

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

b. Water Quality Issues

4. **RESOLUTION 06-061 OF THE CITY OF SANIBEL, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO INCREASE REGIONAL COLLABORATION FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC HEALTH OF THE GULF OF MEXICO; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE (Council Member Rothman)**

**CITY OF SANIBEL  
RESOLUTION 06-061**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SANIBEL, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO INCREASE REGIONAL COLLABORATION FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC HEALTH OF THE GULF OF MEXICO; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Sanibel is a world class destination and the beaches of Sanibel are the economic engine for the entire Southwest Florida region; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Sanibel is a municipality of over 6,000 residents, and is bordered by Gulf of Mexico waters; and

**WHEREAS**, The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (hereinafter "Alliance") is a partnership of the states of Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, initiated in 2004, the purpose of which is to increase regional collaboration to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alliance was formed to address issues relative to water quality, wetland and coastal conservation and restoration, environmental education and reductions in nutrient inputs to coastal ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the Alliance's position that the above-referenced issues can be addressed more effectively through increased collaboration at the local, state and federal levels of government;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Sanibel, Florida, that:

**SECTION 1.** For the reasons stated above, the City Council of the City of Sanibel, Florida, declares its support for The Gulf of Mexico Alliance.

**SECTION 2.** The Sanibel City Council hereby directs that this Resolution be forwarded immediately to the Governors of the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

**SECTION 3.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**DULY PASSED AND ENACTED** by the City Council of the City of Sanibel, Florida, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2006.

**AUTHENTICATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carla Brooks Johnston, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela Smith, City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

*Kenneth B. Cuyler*  
Kenneth B. Cuyler, City Attorney

4/6/06  
Date

Vote of Council Members:

Johnston \_\_\_\_\_  
Denham \_\_\_\_\_  
Brown \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennings \_\_\_\_\_  
Rothman \_\_\_\_\_

Date filed with City Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_



<a href="#">Home</a>	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>	<a href="#">Leadership</a>	<a href="#">Press Room</a>	<a href="#">Events</a>	<a href="#">File Lib</a>
----------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------

### The Gulf of Mexico Alliance



The Gulf of Mexico is the ninth largest water body in the world, accounting for half the wetlands in the United States and teeming with sea life, ranging from killer whales to unexplored deepwater corals living thousands of feet below the surface. With some 3,400 miles of shoreline from Cape Sable, Florida to the tip of the Yucatan peninsula, the Gulf is bordered by Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas to the north, Mexico to the west and the island of Cuba to the southeast.

Recognizing the Gulf of Mexico's significance beyond Florida's waters, Florida Governor Jeb Bush, in the spring of 2004, extended a call to action to the Gulf Governors to renew their commitment to the nation's oceans, by creating and leading a regional effort to protect the Gulf of Mexico.

[Read Governor Jeb Bush's letter](#) [pdf]

Governor Bush's initiative led to the formation of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance between Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

In December 2004, President Bush's U.S. Ocean Action Plan (USOAP) recognized the leadership the five Gulf States have demonstrated in forming the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. With the added involvement of the federal government, the growing Alliance of the Gulf communities, regions, entities and even nations, has become a national and international model for cooperation.

Today, the Alliance is setting an example by sharing science, expertise and financial resources to better protect the health of this complex ecosystem that is the Gulf of Mexico while securing a lasting underwater legacy for future generations.

In the spring of 2005, thirteen federal agencies convened a Federal Workgroup and committed to support the Gulf of Mexico Alliance under the coordination of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The Alliance is moving forward on near-term, on-the-ground actions and will release the **Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts** [pdf] on March 28, 2006 at the State of the **Gulf of Mexico Summit**, hosted by the **Harte Research Institute** for Gulf of Mexico Studies, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, Texas.

The five U.S. Gulf States are working through the **Gulf of Mexico States Accord** to facilitate involvement of the six Mexican states in the Alliance. The Alliance will work to become a model for regional and international collaboration.

### SPOTLIGHT:



Located on Texas's gulf coast, Mustang Island State Park is an ideal place to visit. With almost 4000 acres and about five miles of beach, there are plenty of recreational opportunities including fishing, swimming, hiking and camping. For more information visit Mustang Island State Park.

### STAY CONNECTED

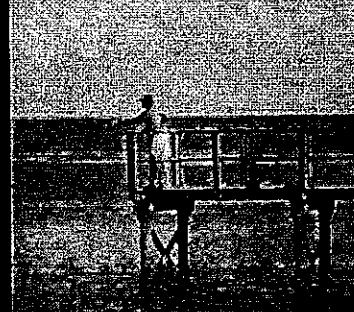
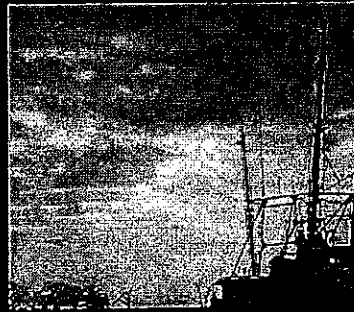
#### Receive Gulf of Mexico Alliance Updates

To receive updates on the Gulf of Mexico Alliance's activities. Enter your email below.

Email:

### COMMENTS

Provide input on the Alliance and its



# GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE

## GOVERNORS' ACTION PLAN

For Healthy and  
Resilient Coasts

March 2006 - March 2009



Governor Bob Riley, Alabama



Governor Jeb Bush, Florida



Governor Kathleen Blanco, Louisiana



Governor Haley Barbour, Mississippi



Governor Rick Perry, Texas

## The Gulf of Mexico Alliance

March 28, 2006

The 2005 hurricane season shattered records and communities as 27 named storms and 13 hurricanes impacted America's coastal areas from Key West, Florida to Corpus Christi, Texas. Each one of the five Gulf States – Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas were impacted by the devastating and destructive forces of the storms.

With each passing storm we were reminded how vulnerable the Gulf Coast and its citizens, industry and natural resources are to hurricanes. And each storm demonstrated how closely linked our quality of life is to the health of our coasts. These events brought worldwide attention to the Gulf of Mexico region and underscored the economic impact the coast has on the rest of the nation. Ultimately, last year's hurricane season demonstrated the need for a strong alliance between the Gulf States to strengthen our response to common challenges.

As a result of a shared vision for a healthy and resilient Gulf of Mexico coast, the Gulf States, together with our federal partners, formalized the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. The first action taken by our new partnership is the development of the Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts. This far-reaching Action Plan, supported in President George W. Bush's U.S. Ocean Action Plan, December 2004, challenges the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to make tangible progress over the next 36 months on several critical issues, including water quality, wetland and coastal conservation, environmental education, characterization of Gulf habitats and reductions in nutrient inputs, all of which will supplement ongoing recovery efforts across the Gulf region.

The Governors' Action Plan is intended to be a dynamic starting point for effective regional collaboration. As we move forward, we encourage and expect additional collaboration and contributions from other interested partners or organizations. Through our initial teamwork, the Governors' Action Plan will begin to set the stage for a long-term regional partnership that can address an expanded suite of issues, culminating in an improved Gulf of Mexico ecosystem and sustained economy. In addition, the Plan proposes several actions to be implemented in conjunction with the six Mexican Gulf States allowing for the Alliance to serve as a forum for effective bi-national partnership.

By working together on targeted resource management issues, we can increase governmental effectiveness, better prepare for future natural emergencies and support an improved quality of life. Together, our accomplishments as an Alliance will serve as a lasting legacy for all Gulf State coastal residents and visitors alike.

Sincerely,

*Bob Riley*     *Jeb Bush*     *Kathleen Blanco*  
Governor of Alabama    Governor of Florida    Governor of Louisiana

*Haley Barbour*     *Rick Perry*  
Governor of Mississippi    Governor of Texas

## Supporting Gulf Coast Recovery

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance strongly emphasizes actions that support current recovery and rebuilding efforts, while increasing the resilience of Gulf communities from future hurricanes and other coastal hazards. The recovery efforts provide the opportunity for an ecologically-sound and well planned recovery that will result in a stronger Gulf Coast. The Action Plan presents a suite of activities that will further the recovery and rebuilding effort and ensure that our collective response to the next inevitable hurricane will be faster, more effective and better coordinated.

### *The Gulf of Mexico Regional Partnership Federal Workgroup*

Thirteen federal agencies have committed to actively support the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. This Federal Workgroup, coordinated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will:

- Support regional leadership of the five Gulf States;
- Supplement Gulf Coast recovery and rebuilding efforts in a coordinated manner;
- Provide local resource managers with state/federal data and decision-support tools, and
- Build upon existing partnerships in the Gulf, including the non-regulatory EPA Gulf of Mexico Program.

#### *Federal Workgroup*

- ▶ Council on Environmental Quality
- ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- ▶ National Science Foundation
- ▶ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- ▶ U.S. Department of Agriculture
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - U.S. Forest Service
- ▶ U.S. Department of Commerce
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- ▶ U.S. Department of Defense
  - U.S. Navy
- ▶ U.S. Department of Energy
- ▶ U.S. Department of the Interior
  - Minerals Management Service
  - National Park Service
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - U.S. Geological Service
- ▶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
  - U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- ▶ U.S. Department of State
- ▶ U.S. Department of Transportation
- ▶ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Supporting Gulf Coast Recovery

Gulf of Mexico Alliance

Commitment to Recovery

Coordinated Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

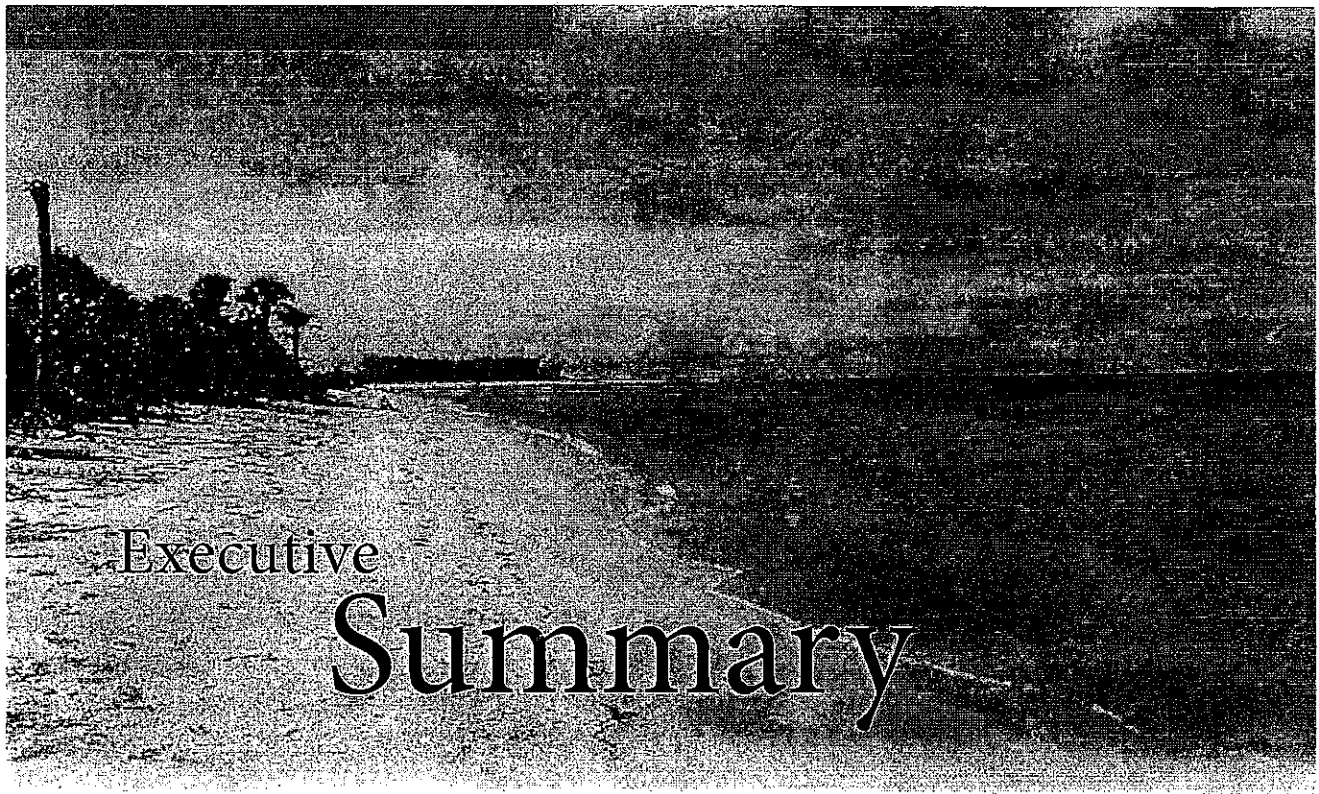
Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts

Recovery Efforts





## **The Gulf of Mexico Alliance**

---

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance is a partnership, initiated in 2004, of the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, intent on significantly increasing regional collaboration to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. The Bush Administration's U.S. Ocean Action Plan (USOAP) recognizes the leadership that the five Gulf States have demonstrated in forming the Alliance and calls for the increased integration of resources, knowledge and expertise to address regional priorities.

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. 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, and
- Reductions in nutrient inputs to coastal ecosystems.

In addition, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance can potentially serve as a forum for effective bi-national regional collaboration with the six Mexican Gulf States – Tamaulipas, Veracruz, Tabasco, Campeche, Yucatan and Quintana Roo. To this end, the Alliance currently coordinates closely with the Gulf of Mexico States Accord and this Action Plan proposes several activities to be implemented in partnership with the Mexican Gulf States.

## ▶ Top Five Priority Issues Identified During the Alliance Community Workshops

#	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	(tie) Lack of Coordination/ Loss of Cultural & Economic Viability in Coastal Communities	Education	Education	Water Quality and Quantity	Water Quality and Quantity	Implementation: Turning Planning into Action

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.

Although hurricanes and other coastal hazards emerged as a top five priority issue solely at the Louisiana Community Workshop, hurricane and recovery issues permeated all post-storm community workshop discussions. For example, participants at the Mississippi/Alabama Community Workshop acknowledged that devastation from Hurricane Katrina can bring an opportunity to create a new, sustainable vision for Gulf Coast development. Communities directly impacted by the hurricanes recognize that they have almost a clean slate to utilize current knowledge and inspire the use of smart growth principles to rebuild a stronger, more resilient Gulf Coast. Participants specifically recommended creating action teams in local communities to come together and help implement their long-term recovery plans.

This Governors' Action Plan represents the first action of this new Gulf Alliance partnership. It addresses many concerns raised at this first round of Alliance Community Workshops, including water quality, excessive nutrient inputs, habitat loss and environmental education, but other issues raised by Gulf citizens will require future focus. It is the intent of the Alliance to continue this community workshop process to gain local perspectives and direction as the Alliance moves forward.