

Governors'
South Atlantic
Alliance



North Carolina • South Carolina • Georgia • Florida

Next Steps for 2014 Work Plans

Healthy Ecosystems Team

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Work Plan Action Item #1

- Complete compilation of estuarine habitat, biological and coastal use spatial data layers and work with SECOORA, TNC, etc. to incorporate the priority data layers into the GSAA online **mapping tool** for management use.
- Next Steps for Implementation:
 - We/TNC will complete the estuarine habitat data layers (tidal wetlands, seagrass, estuarine fish/shellfish, oyster reef, beaches) – by September.
 - Ask SECOORA to provide the GSAA logo and develop simple communication messages that GSAA members can distribute to promote the portal).
 - HE team members will promote the GSAA website and portal.
 - Review portal analytics to determine value/success.
 - Use seed money to facilitate a meeting re long-term maintenance of the GSAA portal in conjunction with the SALCC and the SAFMC portals.

Work Plan Action Item #2

- Research compiling information on existing monitoring programs to create a **monitoring catalog** for the South Atlantic states, which can be used to identify gaps and common monitoring, and develop preferred monitoring plans by habitat.
- Next Steps for Implementation:
 - Review Florida and Univ Ga/ NPS monitoring metadata websites.
 - Request Kate Muldoon speak to HE team at September meeting or as a team webinar about the Florida monitoring database website.
 - EPA Wetland funding could feed into this action

Work Plan Action Item #3

- Research **valuation studies** that have been done to economically quantify the benefits of ecosystem services provided by South Atlantic habitats. Summarize the available information to identify gaps and distribute existing information via the GSAA website as an aid in management decisions.
- Next Steps for Implementation:
 - Coordinate with NOAA on potential funding sources for a South Atlantic valuation study.
 - Compile existing literature on relevant valuation studies.
 - Consider using seed money to fund intern for this task.

Work Plan Action Item #4

- Assess how the GSAA can be most effective in preventing and/or ameliorating further **invasive species** introductions.
- Next Steps for Implementation:
 - Contact experts (USGS, USFWS etc) for advise
 - Consider getting a speaker for next GSAA meeting
 - Investigate what agencies are doing
 - Determine priority species that affect the entire South Atlantic (lionfish, tiger shrimp?).

Requirements for Success

- **Funding** - from EPA or other grants - will support at least 2 2014 actions
- **Research** –use 2014 seed funding to support an intern to research relevant ecosystem valuation studies
- **Meetings** – possibly a facilitated meeting to resolve long term maintenance of ecosystem data on portal (possibly use 2015 use seed funding for expenses); one GSAA meeting/year is sufficient for our team
- **Travel** – less; tie into SAFMC Habitat Advisory Panel meeting since overlap in members
- **Partners** – TNC, SECOORA, SALCC, SAFMC, NOAA, EPA
- **From EPT** – specific definition of resilience to provide direction