

# Governors' South Atlantic Alliance



North Carolina • South Carolina • Georgia • Florida

## Introduction to the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA)

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GSAA Coast and Ocean Portal Webinar  
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# Presentation Outline

- Brief Background
- Organizational Evolution
- GSAA Priorities and Key Products
- Marine Planning in the South Atlantic
- Support for Alliance Activities (Funding)
- Opportunities for Collaboration

# Why Engage Industry?

GSAA partners want industry input and partnership

- Mutual benefits for data, research, and communication
- Build relationships among industry, government, and non-government sectors
- Success will depend upon diverse resource commitments
- Encourage investment in the South Atlantic region
- Creative thinking and innovation in resource management
- Results-oriented action

# What are Regional Ocean Partnerships?

- Voluntary multi-state partnerships
- Established by Governors
- Cross-jurisdictional
- Focus on ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources
- Engages federal, regional, local, tribal, academic, business, and non-profit partners

# Current ROPs

West Coast Governors' Alliance on Ocean Health  
Est. 2006

Council of Great Lakes Governors  
Est. 1983

Northeast Regional Ocean Council  
Est. 2005

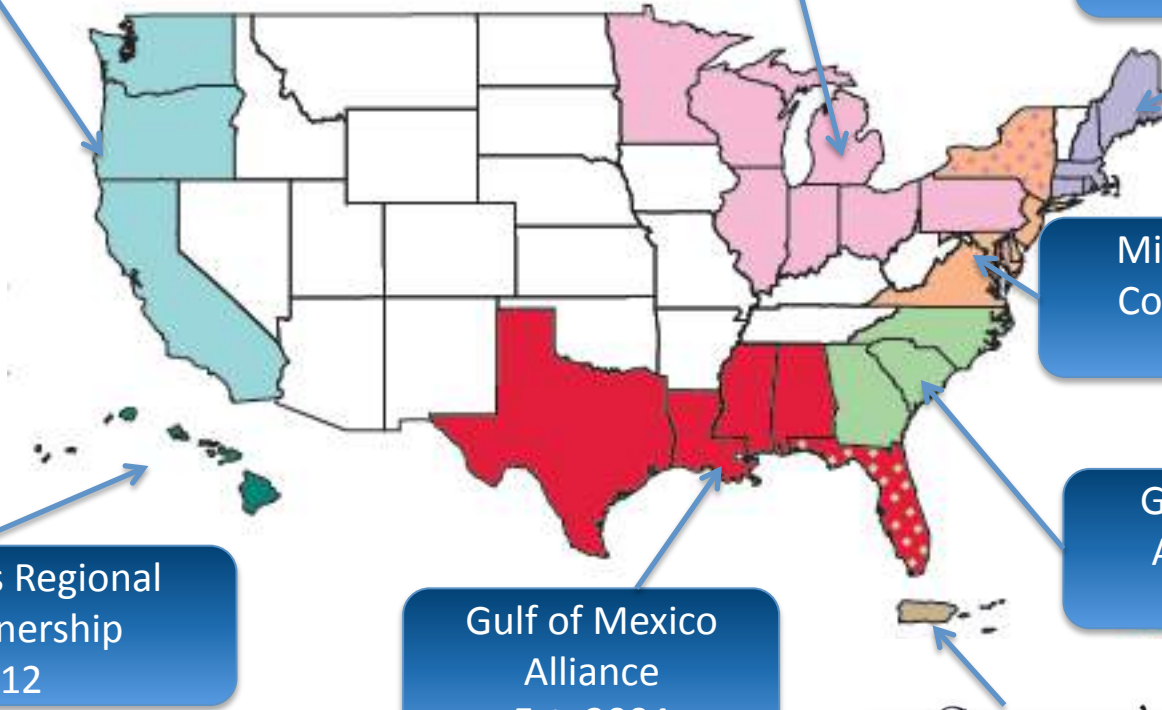
Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean  
Est. 2009

Governors' South Atlantic Alliance  
Est. 2009

Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Partnership  
Est. 2012

Gulf of Mexico Alliance  
Est. 2004

Caribbean Regional Ocean Partnership  
Est. 2012



# Founding of the GSAA

- Signed by the Governors of NC, SC, GA, & FL
- Joint formal announcement of Alliance held in Charleston, SC on October 19, 2009
- Regional and national attention



News - Local / Metro  
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009

## 4 states in Southeast form coastal alliance

CHARLESTON - Environmental officials from four Southeastern states are announcing an alliance to deal with regional coastal issues during a meeting on the South Carolina coast.

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control is hosting officials from North Carolina, Georgia and Florida in Charleston on Monday to announce the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance.

## States plan to work together

Carolinas, Georgia Florida in alliance

BY BO PETERSEN  
*The Post and Courier*  
Monday, October 19, 2009

South Carolina will work with its neighboring states on coastal issues such as marine life, erosion, pollution and economics.

A newly formed Governors' South Atlantic Alliance Partnership that includes North Carolina, Georgia and Florida will focus on sustaining natural resources that support the region, as well as historical, cultural and social heritage.

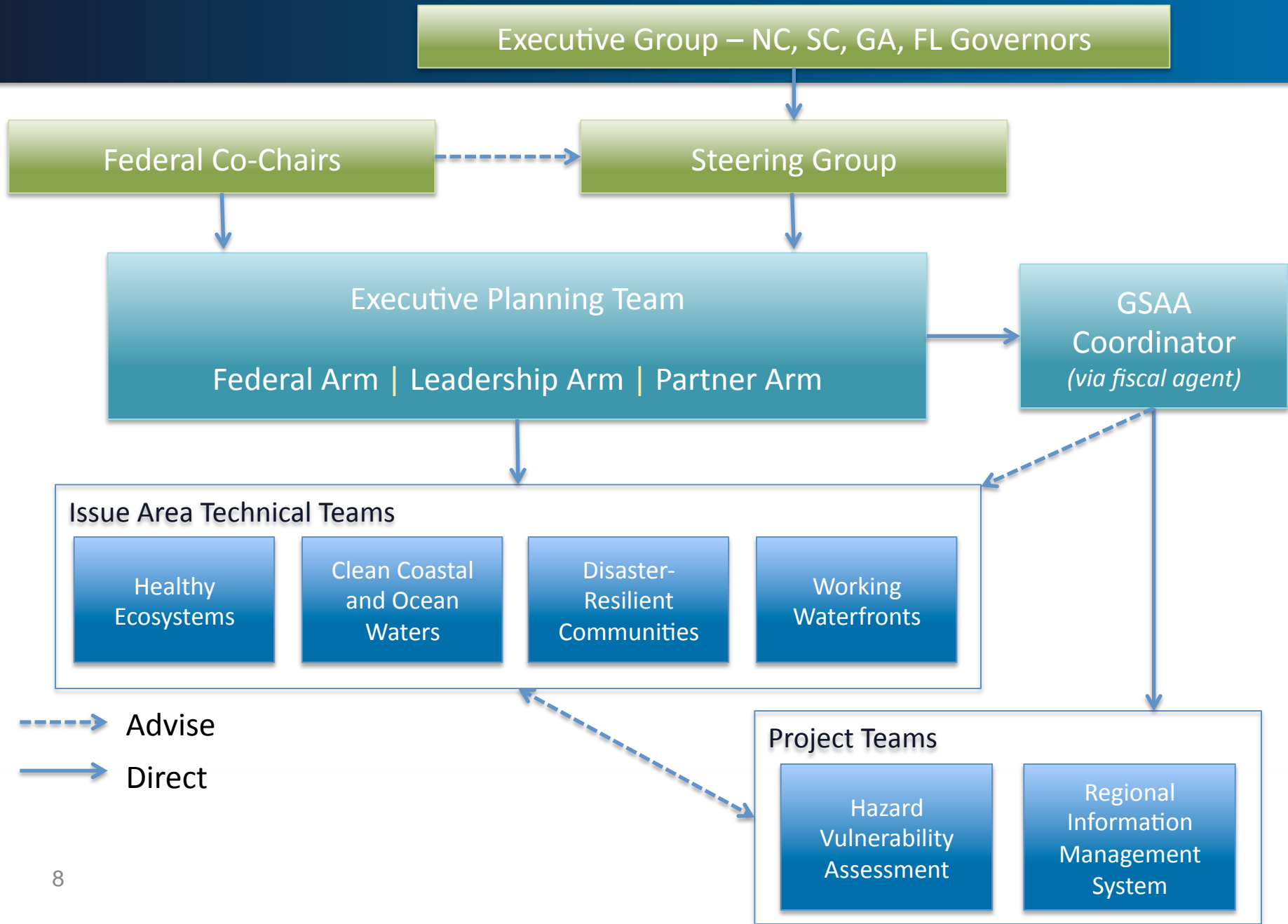
Under the agreement, the states would work together on expensive projects, such as integrating the monitoring and mapping of the South Atlantic, and finding common

# What is the GSAA?

GSAA is a collaboration of four states and their partners focused on shared ocean and coastal challenges and opportunities promoting environmental sustainability, disaster preparedness, and strong economies.



# GSAA Structure





# Steering Group Members

- NC - John Skvarla, Secretary**  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- SC - Catherine Templeton, Director**  
Department of Health and Environmental Control
- GA - Mark Williams, Commissioner**  
Department of Natural Resources
- FL - Herschel Vinyard, Jr., Secretary**  
**(Chair) delegated to Kevin Claridge**  
Department of Environmental Protection

# Federal Agency Co-Chairs

**NOAA - Dr. Paul Sandifer**

Chief Scientist, National Ocean Service

**USDOJ - Dr. Eric Strom  
(Chair)**

Director, South Carolina Water Science Center  
US Geological Survey

**USEPA - Dr. James Giattina**

Director, Water Management Division  
EPA Region 4

# Partner Organizations



NOAA



USCG



South Atlantic  
Fishery  
Management  
Council



DOI



Army



Southeast Coastal  
Ocean Observing  
Regional Assoc.



EPA



USACE



South Atlantic  
Regional Research  
Project



NAVY



SCSGC



Southeast Regional  
Partnership for  
Planning and  
Sustainability



USMC



TNC



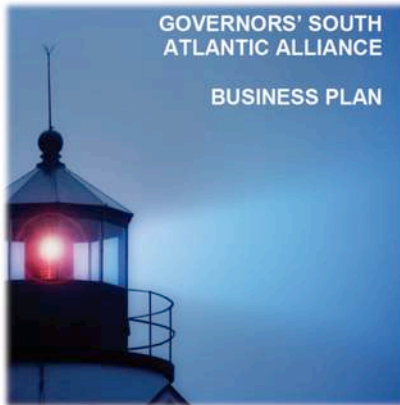
UNC System

# GSAA Plans

## Governors' South Atlantic Alliance Action Plan

## Governors' South Atlantic Alliance Implementation Plan 2011

- Action Plan Signed in December 2010
- Implementation Plan agreed by Steering Group in June 2011
- Business Plan finalized in October 2012



OCTOBER 2012



# Initial Priority Issue Areas

- The four states have identified a set of priority issue areas
- These have been agreed to by the Governors
- Priorities may be added or changed (in the future)

**Healthy Ecosystems**  
**Working Waterfronts**  
**Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters**  
**Disaster-Resilient Communities**

# Resilience in 2015

## GSAA Regional Driver

Resilient South Atlantic **coastal environments, communities, and economies** can **anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to coastal hazards** common to all states and resulting threats to growing coastal populations and economic stability.

# Key Products

## GSAA Coast and Ocean Portal



[ABOUT THE PORTAL](#) [VISIT GSAA](#) [FEEDBACK](#) [Q](#)



**Port  
maintenance  
& expansion**  
[Learn more >](#)

### LEARN

Understanding the range of regional ocean planning needs >

### EXPLORE

Access our most current data >

### VISUALIZE

Launch our map and tools >



**Providing regional coastal and ocean planning tools to support the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA).**

#### LEARN MORE ABOUT US

[OUR PARTNERS >](#)

[OUR FUNDERS >](#)

#### GET IN TOUCH

Please e-mail inquiries about the GSAA Portal to the regional information management system coordinator.

Email [gsaaportal@gmail.com](mailto:gsaaportal@gmail.com)

# Key Products

# Hazard Vulnerability Assessment



## LEARN

- Beach Renourishment
- Port Maintenance and Expansion
- Habitat Conservation

## EXPLORE

## VISUALIZE

### HAZARD VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

The southeastern US has an extensive, low-lying coastal region with important ecosystems, sizeable populations and widespread infrastructure. This region is at risk from strong storms which bring intense rain, wind and powerful waves and water surges. The Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) tool was developed to aid decision makers before, during, and after severe weather events, by providing a better understanding of coastal change and risk areas. HVA testing has occurred in NC, SC, GA, and FL.

#### HOW THE PORTAL CAN BE USED:

##### DARE COUNTY, NC

Dare County, North Carolina Much of the famous Outer Banks of North Carolina is situated in Dare County, and this area serves as an important economic engine for the State. In 2008, the value of direct expenditures by beach recreationalists was estimated to be \$625.7 million, with annual total impact over \$1 billion (BIMP, 2012). In the map of a popular recreation community, the HVA tool illustrates that the greatest risk areas are largely restricted to narrow corridors along estuarine and oceanfront shorelines. You can learn more about the HVA tool and obtain software for quantifying vulnerability and shoreline change at HVA web site. To view HVA results and learn more about coastal issues in NC and GA, visit the North Carolina Coastal Atlas and the Georgia Coastal Hazards Portal, respectively.



Visualize

#### RELATED DATASETS

HVA Data (NC,SC,GA,FL)	Visualize	Explore Data Catalog
Shoreline (1933 - 1952)	Visualize	Explore Data Catalog
Shoreline (1972 - 1984)	Visualize	Explore Data Catalog
Shoreline (2002 - 2012)	Visualize	Explore Data Catalog



# Marine Planning in the South Atlantic

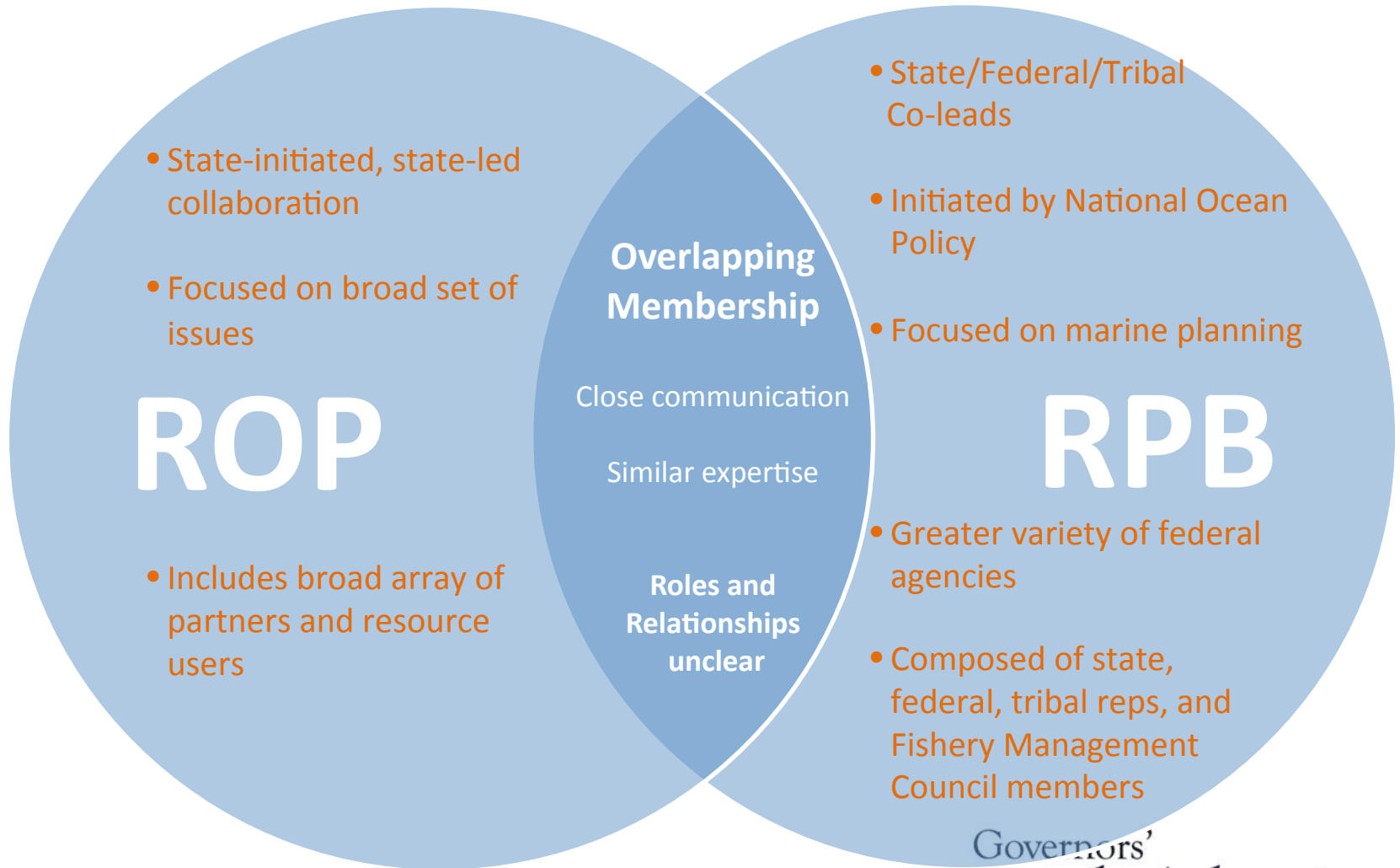
## Current Marine Planning Efforts

- The states have already undertaken some marine planning activities through individual state efforts and GSAA activities.

## Regional Planning Body (RPB) Discussions

- No decision on whether to establish an RPB
- Focus and direction of an RPB not identified
- No resources have been identified

# Relationship between ROPs and RPBs



# Marine Planning in the South Atlantic

## Rhode Island's Lessons Learned – Dec. 2013

- GSAA Interests and Benefits
  - Filling data gaps
  - Data and information for federal consistency
  - Impacts and opportunities for offshore energy
  - Offshore sand resources
  - Navigation and port expansion
  - Habitat Conservation
  - Improved understanding and communication

# Support for GSAA Activities



## NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program

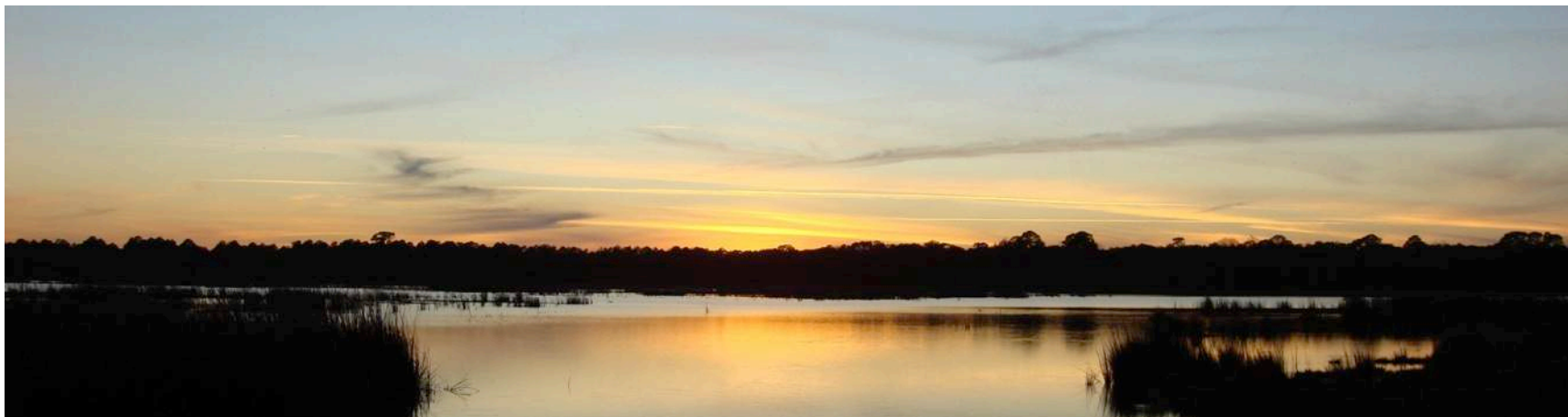
- FY2011 Funding Competition
  - Projects Completed December 2013
  - Two Grants Secured
    - Total = \$1,062,431
    - Programmatic – Develop a multi-state and regional framework for CMSP in the Southeast U.S. (\$784,431)
    - Administrative – Continued development of the GSAA (\$278,827)
- FY2012 Funding Competition
  - Projects Completed March 2014
  - One Grant Secured
    - Total = \$276,000
    - Programmatic – Develop a multi-state and regional framework for CMSP in the SE U.S. (includes admin)
- FY2013 Funding Competition
  - Projects Initiated (through DHEC) September 2013
  - One Grant Secured
    - Total = \$190,000
    - Administrative – Supporting operations, outreach, and development of the GSAA

# Opportunities for Collaboration

GSAA partners want industry input and partnership

- Mutual benefits for data, research, and communication
- Build relationships among industry, government, and non-government sectors
- Success will depend upon diverse resource commitments
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# South Atlantic Ocean Industry Forum



***September 3-5, 2014***  
***Guana Tolomato Matanzas***  
***National Estuarine Research Reserve***  
***Ponte Vedra Beach, FL***

# **Governors South Atlantic Alliance**

[www.southatlanticalliance.org](http://www.southatlanticalliance.org)

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**Questions?**