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Southeast Region

Habitat Conservation Division

Beneficial Use of Dredged Material: A Gulf Coast Perspective

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Prepared for the USACE 2012 Dredging Conference
October 24, 2012



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Ocean Policy Task Force: National Ocean Council

Priority Areas:

- Ecosystem Management**
- Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning
- Improve Decisions & Understanding**
- Coordinate & Support**
- Resiliency & Adaptation to Climate**
- Regional Ecosystem Protection & Restoration**
- Water Quality & Sustainable Practices on land
- Changing Condition in the Arctic
- Observations & Infrastructure

President's "Roadmap for Restoring Ecosystem Resiliency and Sustainability" March 2010



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Improve Sediment Management Team of the Louisiana-Mississippi Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Working Group was established in April of 2010 and was charged under Section 4(iii) of the Roadmap to:

By fall 2010, produce a review of Federal and non-Federal funding, including:

- Federal programs and funding available for sediment management in the region.*
- Non-Federal sponsor cost-sharing requirements, and other non-Federal funding.*
- Opportunities to leverage Federal and non-Federal funds for more beneficial use and sediment management projects.*
- Opportunities for other Federal agencies to purchase dredged material.*

Roadmap Report Summary Recommendations Highlights



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- **USACE CAP authorities should be aligned with future state match funding availability, such as GOMESA.**
- **Address HMTF surplus and other issues with the HMTF expenditures.**
- **Support further development of Regional Sediment Management Plans and sediment budget studies.**
- **BOEMRE needs to make promulgating the Phase II GOMESA rules a priority**
- **Establish formal procedures to ensure time delays do not compromise USACE's ability to construct beneficial uses projects when outside incremental funds are available**



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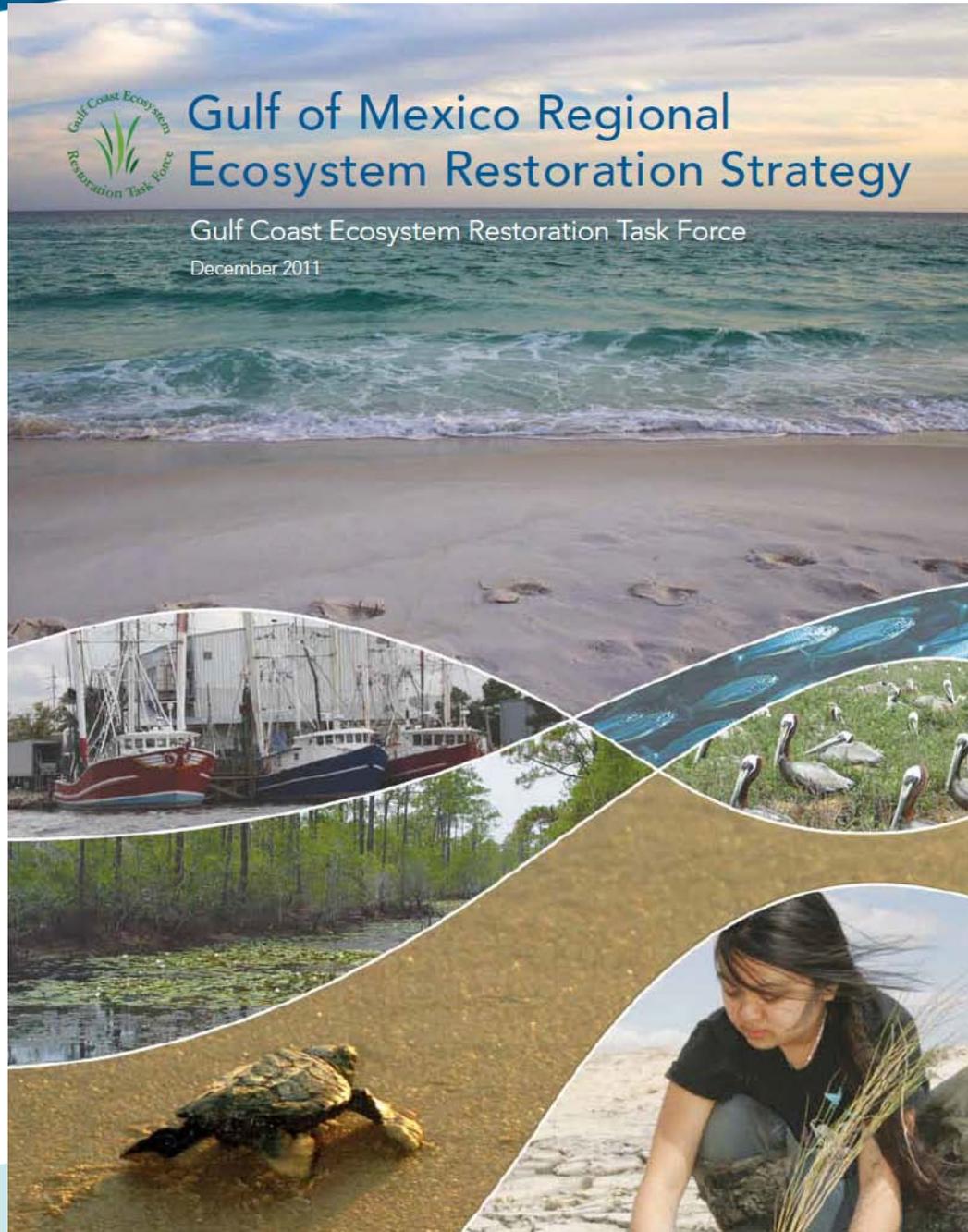
Report can be found at:
<http://www.epa.gov/gcertf/>



Gulf of Mexico Regional Ecosystem Restoration Strategy

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

December 2011





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Improve current sediment management practices to maximize to the extent practicable and ecologically acceptable the quantity and effective use of sediments by taking a “strategic use” approach to sediment management

- **Maximize beneficial use** of navigational dredged material, where practicable and ecologically acceptable, for effective and sustainable habitat restoration.
- **Increase dedicated dredging** of river and other sediment sources, such as permitted offshore sediment shoals, for use in habitat restoration projects.

Maximize Beneficial Use Where Practicable



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- Commit to using existing authorities and funding sources in law and policy and **improving collaboration among federal, state, tribal and local entities to ensure the maximum beneficial use of sediment**, including maintenance-dredged material, where effective, practicable and protective of aquatic life.
- Identify opportunities for immediately improving beneficial use of dredged material by **overlaying dredging schedules with restoration project construction**.
- Evaluate the potential for the **creation of a network of permanent pipeline sediment delivery systems** to transport material from dredges to coastal restoration projects.
- **Develop options for funding the incremental cost** of beneficial use of dredged material, including pooling public and private funds for these activities.
- Pursue implementation of authorized projects to maximize beneficial use where practicable.



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Increase Dedicated Dredging

- Use a **sediment management approach** to strategically target project selection and incrementally implement projects using a regional sediment management approach.
- The approach should determine the sediment budget, identify ecologically appropriate alternatives, and then place sediment trapping and sediment transport infrastructure to reduce restoration project costs over time. **This approach should also consider any potential benefits to the navigation system of removing sediments from rivers for the purpose of habitat restoration, such as the reduced need for navigational maintenance dredging downstream.**
- Identify potential sources of public and private funds to help implement dedicated dredging projects for habitat restoration. **This effort should include exploring currently available, but potentially underutilized, authorities and funding sources.**



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Gulf of Mexico Alliance



The Alliance is a regional ocean governance partnership among the Gulf States with the goal of significantly increasing collaboration to significantly enhance the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico.

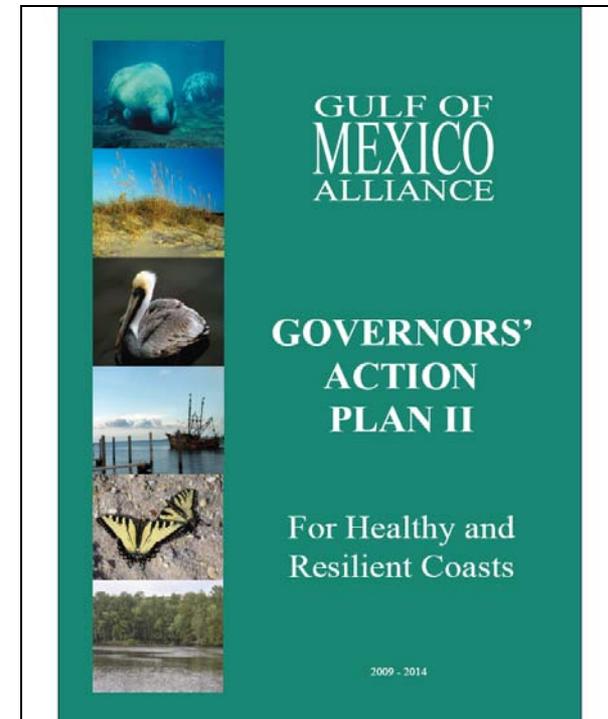
- Initiated 2004 by the Governors with strong support from Federal partners and NGOs
- Emphasis on regional integration of resources, knowledge, & expertise
- Governors Action Plan I (2006- 2009)
- Governors Action Plan II (2009-2014)

GOMA Composition: 6 Priority Issue Teams (PITs)



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- Water Quality
- Nutrients & Nutrient Impacts
- Coastal Community Resilience
- Environmental Education
- Ecosystem Integration & Assessment
- Habitat Conservation & Restoration





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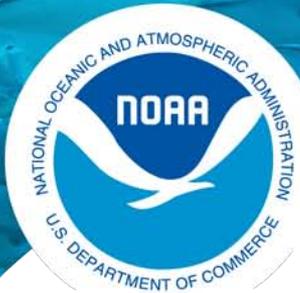
HCRT Mission Statement & Goals

Provide leadership to advance conservation and restoration of coastal habitats and ecosystems throughout the Gulf of Mexico and associated watersheds to reverse the downward trend in habitat quantity, quality and ecosystems services.

HCRT Goals:

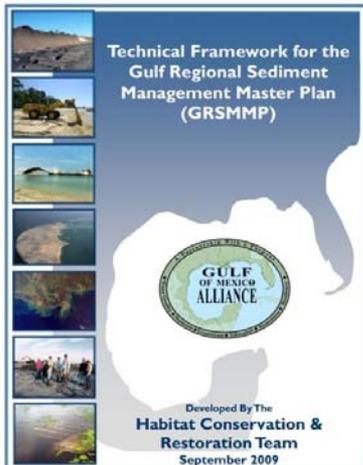
- Expanded Partnerships
- Policy Changes
- Science and Technology Development
- Reversing the Downward Trend in Habitat & Ecosystem Services
- **Gulf Regional Sediment Management Master Plan**

GRSMMP Goals



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- **More efficient use of sediment** from inlets, navigation channels and other sources in support of environmental and economic objectives
- **Better integrate regional sediment processes** into management and planning decisions by coordinating the collection and dissemination of data about sediment movement
- **Facilitate cooperation** among states, federal agencies and other stakeholders (e.g.: Ports) in sediment management



Finalized the Technical Framework for the Gulf of Mexico Regional Sediment Management Master Plan (GRSMMP)

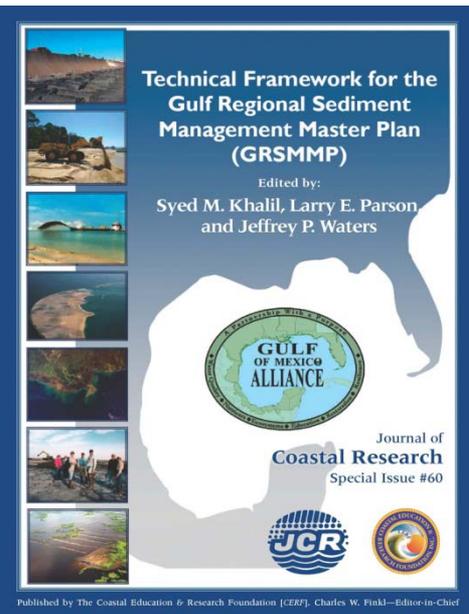
<http://www.gulfmex.org/goma/docs.htm>

GRSM Team Accomplishments



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- **Reconstitute the Gulf Regional Dredge Teams**
 - Currently split between eastern and western teams
 - Western Gulf Team met for first time since 1999 in New Orleans late last spring
- **West Galveston Bay RSM Plan completed**
- **RSM Case Studies Compilation completed**
- **Mississippi RSM/Beneficial Use Master Plan Updated**
- **Published Technical Framework in Journal of Coastal Research**



<http://www.jcronline.org/toc/coas//>



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Potential Future Funding Sources for Beneficial Uses

RESTORE Act

- Signed into law July 6, 2012
- Sends 80% of DWH Clean Water Act fines Back to the Gulf
- Funds directed to coastal restoration
- Funds can be used to cost share Federal programs and grants



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Potential Future Funding Sources for Beneficial Uses

Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA)

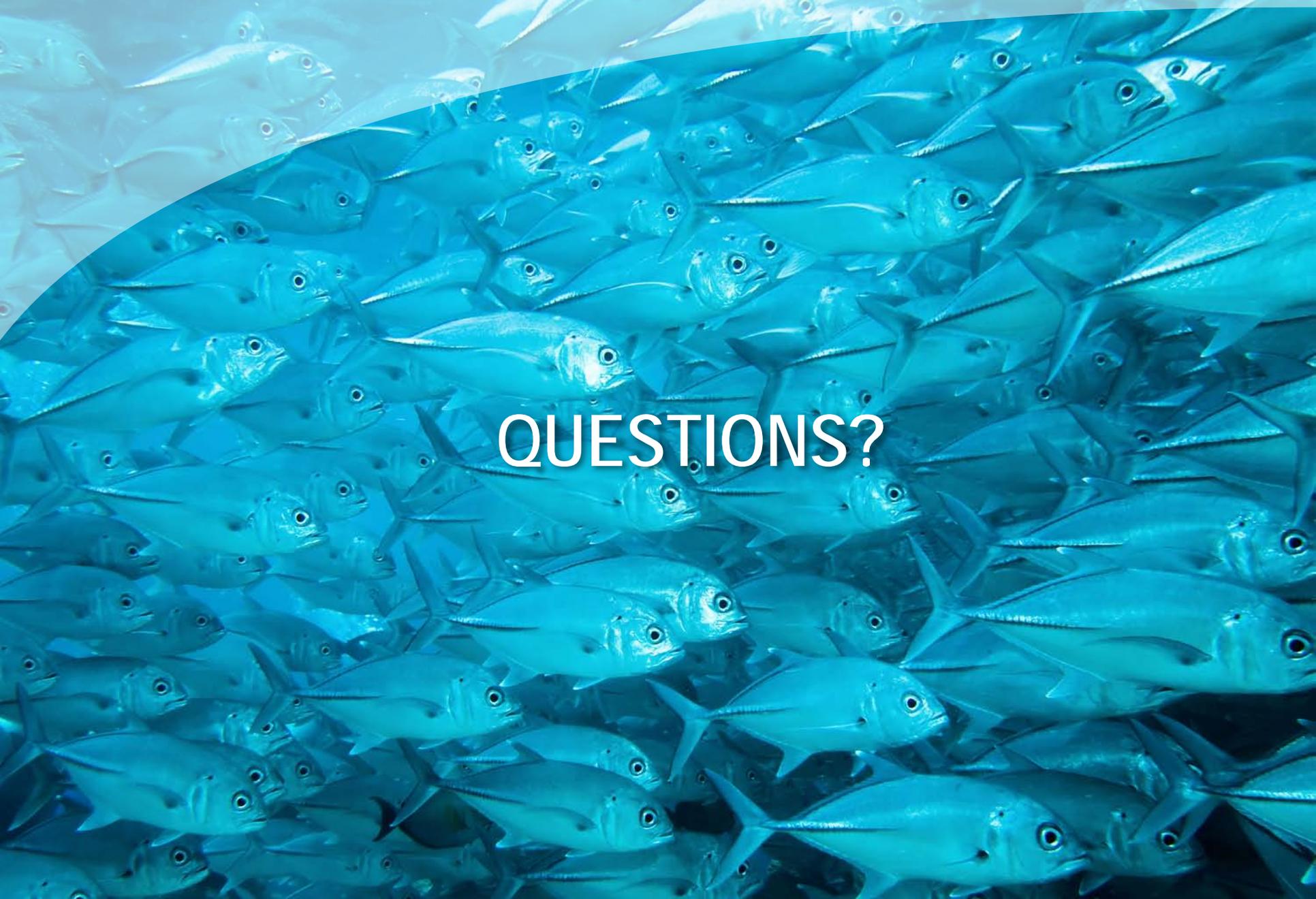
- Created revenue sharing provisions for the four Gulf oil and gas producing States
- GOMESA funds are to be used for coastal conservation, restoration and hurricane protection.
- 2nd phase of GOMESA revenue sharing begins in Fiscal Year 2017
- Revenue sharing cap of \$500 million per year from fiscal years 2016 through 2055



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Potential Future Funding Sources for Beneficial Uses

- DWH Natural Resource Damage Assessment restoration?
- State funds (e.g., CIAP)
- Other NRDA restorations under OPA, Superfund, etc.
- Other opportunistic funds that become available (e.g., ARRA, disaster recovery, etc.). Being prepared ahead of time with plans prepared and permitted is invaluable



QUESTIONS?

