Governors’ Action Plan
Gulf of Mexico

- 9th Largest Water Body in the World
- Economic Engine valued at $3 trillion annually
  - Energy
    - 43% of U.S. Dry Natural Gas
    - 50% of Liquid Natural Gas
    - 44% of U.S. Crude Oil
  - Most Productive Fishery in the World
    - 69% of Shrimp caught in U.S.
    - 70% of Oysters caught in U.S.
      - More Fish, Shrimp & Shellfish than Mid-Atlantic, Chesapeake Bay and New England combined.

- 33 Major River Systems
  - 60% of US drains into the Gulf
    (MS River 90% of Fresh Water entering the Gulf)
Alliance Strengths

- Governors’ Initiative
- Action Oriented
- Cost Effective
- Integrated
- Locally Driven
Gulf Alliance

• Gulf States Governors recognized the importance of State Partnership in response to the Ocean Commission Report
• Governors Alliance organized in 2004
• Importance of Federal State Partnership Framework Recognized in the President’s Ocean Action Plan
Value of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance

- A “working model” of regional ocean governance seen as a model by other regions
- State leadership in U.S. OAP implementation
- Will decrease overall costs and increase effectiveness of coastal management on regional scales
- Supporting Gulf Coast recovery and contributing to more resilient coastal communities – protecting lives and livelihoods
Gulf Alliance

- A State-Driven Alliance
- Support from “Federal Family” essential
- Emphasizes Common Gulf-Wide & Local Issues
- Opportunity to influence Congressional Resources
- Recognition that a single State Agency likely is not adequate to represent that State’s issues
Gulf Alliance

• Success is Dependent On
  ▪ Effective State Leadership by the Governors
  ▪ Active participation at appropriate level by all 5 States
  ▪ Strategic Support from our Federal Partners
• March 2006 – GOMA Governors’ Action Plan
• Identified regional priority issues and state leads
  ▪ Water quality for healthy beaches and shellfish beds – Florida
  ▪ Coastal wetland restoration and conservation – Louisiana
  ▪ Environmental education – Alabama
  ▪ Identification and characterization of Gulf habitats – Texas
  ▪ Reductions in nutrient loading – Mississippi
• Engagement of 6 Mexican Gulf States
On the Right Track

- Joint Ocean Commission Initiative’s U.S. Ocean Policy Report Card recognized the Gulf Alliance as a bright spot in the nation
  - Regional ocean governance received highest grade
- Admiral Watkins Commends Gulf of Mexico Alliance’s Governors’ Action Plan
WHAT’S NEXT?

• Phase 2 – What happens after 36 months?
• Create a Regional Leadership Council and a Regional Coordination Team
• Develop a 25-30 year Regional Priority Plan and Implementation Strategy
• Engage Congress and Congressional Delegations
Gulf of Mexico Governors’ Alliance

Regional Priority Plan and Implementation Strategy

Gov. Rick Perry
Texas

Gov. Kathleen Blanco
Louisiana

Gov. Haley Barbour
Mississippi

Gov. Bob Riley
Alabama

Gov. Charles Crist
Florida

Karen Geautreaux
LA Dept. of Environmental Quality

Bill Walker
MS Dept. of Marine Resources
Trudy Fisher
MS Dept of Environmental Quality

Barnett Lawley, Commissioner
AL Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources

Bob Ballard,
Stephanie Bailenson
FL Dept. of Environmental Protection

Lee Yokel
Regional Coordinator
Water Quality

Regional Coordinator
Wetland Restoration

Regional Coordinator
Environmental Education

Regional Coordinator
Habitat

Regional Coordinator
Nutrients

Working Group

Working Group

Working Group

Working Group

Working Group

Links: Federal Family
GOM Foundation
GCOOS
TNC
Others?