Gulf of Mexico Alliance
Regional Sediment Management Initiative
Gulf Regional Sediment Management Master Plan (GRSMMP)

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Gulf Of Mexico Alliance

A partnership of the Gulf States to increase regional collaboration
The Gulf of Mexico Alliance

• Initiated in 2004
• Primary goal:
  To of “significantly increase regional collaboration to enhance the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico”.
• Primary goal:
  Collaboration with the six Mexican Gulf of Mexico states is underway.
Governors’ Action Plan
For Healthy and Resilient Coasts

- Established five critical issue areas
  - Water quality for healthy beaches & shellfish beds
  - Environmental Education
  - Identification and characterization of habitats
  - Reduction in nutrient inputs to coastal systems
  - Wetland & coastal conservation and Restoration
    - Establishment of the Habitat Conservation and Restoration Team (HCRT)
Habitat Conservation and Restoration Team

- Responsible for implementing the Habitat Conservation and Restoration Action Items contained in the Governors Action Plan.

- Includes members from all Gulf States, NGOs and representatives from Mexico.

- The creation of a Gulf-wide RSM Master plan (GRSMMP) was a prominent recognized / need action item for the HCRT.
Habitat Conservation & Restoration Team (HCRT)

- Increase coordination of Gulf States to conserve and restore coastal wetlands and other vital habitats throughout the Gulf

- Streamline coastal restoration and conservation efforts
  - Conduct series of meetings to identify critical issues
  - Develop strategy to streamline regulatory processes
  - Examine importance of freshwater inflows
  - Develop partnerships
  - Develop GRSMMP
GRSMMP
Collaborators

- Gulf States
  - Florida
  - Alabama
  - Mississippi
  - Louisiana
  - Texas
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Geological Survey
- EPA
- NOAA
- The Gulf of Mexico Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Minerals Management Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Academia
Regional Sediment Management

- Sediment is a basic element within natural systems
- Requires holistic approach in concert with ecological processes
  - recognizing sediment as a resource
  - change practice of project specific management
  - not just moving sediment from one place to another
- Develop policies, funding mechanisms, and optimal regional utilization of sediment resources
Goals

- Develop understanding of sediment system dynamics
- Recommend streamlined approach for regulatory and policy processes for environmental restoration
- Facilitate sediment management across political boundaries
- Inventory available sediment resources and needs
- Promote information exchange about Gulf region sediment resources and related management needs
- Encourage stakeholder participation in development and implementation of sediment management strategies
Focus Areas

• **Sediment Resources**
  - Sediment Inventory - Compile information about existing studies and programs; sediment availability; characteristics, etc.
  - Sediment Budgets - Sediment budget and related process information
  - Dredging Activities - Assemble Corps and other dredging information into database

• **Ecological Components of RSM**
  - Understand affects of sediment management on ecological processes
  - Consider relationship of processes on ecological resources

• **Data/Information Management**
  - Priority Habitat Information System (PHINS) being developed by NOAA, USGS, & USACE - Identified as platform for GRSMMP information dissemination
  - GIS tools – eCoastal, eBasin, eDredge

• **Policies, Authorities, and Funding**
  - Provide recommendations to provide more flexibility in policies, authorities, and funding mechanisms to facilitate RSM approach
GRSMMP Technical Framework

- HCRT providing “bottom up” feedback
- A number of common elements came up repeatedly
- These elements formed the basis
- Initial projects will help provide invaluable feedback only available from implementation (or attempts!)
RSM Master Plan Update for Beneficial Uses of Dredged Material along Coastal Mississippi
Lower Escatawpa River
Long-term Sediment Transport in Galveston Island

(White et al. 1985)
Federal Navigation Channels in WGB since 1943

Dredge Material Placement Areas (PAs) in WGB
Gulf of Mexico Alliance
HCRT
Regional Sediment Management Master Plan
(GRSMMP)
Federal Standard and Beneficial Use Working Session
New Orleans, LA
October 14-15, 2009
Federal Standard Workshop
Alliance Working Website

Presentations

http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/working/restoration/workshops/workshops.html
Questions?

http://www2.nos.noaa.gov/gomex/restoration/grsmmp/grsmmp.html
Ongoing Activities

- Continue coordination with states
- Compile and assimilate outputs from focus areas
- Draft of GRSMMP
  - Guidance to states
  - Final products
  - Recommendations to appropriate levels
- Publication in Journal of Coastal Research