—so that people comprehend the relationship between individual actions and large-scale impacts.

### **Specific Recommendations**

- Build vegetative buffers to filter nutrients entering into the water.
- Upgrade sewage and stormwater treatment across the entire water drainage system.
- Label all fertilizer and pesticide containers with information about nonpoint source runoff to help the public understand the impacts and causes of nutrient loading.
- Work with homeowners associations on chemical treatment for lawns.
- Provide incentives for people to change the behaviors that are contributing to nutrient loading. For example, reward farmers who implement alternative farming practices with a coastal vacation.
- Encourage sustainable design in community development. Implement alternative farming practices such as organic farming.
- Determine what an acceptable level of nutrients is and work to reduce those inputs.

- Improve the science to pinpoint sources of pollution and understand timing of nutrient loading as it relates to circulation and seasonal factors.
- Develop a better understanding of the relationship between land-use and nutrient problems. Comprehensive measures are needed to learn what is entering the Gulf from land-based sources.
- Make all polluting activities more expensive so the cost of harm to the environment and other “externalities” are included in all economic activity.
- Strengthen regulation of fertilizer use in domestic agriculture, and accurate monitoring.
- Set, enforce, and impose adequate fines. Enforce existing regulations and maintain and reinforce (i.e. air and water) regulatory programs (rules and enforcement).
- Enforce “no net loss” of wetlands.
- Improve data collection efforts to develop a baseline and then monitor (using citizen involvement) to gauge success or degradation of resources.
- Refine and implement nutrient criteria and standards consistently across the Gulf states.
- Establish and implement best management practices region wide.
- Consider impervious surface thresholds when making decisions about land use and permitting.
- Standardize monitoring for Gulf states and then work up the Mississippi to include upstream communities.
- Improve data management, communication across various levels of government, and technologies such as source tracking.
- Manage growth (less sprawl and more planned communities).

## **Overall Themes and Implications**

The Alliance community workshops provided a wealth of information about issues concerning citizens across the Gulf coast. As this report has outlined, the workshops identified the topics that people see as priority issues for the health of the Gulf of Mexico, gathered information on current efforts and constraints to addressing these issues, and collected numerous suggestions of actions that should be taken in both the public and private arenas.

This section of the report highlights five overall themes that emerge when results from all eight workshops are compiled, and discusses some of the implications of these common themes.

### **Theme 1: People care about the five priority issues and want to stay involved**

The community workshops validated the five issues identified by the Alliance as priorities for action over the next 36 months. Communities are universally concerned about water quality issues, including nutrient inputs. Gulf habitat loss was discussed at every workshop, and attendees raised a myriad of issues related to wetland and coastal conservation and restoration. Environmental education not only emerged as a priority issue at most workshops, but was repeatedly identified as a critical component of addressing all the other issues raised.

Attendees of the workshops are concerned about the five issues because they have real impacts on their day-to-day lives and the futures of their children. By highlighting the human dimensions of these issues, the workshops reinforce the importance of the Alliance's actions in these areas. For example, attendees did not talk about water quality in terms of parts-per-thousand of a particular pollutant, but rather discussed their desire to have clean water for drinking, swimming, and fishing. Similarly, attendees see the connections between habitat restoration and their children being able to go fishing in the future, as well as connections between wetland restoration and storm protection.

Because the issues are so important to them, attendees are very interested in staying engaged with the work of the Alliance. Participants at every workshop expressed a desire not only to stay informed, but also to actively contribute—either through future workshops or through direct participation—to actions the Alliance is pursuing. Some attendees talked about participating as individual volunteers on projects, while others suggested that they could potentially get their employers involved in educational efforts. As the Alliance moves forward, the community workshop attendees are a constituent base that is interested in contributing to future efforts. They are also a group that can spread the word about Alliance goals and actions to friends, family, and colleagues.

### **Theme 2: Citizens understand and are concerned about the “big picture” issues that impact states’ ability to address priority issues**

The eight workshops revealed that Gulf citizens are not only informed about specific environmental issues, but are also savvy about the context within which state agencies operate. For example, when talking about a particular issue such as loss of habitat in a local bay, participants would identify both the need for funding and collaboration across agencies as key elements of any solution. Attendees clearly understood that several over-arching or “big picture” issues influence how and if specific problems related to the health of the Gulf can be effectively addressed.

One over-arching issue that was raised was the need to balance economic and environmental interests. At two workshops this rose to the top as a priority issue, and it was a topic of discussion at all the workshops. A second topic that came up consistently was that both funding and political will must be present in order to address the priority issues impacting the current health of the Gulf of Mexico. A third and related idea discussed by participants was that societal perceptions, attitudes, values, and beliefs are critical variables because these drive both individual behavior as well as people's support for governmental actions. Discussions about societal attitudes and beliefs consistently led to recommendations for enhanced environmental education efforts across all age groups.

### **Theme 3: Participants identified the lack of land use planning, enforcement, and coordination as key constraints**

During break out groups to discuss their priority issues, workshop attendees were asked to identify constraints that have prevented these issues from being addressed. They were specifically asked to think about restrictions beyond time and money. In reviewing the results of all eight workshops, three key constraints to resolving priority issues emerged.

The first commonly identified constraint was a lack of land use planning. Attendees connected this to a variety of issues, including habitat loss and water quality and quantity concerns. At one workshop, the lack of land use planning rose to the top as a priority issue, and the broader issue of population growth and development was ranked in the top five at four additional workshops. A second and related key constraint was lack of enforcement of existing regulations. Attendees suggested that significant progress could be made on the issues of concern merely by enforcing regulations already on the books. Two workshops identified this lack of enforcement as one of their top five issues.

A third constraint raised across topic areas was a lack of coordination. This constraint was seen as holding back progress both because of lost opportunities and duplication of efforts. Of special note is that attendees were not just calling for better coordination across different governmental agencies and levels. Rather, they recognized the need for improved coordination, communication, and cooperation across all sectors (public entities, private industry, nonprofit organizations, and citizens).

### **Theme 4: The Alliance should consider additional issues beyond the five priority issues**

As mentioned above, the workshops verified that the Alliance's five priority issues are important to citizens, but the workshops also raised additional topics that are of concern to Gulf communities. The following four additional topics were discussed at multiple workshops and emerged as a top issue in at least one workshop:

- ◇ Loss of traditional coastal communities: The Apalachicola workshop identified the loss of cultural and economic viability in coastal communities as a top issue. The loss of traditional communities also came up at the Thibodaux workshop. Although this specific topic did not receive extensive discussion at the other locations, it is clearly related to concerns about unsustainable growth and development along the Gulf Coast (that came up across workshops).
- ◇ Red tide: The Sarasota workshop identified this as a priority topic—and red tide and harmful algal blooms were listed at many workshops during the group brainstorming and individual sessions.

- ◇ Invasive species: The Mississippi-Alabama workshop identified invasive species as a priority concern. And, as with red tide, this was an issue included in most if not all of the group brainstorming sessions. Attendees were concerned about both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.
- ◇ Hurricane protection: The Thibodaux workshop identified this as a priority topic. As discussed in theme five below, hurricane-related issues were raised in all workshops held after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on August 28.

### **Theme 5: Hurricane issues permeated discussions in the post-Katrina workshops**

Although hurricane protection was selected as a top issue only at the Thibodaux workshop, hurricane issues permeated all post-Katrina community workshop discussions. Participants from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama talked about the impacts of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and they made connections to the issues they identified as priorities for the health of the Gulf of Mexico. For example, attendees talked about habitat loss being exacerbated by recent hurricanes and how storm impacts have created water quality concerns and facilitated the spread of invasive species. Citizens are not only worried about the existing impacts from Katrina and Rita, but also about the potential impacts of future hurricanes on the Gulf region.

In addition to identifying impacts, workshop attendees also talked about how the recovery process is related to Alliance priorities. Perhaps the issue with the most obvious connection is wetland and coastal conservation and restoration. Conservation and restoration are needed not only for habitat and water quality benefits, but also for storm protection benefits. Participants also discussed the idea that recovery and rebuilding efforts, if carefully planned, can help to address environmental health issues that existed before the storm, and mitigate future impacts of development. Local communities impacted by the hurricanes recognize there is an opportunity to use smart growth principles and large-scale habitat restoration to rebuild a stronger, more resilient Gulf Coast.

## **Appendices**

## APPENDIX A: ATTENDEE LISTS

Location of Workshop	First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Naples, FL  6/10/05	Jorge	Agobian	Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU)
	Bruce	Anderson	Roetzel & Andress
	Katherine	Andrews	Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
	Capt. Pam	Ball	Ten T's Tours
	Bill	Barnett	City of Naples
	Tad	Bartareau	DEP Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)
	Mike	Bauer	City of Naples
	Brian	Beckner	La Playa Golf Club
	Ilze	Berzins	Florida Aquarium
	Dr. Fay	Biles	FAVA Associates
	Chris	Boland	Saltwater Sports
	Robert	Bosenberg	Army Corps of Engineers
	Brenda	Brooks-Solveson	Big Cypress Restoration Coordination Team
	Columbus	Brown	U.S. Fish & Wildlife
	Billy	Bruce	<i>Marco Island Eagle</i>
	Gloria	Car	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
	Colleen	Castille	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
	Vince	Cautero	City of Marco Island
	David	Ceilly	The Conservancy of Southwest Florida (SW FL)
	Scott	Clair	<i>Naples Daily News</i>
	Carolyn	Cochrane	Florida Yards and Neighborhoods
	Gary	Conley	A.G. Edwards
	Catherine	Corbett	Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (NEP)
	Joe	Cox	Children's Museum
	Bob	Curtin	Regenerated Resources
	Debbie	Danford	Texas (TX) Land Office
	Margaret	Davidson	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
	Liza	DeLizo	Florida Gulf Coast University
	Dick	Eckenrod	Tampa Bay Estuary Program
	Dan	Farrow	NOAA
	Cheryl	Ferrara	<i>Marco Island Eagle</i>
	Chris	Fontaine	Naples Women's Club
	Torin	Fontaine	Naples Women's Club
	Cynthia	Frisch	Pegasus Foundation
	Jim	Giattina	Environmental Protection Agency
	Carol	Glassman	Marco Island Sun Times
	Bryon	Griffith	Environmental Protection Agency
	David	Guggenheim	Florida DEP
	Kevin	Halesworth	Collier County Gov
	Layne	Hamilton	USFWS
Steve	Hart	Office of Congress. Mario Diaz-Balart	
Jennifer	Hecker	The Conservancy of SW FL	
Philip	Hinesley	Alabama (AL) Department of Conservation	

**Naples,  
FL  
6/10/05**

Brian	Holley	Naples Botanical Garden
Scott	Hopkins	Cedar Bay Marina
Beth	Housewert	Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Rookery Bay NERR
Jon	Iglehart	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Phil	Jentgen	Naples Marina
Sara	Jewell	Collier Marine Industries
Edward	Johnson Ph.D.	NASA
John	Kalafarski	Everglades National Park
Albert	Katz	Save the Bay
Amy	King	AL Department of Conservation
Ellie	Krier	EK Consulting
Keith	Laakkonen	DEP Rookery Bay NERR
Jason	Lauritsen	Audubon of Florida
Robert	Lee	Naples City Manager
Christy	Loper	NOAA
Gary	Lytton	DEP Rookery Bay NERR
Jeff	Mangan	West Bay Club
Gary	McAlpin	Visitors Center
Larry	McKinney, Ph.D.	Texas Parks
Sally	McPherson	South Florida Water Management District
April	Meffert	A & B Charters
Cheryl	Metzger	DEP Rookery Bay NERR
JoNell	Modys	Visitors Bureau
Victor	Morales	City of Naples
Joe	Moreland	Estuary Conservation
Frank	Muller-Karger	University of South. Florida
Ananta	Nath	South Florida Water Management District
Frank	Nearhoof	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Musa	Nossier	Collier County
Pat	O'Donnell	DEP Rookery Bay NERR
John	Ogden	University of South Florida
Jason	Old	WFTX-TV
Nancy	Olson	Collier Parks & Recreation
Donna	Pace	Rookery Bay NERR
Christina	Panko	Florida Gulf Coast University
Nancy	Peterson	University of Florida
Rich	Pierce, Ph. D	Mote Marine Laboratory
Ellen	Prager	Earth2Ocean
Garrett	Richter	Fifth Third Bank
Don	Roman	National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC)
Charles	Schoennagel	U.S. Dept of Interior
Peggy	Sealfon	Sealfon & Associates
Erica	Seiden	ERD
Craig	Seibert	Collier County
Mike	Shirley	DEP Rookery Bay NERR
Eric	Staats	<i>Naples Daily News</i>
Lois	Swaim	Friends of Rookery Bay

<b>Naples, FL  6/10/05</b>	Ron	Swaim	Friends of Rookery Bay
	Dr. Greg	Tolley	Florida Gulf Coast University
	Richard	Valera	Stormwater Collier County
	Laura	Walls	FGCU
	Jack	Wert	Visitors Center
	Linda	Young	Clean Water Network
	Renee	Wilson	Rookery Bay NERR
<b>Tampa, FL  8/23/05</b>	Tony	Janicki	Janicki Environmental, Inc.
	Charles	Kovach	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
	Kevin	Riskowitz	City of St. Petersburg
	Erica	Moulton	Hillsborough Community College
	Erika	Capellupo	Audubon of Florida
	Bryan	Pridgeon	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
	Shawn	Landry	University of South Florida
	Donald	Duke	USF, Department of Environmental Science and Policy
	Roger	Johansson	City of Tampa
	Frank	Muller-Karger	USF, College of Marine Science
	Dolly	Cummings	Ruskin Community Development Foundation
	Suzanne	Cooper	Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
	Pauline	Luther	Environmental Distance Learning
	Bob	Minthorn	Tampa Bay Estuary Program Citizens Advisory Committee (TBEP - CAC)
	Russell	Owens	
	Lori	Pillsbury	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
	Barbara	Motte	Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County (EPC – HC)
	Paul	Bissett	Florida Environmental Research Institute
	Jessica	Britt	Florida Environmental Research Institute
	Kendall	Sanderson	Tampa Bay Watch
	Ann	Hodgson	Resource Designs, Inc.
	Merrie Beth	Neely	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
	Robert	Weisberg	University of South Florida
	Robert	McWilliams	Pinellas County - Water Resources
	Ann	Forstchen	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
	Stephanie	Letson	
	Anamarie	Rivera	Pinellas County Adopt-A-Pond Program
	Mitch	Attias	Florida Master Naturalist Program
	Michael	Henderson	NOAA - Tampa Bay
	Jeff	Stewart	Mosaic Fertilizer
	Nancy	DeLamar	The Nature Conservancy
	October	Railey	Ash Engineering, Inc.
	Angela	Gable	Ash Engineering, Inc.
	Betsy	Ilfeld	
Sue	Croley		
Albert	Hine	University of South Florida, College of Marine Science	
Chuck	Coleman	Hillsborough County Marine Safety	

<b>Tampa, FL  8/23/05</b>	Brandt	Henningsen	SWFWMD-SWIM
	Andy	Squires	Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management (DEM)
	Gil	McRae	Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
	Wendy	Valle	Tampa Bay Watch
	Donald	Moores	Berryman & Henigar, Inc.
	Kristina	Jackson	Sierra Club
	Christopher	Anastasiou	SWFWMD - SWIM
	Gerold	Morrison	Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) - Hillsborough County
	Heather	Masonjones	University of Tampa
	Michelle	McIntyre	Alliance Coastal Technology/ University of South Florida
	Michael	Dalsis	Ash Engineering, Inc.
	Mark	Luther	USF College of Marine Science
	Geoffrey	Morrison	The International SeaKeepers Society
	Johan	Schijf	USF College of Marine Science
	Laura	Flynn	Lewis Environmental Services, In.
	Bob	McConnell	Tampa Bay Water
	Jodi	Pracht	Archaeological Consultants, Inc.
	Karen	Hamel	
	Gilbert	Sigua	U.S. Department of Agriculture – Agriculture Research Service (USDA-ARS)
	Laura	Geselbracht	The Nature Conservancy
	Doug	Shaw	The Nature Conservancy
	Jim	Jeansonne	NOAA Office Response Restoration
	Brad	Robbins	Mote Marine Laboratory
	Kerry	Cromie	Hillsborough County Real Estate Department
	Irene	Abbot	Eagle Audubon Society
	Louise	Huberty	Eagle Audubon Society
	Deborah	Epperson	Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico Region
	Chris	Friel	
	Alex	Soloviev	NOVA University-w/Mark Luther
	Mike	Salinero	<i>Tampa Tribune</i>
	Gary	Florence	Photoscience
	Bryon	Griffith	Gulf of Mexico Alliance
	Gary	Lyton	Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Jim	Anderson	Seagrass Recovery	
Jim	Hill	Fox 13 News	
Lindsay	Griffen	Tampa Bay Estuary Program	
Holly	Greening	Tampa Bay Estuary Program	
Dick	Eckenrod	Tampa Bay Estuary Program	
Ron	Hosler	Tampa Bay Estuary Program	
Colleen	Gray	Tampa Bay Estuary Program	
<b>Tampa, FL  PUBLIC SESSION  8/23/05</b>	Charles	Kovach	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
	Frank	Muller-Karger	University of South Florida, College of Marine Science
	Dolly	Cummings	Ruskin Community Development Foundation
	Pauline	Luther	Environmental Distance Learning

<b>Tampa, FL</b>  <b>PUBLIC SESSION</b>  <b>8/23/05</b>	Bob	Minthorn	Tampa Bay Estuary Program Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
	Pauline	Archard	Tampa Bay Estuary Program CAC
	Paul	Bissett	Florida Environmental Research Institute
	Jessica	Britt	Florida Environmental Research Institute
	Pamela	Harris	Environmental Strategies
	Robert	Weisberg	University of South Florida
	Robert	McWilliams	Pinellas County - Water Resources
	Steven	Vetter	Goldie Feldman Academy
	Clay	Hankinson	
	Jeanette	Doyle	Save Our Bays and Canals (SOBAC)
	Wright	Barrs	
	Mitch	Attias	Florida Master Naturalist Program
	Lynnette	Riva	
	Matthew	Riva	
	Nancy	DeLamar	The Nature Conservancy
	Sandra	Ripberger	Tampa Bay Estuary Program CAC
	Chad	Bedee	Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve
	Sue	Croley	
	Eric	Gasch	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
	Gil	McRae	FWRI
	Seth	Blitch	Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve/FDEP
	Sue	Brandon	Tampa Bay Estuary Program - CAC
	Kristina	Jackson	Sierra Club
	Mark	Luther	University of South Florida College of Marine Science
	Luisella	Mazzone	Surfrider Foundation-Tampa Chapter
	Geoffrey	Morrison	The International SeaKeepers Society
	Laura	Geselbracht	The Nature Conservancy
	Jake	Respondek	Future Surfrider Chapter
	Deborah	Epperson	Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico Region
	Joe	Murphy	Sierra Club
	Mary Alice	Merlin	U.S. Coast Guard
	Kellar	Carmouche	
	Sandra	Carmouche	
	John	Iliff	NOAA Restoration Center
	Dave	Engle	Bonefish, Tarpon Unlimited
	Melissa	Larsen-Walker	
	Bonnie	Atwood	
	Michelle	Unsworth	
	Tom	Gustafson	NOVA University-w/Mark Luther
	Mike	Salinero	<i>Tampa Tribune</i>
Paul	DeAngelis	Gulf Surf Forum	
Kristina	Roberts	Sierra Club	
Adrienne	Roberts		
Amy	Sanders		
Barbara	Green Todd		
David	Eilers		
Bryon	Griffith	Gulf of Mexico Alliance	
Bill	Jonson	Tampa Bay Estuary Program City of Clearwater Council	

<b>Tampa, FL PUBLIC SESSION 8/23/05</b>	Lindsay	Griffen	Tampa Bay Estuary Program
	Holly	Greening	Tampa Bay Estuary Program
	Dick	Eckenrod	Tampa Bay Estuary Program
	Ron	Hosler	Tampa Bay Estuary Program
	Colleen	Gray	Tampa Bay Estuary Program
	Nanette	Holland	Tampa Bay Estuary Program
<b>Apalachicola, FL 8/25/05</b>	David	Adlerstein	<i>Apalachicola Times</i>
	Bonnie	Basham	Standing Watch & Florida Council of Yacht Clubs
	Chris	Bittle	Birdsong Nature Center & TCC
	Jon	Blanchard	The Nature Conservancy
	Seth	Blitch, Manager	Department of Environmental Protection - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
	Cynthia	Brown	Graduate Student
	David	Brumbaugh	Franklin County Health Department
	Roger	Bybee	Citizen
	Phil	Calandra	Citizen
	Rafael	Calderon	The Nature Conservancy
	Rodney	DeHan	Department of Environmental Protection - Florida Geological Survey
	Nancy	DeLamar	The Nature Conservancy
	Lee	Edmiston	Department of Environmental Protection - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
	Stephanie	Fahrmy	Department of Environmental Protection - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
	Derek	Fussell	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
	Theresa	Goedeke	Florida A & M University - Environmental Sciences Institute
	Chris	Gudeman	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission - Marine Habitat Protection
	Bruce	Hall	Apalachicola P & Z
	Julie	Harrington	Florida State University - Center For Economic Forecasting and Analysis
	Dr. Steve	Herrington	The Nature Conservancy
	Deborah	Holland	Department of Environmental Protection - NW Florida Aquatic Preserves
	L.Scott	Jackson	Florida Sea Grant - Okaloosa/Walton Counties
	Mel	Kelly	Carrabelle Zoning Committee
	Honorable Will	Kendrick	Florida House of Representatives
	Rosalyn	Kilcollins	Apalachicola - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
	Bob	Klein	St. James Bay Development
Alan	Knothe	Department of Environmental Protection - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve	
Jim	Ladner	Department of Environmental Protection - Florida Geological Survey	
Megan	Lamb	Department of Environmental Protection - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve	

<b>Apalachicola, FL  8/25/05</b>	Lauren	Levi	Department of Environmental Protection - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
	Thom	Lewis	St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge
	Jay	Liles	Florida Conservation Alliance
	Erik	Lovestrand	Department of Environmental Protection - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
	Bill	Mahan	Florida Sea Grant - Franklin County
	Roy	Ogles	Department of Environmental Protection - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
	Barbara	Ruth	Department of Environmental Protection - NW District
	Eric	Schneider	Department of Environmental Protection - NW District
	Joe	Shields	Department of Ag & Consumer Services - Division of Aquaculture
	Kent	Smith	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission - Marine Habitat Protection
	Jim	Stefanko	Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District
	Jessica	Stewart	Department of Environmental Protection - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
	Lynn	Todd	City of Port St. Joe
	Dan	Tonsmeire	Apalachicola Riverkeepers
	Chris	Verlinde	Florida Sea Grant - Sanat Rosa County
	Richard	Wiechowicz	Department of Environmental Protection - TMDL Program
	Denise	Williams	Citizen
Kim	Wren	Department of Environmental Protection - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve /Aquatic Preserves	
<b>Sarasota, FL  9/14/05</b>	Alison	Albee	Sustainable Sarasota/Sarasota County
	Mark	Alderson	Sarasota Bay Estuary Program
	Paul	Andrews	
	Bob	Ardren	Pelican Press newspaper
	John	Aspioler	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
	Jill	Austin	
	Lisa	Beever	
	Rachel	Benton	Rep Donna Clarke
	Jal	Bharcha	Sierra
	Elizabeth	Bharucha	Sierra
	Karen	Bickford	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
	Greg	Blanchard	Manatee County
	Mike	Britt	City of Winter Haven
	David	Bulloch	American Littoral Society
	Julia	Burch	Sarasota Bay Estuary Program
	Warren and Joan	Bush	
	Bill	Byle	Charlotte County
	Donald	Caillouette	Planning and Zoning Department / City of Venice
	James	Canfield	ICO Group/ Manatee/ Sarasota/Sierra Club
	jaime	Canfield	The Golden Ball
Trevor	Caughlin	New College of Florida	
Kathleen and Steven	Cevoli		
Donald	Chaney	Save our Sarasota	

Sarasota,  
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Missy L.	Christie	Charlotte County Environmental & Extension Services
Jim	Cooper	Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority
Catherine	Corbett	
Jeremy	Cox	<i>Naples Daily News</i>
Adam	Cummings	
Sean	Cuoton	Mote Marine Laboratory
Vicki	Dean	<i>Sarasota Herald-Tribune/Charlotte</i>
Sunny	Diver	EarthBalance
Liz	Donley	
Julie	Drevenkar	CAMA/EBAP
Cheryl	Ennis	State Senator Mike Bennett, Florida Senate
Stephanie	Erickson	DEP-Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve
Ernie	Estevez	Mote Marine Laboratory
Kathleen	Fletcher	Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves
Katie	Fuhr	Dept. of Environmental Protection-Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves
Lizanne	Garcia	Southwest Florida Water Management District
John	Garrison	Trust for Public Land
Wayne	Genthner	Wolfmouth Charters
Pat	Glass	
Maria	Gomez	Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Gray	Gordon	Mosaic Fertilizer LLC
Cheryl	Gross	Protect our World Inc.
Sharon	Guy	Law Office of Sharon M. Guy
Dan	Harwell	
Jennifer	Hecker	Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Maran	Hilgendorf	
Judith	Hoch	
Paul	Holmes	Audubon, Peace River Chapter
Debbie	Horner	Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves
Allan	Horton	Pelican Press
chris	hubbard	Manatee--Sarasota Sierra Club
Robert	Hueter	Mote Marine Laboratory
Kim	Hull	Mote Marine Laboratory
Jon	Iglehart	
Betsy	Ilfeld	
Connie	Jarvis	City of Cape Coral
Mary	Jelks	
David	Jellerson	Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC
Carla	Kappmeyer	DEP / Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park
Wilma	Katz	Coastal Wildlife Club, Inc.
Dick	Keen	
Barbara	Kerby	South Florida Water Management District
Charles	Kovach	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
JOYCE	KREGGER	SOLUTIONS TO AVOID RED TIDE (S.T.A.R.T.)
Raymond	Kurz	PBS&J
Linda Seashore	Larsen	Sarasota County Water Resources

<b>Sarasota, FL  9/14/05</b>	Ernesto	Lasso de la Vega	
	Kenya	Leonard	Sarasota County Coastal Resources
	Jeannine	Lessmann	Eckerd College
	Rose	Lethere	
	Ellen	Levine	Organizing a Red Tide Ball currently; independent
	Judy	Levy	Save our Sarasota
	Brian	Lichterman	
	Matthew	Logan	Charlotte County Public Works- Storm water
	Gary	Lytton	Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
	Kevin	Madley	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
	Nick	Manolukas	Sarasota County Green Party
	Ann	Mason	501c3 corp. and POW Officer
	John	McKie	
	Sally	McPherson	
	Jennifer	Means	
	Robert E	Mendoza	Retired, EPA New England Office
	Kaley	Miller	Mosaic Fertilizer LLC
	John	Milone	Hardee County Schools
	Julie	Morris	New College of Florida
	Frank	Muller-Karger	University of South Florida
	Heidi	Neale	Sarasota County Green Party
	Kayton	Nedza	
	Jennifer	Nelson	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
	Carol	Newcomb-Jones	Babcock Preservation Partnership
	Christina	Olson	Florida State Parks District IV
	Faith	Opatrny	City of Cape Coral Environmental Resources Division
	Jean	Ost	
	Matthew	Osterhoudt	Sarasota County Government, Natural Resources
	Judy	Ott	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
	Russell W.	Owens	Around the Bend Nature Tours
	Lee	Padgett	Florikan Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (ESA)
	Carla	Palmer	South Florida Water Management District
	Rob	Patten	Sarasota County Environmental Services
	Angi	Penzo	Health Facilitators, Inc.
	Ginger	Perlman	Manatee-Sarasota Sierra Club
	Aubrey	Phillips	Sarasota County
	Annemarie	Post	University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Sarasota County Cooperative Extension
	Michael	Price	
	Kathi	Rader-Gibson	Sarasota County
	Gary	Raulerson	Sarasota Bay Estuary Program
Brad	Robbins	Mote Marine Laboratory	
Mark	Robson		
Bobbi	Rodgers	CHEC	
Dianne	Rosensweig	Scheda Ecological Association	
Eric	Rosenthal	Florikan	
Ed	Rosenthal	Florikan ESA	

<b>Sarasota, FL  9/14/05</b>	Sheila	Rosenthal	Retired from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Don	Ross	EarthBalance
	Thomas	Rothman	City of Sanibel
	Rosalind	Rowe	Around the Bend Nature Tours / Wonderrations
	John	Ryan	Sarasota County
	Jim	Sampson	CF Industries, Inc.
	Cynthia	Scaglione	Self
	Melynda	Schneider	DEP-Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves
	Annette	Seitz	
	Christine	Smith	Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC
	Stacey	Smith	Senator Bill Nelson
	Jean	Srodes	
	Heather	Stafford	Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Pres. and Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve
	Samuel	Starrett	Agricultural Extension Service
	Stuart	Stauss	Pine Island Sound
	John	Swingle	Sierra Club Florida Chapter
	John	Taaffe	IFAS Extension
	Jamie	Tacy	Mote Marine Laboratory
	David	Townsend	Mosaic Fertilizer LLC
	joe	tremblay	
	Tony	Uccello	
	Gabriole	Van Bryce	Van Bryce + Associates
	Dave	Vaughan	Mote Marine Lab
	Albert	Walton	Florida. Department of Environmental Protection
	Randall	Wells	Mote Marine Laboratory
	Amber	Whittle	Biological Research Associates
	Kendra	Willett	USFWS JNDDNWR
	Bruce	Wirth	
Cathy	Zollo	<i>Herald Tribune</i>	
<b>Galveston, TX  9/20/05</b>	Ayal	Anis	Texas A&M University at Galveston
	Steve	Archer	Wildlife Habitat Council
	Bill	Baker	Reliant Energy
	Jene	Barker	HNTB Corporation
	Lilian	Beerman	
	Susan	Benner	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Michael	Berryhill	
	Linda	Broach	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
	Robin	Culp	Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG)
	Jeff	DallaRosa	Galveston Bay Estuary Program
	Helen	Drummond	Galveston Bay Estuary Program
	Jay	Gamble	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
	Lori	Gernhardt	Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority
	Albert	Gonzales	Galveston Bay Council
	Lisa	Gonzalez	Houston Advanced Research Center
	Clarence	Gray	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
	Vaness	Hamilton	City of Clear Lake Shores

<b>Galveston, TX 9/20/05</b>	Stephen	Holmes	Galveston County Commissioner, Precinct 3
	John	Jacob	Texas Cooperative Extension/Texas Sea Grant
	Doug	Jacobson	U.S. EPA - Region 6
	Steven	Johnston	Galveston Bay Estuary Program
	Scott	Jones	Galveston Bay Estuary Program
	Paul	Kelly	U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy
	Russell W.	Kiesling	ENTRIX-Environmental Consultants
	Linda	Knowles	Native Plant Society of Texas
	Carl	Masterson	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Mario	Mata	Texas Department of Transportation
	Sarah "Sam"	Metzger	City of Pasadena
	Bruce	Moulton	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
	Ana	Partin	Georgia Gulf Chemicals and Vinyls, L.L.C.
	Ralph	Rayburn	Texas Sea Grant College Program
	Gilbert	Rowe	Texas A&M University at Galveston
	Diane	Schenke	The Park People
	Jamie	Schubert	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
	Linda	Shed	The Trust for Public Land
	Elizabeth	Shelton	Galveston Bay Information Center - TAMUG
	Jay	Smith	Galveston Independent School District (ISD)
	Brent	Stafford	Itasca Environmental
	Bob	Stokes	Galveston Bay Foundation
	Johnny	Strimple	
	Tom	Weber	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
	Chuck	Wemple	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Mary Ellen	Whitworth	Bayou Preservation Association
	Natalie	Wiest	Galveston Bay Information Center - TAMUG
Page	Williams	Sierra Club	
Jarrett "Woody"	Woodrow	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	
<b>Port Aransas, TX 1/19/006</b>	Chad	Ahlgren	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
	Erin	Albert	Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
	Ray	Allen	Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.
	Sandra	Alvarado	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
	Sally	Applebaum	University Texas Marine Science Institute
	Tom	Ballou	Sherwin Alumina
	Eleonor	Barraza	University of Texas Austin
	John	Blaha	Coastal Conservation Association
	Peter	Boone	Texas General Land Office
	Alan R.	Bunn	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
	Rafael	Calderon,	The Nature Conservancy
	Tom	Calnan	Texas General Land Office
	Marcy	Campbell	University of Texas Marine Science Institute
	Raul	Cantu	Texas Department of Transportation
	Paul	Carangelo	Port of Corpus Christi Authority
	Lucia	Carreon	University of Texas Marine Science Institute
	Teresa	Carrillo	Coastal Bend Bays Foundation
	Grace	Chen	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

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Pat	Clements	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Robyn	Cobb	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sally	Cotner	Keep Aransas Beautiful
Hudson	DeYoe	University of Texas Pan American
Quenton	Dokken	Harte Research Institute
Mark	Dumesnil	The Nature Conservancy
Ken	Dunton	University of Texas Marine Science Institute
Monika	De la Garza	Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.
Milisa	Edgar	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Bob	Edwards	Save Cedar Bayou, Inc.
Lynn	Edwards	Save Cedar Bayou, Inc.
Meg	Fencil	University of Texas Marine Science Institute
Larisa	Ford	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
T.J.	Fox	Texas Master Naturalist
Lee	Fuiman	University of Texas Marine Science Institute
Mike	Gonzales	San Antonio River Authority
Richard	Gonzales	Gulf of Mexico Foundation
Carla	Guthrie	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Tom	Hall	The Coastal Bend Guide Association
Beau	Hardegree	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Leah	Harter	
Don	Hockaday	University of Texas Pan American
Joan	Holt	Univ. Texas Marine Science Institute
Lois	Huff	Coastal Bend Bays Foundation
Ann	Jochens	Texas A&M University, Department of
Norman	Johns	National Wildlife Federation
Felix	Keeley	Aransas County Navigation District
Paul	Kelly	U.S. Ocean Commission
Matthew	Kimmel	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Corpus Christi Field Office
Julie	Kinsey	University of Texas Marine Science Institute
Ray	Kirkwood	Texas Master Naturalist
Dick	Klopshinske	
Michelle	Kolar	Padre Island National Seashore
Charlotte	Kucera	Texas Department of Transportation
Ray	Little	Aransas First
Ron	Massey	City of Corpus Christi
Lonnie	Matthew	Citizen
Karen	Meador	Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.
Paul	Montagna	University of Texas Marine Science Institute
Bruce	Moulton	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Sonia	Najera	The Nature Conservancy
Georgia	Neblett	City of Port Aransas
Miguel	Nevarez	University of Texas Pan American
Terry	Palmer	University of Texas Marine Science Institute
David	Parsons	City of Port Aransas
Rick	Pratt	City of Port Aransas City Council
Susan Blaze	Pyrek	Texas Master Naturalist
Ralph	Rayburn	Texas Sea Grant

<b>Port Aransas, TX  1/19/006</b>	Don	Roach	San Patricio Municipal Water District
	Meghan	Roussel	U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
	Laura	Ryckman	University of Texas Marine Science Institute
	Venice	Scheurich	Sierra Club
	Tara	Schultz	Texas State Aquarium
	Gene	Seaman	U.S. House of Representatives
	James	Simons	Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.
	Elizabeth	Smith	Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
	Sam	Sugarek	Nueces River Authority
	Pat	Suter	Coastal Bend Sierra Club
	Leo	Trevino	Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.
	Jim	Urban	City of Port Aransas
	Jane	Ward	City of Ingleside
	Thomas	Whelan	University of Texas Pan American
	Anne	Williams	Coastal Bend Council of Governments
	Kate	Williams	Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.
	Mina	Williams	Sierra Club
	Shirley	Windhorst	
	Carol	Woodfin	Citizen
<b>Mississippi - Alabama  PUBLIC SESSION  1/31/006</b>	Beau	Mitchell	Federal Emergency Management Agency Technical Assistance Contact (FEMA TAC)
	Bill	Walker	Department of Marine Resources
	Bootsie	Ehrlich	Citizen
	Charles	Manning	FEMA TAC
	Cheryl	McClary	Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)
	Dave	Burrage	Mississippi State University/Sea Grant
	David	Ruple	Grand Bay NERR
	Donald	Scharr	Citizen
	Eddie	Rhodes	Shrimper
	Elizabeth	Waldorf	Citizen
	F. J.	Eicke	Coastal Conservation Association
	Gloria	Car	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Gulf of Mexico Program
	Hilton	Glass	Citizen
	Jeffrey	Bounds	Marine Sciences Research Center (MSRC)
	Jennifer	Buchanan	Grand Bay NERR
	Jimmy	Day	South Point Cons.
	Joan	Belote	Citizen
	John	Lopez	Lake Pontcha MSRC rtrain Basin Foundation
	Kay	Mihelich	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital
	Kevin	Stankiewicz	FEMA TAC
	Lauren	Thompson	Department of Marine Resources
	Marcia	Garcia	Department of Marine Resources
	Mark	LaSalle	Audubon
	Marti	Schuman	Department of Marine Resources
Mary Jane	Gaulke	Citizen	
Melanie	Magee	EPA Gulf of Mexico Program	
Michael	Ehrlich	Keesler Air Force Base	

<b>Mississippi - Alabama</b>  <b>PUBLIC SESSION</b>  <b>1/31/006</b>	Mike	Keller	<i>Sun Herald</i>
	Oscar	Eckhoff	Citizen
	Patricia	Spinks	Citizen
	Paula	Vassey	Citizen Conservation
	Pete	Umbdenstock	Coastal Conservation Association
	Phil	Bass	Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
	Ray	Lenaz	Coastal Conservation Association
	Ronnie	Frank	Citizen
	Sharon	Walker	University of Southern Mississippi (USM)
	Susan	Perkins	Department of Marine Resources
	Teresa	Stadler	Grand Bay NERR
	Terese	Collins	Gulf Islands Conservancy
	Tina	Shumate	Department of Marine Resources
	Vernon	Hartley	Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation
<b>Mississippi - Alabama</b>  <b>2/1/006</b>	A. Garner	Russell	A. Garner Russell and Associates
	Amy	King	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR)
	Andrew	Whitehurst	Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
	Barbara	Knott	Knott and Associates
	Barbara	Reid	Portersville Revival Group
	Bob	Fairbank	Wolf River Conservation
	Brad	Martin	First Chemical
	C. Ray	Hayes	Mississippi State University (MSU)
	Carol	Lovell-Sass	Biophilia
	Cecil	Burge	University of Southern Mississippi
	Charlene	Lee	Smart Coast
	Charlie	Robertson	Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
	Cheryl	McClary	Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)
	Chet	Rakocinski	USM/Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
	Chris	May	Grand Bay NERR
	Cynthia	Scott	Citizen
	D. Jay	Grimes	University of Southern Mississippi
	Dave	Burrage	MSU/Coastal Research and Extension Center (CREC)
	David	Shaw	Mississippi State University
	David	Ruple	Grand Bay NERR
	David	Kopf	Hancock County School District
	Diane	Altsman	EPA/Gulf of Mexico Program
	Don	Roman	USM/ Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL)
	Donald	Scharr	Mississippi State University
	Eddie	Rhodes	Shrimper
	Elaine	Snyder-Conn	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
	Flinda	Hill	Mississippi Power Company
	Fred	Saas	Biophilia
	George	Crozier	Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL)
	Gloria	Car	EPA/Gulf of Mexico Program
	Grant	Larsen	Mississippi DMR
	Harriet	Brown	Portersville Revival Group

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Alabama  
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J.	Cho	Jackson State University
Jan	Boyd	Mississippi DMR
Jeff	Clark	Mississippi DMR
Jeff	Taylor	Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District (SMPDD)
Jennifer	Buchanan	Grand Bay NERR
Jerry	Eubanks	National Park Service (NPS)
Joan	Murphy	Mississippi DMR
Jody	Thompson	Auburn University Marine Extension Center (AUMERC) /Sea Grant
Joe	Jewell	Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
John	Guyton	Mississippi State University CREC
Joseph	Runnells	Mississippi DMR
Judy	Steckler	Land Trust
Julius	Bahm	Jackson State University
Larry	Lewis	Brown and Mitchell
Lauren	Thompson	Mississippi DMR
Lee	Yokel	Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
Leevones	Dubose	Bay Area Women's Coalition
Len	Bahr	Louisiana Governor's Office
Lloyd	Scott	Mobile County Public Schools Environmental Center
Louis	Buckalew	Bayou LaBatre CoC
Marcia	Garcia	Mississippi DMR
Margaret	Bretz	Mississippi Secretary of State's Office
Margaret	Sedlecky	Weeks Bay NERR
Marian	Dicas	Grand Bay NERR
Marti	Schuman	Mississippi DMR
Maureen	Nation	Weeks Bay NERR
Michael	Shelton	Weeks Bay NERR
Mike	Smith	Jackson County Port Authority
Mike	Moore	Newport Partners
Mike	Keller	<i>Sun Herald</i>
Moby	Salangi	Institute of Marine Mammal Studies
Oscar	Eckhoff	Citizen
P.	Anjaneyulu	Jackson State University
Patricia	Knight	Mississippi State University CREC
Patty	Rogers	USDA/ Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Pete	Barber	Alabama Seafood Association
Phil	Bass	Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Phillip	Hinesley	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR)
Piers	Chapman	Coastal Restoration and Enhancement Through Science and Technology (CREST) Program
Remata	Reddy	Jackson State University
Robert	Hughes	Jackson State University
Ronald	Martin	Alabama Power/Envision Coastal
Russ	Beard	NOAA
Salome	Wiley	
Scott	Gordon	Mississippi DMR

<b>Mississippi - Alabama</b>  <b>2/1/006</b>	Sharon	Hodge	Mississippi DMR
	Sharon	Walker	USM Marine Education Center and Aquarium (MEC&A) and Sea Grant
	Steve	Bosarge	Bosarge Boats, Inc.
	Steve	Lohrenz	University of Southern Mississippi
	Steve	Goff	Mississippi DEQ
	Susan	Rees	U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District
	Susan	Perkins	Mississippi DMR
	Teresa	Stadler	Grand Bay NERR
	Tina	Shumate	Mississippi DMR
	Tina	Sanchez	South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC)
	Walter	Ernest	Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation
	Wendy	Allen	Smart Coast
<b>Thibodaux, LA</b>  <b>2/21/006</b>	Len	Bahr	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
	Pam	Blanchard	Louisiana State University (LSU)
	Bob	Bosenberg	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
	David	Bourgeois	LSU Ag Center
	John	Boyles	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
	Ed	Britton	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
	Cindy	Brown	The Nature Conservancy
	Rex	Caffey	LSU Ag Center
	Jules	Calderex	Louisiana Spirit
	Bruce	Champion	Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)
	Steve	Chustz	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
	Scott	Courtright	U.S. Risk Management
	Ken	Edds	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
	Heather	Egger	University of New Orleans
	Deborah	Epperson	Minerals Management Services
	Rene	Fry	Louisiana Spirit
	Karen	Gautreaux	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
	Judith	Haydel	U.S. Geological Survey
	Tesa	Hill	Teacher
	Heidi	Hitter	USGS/National Wetlands Research Center (NWRC)
	Betty	Hutchenson	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
	Joanna	Jones	
	Cathy	Mills	Episcopal School of Acadiana
	Ed	Landgraf	Shell Pipeline
	Darin	Lee	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
	Al	Levron	Terrebonne Parish
	Diane	Lindstedt	LSU
	John	Lopez	Lake Pontchartrain Basin Found.
	Mike	Lyons	Louisiana Mid-continent Oil & Gas Association (LMOGA)
	Dinah	Maygarden	University of New Orleans
Linda	Pace	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources	
Allyn	Rodriguez	National Park Service	
Matt	Rota	Gulf Restoration Network	
Dugan	Sabins	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality	

<b>Thibodaux, LA 2/21/006</b>	Natalie	Snider	U.S. Risk Management
	Tiffany	Soileau	Governor's Environmental Education Coordinator
	Joe	Spruce	Science Systems & Applications
	Richard	Stanek	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
	Leslie	Suazo	Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone Management
	Mike	Trusclair	USDA/Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
	Ann	Wilson	Department of Education
	Jason	Smith	Jefferson Parish
	Wendy	Billiot	Citizen/Author
	Gary	LaFleur	Nova Southeastern University Biology
	Victoria	Exnicios	
	Allison	Williams	Louisiana Spirit
	Anthony	Roussell	DHH
	Fred	Kopfler	Gulf of Mexico Program
	Gloria	Car	Gulf of Mexico Program
	Stan	Skrobalowski	U.S. Geological Survey
	Kerry	St. Pé	Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
	Susan	Testroet-Bergeron	Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
	Sandra	Helmuth	Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
	Dean	Blanchard	Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
Andrew	Barron	Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program	
Michael	Massimi	Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program	
Joni	Blanchard	Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program	
Angela	Rathle	National Park Service	

**APPENDIX B: RESPONSES TO PRIORITY ACTIONS**

Location of Workshop	Reductions in nutrient inputs to coastal ecosystems	Water quality for healthy beaches and shellfish beds	Wetland and coastal conservation and restoration	Identification and characterization of Gulf habitats	Environmental education
<p align="center"><b>Naples, FL 6/10/05</b></p>	<p>Slow with a goal of eventually stopping the discharge of nutrients upstream</p>	<p>Availability of tools for defining the relationship between land use and water quality</p>	<p>Change federal laws.</p>	<p>Baseline information for planning future development consistent criteria</p>	<p>Macro – vision create a sense of ownership for “international” mindset, multi media – educate the masses in an entertaining fashion</p>
	<p>Our company is playing a role in the solution offering to developers, golf courses, consumers a high quality environmentally friendly organic fertilizer.</p>	<p>Help build awareness of the quality of life risk that continued practices play in the degradation of these southwest Florida assets.</p>	<p>Purchase programs/land acquisition.</p>	<p>Help build awareness of the quality of life risk that continued practices play in the degradation of these southwest Florida assets.</p>	<p>Help build awareness of the quality of life risk that continued practices play in the degradation of these southwest Florida assets.</p>
	<p>Enforce “no net loss” of wetlands.</p>	<p>Enforcement of clean water act and “no net loss of wetlands” rule</p>	<p>Help build awareness of the quality of life risk that continued practices play in the degradation of these southwest Florida assets.</p>	<p>Engage research community in comprehensive assessment – and ensure all data collected (future and previously) with tax payer funds are made public.</p>	<p>Educate consumers of environmental services as to the costs and value of the environmental service provided by our natural heritage – establish credible values for environmental functions and spread the knowledge.</p>
	<p>Strict regulation of fertilizer use in domestic/agriculture paired with accurate monitoring.</p>	<p>Improve sewage treatment and combined storm/sewer overflow and output to coast.</p>	<p>Monitor and ensure preservation of mitigation parcels.</p>	<p>More monitoring and research (this is unclear – subject underlined)</p>	<p>Coordinate using Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE), Sea Grant, National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR).</p>
	<p>Local government land use/permitting decisions need to change. Base on impervious surface thresholds/area</p>	<p>Stop inappropriate Caloosahatchee releases.</p>	<p>Start by protecting existing wetlands.</p>	<p>Cross reference any existing data . . . instead of each agency continuing overlapping efforts.</p>	<p>Reach multicultural/minority audiences with materials in their language and marketed to their needs/ concerns/ desires.</p>
	<p>Develop a state water quality standard for nutrient (total maximum daily load for nutrients.</p>	<p>Develop total maximum load standards and implement/ enforce them.</p>	<p>Buy all available land – require (locally) removal of exotic invasive plants, say no to additional impacts on wetlands and avoid mitigation needs.</p>	<p>Develop a Gulf of Mexico (GOM) habitat map that is user friendly.</p>	<p>Consistent info to general public at an understandable level</p>

<p><b>Naples, FL</b></p> <p><b>6/10/05</b></p>	Reduce sources of nutrients.	Finding what is an acceptable level of nutrients then working to reduce source	First stop permitting the destruction of wetlands and drainage of flow ways, then restore hydrology of wetlands remaining.	Catalog habitats and transfer science to managers in a useful format.	Develop a five state standard curriculum for GOM at the elementary school level.
	Get labeling on fertilizer and pesticide containers about nonpoint runoff.	Education at the general public level public service announcements on T.V., etc. on water quality and how it affects you	Limiting wetland encroachment through development	Alert government agencies with issues and desire published information.	Improve teacher training and public awareness.
	Finding what is an acceptable level of nutrients then working to reduce source	Improve identification of problem areas or sources and monitoring.	Prioritize those critical sites that need restoration now.	I do not understand this statement.	Inform others as I get informed, spread the good word.
	Less annual fertilization, but choosing organic (green) sources rather than chemical/synthetic	Pollution preservation to drains which lead to Gulf eventually	Curtail activities that facilitate loss and provide incentives for restoration.	A geographic information system (GIS) with ground truthing needs to be continuously updated with the most current information – are the habitats defined? What is the goal of preservation?	Help all people (coastal residents as well as visitors) appreciate that they have a stake in the quality of the Gulf and sustainability.
	Convert septic systems to tertiary treatment and enforce outfall regulations.	Storm water treatment (no ocean outfalls)	New plantings but identify sources of degradation and suppress them	Listen more closely to locals who have been trying extremely hard to be heard.	Environmental education begins with kids – you don't save what you don't understand – this must continue into adulthood (whatever that is) and beyond. Awaken the child within.
	Golf course runoff/educate the use of native plants for landscaping	We don't have the answer yet – we oversell the white fluffy beaches, mangroves are overlooked by new public and visitors.	Stop habitat destruction (regulate development).	Compilation of existing large scale information on all Gulf habitats including circulation and other transient features.	Continue the good job that Rookery Bay and Corkscrew are doing now. Take the politics out of the conservancy of SW Florida and get back to the environmental concerns instead of taking care of fundraisers and their lawsuits.

<p><b>Naples, FL</b> <b>6/10/05</b></p>	<p>I'm trying very hard to report this. I'm aware of illegal activity but even though FWC, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) acknowledge this they say nothing they can do.</p>	<p>Enforce current local, state, federal ordinances, statutes, and laws. Stop passing the buck to the next agency.</p>	<p>I don't think we can build a wetland from scratch even marginally healthy systems have a chance and should not be written off and developed.</p>		<p>Identify the most successful programs and provide funding to make these available.</p>
	<p>Encouraging sustainable design in community development</p>	<p>Increasing public awareness</p>	<p>Greater education in schools to promote young stewards that will continue working on restoration as they mature</p>		<p>More adult education</p>
	<p>Monitor and enforce violations.</p>	<p>Monitor and enforce violations.</p>	<p>Encourage public participation.</p>		<p>Adult education – media</p>
	<p>Storm water improvements</p>	<p>Storm water improvements</p>	<p>Limit development encroaching on wetlands.</p>		<p>What we have to lose/what we are losing/ what we have lost – what we can do to stem/reverse the loss</p>
	<p>Use scientific solutions to reduce need for and types of fertilizer.</p>	<p>Emphasize ecological health rather than (unreal) health issues.</p>	<p>Public land purchase</p>		<p>Don't forget about low income and often multicultural communities who do not generally have the same access to the Gulf as the wealthy (who own boats and waterfront property).</p>
	<p>Enforce existing regulations.</p>	<p>Increase education efforts to the public.</p>	<p>Stop the loss first (easiest!) [sic]</p>		<p>Issue consistent, interesting, approachable information to the media – come up with good and varied story angles. Cool, positive stories on underwater life – explain how it is at risk.</p>
	<p>Comprehensive measures of what is going in from land-based sources</p>	<p>Really address freshwater management issues – buy land for retention zones coming to Lake Okeechobee.</p>	<p>Increase monitoring so we know how the restoration efforts are working.</p>		
			<p>Provide economic incentive.</p>		

<p><b>Tampa, FL</b> <b>8/23/05</b></p>	<p>Improve erosion control, etc. to minimize amount of sediment getting into waterways and GOM.</p>	<p>Improve wastewater systems, storm water runoff, etc. to minimize inflow to GOM.</p>	<p>More stringent permitting of coastal development or better yet, decrease amount of permitting.</p>	<p>Increase research funding of critical habitats.</p>	<p>Make a mandatory requirement in primary/secondary schools for science classes/GOM issues.</p>
	<p>Establish and implement best management practices (BMPs) region-wide.</p>	<p>Improve our understanding by improving data acquisition.</p>	<p>Enforce and protect wetlands. Educate general public and developers.</p>	<p>Refine and development remote sensing techniques for spatial and temporal characterization of Gulf habitats.</p>	<p>Let all learn the consequences of their actions – K-12 and lifelong learning.</p>
	<p>Manage growth (less sprawl/planned communities)</p>	<p>Communicate results across the Gulf states, Mexico, and Cuba.</p>	<p>Buy now, restore later, especially in Texas.</p>	<p>Increase ground-truthing dramatically for calibration of remote sensing.</p>	<p>Better scientists to media communication</p>
	<p>Growth management – look at current growth and plan for the future (100 years out, not just this political term).</p>	<p>Growth management – government enforcement</p>	<p>Quantify post-restoration success.</p>	<p>Come up with a uniform or standard set of habitats amongst the five states and among all levels of government.</p>	<p>Put environmental education in all three levels – elementary, middle, and high – of K-12 public schools</p>
	<p>Reduction in industry</p>	<p>Better management of nutrients entering the Gulf. Look at anthropogenic causes and sources.</p>	<p>Improve restoration.</p>	<p>More documentation and research</p>	<p>Coastal habitats</p>
	<p>Offshore dumping</p>	<p>Treatment of storm water runoff. (This includes need for restoration, preservation, and management of coastal ecosystems/communities and restoration of coastal wetlands. See starred comment related to “restoration of coastal wetlands).</p>	<p>Provide funding for land acquisition, for on-the-ground restoration projects.</p>	<p>Mapping assessment</p>	<p>Pelagic habitats</p>
	<p>Maintain and reinforce, i.e. air and water, regulatory programs (rules and enforcement).</p>	<p>Better science ie, indicators (bacteriological, etc.)</p>	<p>Buy and conserve land.</p>	<p>Make sure that good useable data is collected and maintained for all habitats.</p>	<p>Helping the average citizen understand the connectedness of the ecosystem in their yards all the way to the other side of the Gulf.</p>
	<p>Provide disincentives to growth (which is the source of the problems).</p>	<p>More funding for monitoring</p>	<p>Educate homeowners about importance.</p>	<p>Use of remote sensing, GIS, and Global Positioning System (GPS) so you can have a map to start with which will let you measure results against goals.</p>	<p>Educate public to hopefully motivate them to get political and vote for better government to protect, restore, and manage our ecosystems.</p>

<p><b>Tampa, FL</b> <b>8/23/05</b></p>	Agencies make sure that the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program is effective.	Treat all storm water runoff.	Coastal wetlands → ecosystems. <u>All</u> habitats (uplands and all the way to the pelagic habitats)	Identify different ecosystems but still realize all smaller ecosystems are really one big ecosystem.	More public involvement
	Improve growth management by local governments and improve storm water regulations (state water management districts need to update the existing inadequate regulations).	Wastewater treatment, stopping septic usage	Buy/preserve land habitats. Way to preserve habitats: buy, buy, buy and remove from threat of development. Buy now and restore/manage later.	Improve tools and data used to identify habitats and disseminate to decision makers.	Consolidated messages.
	Treat all agricultural runoff.	Controlling boat wastes	More funding for land acquisition.	Provide high quality and accurate maps of habitat.	More programs on cable TV, Animal Planet, and Public Broadcasting System.
	Storm drains markers	Reduce emissions into the environment.	Need to move more quickly to acquire, given pace of development.	Create and maintain a geospatial inventory of gulf habitats.	Evaluate the effectiveness of education programs – is the goal of the program being met, what works and what doesn't? Stop throwing money at, for example, brochures if they're not effective.
	Storm water treatment retrofits in urban areas.	Nonpoint runoff – clean up and reduce	More funding for restoration	Enforcement of regulations (no empty threats)	Get the children at the program.
	Ensure the public understands the impacts and causes of nutrient loading and provide options for lifestyle changes that can help reduce this problem.	Allocate storm water runoff into wetland filtration systems.	Buy more land.	Take member of Congress on a diving trip.	Education aimed at the users of the Gulf – boaters, etc.
	Make industry financially responsible for cleaning up its own mess (i.e. Piney Point).	Improving spatial extent of observations	Acquisition of habitat	Standardize mapping and data collection techniques and fund long-term programs.	Make environmental educational programs mandatory throughout all U.S. public schools in every grade level.
	Work with homeowners associations on chemical treatment for lawns.	Reduce wastewater and storm water impacts.	Partnership for restoration/stewardship	Coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves	Improve funding to educational institutions to support GOM education.

<p><b>Tampa, FL</b> 8/23/05</p>	<p>Less use of fertilizers/pesticides.</p>	<p>Mandatory planting of mangroves and, where possible, offer credit to homeowners who plant (maybe once educated about benefits they would have if they cut them down).</p>	<p>Remove exotic species.</p>	<p>Videos of habitats – picture worth a thousand words.</p>	<p>Bring it to the schools (K-12).</p>
	<p>Improve data management, communication, and sensor technologies.</p>	<p>Coordinate gulf region volunteer monitoring to bring public into solution equation.</p>	<p>Prevent destruction of existing wetlands by development.</p>	<p>Develop indicators in seagrass environments to inform on ecosystem health issues.</p>	<p>Mandatory K-12 environmental education course.</p>
	<p>Reduce loading from important sources.</p>	<p>Much not discussed (in the workshop) about GOM as a region.</p>	<p>Repair what the hurricanes are destroying.</p>	<p>Assess environmental health of Pinellas Gulf coastal seagrasses. Develop actions to preserve and protect Pinellas Gulf coastal seagrass habitat.</p>	<p>Get people involved/field trips.</p>
	<p>Identify sources.</p>	<p>Get funding for my Tampa Bay monitoring study.</p>	<p>Increase success rate and acre amount being restored.</p>	<p>Field research funded federally.</p>	<p>Regional workshops or festivals to disperse information to general public</p>
	<p>Teach everyone to not overfertilize their lawn (less is better than more in this case).</p>	<p>Controlling storm water</p>	<p>Improve coastal land management decisions.</p>		<p>More funding for school-age environmental education.</p>
	<p>Make reclaimed water a requirement for new development lawn watering as well as offer credit to older homes that install system.</p>	<p>Development/use of green building</p>	<p>Protect from further impacts.</p>		<p>Regulations (across states lines)</p>
	<p>TMDLs – set, enforce and impose adequate fines.</p>	<p>Develop and maintain GIS tools to support BMPs.</p>	<p>Mandatory planting of mangroves and, where possible, offer credit to homeowners who plant (maybe once educated about benefits they would have if they cut them down).</p>		<p>Make a tenure-track faculty member.</p>
	<p>Refine source tracking.</p>	<p>Reduce storm water inputs – treat first.</p>	<p>Stop the loss.</p>		<p>Educate public on their importance and the general health of the bay and the importance of their involvement on ongoing basis, not just when the “warm and fuzzies” are affected.</p>

<p><b>Tampa, FL</b> 8/23/05</p>	Address issue of old septic systems in coastal zones.	Reduce sewage inputs – treat longer.	Encourage coastal land owners to be stewards of their own piece of Gulf/bay.		Expand use of GIS in schools and for public outreach as applied to various Gulf environmental issues.
	Fewer golf courses	Get public’s buy-in.	Make Army Corps of Engineers stay in that business (not for state only to decide).		Education of legislators – workshop, caucuses, junkets
	Educate public on their role in nutrient loading/reduction.	Get public educated.	Less coastal development		Increase education of public at every level – utility bill enclosure and public access tv programs, neighborhood projects, and education.
	Improve data collection efforts to develop baseline and then monitor to gauge success or degradation of resources.	Funding from government	Increase use of remote sensing technologies to provide baseline and monitor wetland systems.		Get people to care – fight apathy!
	Decrease air pollution and educate public about this source.	Industry – chemical output responsibility	Stop filling wetlands for development and mitigation option.		Empower public to engage in citizen science.
	Build partnership/ownership of issues with industry/public/government.	Make more restrictions on industry dumping.	Stop trimming of mangroves.		Government at all levels educated. Introduce political leaders and top management to more educational opportunities. May have to entice, sort of like the Museum of Science and Industry has its annual Einstein on Wine to encourage after-hours education.
	Agriculture responsibility		Keep on building and preserving (more of existing programs).		Educational programs specific to local habitat
	More control on phosphate effluent.		More volunteer opportunities! My time schedule is busy and if I miss an estuary opportunity, it could be months before another comes available.		Emphasis on public education

<b>Tampa, FL</b> <b>8/23/05</b>			Reduction of coastal development and land acquisition		
			Establish more sanctuary-type areas.		
<b>Tampa, FL</b> <b>PUBLIC SESSION</b> <b>8/23/05</b>	Reduce agricultural and residential inputs (fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides).	This topic covers many concepts – but improving water quality begins way upland of the beach.	Not just restoration, but preservation. Instead of "no net loss" – how about "no loss of existing coastal wetlands."	Fund research.	Most people don't understand the situation.
	Reduce lawn runoff.	Adopt sustainable tourism practices.	Create and preserve coastal wetland areas.	Identify and map areas.	Create partnerships to share and disperse information.
	Shut off phosphate pollution.	Reduce or stop beach renourishment.	Long-term thinking and data collection and monitoring	Make a visual of the habitats—then visually show impacts of changes/events.	Require boater education.
	Increase funding for monitoring levels.	Reduce septic tanks.	Stop issuing permits to fill.		Better inform the public on hearings/proposed changes to environmental law.
	Enforce limits on inland farms fertilizer use.	Increase funding for monitoring.	Stop mitigation for developers. "No" means "no"!		Educate the public.
	Educate public how if each individual changed one contributing source than that makes a bigger impact than changing one industry.	Set up monitoring programs.	Easier to preserve than restore – require setbacks with no variances.		Take every opportunity to have educational material in public view.
		Do not permit any wastewater dumping into Gulf – most use oil and sewage pump sites.	Limit size of structures on the waterfronts such as 30-story condo buildings.		
<b>Apalachicola, FL</b> <b>8/25/05</b>	More effective storm water regulations	Limit coastal development.	Tax development to pay for restoration.	Invest in recording history of “human habitat.”	Develop job training programs that lead to environmental education jobs for locals.

<p><b>Apalachicola, FL</b></p> <p><b>8/25/05</b></p>	<p>Better education of people in entire watershed areas about impact of their activities on environment, i.e. agricultural practices, lawn-care practices, dredge and fill activities, etc.</p>	<p>Provide sewer service, to get rid of septic tanks in coastal/low-lying areas.</p>	<p>Stop mitigation of wetlands for development purposes.</p>	<p>Coordinate research to reduce duplication of effort.</p>	<p>Environmental/marine science programs in local schools in rural coastal areas</p>
	<p>Increase enforcement</p>	<p>Enforce existing regulations.</p>	<p>Create more flexible funding programs to get work done.</p>	<p>Initiate the process of prioritization NOW!! And, as data gets developed, incorporate but don't wait until you have better data!!</p>	<p>Spread the word to all areas of the watershed.</p>
	<p>Enforce existing regulations.</p>	<p>Good rapid response</p>	<p>Set priorities for work in Gulf from consensus building around the Gulf (one platform for decision making).</p>	<p>Comprehensive mapping/monitoring program</p>	<p>Public outreach about five issues</p>
	<p>Restore hydrology and wetland functionality in major rivers draining to the Gulf.</p>	<p>All development should go to tertiary treatment; retrofit all septic systems accordingly.</p>	<p>Provide directed funds for focused restoration efforts by all constituents.</p>	<p>Initiate Coastal Wetlands Status and Trends.</p>	<p>Expand Gulf of Mexico education to all citizens in a standardized format.</p>
	<p>Incorporate all watersheds contributing to Gulf of Mexico into comprehensive management plan (BMPs, TMDLs, etc.).</p>	<p>Address bacterial contamination with source tracking.</p>	<p>Complete Project Greenshores restoration in Pensacola Bay!</p>	<p>Central database</p>	<p>Include local issues in public school curriculums.</p>
	<p>Educate farmers to properly implement effective BMPs.</p>	<p>Re-establish historical hydrology.</p>	<p>Establish large protected, inter-connected areas.</p>	<p>Communication and sharing of databases between agencies</p>	<p>Outreach / stewardship</p>
	<p>Switch all septic to sewer.</p>	<p>Collect good baseline data.</p>	<p>Money</p>	<p>Add muscle to these efforts and bridge the gap between products and decision makers.</p>	<p>Share successful programs between providers.</p>
	<p>Need data shared with municipal officials</p>	<p>Better storm water treatment</p>	<p>Stop dredge and fill.</p>	<p>Try to categorize/summarize.</p>	<p>Establish more programs like LIFE.</p>
	<p>Water quality monitoring to see if there is a problem</p>	<p>Expand volunteer collection efforts to bays and Gulf – requires funding and legislative support – need to sell.</p>	<p>Produce education events for property owners and citizens <u>valuing</u> the role and function of wetlands.</p>	<p>Increase knowledge of community leaders of the interconnectivity of Gulf of Mexico habitats and impacts from upland sites.</p>	<p>Implementing LIFE (Learning in Florida's Environment) program in Walton County – extension programs such as Florida Master Naturalist and Youth/4-H Marine Camp – bring these to other areas.</p>

<p>Apalachicola, FL</p> <p>8/25/05</p>	<p>Teach watershed concept – everyone is connected by water to the Gulf. Residential/businesses application at recommended levels – no overfertilization needs to be emphasized. Proper functioning sewage treatment both septic and municipal.</p>	<p>Enforcement of TMDLs and other discharge regulations</p>	<p>I don't know much about restoration, except: plant aquatic.</p>	<p>Put educational signs in high access areas or in areas of special interest. Include "requests/requirements" on the sign to tell people what they are seeing and what they should or shouldn't do.</p>	<p>Help teach adults and others</p>
	<p>Require pervious surfacing percentages for all development and <u>any</u> commercial docks, etc. or building on dunes.</p>	<p>Increase knowledge of and dissemination of Gulf of Mexico watershed quality parameters through an Integrated Ocean Observation System.</p>	<p>ERP in the Panhandle</p>	<p>Compile existing data and continue monitoring. Highlight reference streams and ecosystems.</p>	<p>Environmental stewardship, coastal and rural areas</p>
	<p>Enforcement of regulations</p>	<p>Pick at least one and possibly two well understood measures and communicate that frequently to the public, similar to air quality (ozone, pollution rating).</p>	<p>Base restoration projects on historical data.</p>	<p>Data is probably out there; however, needs to be collected and distributed widely.</p>	<p>Continue ongoing projects such as COSEE, coordinate ongoing education projects such as Resource Rangers, LIFE, and others throughout the Gulf of Mexico region.</p>
	<p>Work throughout the Gulf of Mexico watershed to coordinate with local agencies to reduce nutrient loading.</p>	<p>Erosion control</p>	<p>Use best practices being applied in other parts of the country to protect existing habitat, and second plant grasses, shrubs, trees in damaged or at risk areas, also protect them with signs and enforcement.</p>	<p>Identify gaps in information.</p>	<p>Use the newspaper and radio to communicate the short list of key data that informs everyone to issues and actions. Target specific groups of the public to inform and educate to their specific interests, rumors or beliefs.</p>
	<p>Mandatory upgrade of sewage and storm water treatment across the entire water drainage system</p>	<p>More organic farming</p>	<p>Reduction of development</p>		<p>Expand to national education.</p>
	<p>More stringent storm water regulations – agriculture/silviculture BMPs that actually work and are implemented</p>	<p>Work on storm water treatment in Franklin County.</p>	<p>Adequately fund projects and project management</p>		<p>Fund programs in schools and fund general public education.</p>

<b>Apalachicola, FL 8/25/05</b>	Monitor water quality to pinpoint source of nutrient loading.	Establish good database, monitor regularly, and mitigate daily.	Stop the filling and assist local planners develop LDRs to protect wetland.		When “educating” public don’t just put up signs to give “lecture.” Show them how pollution, excess fertilizers, etc. affect water and how that affects them. If we had <u>no</u> problem with money you could set up mini demos in all malls or similar areas – scaled down version of what you see in museums/aquariums, etc. You need to convince public this is important – not just “tell them!” We need a “Jesse James” of environmental preservation!
	Replace all septic systems (OSDS) within one mile of wetlands, rivers, bays, aquifers.	Storm water management improvements	Restore and maintain them in perpetuity.		Get it out there.
	Coordination within watersheds		Enforce laws to protect wetlands.		Keep telling the stories – again, again and again to more and more people.
<b>Sarasota, FL 9/14/05</b>	Monitor water quality with citizen involvement.	Monitoring all resources, water quality, habitat, garbage.	Removal of invasive plant species	Improve awareness of the need of habitats and the benefits of management.	Improve coordination of resources.
	Improve the science to evaluate pollution sources.	Involve citizens in the problem solving.	Improve awareness of the need for restoration.	More funding (root out brown science)	Utilize public media more effectively.
	Moratorium on permitting new phosphate mines.	Overcome our denial that pollutants are exacerbating the red tide/ dead zone problem.	Moratorium on destruction of what is there. No more trade offs.	We can study this ad nauseam, but common sense dictates that radical land and water use policy changes need to be made.	Involve all levels of the population, not just high schools. I am talking about the
	Make all polluting activity more expensive so that the cost of harm to the environment and other ‘externalities’ are included in all economic activity.	Deal with this problem at sources – quit researching environmentally, unfriendly non solutions (treating red tide with ozone or radioactive clay!).	More funding for restoration. Use eminent domain for public interest if necessary.	A favorite way to drag out any resolution is to keep throwing money toward studies.	new comers...

<p><b>Sarasota, FL 9/14/05</b></p>	<p>Ban further phosphate permits, phase out existing plants, and hold the corporations accountable; stop building golf courses; legislate better agricultural policies, including private property.</p>	<p>The governments at all levels must come out of their state of denial for a change; put the public interest at the forefront. Actions: Stop dumping, etc. that feeds red tide.</p>	<p>Need to change underlying agricultural policies or all restoration projects will be</p>	<p>Better GIS/ ground-truthing methods</p>	<p>More funding – deep ecology – critical analysis – no more FCAT</p>
	<p>Better sewage and industrial waste treatment</p>	<p>Improve river quality.</p>	<p>failures and wastes of money.</p>	<p>Coordinated ecosystem perspective studies for entire watershed</p>	<p>Education without an effective role model or same policies will lead to nothing.</p>
	<p>Land acquisition</p>	<p>Land acquisition</p>	<p>Make public parks.</p>	<p>Identify indicator habitats.</p>	<p>All kids can sing their little “reduce, reuse, recycles” but our society does not really support implementing change.</p>
	<p>Adopt state standards in all the Gulf states.</p>	<p>Allow natural systems to be natural.</p>	<p>Plant grasses</p>	<p>Coordinated research</p>	<p>Newspaper articles</p>
	<p>Filter storm water better. Control agricultural runoff.</p>	<p>Address non-point source pollution</p>	<p>Prevent more development.</p>	<p>Database of land use conversion tied to permitting.</p>	<p>TV ads</p>
	<p>Enforce federal and state guidelines of 10PPM nitrate runoff.</p>	<p>Stop pesticide use. Stop waste treatment plant discharges.</p>	<p>Land acquisition</p>	<p>Stop dumping of water into Gulf.</p>	<p>School projects</p>
	<p>Remove all organophosphates from lawn pesticides.</p>	<p>Reduce dependency on septic.</p>	<p>More money, more research, more acquisition</p>	<p>Study nearshore areas. Study estuary sea grass beds.</p>	<p>Dedicated time in classrooms</p>
	<p>Provide incentives and education to limit storm-water nutrient loading from home owners and businesses and visitors.</p>	<p>Reduce red tide frequency and volume.</p>	<p>Land acquisition of uplands adjacent to coastal wetlands</p>	<p>Create a master plan of education of marine ecosystems.</p>	<p>Get the word out – most important of all!</p>
	<p>Address nonpoint source pollution.</p>	<p>Find a solution to red tide. Reduce nutrient loading.</p>	<p>Uniform setbacks and zoning restrictions for all coastal/ wetland areas, and</p>	<p>Dissemination of scientific information. More interdisciplinary communication.</p>	<p>Convey the message that it matters to everyone.</p>
	<p>Control nonpoint source runoff. Stop treatment plant effluent discharges.</p>	<p>A decrease in disposal of commercial and industrial compounds (i.e. organophosphate and mercury).</p>	<p>riparian areas and watersheds. Massive funding for land purchase and restoration.</p>	<p>Benthic reef community on Gulf shelf</p>	<p>Continue education efforts with public.</p>

<b>Sarasota, FL 9/14/05</b>	Southwest FL Basin Rule standards adopted!!!	Reduce pesticide use in coastal areas.	Land acquisition first		Accomplish sustainable behavior changes in regard to environmental problems and solutions.
	Only two bottom ships should be allowed into Gulf ports.	Study ways of controlling red tide.	More preservation and mangrove protection		Integrate into school curriculum – K through high school.
	Better education in lawn fertilizers and runoff	More storm water mitigation.	Restore flooding of Mississippi Delta area. Reduce construction.		Why fish population is declining and now public can help reverse this trend
	Reduce or eliminate storm water runoff. Reduce nutrient and pesticide runoff.		Mass planting of native, erosion control species.		Help fund hands-on programs for legislators, county commissioners, etc.
	An overall reduction of 40 percent in residential fertilizer use.		Control growth		Funding for public school environmental education
	Control agricultural runoff. Educate public about choices they can make that will reduce runoff.		Stop permitting. Enforce mangrove protection.		Provide instruction for both students and the public at large through channels of mass media to address an overview of the current state of affairs with recommendations for individual improvement.
	Reduce residential/ recreational fertilizer. Reduce phosphate mining.		Enforce boat speed zones in sensitive areas.		Teach the public about sustainable lifestyles. Educate businesses about sustainability.
	Replace out-modeled/ overloaded sewer and septic systems.				Initiate school curricula in science/ environment. More media items.
	Removing the sugar industry from Florida. End phosphate mining.				Briefing groups (e.g. realtors associations)
					Sustainable economics.
<b>Galveston, TX 9/20/05</b>	Start on difficult issues – many NPS/individual homeowners.	Reduce nonpoint source (NPS)	Increase state and federal funds.	Ensure protection of all functioning ecosystems.	Much needed. However, education should translate to increased knowledge and to action.

<p><b>Galveston, TX</b> 9/20/05</p>	Regulate “isolated” wetlands.	Formal acknowledgement that land use planning is necessary to control NPS (whether farming, highways, urban areas). Buffers and filters required.	Fully fund existing state and federal (U.S. Army Corp of Engineers ecological restoration, etc.) programs to accomplish this.	This is not difficult – strategies, NOAA, USFWS, the Nature Conservancy have done near shore and estuarine habitats. NOAA and the Nature Conservancy have done some deep water work. It is a mistake to delay action until “everything” is understood.	Use resources better.
	Establish consistent criteria between each state.	Regulate “isolated” wetlands.	Get more money.	Fund status and trends.	Ensure inner city kids spend field trip time in the field in coastal areas.
	Teach homeowners about nonpoint pollution.	Re-establish oyster reefs within the Galveston Bay system to the maximum extent practicable.	Attract/provide more funding to coastal wetland restoration projects.	Provide GIS mapping of marine habitats throughout the Gulf.	Establish environmental science curriculum for secondary schools in the Gulf states.
	Building of vegetative buffers to filter nutrients entering into the water.	Develop real-time bacteria tracking and monitoring to guide responses (i.e. beach closures, harvest closures, etc.)	Honor the contribution of isolated wetlands.	ID and promote the importance of Gulf habitats.	Develop a recognizable brand for GOM – something that resonates across the beer halls and school rooms of our nation – like the “Everglades.”
	Better research on connections between hypoxia and nutrient levels.	Improve water quality of Galveston Bay.	Restrict building in floodplains – don’t insure beach homes.	Determine best land to preserve and protect.	Get all students in the Greater Houston-Galveston area to visit Galveston island State Park for a guided tour with educational preparation in the classroom before and after the field experience.
	Keep living in my town home and not use fertilizer – talk to others about it.	Improved wastewater treatment – regionalization – less septic systems.	Restore upland wetlands, too to help protect downstream.	Acquisition	Educating students at a young age. Reaching grade school students w/ gulf of Mexico lesson plans.
	Effective enforcement	Don’t trash beaches.	Barrier island restoration	Add habitats to our Web pages.	Schools need more hands-on science. Need better science education for all ages.

<b>Galveston, TX</b> <b>9/20/05</b>	Nonpoint source pollution control	Better NPDES/TMDLs	Managing coastal development	Mapping/data analysis	Have one source. Spend all resources on all media resources for a single watershed.
		Managing coastal development			Improve funding to Sea Grant and National Estuary Programs.
					If you don't educate public and government officials, you can't do any (education).
					Integration into curriculum
<b>Port Aransas, TX</b> <b>1/19/006</b>	Stronger enforcement of existing laws about discharges would diminish future violations.	Reassess zoning that allows development too close to the beach.	Eliminate filling of coastal wetlands by more stringent Corps permitting requirements.	Come up with a plan to protect these habitats; educate legislators.	Mandatory that every year, K-12 have a segment that focuses on local environmental issues.
	Get nutrient levels established to will insure nutrients are at acceptable levels to protect environment.	Determine cumulative impacts (on water quality) of coastal development, habitat loss, hydrologic alteration for existing conditions and projected conditions in future years.	Implement conservation (no prop) zones.	Develop GIS system that ids all habitats.	Greatly increase requirement for inclusion in secondary education.
	Persuade people not to fertilize their lawns.	Keeping them open and clean	Funding for restoration	Not familiar enough with process [to answer this question].	Fund all levels of education (K-12 formal education to adult non-formal education).
	Educate upstream communities.	Integrate existing data.	Develop methods to restore coastal wetlands.	Open water ecology.	Reach the high school groups (next generation of leaders) with the issue.
	Source tracking of nutrient inputs	Reduce pathogens to acceptable levels on all shellfish beds.	Buy land for preservation.	Inform public of the linkages between different habitat types.	Education and coordination
	Education and coordination	More seasonal pulsing	Incorporate importance of wetlands into development planning.	Find organizations (i.e., Aransas First) to handle stewardship of Gulf habitats.	Establish better educational methods to carry this message about the GOM to the public.

<p><b>Port Aransas, TX</b> <b>1/19/006</b></p>	<p>Understand timing of loading relative to circulation/seasonal factors that influence hypoxia.</p>	<p>Stop mechanical damage to the beaches.</p>	<p>Increased funding to be used directly on restoration projects.</p>	<p>Education and coordination</p>	<p>Fund a broad-based, multifaceted education initiative based on system concepts and that humanity is part of the system and depends on the system.</p>
	<p>Less nutrient-laden runoff (fertilizer); less nonpoint source pollution.</p>	<p>Increased enforcement of existing laws.</p>	<p>Education and coordination</p>	<p>Develop a baseline data set on types/extent of habitats as well as existing land uses within the identified habitats.</p>	<p>[More] Public school and newspaper features.</p>
	<p>Eliminate septic tanks.</p>	<p>Enforce discharges.</p>	<p>Buy up pre-development land.</p>	<p>Develop a platform that allows most interested stakeholders to look at the Gulf with a single approach/sharing priorities.</p>	<p>Introduce marine science into all levels under our science programs in the school systems.</p>
	<p>Massive public education</p>	<p>Education and coordination</p>	<p>Conservation... buy land for conservation or secure donations of land.</p>	<p>Funding to groups to study areas, schools, environmental protection groups.</p>	<p>Start in elementary schools with field trips, bird and butterfly gardens, and wild plants.</p>
	<p>Implement nutrient criteria and standards.</p>	<p>Remove hypoxia.</p>	<p>Stop erosion.</p>	<p>Obtain funds to support studies to identify spawning and nursery habitats for fishes in offshore water of GOM.</p>	<p>Provide more funding for aquariums.</p>
	<p>Education the general public about lawn and crop fertilizers.</p>	<p>Keep all trash/nutrients/chemicals from reaching the Gulf and oyster reefs.</p>	<p>Keep development in check in ecologically sensitive areas.</p>		<p>Key environmental educators throughout Texas should be brought together to gather knowledge and input as to appropriate environmental education for the Gulf.</p>
	<p>Fix failing septic systems.</p>	<p>Fix failing septic systems.</p>	<p>Have state and local government agencies pick up regulation where federal agencies end by their mandate.</p>		<p>Better public awareness</p>

<b>Port Aransas, TX</b>  <b>1/19/006</b>	Keep all trash/nutrients/chemicals from reaching the Gulf and oyster reefs.	Have a plan to watch and act upon these plans.	Develop a priority-setting scheme that focuses on certain specific areas and works hard at them (rather than trying to a little bit everywhere).		Infuse coursework/curriculum with GOM facts, examples, etc. Develop classroom lessons that teach the ecological, sociological, economical, etc. aspects of the GOM (from nearshore terrestrial habitats to open gulf).
	Develop a better understanding of the relationship between land-use and nutrient problems.	Enforcement of pollution laws	Establish protected areas that will act as natural sources for restoration		Lessons should be available for use in all courses (natural sciences, history, economics, literature, math).
	Make people responsible for what they release into our environments.	Understand how to control harmful algal blooms.	Buy them; place conservation easements on them.		More public lectures
	Move storm drains dumping directly into the bay to land-based collection for treatment.	Protect estuaries as nursery grounds for sport fish and fish/shellfish used as food.	Control the development plan.		More funding
	Improve wetlands capture of nutrients at the source therefore improving the health of threatened habitats and reducing impacts from nutrients.				Use paid speakers and adequate marketing strategy/budget to bring speakers to all states (but Texas first).
					Provide educational material to teachers at all levels.
					Need science-based policy and planning for current and projected population growth of GOM.
<b>Mississippi - Alabama</b>  <b>PUBLIC SESSION</b>  <b>1/31/006</b>	Allow alliances to have equal voice as lobbyist groups with binding results.	Stop further destruction vs. economic development.	Stop further destruction vs. economic development.	Inventory endangered estuarine areas in urban areas	Public service announcements or media spread the news and views of the public and not what the lobby groups say.

<b>Mississippi - Alabama</b>  <b>PUBLIC SESSION</b>  <b>1/31/006</b>	Build or restore wetlands upstream.	Build Bill Wolverton sewage treatment facilities using plants.	Strict enforcement of wetland protection.	All should be protected as required by law.	Establish curriculum resource center and incorporate Gulf environmental issues into curriculum in at least coastal counties' schools.
	Education on impacts of nutrients used on private property.	Stepped up water testing and publishing of results for general public.	Protection of endangered wetlands in the path of development. In particular, Turkey Creek Watershed.	Continue to use available technology to map habitats and monitor/evaluate change over time.	Regular spot on local news...maybe weekly. Establish group with multiple representation to develop message.
	Better control of sewage contamination. Better runoff management via reductions in impervious pavement.	Control sewage contamination through tighter wastewater management and strict.	De-channelization of channelized streams in Harrison County.	Teach kids how to prevent pollution and make things more environmentally friendly.	Environmental education should be required in grades K-12 in all states.
	Reduce number of permits to discharge; better education.	Enforcement of coastal counties. Improve existing treatment plants.	Wetlands are not protected as required by law. Stop issuing permits to fill or destroy wetlands, marshes, and tidal marsh areas.	Educate more people about various gulf habitats and the ecosystem contribution.	Get it on TV in any and all ways.
	Reduce pesticide/insecticide use. Subsidize organic farming.	Stop issuing permits to industries that pollute.	Increase level of effort and stop destruction!		We need to inform America how important the Gulf of Mexico is to our country and the world.
	Standardize monitoring for Gulf Alliance States 1st, then up the Mississippi (MS) we go!	Deliberately break levees of MS during floods.	Clean up day participation		Focus on "what's in it for me?"
	Implement alternative farming practices and offer effective ways of addressing problems.	Identify sources of degradation, prioritize based on impact and eliminate!	Hold contractors accountable for their sediment runoff into water ways.		Develop creative ways to capture public attention and inform them of the consequences of activities that affect the quality of the environment; IMAX theater productions.
	Change to front loading machine (uses less detergent).	Consider nonmotorized water crafts.	MDOT sediment runoff		Make connections for the public between public behavior and negative and positive ecosystem effects.

<b>Mississippi - Alabama</b>  <b>PUBLIC SESSION</b> <b>1/31/006</b>	Fewer soaps used	Reduce sewage overflows.	Reduce construction in or near wetlands.		
	Federal monitoring	Have storm water treated before it is released into the Gulf.	See Governor's Commission report.		
	Educate farmers, residential landscapers, and homeowners to carefully monitor and apply pesticides.	Increased monitoring to better identify source problems.	Carefully regulate and enforce wetland protection.		
	Identify and focus on major sources.	Improve community wastewater treatment system.	More mitigation and identify methods to re-develop wetlands.		
<b>Mississippi - Alabama</b>  <b>2/1/006</b>	Monitor the nutrition loading periodically.	Reduce agricultural or residential chemical use.	Prevent invasive species spreading.	Working Web and collaboration	TV program
	Effective storm water management	Provide for more efficient water treatment.	Stabilize eroding shorelines and replant lost wetlands.	Provide training for habitat assessment and identification.	Educate public on the importance of GOM and how they can participate in an "effective" way.
	Regionalize and upgrade wastewater treatment in southern Mississippi.	Get casinos unhappy over beach closures so something will be done about it.	One successful large scale restoration project in each county – tout it and educate citizens about it.	Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) plan for MS	Reach the adults – many interested and intelligent but uneducated on this subject, citizens would be involved if presented correctly.
	Apply this to stream work I do with riparian landowners.	Apply riverine effects to coastal marshes, estuaries, and oyster nursery and grow-out beds.	Importance of sediment transport to marsh building	Comprehensive data development and distribution; funding and training/local citizen involvement	I think our museum's education effort can become a partner in Gulf environmental education.
	Promote BMPs; nutrient and pollutant reductions through storm water management.	See above; participate in outreach.	Fund restoration projects/expansion of knowledge/more public involvement	Control and continue evaluation of invasive species	Unite communities – expansion of coastal ecosystem learning center and placement in undersourced communities.
	Public education; adequate monitoring of real-time distribution of information	Provide more monitoring of coastal areas.	Restore 10 percent of Gulf-wide wetland systems.	Better improved GIS capabilities and software	Coordinate those efforts with hired coordinator.

Mississippi - Alabama  2/1/006	Eliminate the dead zone.	One hundred percent swimmable and fishable water	Motivate businesses and residents to pursue native landscaping.	to convince management of the significance of this information.	Comprehensive coordinated Gulf-wide effort
	Sewer system runoff should be banned in back bays; paper plant discharge should be banned in back bays.	Set back all construction 1500 feet from the coast.	Grow native grasses and help restore coastal wetlands using high school students.	Increase funding for inventory of Gulf habitats.	Constantly provide information to public—especially in schools.
	Have facts handy to convince citizens to take care not to contribute unnecessary nutrients to the environment.	Fight any new development that would add human impact to coastal region.	Advocate/legislate for restoration as official municipality policies.	Funding	Inform public to the level that they become active advocates for appropriate policy making and policy enforcement regarding any activities affecting the Gulf.
	Increase funding and develop a clearinghouse for data and ideas (applicable to all issues).	Assist state and federal agencies with beach restoration efforts.	Funding	Training programs	I have been teaching environmental education for 15 years. I plan to continue these efforts.
	Reduce pesticides on lawns.	Restrict polluters from building on the coastline without buffers.	Educate the public.	Mapping of watershed and perform a build-out scenario	Establish more engaging educational events for the adult general public.
	Get the word out.	Funding	Enforce wetlands protection regulations in place; reduce the ability to destroy wetlands.	Involve public through education, monitoring, and reporting.	Involve movers and shakers.
	Educate the public.	Attend workshops	Consider opportunities for large-scale/small scale (individuals) restoration.	Involve GOMA leaders in identification process; increase baseline data to support decisions.	Involve leaders.
	Identification of source(s)	Long-term regional planning	Improve regulation and enforcement related to wetland protection.		Create a media campaign.
	Increase wastewater infrastructure.	Increased, coordinated sampling program to address multiple water quality (WQ) issues	Master plan that's also feasible allowing deposit of sediment		Reach the masses with knowledge and provide obvious, easy source to present questions and obtain information.

<p><b>Mississippi - Alabama</b> <b>2/1/006</b></p>	Buy-in of upstream states	Reroute storm drains and get rid of septic systems.	Assess the coastline to determine where the greatest need for restoration is located in order to prioritize projects and include restoration of adjacent upland habitats (buffers).		Work to promote citizen involvement in watershed planning.
	Centralize sewage systems to get rid of septic systems and reroute storm drains.	Better farm management practice for sediment; more sewage treatment	Abandon Mississippi Delta below Venice; use sediment to rebuild barrier islands.		Compliment this process.
	Better farm management practices—changing hydrology to put more water through marshes.	Install central sewage treatment and get rid of all septic systems; restore cultch material to impacted shellfish beds.	Purchase additional coastal property.		I believe there should be an emphasis placed on life long learning to allow for continuing re-enforcement and reward for good environmental behavior and promote stewardship for our coastal resources.
	Increase monitoring and research.	Research shellfish bed restoration following hurricanes, etc.	Use dredge spoils to restore lost wetlands (Gulf-wide sharing of those resources).		Work within the proposed network.
	Implement BMPs in all agricultural and livestock operations upstream; reduce nitrogen levels in treated municipal sanitary wastewater.	Improve sewer systems and reduce the chemical applications, such as pesticides or other agricultural chemicals.	Continue current protection – and develop strategic wetland development initiative to strategically locate wetlands where their function is needed and in areas safe from sea level rising.		Include in school curriculum.
	Reward farmers for reducing nutrients leaving their farms; kick off with a competition and reward a farmer with a coastal vacation.	Establish Gulf-wide monitoring program to identify major source of polluters.	Re-establish significant percentage of lost wetlands; strengthen legislation governing wetland use.		Promote educational programs; coordinate across state lines.
	Develop education materials, explaining the problem; establish a MS River Watershed Alliance to coordinate reduction in nutrient loading.	Now volunteer with MBNEP and am an oyster gardener – also support clean-up actions	Son, via boy scouts on Dauphin Island, does this (replanting)		Education concerning the environment in an integrated context with all other subjects – use of hands-on and third-party teaching.

<b>Mississippi - Alabama</b>  <b>2/1/006</b>					Support North American Association for Environmental Education's (NAAEE) state affiliates; the Southeast NAAEE affiliates are organizing and could easily be engaged in related education initiatives.
					Secure proper funding; develop and implement public information campaigns.
					Work with Dauphin Island Sea Lab (Foundation) and support their outreach education programs
<b>Thibodaux, LA</b>  <b>2/21/06</b>	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data

<b>APPENDIX C: BRAINSTORMED AND CATEGORIZED LIST OF ISSUES</b>		
<b>Location of Workshop</b>	<b>Priority Issues</b>	<b>Number of Votes</b>
<b>Naples, FL</b>  <b>6/10/05</b>	<b>Habitat Loss (wetlands, seagrass, corals)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continued loss of coastal wetlands</li> <li>○ Loss of coastal wetlands</li> <li>○ Estuary erosion control vs. non-interference</li> <li>○ Estuary erosion control</li> <li>○ Loss of habitat – upland and wetland</li> <li>○ Nearshore coral reef systems</li> <li>○ Estuary habitat destruction (grasses and mangroves)</li> <li>○ Estuary habitat destruction (seagrasses)</li> <li>○ Protecting and restoring coastal and inland wetlands</li> <li>○ Estuary health – seagrass bed health, why is it deteriorating?</li> <li>○ Habitat destruction</li> <li>○ Loss of Habitat</li> </ul>	16 votes
	<b>Freshwater Management (quantity)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hydrological Alteration – develop minimum flow levels for SW Florida waterways</li> <li>○ Freshwater mismanagement (2 index cards)</li> <li>○ Water management (3 index cards)</li> <li>○ Water quality and quantity</li> <li>○ Water retention and reuse delivery reverse negative impacts of excess runoff into Gulf of Mexico - percentage conversion to potable</li> <li>○ Flow rate/discharge from Lake Okeechobee to the gulf via Caloosahatchee River</li> <li>○ Dumping of freshwater from Lake Okeechobee (containing nutrients) down Caloosahatchee – kills seagrass, disrupts estuary salinity balance, affects gulf coastal water quality</li> <li>○ Estuary flushing</li> <li>○ Altered freshwater flows, changing land use</li> <li>○ Freshwater as a pollutant</li> </ul>	11 votes
	<b>Gulf Water Quality (nonpoint source pollution, storm water)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Addressing land based sources of pollution to protect beaches, estuaries, and shellfish/fishing grounds</li> <li>○ Nonpoint source pollution (6 index cards) – urban areas/farms/agriculture</li> <li>○ Water quality/runoff (storm water nitrates, fertilizer) – manage and control</li> <li>○ Storm water runoff/nutrient pollution/freshwater as pollutant</li> <li>○ Water quality protection by controlling storm water runoff, limiting fertilizer applications</li> <li>○ Developing total maximum daily loads for southwest Florida waterways (TMDLs)</li> </ul>	9 votes
	<b>Life-long education (K-12 + adults)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Education</li> <li>○ Education – it all starts here – formal/informal/media – how best to implement</li> <li>○ Lack of training for professionals/decision makers to help them use science in their daily lives</li> <li>○ Need for increased emphasis on environmental education for students of all ages</li> <li>○ Education – K-12 and higher education</li> <li>○ Education (all levels)</li> <li>○ Strengthen environmental education → birth to retirement – people of all ages must be made aware of issues related to Gulf of Mexico</li> <li>○ Educate, motivate and empower local citizen’s voice in support of Gulf of Mexico</li> <li>○ Education at the local level – provide people with tools they can begin to use right away, people need to feel that what they do can make a difference</li> </ul>	9 votes

<b>Naples, FL</b>  <b>6/10/05</b>	<b>Population Growth and Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Watershed protection through land conservation (acquisition and conservation easement)</li> <li>○ Land use conversion</li> <li>○ Impact of population growth on the long-term sustainability of the southwest Florida environment (paraphrased)</li> <li>○ Development standards</li> <li>○ Population/development location/urban sprawl</li> <li>○ Population growth</li> <li>○ Increasing population → overdevelopment → environmental and social problems</li> <li>○ Development (continual, location choice) expanding population</li> <li>○ Development pressures and management</li> <li>○ Uncontrolled growth/growth management</li> </ul>	9 votes
	<b>Enforcement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enforcement of existing regulations, policies, and rules (state, local, federal, and international) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Holding state, federal, and local agencies and governments responsible for upholding the duty they have been charged with (e.g., enforcing current ordinances and statutes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Lack of enforcement of environmental regulations</li> <li>○ Enforcement of current environmental regulations (clean water act etc.)</li> </ul>	7 votes
	<b>Nutrient Loading (e.g. nitrates and phosphates)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Phosphate mining discharges which are not properly permitted or enforced by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which threaten drinking water supplies and pollute rivers and estuaries with nutrients and toxic pollutants</li> <li>○ Discharges from phosphate mining and the permitting process as a whole</li> <li>○ Fertilizer runoff – nutrient pollution/loading (4 index cards)</li> <li>○ Nutrient overloading – homeowners, agriculture, golf courses (direct) – I.D. products naturally derived from earth to utilize for these needs</li> <li>○ Land derived coastal nutrients – watershed, rivers, estuaries, coastal, gulf</li> <li>○ Estuary pollution from nutrients</li> </ul>	6 votes
	<b>Public Awareness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How land, ocean, and estuarine waters are dependent on each other for life and standard of living – lack of knowledge</li> <li>○ Education/awareness/media</li> <li>○ Public awareness of the differences they can make</li> <li>○ Public awareness of environmental issues (6 index cards)</li> <li>○ Public understanding and education</li> <li>○ General communication with the public concerning issues (far too little is imparted to the public via any kind of media)</li> <li>○ Understanding of public outside of gulf states – impact their actions (i.e. Midwest) could have on gulf (paraphrased)</li> </ul>	5 votes
	<b>Red Tide/ Harmful Algal Blooms</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Red tide</li> <li>○ Harmful algal blooms</li> <li>○ Increase in toxic algal blooms</li> </ul>	4 votes
	<b>Connecting Science and Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Educating policy makers in science</li> <li>○ Lack of communication – science and politics</li> <li>○ Coordinating research and management activities</li> </ul>	4 votes

<p><b>Naples, FL</b></p> <p><b>6/10/05</b></p>	<p><b>Environmental Regulations (too much, too little, conflicting)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inadequate stewardship/governance</li> <li>○ Undermining of the clean water act by the Florida (FL) legislature and FDEP by weakening FL statutes and DEP rules that implement the Clean Water Act (CWA) – such as the Impaired Waters Rule &amp; 403.067, Florida Statutes</li> <li>○ Consistent laws/regulations and conflicting regulations</li> <li>○ Reduction of excessive government regulations</li> <li>○ Environmental regulations based on scientific data</li> </ul>	4 votes
	<p><b>Access (beach use, boating, fishing)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Access to gulf by recreational and commercial boaters/fishermen</li> <li>○ Preserve recreational boating and fishing – they keep people connected to the resource</li> <li>○ Access for boaters and beach with educational outreach coupled with registrations permits and passes</li> </ul>	3 votes
	<p><b>Human and Animal Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Health – ecosystem/disease-human, animal, plant</li> <li>○ Health of animals; Harrison’s medical component</li> </ul>	2 votes
	<p><b>Wildlife Management (e.g. listed species)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wildlife issues – maintaining the health and numbers of fish, turtles, birds, etc.</li> <li>○ Disappearance of Specific Species (loggerhead turtle nests down this year, death of crabs)</li> <li>○ Endangered species (mammals, birds, fish, coral)</li> <li>○ Comprehensive sea turtle/shorebird monitoring programs</li> </ul>	2 votes
	<p><b>Invasive Species</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Preventing destruction of native habitat by invasive species</li> <li>○ Exotic invasive species</li> </ul>	2 votes
	<p><b>Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Funds for agencies to do job properly</li> <li>○ Sustainability of funding</li> </ul>	2 votes
	<p><b>Sediment Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sediment management</li> </ul>	1 vote
	<p><b>Overfishing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Overfishing</li> <li>○ Fishing issues (especially marine protected areas)</li> <li>○ Overfishing – gulf wide to the extent that ecosystem balance is significantly disrupted; waste-lands result; no top predators; algal takeover</li> </ul>	1 vote
	<p><b>Fish as Food Source</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Depletion of fisheries – public, restaurants, and stores need to recognize that certain fish species are endangered</li> <li>○ Sustainable food source (grouper, stone crabs, redfish, pompano, etc.)</li> </ul>	1 vote
	<p><b>Offshore Uses (e.g. aquaculture)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Offshore leases – aquaculture</li> </ul>	1 vote
	<p><b>Climate Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Climate change impact and planning</li> <li>○ Global climate change</li> </ul>	0 votes
<p><b>Lack of Incentives for Effective and Efficient use of Natural Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lack of incentives for reuse/recycling efficiency of natural resources</li> <li>○ Lack of support for organic farming to lessen pesticides from commercial agriculture</li> </ul>	0 votes	

<b>Tampa, FL</b>  <b>8/23/05</b>	<b>Growth Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coastal development</li> <li>○ Recreational use</li> <li>○ Public access</li> </ul>	33 votes
	<b>Habitat Loss</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Loss of habitats</li> <li>○ Health of wetlands</li> <li>○ Coral reef health</li> <li>○ Seagrass propeller scarring</li> <li>○ Dredging, bulk heading, and seawalling</li> <li>○ Erosion</li> <li>○ Beach renourishment</li> <li>○ Impacts of storms</li> </ul>	19 votes
	<b>Water Quality/Quantity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pollution</li> <li>○ Litter</li> <li>○ Beach closures</li> <li>○ Mercury and toxins</li> <li>○ Ocean dumping</li> <li>○ Stormwater runoff</li> <li>○ Sea level rise</li> <li>○ Climate change</li> <li>○ Shellfish bed closures</li> <li>○ Freshwater inflow</li> </ul>	16 votes
	<b>Apathy/Societal Perceptions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Uncaring people</li> <li>○ Societal perceptions of property rights vs. environment protection</li> <li>○ Lack of vision by the public and government</li> </ul>	12 votes
	<b>Public Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ K-12</li> <li>○ Continuing adult education</li> </ul>	9 votes
	<b>Nutrient Loading/Eutrophication</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Atmospheric Deposition</li> <li>○ Sewage</li> </ul>	9 votes
	<b>Funding</b>	8 votes
	<b>Lack of Communication</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lack of communication between different branches of government</li> <li>○ Avoid duplication of efforts</li> </ul>	5 votes
	<b>Over fishing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fishing gear impacts</li> <li>○ Physical damage to habitats</li> </ul>	4 votes
	<b>Political Agendas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Responsibilities of industries</li> <li>○ Financial constraints</li> </ul>	3 votes
	<b>Lack of Regulations and Enforcement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Permitting of dumping zones</li> <li>○ Draining of lakes for regulatory purposes</li> </ul>	3 votes
	<b>Harmful Algal Blooms, Red Tide</b>	2 votes

<b>Tampa, FL</b>  <b>8/23/05</b>	<b>Oil and Gas, Liquefied Natural Gas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Damage from oil spills</li> <li>○ Vessel pollution</li> <li>○ Offshore drilling resulting in land subsidence</li> <li>○ Liquefied natural gas terminals</li> </ul>	2 votes
	<b>Lack of Information/Inadequate Information</b>	1 vote
	<b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aquatic animal health</li> <li>○ Invasive species</li> </ul>	1 vote
<b>Tampa, FL</b>  <b>PUBLIC SESSION</b>  <b>8/23/05</b>	<b>Growth Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public access to water</li> <li>○ Sustainable practices for tourist locations such as hotels</li> </ul>	20 votes
	<b>Habitat Loss</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clearing of upland regions</li> <li>○ Wetlands protection</li> </ul>	15 votes
	<b>Water Quality/Quantity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nutrient loading/ eutrophication</li> <li>○ Canal management</li> <li>○ Intercoastal cleanup</li> <li>○ Need additional “no dumping” areas</li> </ul>	15 votes
	<b>Lack of Regulations and Enforcement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Weak enforcement of wetlands regulations</li> <li>○ Insufficient “no dumping” areas</li> <li>○ Weak enforcement of the Clean Water Act</li> </ul>	13 votes
	<b>Political Agendas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Selective use of science</li> <li>○ Political representatives are not well enough informed</li> </ul>	6 votes
	<b>Beach Re-Nourishment</b>	5 votes
	<b>Funding</b>	5 votes
	<b>Public Education</b>	5 votes
	<b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b>	5 votes
	<b>Apathy/Societal Perceptions</b>	4 votes
	<b>Lack of Information – Inadequate Information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Standardizing data collection methods</li> <li>○ Modeling</li> <li>○ Synthesis of data/information</li> </ul>	4 votes
	<b>Lack of Communication</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need holistic approach to problems</li> </ul>	3 votes
<b>Non-Nutrient Pollution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mercury</li> <li>○ Toxins</li> <li>○ Pesticides from lawn treatment</li> <li>○ Desalination</li> </ul>	3 votes	

<p><b>Tampa, FL</b></p> <p><b>PUBLIC SESSION</b></p> <p><b>8/23/05</b></p>	<p><b>Overfishing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Impacts of commercial fishing methods</li> <li>○ Insufficient recreational fishing data</li> </ul>	3 votes
	<p><b>Harmful Algal Blooms; Red Tide</b></p>	2 votes
	<p><b>Climate Changes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sea level rise</li> </ul>	1 vote
	<p><b>User Traffic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Private and public waterways traffic</li> <li>○ Noise pollution</li> </ul>	1 vote
	<p><b>Aquaculture</b></p>	0 votes
	<p><b>Business Agenda</b></p>	0 votes
	<p><b>Dams</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Renewing and removal of dams</li> <li>○ Aquifer recharge</li> </ul>	0 votes
	<p><b>Groundwater Withdrawal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Deep water injection</li> <li>○ Sink holes</li> </ul>	0 votes
	<p><b>Invasive Species</b></p>	0 votes
<p><b>Apalachicola, FL</b></p> <p><b>8/25/05</b></p>	<p><b>Habitat Destruction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Habitat loss – all ecosystems</li> <li>○ Estuarine habitat loss and secondary/cumulative impacts</li> <li>○ Economic and population pressures on coastal habitats</li> <li>○ Development and habitat loss</li> <li>○ Over development of coastal areas, impacts on habitats, lack of infrastructure (i.e. sewer service)</li> <li>○ Impacts on coastal habitats from population and economic standpoints</li> <li>○ Wetland protection – buffer on uplands</li> <li>○ Habitat loss, destruction, and deterioration</li> <li>○ Habitat destruction</li> </ul>	15 votes
	<p><b>Water Quality and Quantity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Water quality of the rivers, bays and Gulf is critical concern for the life, health and quality of life</li> <li>○ Water quality and quantity – nutrients, toxins, etc.</li> <li>○ Water quality impacts – education and enforcement</li> <li>○ Water quality declines, increases in nutrients and sediment loads to the Gulf and coastal estuaries</li> <li>○ Upstream water allocation, freshwater delivery</li> <li>○ Controlling and minimizing water runoff/surface and storm water into Gulf</li> <li>○ Water quality degradation</li> <li>○ Water quality – storm water management, nutrient loading, contaminants</li> <li>○ Water quality – nutrient loading, contaminants, storm water, hormones, antibiotics, and pharmaceuticals</li> <li>○ Human development – disturbance, impervious surface, habitat destruction, wildlife destruction</li> <li>○ Nutrient loading</li> <li>○ Pollution from river, coastal construction</li> <li>○ Water quality/flow data lack of timely information for management decisions</li> </ul>	13 votes

<p>Apalachicola, FL 8/25/05</p>	<p><b>Development Practices and Lack of Effective Growth Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Understanding dynamic coastline and modifying development practices</li> <li>○ Growth management along Gulf Coast</li> <li>○ Balance and inclusion regarding special interests: fair zoning and planning (managed growth)</li> <li>○ Inadequate coastal development controls</li> <li>○ Lack of development management that is cognizant and sensitive to ecological conditions and processes</li> <li>○ The cost to the community of maintaining shoreline development</li> <li>○ Overdevelopment of coastlines</li> <li>○ Unbridled coastal development</li> <li>○ Land use planning and aquatic management regulations should be based on the area's carrying capacity</li> <li>○ Growth and development in hazardous coastal areas</li> <li>○ Coastal development – development setbacks, nutrient loading (ie septic tanks, runoff), wildlife habitat impacts</li> <li>○ Development pressures: density increase and property value escalation driving land use/zoning decisions</li> </ul>	13 votes
	<p><b>Lack of Enforcement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enforcement</li> <li>○ Lack of/inadequate compliance and enforcement</li> <li>○ Not strict enough laws or nonenforcement of existing ones</li> <li>○ Zoning and regulation enforcement</li> <li>○ Lack of enforcement of environmental regulations</li> <li>○ Lack of enforcement of current regulations</li> <li>○ No enforcement of rules, regulations, and laws put in place to manage for healthy environment</li> <li>○ Compliance and enforcement – clear signage, summons/tickets, community service, etc.</li> </ul>	13 votes
	<p><b>Loss of Cultural and Economic Viability in Coastal Communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Loss of seafood industry from development pressures</li> <li>○ Loss of cultural and economic viability in coastal communities</li> <li>○ Destruction of cultural norms</li> </ul>	9 votes
	<p><b>Coordination (across agencies, across states)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inclusion, integration, and efficiency of agencies: single accountability for special actions, information sharing, agreed completion dates, removal of political encumbrances, freedom to take direct action, clear powers to enforce, specialization (regional) in science and technology, linkages and education with local city and county government</li> </ul>	9 votes
	<p><b>Need For Education on Environmental Processes, Human Impacts and Connections (between inland and coastal areas, and among Gulf Coast communities)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lack education for general public on impacts of human activity to the environment/watershed</li> <li>○ Make people aware coast to coast and inland</li> <li>○ Translate science to the layman – how to expose public to info, not lecture</li> <li>○ Continue to promote coastal education to youth, adults, and community leaders</li> <li>○ People are the problem and the solution – sensitivity and education informed by: simple and clear critical baseline data, simple rules and regulations, positive image, and good feeling of doing the right thing</li> <li>○ Education: decision makers, general public</li> <li>○ Lack of environmental coastal education</li> </ul>	7 votes
	<p><b>Lack of Access</b></p>	5 votes

<p><b>Apalachicola, FL</b></p> <p><b>8/25/05</b></p>	<p><b>Lack of Accessible Baseline Data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Data collection and presentation – lack of baseline data</li> <li>○ Establishing baseline of Gulf status: hydrogeological, biological, chemical, physical</li> <li>○ Lack of understanding and appreciation of and sensitivity to the dynamic nature of a coastal environment – too much shoreline armoring, dredging and filling, beach renourishment, etc., building homes on shifting sand</li> <li>○ Regional sediment management – studies and implementation</li> </ul>	5 votes
	<p><b>Political/Economic Pressure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Short-term profit motivation greater than concern for the environment</li> <li>○ Political and economic pressures on agencies – ability to do the job</li> <li>○ Limits on field people to do their job and lack of money to do the job</li> </ul>	4 votes
	<p><b>Fisheries Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improved/different harvesting technology, use verifiable data from oystermen and fishermen</li> <li>○ Incompatible fisheries management</li> </ul>	3 votes
	<p><b>Oil Drilling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Big picture effects on Gulf</li> </ul>	1 vote
	<p><b>Overpopulation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The negative impact of population growth and land use intensity increases on the health and well-being of the natural resource known as the Gulf of Mexico</li> <li>○ Overpopulation</li> </ul>	1 vote
<p><b>Sarasota, FL</b></p> <p><b>9/14/05</b></p>	<p><b>Funding (lack of...)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Funding for science and education</li> <li>○ Lack of funding</li> <li>○ Funding – solves problems with not only regulation and enforcement but restoration and management</li> <li>○ Funding</li> <li>○ Funding for research – need the science to strengthen not weaken</li> <li>○ Environmental permitting – funding for staff/ enforcement</li> <li>○ Inadequate funding/ will to fund for research, regulation, and enforcement</li> <li>○ Funding – not enough long-term funding opportunities</li> <li>○ Money for addressing Gulf health</li> <li>○ Funding to complete priority projects/ programs</li> <li>○ Achievement of sufficient funding for needed science and public awareness</li> <li>○ Federal funding for Gulf study</li> <li>○ Lack of funding for research and management</li> </ul>	22 votes
	<p><b>Loss of Habitat/ Conservation and Preservation of Habitat (wetlands, seagrass, etc.)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Conservation of coastal habitats</li> <li>○ Increase marine habitats in coastal areas</li> <li>○ Preserving coastal habitat</li> <li>○ Lack of conservation/ preservation of coastal lands and waters – lack of appropriate mitigation procedures</li> <li>○ Failure of government agencies to effectively manage, conserve, and protect natural resources</li> <li>○ Timeframe is too slow: Speed up the time frame to begin ecosystem recovery process</li> <li>○ Habitat loss and degradation of Gulf and associated waterways (bays, rivers, creeks)</li> <li>○ Mangrove/ sea grass destruction</li> <li>○ Seagrass</li> <li>○ Loss of habitat, including wetlands</li> <li>○ Shoreline armoring – loss of habitat (sea turtle, shorebird, etc.)</li> <li>○ Loss of habitat – unmanaged development</li> <li>○ Habitat destruction</li> <li>○ Increased development and loss of habitat</li> <li>○ Loss of coastal and aquatic habitats</li> </ul>	22 votes

<p><b>Sarasota, FL</b></p> <p><b>9/14/05</b></p>	<p><b>Nonpoint Source Pollution and Nutrient Loading (fertilizers, pesticides, storm water, sewage, etc.)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nitrate runoff from fertilizer, golf courses, and lawn</li> <li>○ Stop using fertilizers and pesticides and plant Florida native plants</li> <li>○ Lawn pesticides runoff from residential and landscape use</li> <li>○ Nonpoint source pollution (e.g. runoff from yards)</li> <li>○ Nutrient loads and runoff causing red tide</li> <li>○ Nutrient runoff</li> <li>○ Excess nutrient loading</li> <li>○ Man-made nutrient pollution to the Gulf</li> <li>○ Reduce nitrogen/ phosphate/ etc. runoff and nonpoint pollution</li> <li>○ Contamination – pesticides, fertilizer, treatment plant effluent, phosphate industry, atmospheric, nonpoint source, watershed, etc.</li> <li>○ Storm water pollution</li> <li>○ Overall estuarine health – includes pollution issues, varying salinity levels, recreational use, biological value, etc.</li> <li>○ Stop polluting</li> <li>○ Pollution - point and nonpoint</li> <li>○ Nonpoint source pollution</li> <li>○ Land-based sources of pollution – lack of coordinated reductions</li> <li>○ Nonpoint source pollution and nutrient loading</li> </ul>	17 votes
	<p><b>Red Tide</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Red tide</li> <li>○ Dead Gulf/ red tide – do something now</li> <li>○ Red tide/ dead zone</li> <li>○ Contamination especially related to red tide management</li> <li>○ Red tide – associated causes and impacts</li> </ul>	17 votes
	<p><b>Education and Stewardship (K through grey)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lack of stewardship</li> <li>○ Personal responsibility</li> <li>○ Public education, awareness, and stewardship</li> <li>○ Educating public</li> <li>○ Lack of education schools and public</li> <li>○ Public education aimed at issues and personal responsibility – backed by incentives and penalties</li> <li>○ Understanding our connection to water is imperative – education, raising consciousness to view our environment with respect is first.</li> <li>○ Creating sustainable behavior changes through education for public, children, minorities, etc., and provide funding for increased education.</li> <li>○ Lack of public awareness for environmental issues and the desire to be stewards of the environment.</li> <li>○ Formal/ informal education in the schools and community (getting information into school curriculum and to tourists)</li> <li>○ Education for legislators, public, and agencies for active legislation</li> <li>○ Bring about change immediately! Nationwide public and government awareness</li> <li>○ Lack of public education – general public, children</li> </ul>	16 votes

<p><b>Sarasota, FL</b></p> <p><b>9/14/05</b></p>	<p><b>Population Growth and Development (unsustainable development)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Excessive influence of corporations and development agencies</li> <li>○ Sustained economic development in fact of protecting Gulf of Mexico</li> <li>○ Increased human population</li> <li>○ Overpopulation</li> <li>○ Coastal development</li> <li>○ Unregulated coastal development (mismanaged)</li> <li>○ Unsustainable development</li> <li>○ Unsustainable development due to increased human population growth</li> <li>○ Number of people moving to FL – development</li> <li>○ Overall health of Gulf due to development</li> <li>○ Unsustainable development</li> <li>○ Increased human population</li> <li>○ Unsustainable development and land use</li> <li>○ Uncontrolled coastal development</li> <li>○ Unsustainable development</li> <li>○ Increasing human population</li> <li>○ The failure of state and local governments to address population growth and regulated development</li> <li>○ Development – coastal, barrier island, watershed</li> </ul>	13 votes
	<p><b>Intergovernmental Coordination and Partnerships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Intergovernmental coordination and funding (local, regional, state, federal, international)</li> <li>○ Lack of coordination between local, state, and federal environmental permitting agencies</li> <li>○ Coordination of all efforts</li> <li>○ Poor coordination and planning to reduce (1) natural resource degradation, (2) time and finance costs to local, state, and federal governments, and tax payers, and (3) water quality and reduction</li> <li>○ Need federal incentives for states to more actively participate in Gulf recovery</li> <li>○ Better and true partnerships between federal, state, academia, and private entities</li> </ul>	6 votes
	<p><b>Lack of Accurate Information (misinformation)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Information deficit</li> <li>○ Proliferation and misconceptions</li> <li>○ Verification of facts – less misinformation to the public, (media uninformed but well-meaning) individuals, or sources</li> <li>○ Lack of accurate and reliable info at a central location</li> <li>○ Misinformation – including shortsightedness and politically-based environmental positions</li> <li>○ Dissemination of understandable and accurate information relevant to the health of the Gulf</li> </ul>	6 votes
	<p><b>Renewable Resources (including recycling and solar energy)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recycling</li> <li>○ Implementing use of renewable resources (solar, ethanol, natural fibers – beets, hemp)</li> <li>○ Encourage use of solar energy</li> </ul>	5 votes
	<p><b>Water Quality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Water quality</li> <li>○ Degradation of water quality including increased nutrients and red tide</li> <li>○ Water quality including nutrient loading, erosion, pollution</li> </ul>	4 votes
	<p><b>Laws and Enforcement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Phosphate laws</li> <li>○ Governmental agencies failure to enforce regulations and laws (federal, state, and local)</li> <li>○ Lack of defined policies and legislation</li> <li>○ International laws that require federal, state, and local land-use decisions that maintain natural water quantity, timing, and quality.</li> </ul>	4 votes

<p><b>Sarasota, FL</b></p> <p><b>9/14/05</b></p>	<p><b>Science-Based Prioritization and Decision Making (management)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Focus efforts on ecosystem-based governance</li> <li>○ Science-based prioritization</li> <li>○ Prioritize efforts based on sound science</li> <li>○ Science-based decision making / managing resources</li> <li>○ Science-based decision making</li> <li>○ Lake Okeechobee Management – affects two estuarine systems, one of which is in Gulf as well as many terrestrial systems that ultimately spill into Gulf</li> <li>○ Prioritization based on science, not emotion</li> <li>○ Influence of developers over local governments</li> </ul>	3 votes
	<p><b>Dead Zone</b></p>	3 votes
	<p><b>Coastal Hazards (hurricanes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pre- and post-disaster planning</li> <li>○ Hurricane damage and recovery (i.e. last nights TV said environmentalists stopped the building of a flood gate for New Orleans)</li> </ul>	2 votes
	<p><b>Fisheries and Overfishing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fisheries and habitat protection</li> <li>○ Overfishing</li> </ul>	2 votes
	<p><b>Government Ineptitude</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Leaders need to be more responsible in keeping laws</li> <li>○ Lack of government (federal, state, local) commitment to protecting and restoring Gulf of Mexico</li> <li>○ Government ineptitude with using sound science to determine policies (as in global warming as untrue)</li> <li>○ Governmental ineptitude</li> <li>○ Lack of immediacy, lack of accountability, (ineptitude of government)</li> </ul>	2 votes
	<p><b>Ecosystem Valuation (valuation of resources)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Redefining the value of resources</li> <li>○ Poor/ no ecosystem valuation</li> <li>○ Better definition of value of resources (i.e. tie to education and funding)</li> </ul>	2 votes
	<p><b>Alteration of Freshwater Flows into Estuaries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Alteration of natural quality, quantity, and timing of freshwater flows to estuaries</li> <li>○ Alteration of freshwater flows into estuaries</li> </ul>	2 votes
	<p><b>Oil / Gas/ Mining</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Oil exploration in Gulf</li> <li>○ Phosphate mining</li> </ul>	1 votes
	<p><b>Global Climate Change (including greenhouse gases)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Global climate change participation by U.S.</li> <li>○ Global climate change/ rising sea level</li> <li>○ Rising water levels</li> <li>○ Increasing greenhouse gases</li> </ul>	1 votes
	<p><b>Littering</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Trash and fishing line in the environment (and ways to clean it up/ reduce it)</li> </ul>	0 votes
	<p><b>Dumping and Industrial Waste</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discharge, runoff, dumping, washing out into Gulf of chemicals, fluids, and junk</li> <li>○ Stop dumping phosphate leftovers into bay and Gulf of Mexico</li> <li>○ Industry and other pollution (sugar, phosphate, oil and gas, golf courses, lawns)</li> </ul>	0 votes

<b>Galveston, TX</b>  <b>9/20/05</b>	<b>Land Use Planning/Lack of Land Use Planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Land use planning</li> <li>○ Land use planning – not enough habitat/wetlands/coastal prairie set aside</li> <li>○ Lack of planning authority</li> <li>○ Lack of coastal land use planning</li> <li>○ Reactive planning instead of proactive planning in regards to upstream land management practices that impact coastal areas and Gulf of Mexico</li> </ul>	15 votes
	<b>Water Quality (WQ) Pollution (nonpoint source/nutrient loading/hypoxia)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pollution</li> <li>○ Water condition (quality, pollution, hypoxic zone)</li> <li>○ Nonpoint source pollution</li> <li>○ The “Dead Zone”</li> <li>○ Nutrient runoff</li> <li>○ Nutrient loading</li> <li>○ Pollution control</li> </ul>	14 votes
	<b>Habitat Loss/Habitat Fragmentation/Preservation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coastal habitat degradation or destruction (primarily wetlands loss)</li> <li>○ Wetland loss</li> <li>○ Wetland protection/restoration</li> <li>○ Habitat loss/destruction</li> <li>○ Wetland and habitat loss</li> <li>○ Habitat loss (specifically estuarine nursery losses)</li> <li>○ Habitat loss (estuary, deep water, upland, etc.)</li> <li>○ Habitat fragmentation</li> <li>○ Habitat restoration</li> <li>○ Habitat preservation</li> </ul>	7 votes
	<b>Population Growth and Development (including sprawl)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Population growth</li> <li>○ Coastal sprawl – second homes, vacation rentals, habitat loss, failing/non-functioning septic systems</li> <li>○ Coastal development/urban sprawl</li> <li>○ Coastal over development promoted by federally subsidized flood and windstorm insurance</li> </ul>	5 votes
	<b>Lack of Knowledge/Awareness/Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lack of understanding of ecosystem processes and relationships</li> <li>○ Lack of education on ocean issues</li> <li>○ Lack of awareness</li> <li>○ Lack of awareness of connectivity to Gulf</li> <li>○ Ecosystem understanding</li> <li>○ Public education</li> </ul>	4.5 votes
	<b>Lack of Funding/Funding by Crisis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Funding</li> <li>○ Lack of funding</li> <li>○ Unbalanced funneling of funding instead of investing in prevention and research</li> <li>○ Serious underfunding of ocean sciences – specifically in the Gulf of Mexico</li> </ul>	4 votes
	<b>Freshwater Inflows</b>	2 votes
	<b>Fisheries (overfishing and by-catch)</b>	1.5 votes
	<b>Coastal Erosion</b>	1 vote
	<b>Oil and Gas (Liquid Natural Gas (LNG), open loop, rigs)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Offshore open-loop LNG terminals</li> <li>○ Oil rigs and LNG – impact on Gulf health and recreation</li> </ul>	1 vote

<p><b>Galveston, TX</b> <b>9/20/05</b></p>	<p><b>Invasive Species</b></p>	1 vote
	<p><b>Government Indifference</b></p>	1 vote
	<p><b>Public Access</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recreational access – public access points</li> </ul>	1 vote
	<p><b>Contaminated Seafood</b></p>	1 vote
	<p><b>Dredging and Dredge Spoil Management</b></p>	1 vote
	<p><b>Loss of Biodiversity</b></p>	0 votes
	<p><b>Enforcement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enforcement to control/manage nonpoint source pollution</li> <li>○ Sporadic Clean Water Act enforcement (lack of regulation of “isolated” wetlands)</li> </ul>	0 votes
	<p><b>International Cooperation</b></p>	0 votes
<p><b>Port Aransas, TX</b> <b>1/19/006</b></p>	<p><b>Coastal Habitats (preservation, loss, etc.)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Loss of coastal habitat to development</li> <li>○ Degradation of wetlands</li> <li>○ Habitat destruction; seagrass loss</li> <li>○ Destruction of wetlands</li> <li>○ Loss of coastal wetlands and habitat</li> <li>○ Coastal wetlands</li> <li>○ Wetland/seagrass habitat loss/impairment</li> <li>○ Passes and wetlands</li> <li>○ Estuaries and wetlands</li> <li>○ Habitat destruction, degradation along coast and bay system</li> <li>○ Loss of coastal habitats – includes wetlands and coastal submerged habitats (affects many species &amp; storm protection) – causes may be erosion, subsidence, development, storm/climate</li> <li>○ Habitat preservation and restoration</li> <li>○ Preservation of coastal habitats (wetlands, dune systems, sensitive uplands like riparian zones and coastal prairie); preserving integrity of these habitats; conservation easements, buying of land for preservation</li> <li>○ Habitat restoration</li> <li>○ Habitat modification (wetlands, endangered species)</li> <li>○ Habitat preservation and conservation; conservation easements, buying of land for preservation</li> <li>○ Habitat conservation</li> </ul>	24 votes
	<p><b>Population Growth and Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Population growth</li> <li>○ Population density along coasts</li> <li>○ Population control</li> <li>○ Overuse of coastal areas</li> <li>○ Responsible coastal development</li> <li>○ Coastal overdevelopment/population pressures</li> <li>○ Coastal community development; loss of coastal habitats from development; need to conserve habitats through acquisition</li> <li>○ Control of coastal development</li> <li>○ Unplanned development along shorelines and river drainages</li> <li>○ Linking county/community input into smart growth along the coast and working on ecosystem services</li> <li>○ The urbanization of Texas Barrier Islands</li> <li>○ Lack of long-term comprehensive land use and development planning</li> </ul>	18 votes

<p><b>Port Aransas, TX 1/19/006</b></p>	<p><b>Education at all Levels (K-12, public)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Lack of education (public and K-12)</li> <li>o Lack of education and involvement of the local population</li> <li>o Local ignorance of natural sciences and systems at work in area</li> <li>o Lack of adequate K-12 marine education</li> <li>o Deficient education on environmental issues</li> <li>o Credibility; helping the community understand how to identify what information is accurate, credible, and what they can/should do – what action can they take</li> <li>o Public education (marine science issues)</li> <li>o Public awareness of the environmental issues</li> <li>o Education ocean science/environment</li> <li>o Communication; effective methods of communicating accurate information to members of the community to facilitate and speed up goal setting and action; looking long-term, not short-term</li> </ul>	14 votes
	<p><b>Balancing Environmental and Economic Interests/Impacts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Balancing demands on coastal zones; political/economic/environmental/scientific; increase funding and incentives to study/protect/understand importance of area</li> <li>o Balance between economics and ecology</li> <li>o Balancing the environment with its economic impact to local communities and the state</li> <li>o Balancing environmental vs. economic impact</li> <li>o Socioeconomic impacts</li> </ul>	14 votes
	<p><b>Water Quality (nutrient loading, nonpoint source)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improving water quality (from nonpoint source pollution particularly including storm water)</li> <li>o Nutrient loading</li> <li>o Nutrifcation/ eutrophication</li> <li>o Site-specific water quality standards</li> <li>o Nonpoint source pollution</li> <li>o Stop pollution</li> <li>o Water pollution due to environment’s degradation</li> <li>o Pollution control</li> </ul>	11 votes
	<p><b>Freshwater Inflow</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Freshwater inflow alteration</li> <li>o Freshwater inflow</li> <li>o Freshwater input management (bays and estuaries)</li> <li>o Water releases</li> <li>o Providing adequate fresh water inflows to coastal bays and estuaries</li> <li>o Freshwater inflow from lake and Gulf pf Mexico</li> <li>o Freshwater inflow to bays and estuaries</li> <li>o Reduction of freshwater inflows due to inner population needs</li> <li>o Freshwater inflow needs of estuaries</li> </ul>	11 votes
	<p><b>Social and Economic Pressures Overriding Science</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Local/governing agencies ignoring responsible conservation (money talks)</li> <li>o Development (public opinion) over-riding scientific expertise</li> <li>o Ignoring scientific input over cash input</li> <li>o Economic goals over-riding scientific knowledge and environmental needs</li> <li>o Public opinion (based on bias and feelings) is over-riding scientific expertise</li> </ul>	7 votes
	<p><b>Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Greater funding for agencies tasked with enforcing current laws and regulations</li> <li>o Increased funding for better science</li> <li>o Improved funding for enhancing measurements (physical, biological, chemical, geological) of coastal ocean environment (bays, estuaries, coastal, to open ocean of Gulf of Mexico)</li> </ul>	5 votes

<p><b>Port Aransas, TX</b></p> <p><b>1/19/006</b></p>	<p><b>Endangered Species</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Endangered species</li> <li>o Protect endangered species (this will automatically “take care of” many of the other concerns)</li> </ul>	4 votes
	<p><b>Beach Management/Maintenance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Beach management techniques that are destructive to wildlife and promote erosion</li> <li>o Sensible plan to use in beach maintenance</li> </ul>	4 votes
	<p><b>Lack of Enforcement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Lack of enforcement power regarding coastal management</li> </ul>	3 votes
	<p><b>Fisheries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Increased recreational fishing pressure in Aransas Bay (coastal bend)</li> <li>o Lack of ecosystem management approach to fisheries as opposed to single species management</li> </ul>	3 votes
	<p><b>Dumping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Marine debris</li> <li>o Dumping – illegal, beaches and into water, gulf and bays</li> <li>o Offshore dumping</li> <li>o Illegal dumping</li> </ul>	3 votes
	<p><b>Technology Informing Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Integrate coastal ocean observing systems</li> <li>o Geospatial technology and ecosystem management</li> <li>o Incorporating GIS into management (ID habitats)</li> </ul>	3 votes
	<p><b>Ecosystem-Based Management (relationships and interconnectedness)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Citizen education of ecosystem management at regional and local (immediate) level</li> <li>o Quality control over aspects of Gulf of Mexico</li> <li>o Need to better understand the relationship between coastal habitat destruction and marine fisheries</li> <li>o Upstream/downstream social disconnect</li> <li>o Relationship between upstream/downstream better understood</li> <li>o Need to have better monitoring and management in an ecosystem-based format</li> </ul>	3 votes
	<p><b>Lack of Coordination (local, state, federal, international)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Lack of coordination between local, state and federal</li> <li>o Coordination (or lack of) between local/state/federal authorities</li> <li>o International cooperation efforts</li> </ul>	2 votes
	<p><b>Dredging and Sediment Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Toxic waste from dredging</li> <li>o Regional sediment management</li> <li>o Dredging and beneficial use of dredged material</li> <li>o Regional sediment management</li> </ul>	2 votes
	<p><b>Lack of Science to Inform Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Lack of scientific information to manage Gulf resources</li> <li>o Lack of scientific baseline data</li> </ul>	2 votes
	<p><b>Coastal Hazards Mitigation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Coastal hazard mitigation</li> </ul>	2 votes
<p><b>Value of Ecosystem Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Better/more information on the values of ecosystem services</li> </ul>	2 votes	

<b>Port Aransas, TX</b>  <b>1/19/006</b>	<b>Erosion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Land erosion</li> <li>○ Degradation of the Gulf's coastline from pollution and erosion</li> <li>○ Coastal erosion</li> </ul>	1 vote
	<b>Permitting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Permitting allowed to develop wetlands and shorelines</li> </ul>	0 votes
	<b>Oil and Gas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Oil and gas</li> </ul>	0 votes
<b>Mississippi - Alabama</b>  <b>PUBLIC SESSION</b>  <b>1/31/06</b>	<b>Upstream Concerns (nutrient loading)</b>	6 votes
	<b>Water Quality -- Including Bay Issues, Sewage Treatment, Development Impacts (e.g. red clay flowing into water bodies)</b>	5 votes
	<b>Polluter Pays – Industry Should Bear Burden of Pollution Costs (need mandates and regulations)</b>	5 votes
	<b>Agency Funding (enforcement)</b>	4 votes
	<b>Sustainability (overall issues, including fisheries)</b>	4 votes
	<b>Commercial Fishing with Nets</b>	3 votes
	<b>Strengthening Environmental Standards (and standardizing them across the states)</b>	3 votes
	<b>Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) Impacts on Water Quality</b>	3 votes
	<b>Relaxation of Offsite Mitigation Policies for Wetlands</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Allow more low-level suburban wetlands to be developed in exchange for the protection of high-level coastal wetlands</li> </ul>	3 votes
	<b>Need Better Balance Between Economic and Environmental Impacts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ road development decisions</li> </ul>	2 votes
	<b>More Access to Water Quality Testing Results and More Testing</b>	2 votes
	<b>Coastal Hazards</b>	2 votes
	<b>Septic Tanks (leaking into Gulf)</b>	1 vote
	<b>Offshore Development Needs Checks and Balances</b>	1 vote
	<b>Air Quality Impacts on Water Quality</b>	0 votes
	<b>Impoundment of Water Bodies to Create Reservoirs</b>	0 votes
	<b>Artificial Reefs (too many equal pollution – where did they go after the hurricanes)</b>	0 votes
	<b>Commitment and Funding from Federal Agencies for Gulf Needs</b>	0 votes
	<b>Development of Salt Domes</b>	0 votes
	<b>Impacts from Disposal of Dredge Material</b>	0 votes

<p>Mississippi - Alabama</p> <p>2/1/006</p>	<p><b>Habitat Restoration, Degradation, Protection, Identifying Characterizing, and Saltwater Intrusion Impacts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Preservation of natural ecosystems.</li> <li>○ Watch the projects to further develop the Pearl River by placing two new dams in the Jackson, Mississippi (MS) reach of the river. These projects promise flood control while allowing riverfront development – “Shangrila.” Two additional dams will cause low flow conditions in drought years that the downstream areas of the Pearl cannot sustain, including coastal marshes and estuaries in Louisiana (LA) and MS that depend on regular seasonal fresh water discharges</li> <li>○ Land protection (riparian buffers, conservation easements, purchase outright).</li> <li>○ Habitat preservation</li> <li>○ Wildlife habitat concerns</li> <li>○ Identification, quantification, and restoration of natural coastal habitats.</li> <li>○ Loss of shoreline and wetland submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitats to dredging/filling, development, channelizing, dams, etc. (including loss of riparian habitats that could serve as buffers).</li> <li>○ Restoring wetlands, rivers, and estuaries.</li> </ul>	<p>20 votes</p>
	<p><b>Education and Outreach/Communication (includes sharing of monitoring data)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expand education of key Gulf Coast environmental issues. Enlist speakers/ambassadors from community groups, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and industry as well as involved agencies to talk/teach at schools, civic groups, etc. Assist ambassadors with training/speaking tools to enable effective fact-based environmental education.</li> <li>○ Educate all levels of society about the problems and solutions available based on relevant data.</li> <li>○ Public education</li> <li>○ K-12 education</li> <li>○ The need for community outreach and education by using the university in state to do or assist in research and develop education/training programs. Start K-12 to help make people aware of problems.</li> <li>○ Environmental education for K-college, coastal resource managers, general public Opportunities should be specifically designed for these audiences. This requires funding in the form of additional people/staff to take on new programs and projects.</li> <li>○ Community education that targets adult audiences is traditional</li> </ul>	<p>18 votes</p>
	<p><b>Local Decision Makers/Leaders Balance Economic and Environmental Concerns/Goals (need to understand economic benefits and quality of life)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Education of public officials, elected and appointed regarding the repercussions of land use management decisions.</li> <li>○ Balancing environmental and economic development.</li> <li>○ Can local leaders come to an understanding of the economic benefits of quality of life?</li> <li>○ How do we get our elected and appointed officials and business leaders from wanting more housing and shopping centers?</li> </ul>	<p>13 votes</p>
	<p><b>Invasive Species</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Invasive exotics (aquatic and terrestrial plant and animal)</li> <li>○ Remove invasives and restore habitats after removal.</li> <li>○ Also included should be education to the general public about what invasives are, why they are bad, what you can do to get rid of them in your yard in an economically and environmentally sound method.</li> </ul>	<p>12 votes</p>

<p><b>Mississippi - Alabama</b></p> <p><b>2/1/006</b></p>	<p><b>Water Quality (general) Including Pollutants other than Nutrients (such as mercury) as Well as Disease Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Water sampling for regulatory compliance</li> <li>○ Adequate monitoring of water quality and real-time alerts of negative impacts, including spills (pollution and waste water), beach closings, fish and shell fish impacts.</li> <li>○ Mercury and other pollutants (nutrients, sediments, algal blooms, low dissolved oxygen)</li> <li>○ Presence of mercury in fish</li> <li>○ Thermal pollution</li> <li>○ We need better understanding of waterborne and seafood-borne diseases so that we can better mitigate adverse health impacts on tourism, water recreation, and seafood consumption.</li> <li>○ Gulf water quality should address the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Saltwater intrusion</li> <li>○ Red tides</li> <li>○ Effects on seafood industry</li> <li>○ Soil erosion impacts</li> <li>○ Up-stream dumping issues</li> <li>○ Septic and sewer systems</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	12 votes
	<p><b>Population Growth and Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Direct new population growth into city mixed use areas.</li> <li>○ How do we reduce our population so we do not have these abundant problems?</li> <li>○ Increased coastal populations and habitat loss due to development.</li> <li>○ Unrestrained coastal zone development that assumes natural coastline erosion/deposition can be prevented.</li> <li>○ Inland best management practices (BMP) implementation</li> <li>○ Lack of appreciation for and enforcement of BMPs, especially in coastal zones.</li> <li>○ Land protection/land use</li> <li>○ Building codes</li> <li>○ Sustainable coastal development</li> <li>○ Coastal redevelopment and impact to the environment</li> <li>○ Building codes needed as first measure</li> <li>○ Local planning</li> <li>○ Green building programs</li> <li>○ Smart growth</li> <li>○ Amendments to building codes are needed to provide better termite protection against Gulf-wide problems with Formosan termites.</li> </ul>	8 votes
	<p><b>Coastal Hazards (e.g., hurricanes, mitigation smart rebuilding and recovery)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Will we rebuild like we did after Camille, or take all the good planning and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommendations and rebuild wisely?</li> <li>○ Hazard mitigation through environmental restoration</li> <li>○ Pre-planning and coordination for coastal hazard mitigation (storm water buffers)</li> <li>○ Unwise development in areas susceptible to storm surge</li> <li>○ Pollutants – any new pollutants because of hurricanes</li> </ul>	8 votes
	<p><b>Restore, Preserve, and Support Coastal Communities and Working Waterfronts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Loss of water-born industries</li> <li>○ Protection and preservation of indigenous coastal communities relative to coastal developmental and governmental regulations</li> <li>○ Preservation of working waterfronts; water-dependent vs. water-enhanced use</li> <li>○ Dredging, support of seafood industry, shipbuilding, tourism, coastal (land and water) clean-up</li> </ul>	8 votes

<p>Mississippi - Alabama</p> <p>2/1/006</p>	<p><b>Coordination and Cooperation (especially for regional land use planning, research and policy)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Organizing Gulf of Mexico Alliance around sustainability.</li> <li>o Regional land use planning – mapping resources and using them to help guide development</li> <li>o All Gulf states, Mexico, and Cuba working together on Gulf of Mexico issues (e.g.: sharing information, setting common goals, interacting on research, economic development, and policy issues).</li> <li>o Cooperative land use planning</li> </ul>	2 votes
	<p><b>Air Quality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Air quality changes and risk assessment in natural and man-made disasters in coastal regions</li> </ul>	2 votes
	<p><b>Public Access and Green Space</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Buffers, conservation space</li> <li>o Partner with Land trust to preserve green space to assist in solving some watershed and water quality problems.</li> <li>o Greenspace/public access and recreation</li> </ul>	2 votes
	<p><b>Sediment Supply and Distribution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Gulf-wide sediment management plan</li> </ul>	1 vote
	<p><b>Lack of Regulation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Lack of local government regulatory resources (funding, staff, expertise, political will) for managing land use</li> </ul>	1 vote
	<p><b>Political Reforms and Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Fear to speak up</li> <li>o Funding for Gulf of Mexico Alliance</li> <li>o Reform the MDEQ permit board. It is heavily weighted with executive branch appointees. For political reasons, this board cannot make tough decisions to deny permits when they should be denied. This throws all controversies to the chancery court system. This is ridiculous. Department of Environmental Quality should be able to make decisions when necessary.</li> <li>o Prioritize and target funding stream. Too much diversity creates a “watered down” approach to issues such that addressing them becomes ineffectual.</li> <li>o Pick your top needs.</li> <li>o Direct funding to them consistently</li> <li>o Don’t get off track with “popular issues” that may arise along the way.</li> </ul>	1 vote
	<p><b>Water Quality, Nutrients, Storm Water and Wastewater</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Under-regulated and engineered; public and private sewer districts.</li> <li>o Sewage infiltration and inflow resulting from the combination of extreme rainfall events and aging/failing wastewater infrastructure.</li> <li>o Monitor wastewater runoff and monitor nutrients entering the Gulf.</li> <li>o Nutrient enrichment and components that contribute to that (N and PO4).</li> <li>o Effects of nutrient loading, eutrophication, and hypoxia on water quality and ecosystem function</li> <li>o Storm water development and redevelopment.</li> <li>o Storm water pollution</li> <li>o Nutrient loading including nonpoint sources and sewage issues.</li> <li>o Reducing nutrient levels in bays, rivers, and estuaries.</li> </ul>	1 vote

<p><b>Mississippi - Alabama</b></p> <p><b>2/1/006</b></p>	<p><b>Research and Modeling Needs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Studies commissioned to identify key priority environmental issues for the Gulf based on data vs. anecdotal sensationalism by the media and some NGOs</li> <li>○ Lack of baseline data</li> <li>○ All stakeholders need to promote implementation and use of GCOOS – the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System. Also, the nation’s overall Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) data needs to be “banked” at SSC.</li> <li>○ Weather Research Forecast Model (WRF) for land fall hurricane tracking and intensity change over the Gulf of Mexico (storm surge, heavy precipitation, wind effects).</li> </ul>	<p>0 votes</p>
<p><b>Thibodaux, LA</b></p> <p><b>2/21/006</b></p>	<p><b>Coastal Land Loss and Restoration (erosion, channelization, subsidence, sediment management, habitat loss)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Want further talk on sediment delivery. What sources are available (particle size); source locations; efficient means of transporting sediments</li> <li>○ Sediments diverted offshore, concentrations in the rivers decreasing</li> <li>○ Hydrologic modification</li> <li>○ Inability to decide how to divert sediment from the Mississippi River into degrading coastal waters to rebuild land lost to subsidence and coastal erosion.</li> <li>○ Loss of sediment (non-beneficial use of dredged material, off-coast deposit)</li> <li>○ Sediment/freshwater diversion into the Terrebonne estuary. Water into Bayou Lafourche, into Bayou Terrebonne</li> <li>○ Prioritization of wetland habitats capable of cost-effective sustainable restoration efforts and public recognition that some areas will not be (sustainable) restored.</li> <li>○ Cut government red tape on restoration projects; streamline permitting process; Real and immediate fines for damages.</li> </ul>	<p>38 votes</p>
	<p><b>Hurricane Protection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hurricane protection</li> <li>○ Comprehensive hurricane protection, including wetland protection, restoration, and construction</li> <li>○ Better planning for and protection of the human species (increasingly) inhabiting the shorelines and coastal areas of the U.S. and world (GOM and LA specifically).</li> <li>○ Hurricane protection</li> <li>○ Flood control/hurricane protection. (protect inland habitats, people, infrastructure)</li> </ul>	<p>17 votes</p>
	<p><b>Education (formal and informal) and Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ignorance of coastal ecosystem values and importance</li> <li>○ Educating the rest of the nation as to the importance of coastal wetlands maintenance</li> <li>○ Education – educate the educators</li> <li>○ Education – we need to push locally as well as on a state level for more information to be filtered to our schools and communities. People and students need to be reminded each day what we are doing in our parish and state to address the restoration of our coastal wetlands</li> <li>○ Environmental literacy and public outreach efforts</li> <li>○ Educational issue: how to convey the truth about the coastal crisis truthfully, but with hope for the future!</li> <li>○ Environmental literacy (through informal and formal education)</li> <li>○ Education/outreach (educating Louisiana. Louisiana educating the U.S.)</li> <li>○ Formal wetland education both for educators and state school students (all levels)</li> <li>○ Resistance by locals to conservation and restoration</li> </ul>	<p>17 votes</p>
	<p><b>Water Quality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ High water quality standards and enforcement of these standards throughout the state and Gulf – including nutrient loading and the hypoxic zone.</li> <li>○ Clean water is the foundation for the quality of life. How do we better address the importance of this fact? How do we better address the issues associated with man living near the seas? (waste water, solid waste, and pollution?)</li> <li>○ Water pollution</li> <li>○ Hypoxia</li> <li>○ Pathogens, HABs, water quality</li> </ul>	<p>11 votes</p>

<p><b>Thibodaux, LA</b></p> <p><b>2/21/006</b></p>	<p><b>Need for Implementation (prioritize and take action quickly)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coordination, integration of restoration planning and implementation</li> </ul>	10 votes
	<p><b>Need for Coordination (across agencies, industry, NGOs, and across restoration and enforcement efforts)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lack of: communication, coordination, and understanding – between industry, NGOs, and agencies. I.e.: goals, objectives and commitments to the environments. Inability to find common ground for progress forward.</li> <li>○ Disconnect (lack of coordination/enforcement) between coastal restoration efforts and coastal management efforts of regulated coastal activities.</li> <li>○ BIG PROBLEM: The Corps of Engineers should not have a major role in any policy-making. Not appropriate. Corps should build no project without beneficial use of dredged material and mitigation for wetland impacts. They should be a technical service agency. Short-term solution: take Corps out of coastal restoration planning and National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) also. Ultimate solution: put Corps under Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)</li> <li>○ Concern: emphasis on consistency between/among participants.</li> </ul>	9 votes
	<p><b>Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Want further talk on the sharing of Office of Coast Survey (OCS) royalty revenues in the Gulf (fair share) for Gulf States as it is applied in the inland states (funding is a key).</li> <li>○ Lack of funding for coastal restoration projects (a direct result of lack of political will)</li> <li>○ Concern – assure monies to go beyond immediate steps (36 months □ 10 years)</li> <li>○ Darin Lee needs a pay raise</li> </ul>	9 votes
	<p><b>Cultural Identity and Heritage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ As an educator and native of Lafourche, I am worried that our young people will not be able to identify as young adults “who they are.” It’s not just land loss, but cultural identity loss.</li> <li>○ Cultural heritage</li> </ul>	9 votes
	<p><b>Population Growth and Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Unplanned urbanization is destroying coastal habitats and degrading water quality</li> <li>○ Development</li> <li>○ Best management practices – coastal communities are expanding and developing; populations are increasing, more development means more erosion, sedimentation, turbidity, etc.</li> </ul>	5 votes
	<p><b>Saltwater Intrusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Saltwater intrusion on south LA agriculture crops, crawfish, rice, and sugar cane</li> </ul>	4 votes
	<p><b>Storm Effects on Local Fisheries, Habitats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Storm effects on local fisheries and habitats</li> </ul>	4 votes
	<p><b>Research and Data Access (habitat and species information)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Habitat mapping/conservation</li> <li>○ Understanding the ecosystems and the species that makeup each. Ex: organisms that are found in the Mississippi River (fisheries) total biological profile of each species. We cannot manage what we don’t understand.</li> <li>○ Use new technologies for restoration projects</li> <li>○ Data: not always easy to get from researchers</li> </ul>	4 votes

<b>Thibodaux, LA</b>  <b>2/21/006</b>	<b>Involve Stakeholders and Provide Transparency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Existing, consensus-driven plans that involved all stakeholders need to be used now! We must use restoration projects that are acceptable to the public.</li> <li>○ How do we engage the public's active participation in activities which promote the preservation and restoration of Louisiana's Coastal environment? Idea: adapt a marsh segment; bayou segment and make stewards responsible for their well-being.</li> <li>○ Lack of transparency in the coastal restoration planning process. Talking heads develop these plans behind closed doors... then wave around a 600-page draft document for public comment.</li> </ul>	3 votes
	<b>Oil and Gas Pipeline Canals (contribution to wetland loss)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Oil and gas pipeline canals and their contribution to wetlands erosion</li> </ul>	1 vote
	<b>Political Will, Turf Battles</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Are coastal zone residents valuable to the federal government as a whole?</li> <li>○ Political turf battles; Congressional interest</li> <li>○ Voting / public office / officials – get people to the polls. Politicians not pushing own agendas in laws, amendments, bills, and speeches.</li> <li>○ Lack of political will</li> </ul>	1 vote