



Gulf of Mexico Alliance Nutrient Reduction Priority Issues

Governor's Action Plan II

- <http://www2.nos.noaa.gov/gomex/>



Nutrients Reduction Priority Issue Focus Areas

- ***Nutrient Characterization***
- ***Nutrient Criteria Development***
- ***Hypoxia***
- ***Nutrient Reduction Strategies***



LONG-TERM GOALS

- *Design a regional process for comparing nutrient criteria across coastal and estuarine waters*
- *Develop and implement strategies that reduce nutrient inputs and hypoxia*
- *Establish a comprehensive ecosystem approach to manage nutrient inputs and reduce impacts to coastal ecosystems*
- *Increase the capacity of Gulf coastal communities so that nutrient impacts are better managed and reduced*



Gulf of Mexico Alliance Ecosystem Integration and Assessment Priority Issue

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Focus Areas

- ***Gulf of Mexico Master Mapping Plan (GMMMP)***
- ***Data Access and Acquisition***
- ***Living Marine Resources***
- ***Emergent Wetlands Status and Trends Report***
- ***Ecological Services Valuation***



LONG-TERM GOALS

- *Develop regional data systems that contain environmental and economic data*
- *Establish strategic partnerships to fill environmental and ecological data gaps*
- *Provide ecosystem decision support tools to address priority issues within the Gulf*



Nutrient Characterization

Alliance Action: Implement regional nutrient characterization studies to evaluate ecosystem responses and to develop the tools for better characterization of nutrients in coastal waters.

- EXPECTED RESULTS
- *Nutrient impacts are adequately characterized to establish key ecological relationships, thresholds, and socioeconomic values for state-selected indicators.*
- *Integrated models are designed and used to estimate nutrient loads, establish goals, and predict the ecological and socioeconomic impacts of management decisions for the Gulf States.*
- *Improved science and management tools are employed to better understand how freshwater and wetland systems influence nutrient impacts.*



Nutrient Criteria Development

Alliance Action: Identify common state needs and priorities for the development of nutrient criteria and provide support and technical assistance to facilitate a regional approach to nutrient criteria development and management.

- EXPECTED RESULTS
- *Milestones are established for state-specific Nutrient Criteria Development Plans for all Gulf States.*
- *A consistent framework exists for the development of appropriate and protective coastal nutrient criteria.*
- *Regional forums are organized for communication and resource sharing to address nutrient pollution to coastal ecosystems.*
- *Nutrient criteria are established for at least one Gulf estuary.*



Hypoxia

Alliance Action: Coordinate strategies and provide guidance to better characterize hypoxia and the resulting socioeconomic impacts.

- EXPECTED RESULTS
- *An integrated, regionally comparable model that predicts hypoxia and its impacts is developed.*
- *Watershed nutrient reduction plans are complete and include strategies for reducing Gulf hypoxia in state-selected priority watersheds.*
- *Nutrient reduction plans for at least five project areas are developed.*
- *A partnership between the Alliance and the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force is formed to implement nutrient reduction and monitoring strategies within the Mississippi River Watershed.*



Nutrient Reduction Strategies

Alliance Action: Develop management tools and implement nutrient reduction activities in cooperation with local communities to reduce excess nutrient inputs to estuaries and coastal waters.

- EXPECTED RESULTS
- *Awareness of the ecological and socioeconomic impacts of nutrient pollution and prevention is significantly enhanced.*
- *There is an increase in access to information documenting nutrient reduction progress for Gulf States and partners.*
- *A nutrient reduction strategy template is developed that can be applied to Gulf of Mexico watersheds.*
- *Additional partnerships with upstream states are formed.*



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