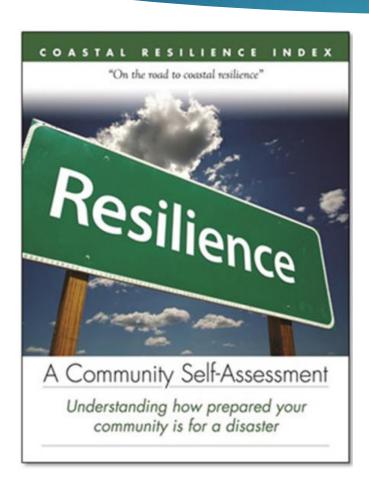
# Addressing Coastal Business Needs: Business Resilience Indices

JODY THOMPSON

AUBURN UNIVERSITY/MASGC

### Community Resilience Index



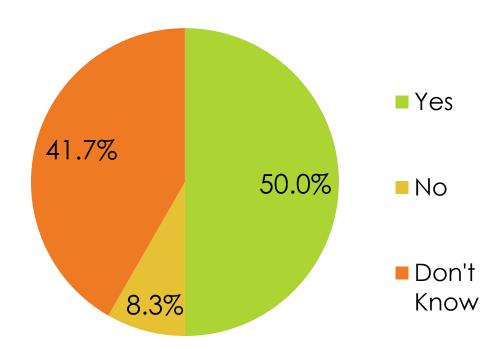
- A simple, inexpensive method for community leaders to perform a self-assessment of their community's resilience to coastal hazards
- Identify weaknesses a community may want to address prior to the next hazard event; highlights strengths a community possesses

#### Format

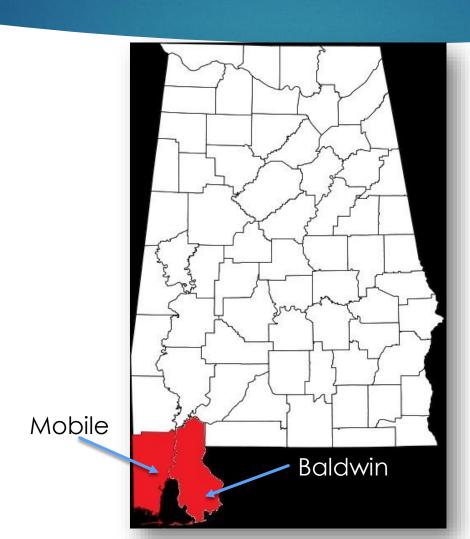
- > 7 sections
  - Critical Infrastructure and Facilities
  - ► Transportation Issues
  - Community Plans and Agreements
  - Mitigation Measures
  - Business Plans
  - Social Systems
- ▶ High, Medium, Low in each section
- ▶ No overall "score"

## CRI Evaluation

Do you feel that other topics should be covered in the CRI?



## Alabama's Coastal Counties



# The Fishing Industry in Alabama



# Diversity of Businesses



- Commercial Fishing: Shellfish (shrimp, oyster, blue crab)
- Charter
- Processing
- Marinas

Shores/Orange Beach

Associated business

## Anchored By Small Business

- In south Mobile County, AL
  - 73% have less than 20 employees.
  - The average years in business is 25.02. Four business had more than 100 years as a response.

# Tourism



Photos: Gulf Shores/Orange Beach Tourism

## Economic Impacts

- In 2013
  - Approximately 5.5 million people visited the area and left behind \$3.2 billion in travel-related expenditures.
  - Approximately 45,000 people were employed in travelrelated jobs and collected about \$1.1 billion in wages.
  - Baldwin County generated the largest portion (30%) of the state of Alabama's lodging revenues with more than \$16.3 million in lodging tax collections.



#### Partners













# Fisheries & Tourism Resilience Indices

- Follows CRI model
  - Yes/no
  - No overall score
  - Create discussion among business divisions

## Topics

- Business and Operation Plans
- Disaster Preparedness Plans
- Marketing
- Workforce
- Federal, State, and Local Resources
- Resource Access and Knowledge

#### Pilot Exercises

- Facilitator + business representative(s)
- Feedback on tool
- Early successes

#### Questions

Jody Thompson jody.thompson@auburn.edu





