

GSAA Strategic Issues and Marine Planning Activities

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GSAA-WOC Industry Forum
Charleston, SC
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Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Strategic Direction
- Ad-Hoc Workgroup Process

Regional Ocean Partnerships

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

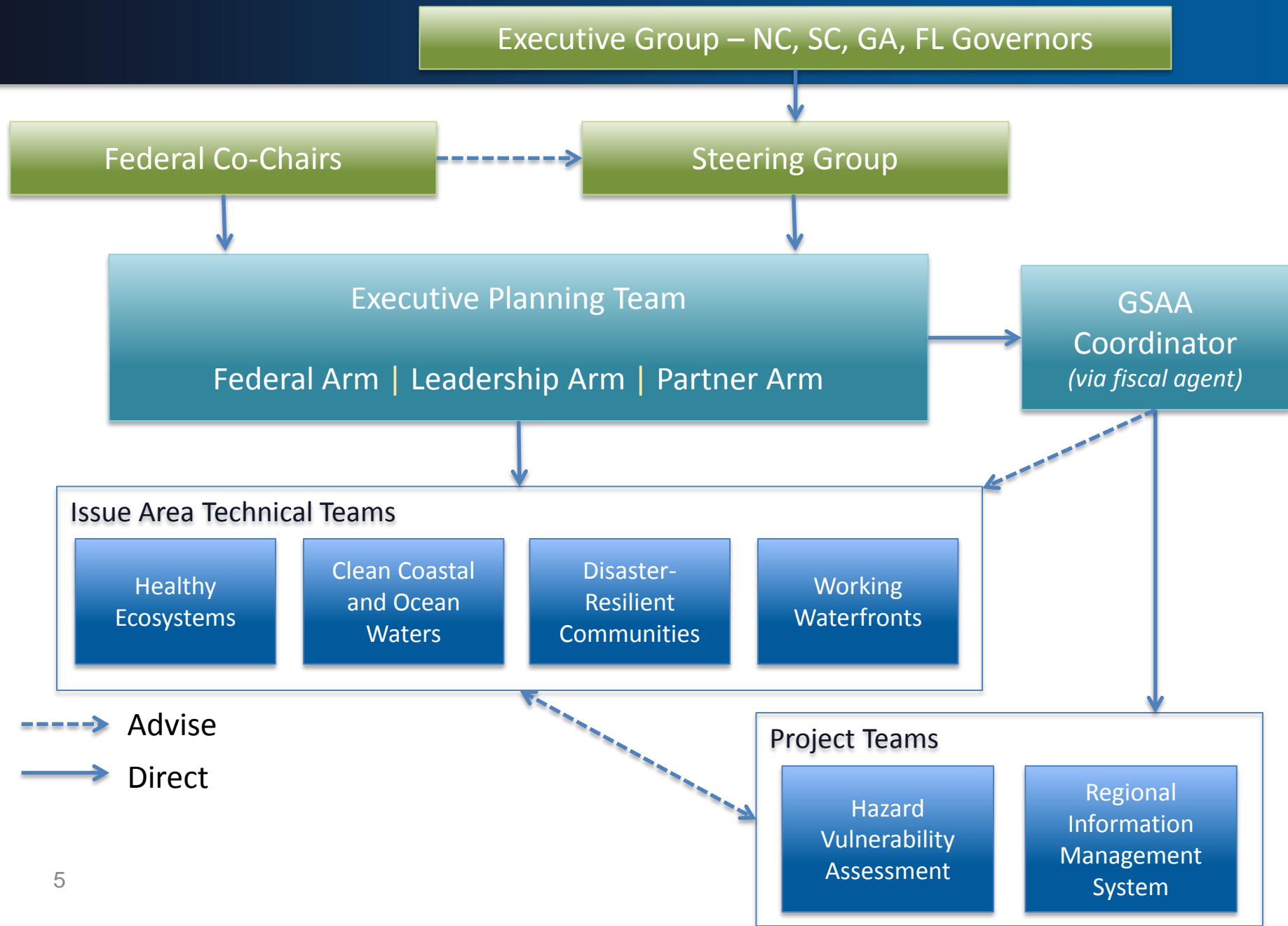
Caribbean Regional
Ocean Partnership
Est. 2012

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 - Donald van der Vaart, Secretary**
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- SC - TBD, Director**
Department of Health and Environmental Control
- GA - Mark Williams, Commissioner**
Department of Natural Resources
- FL - Jonathon Steverson, Secretary**
(Chair) delegated to Kevin Claridge
Department of Environmental Protection

Federal Agency Co-Chairs

NOAA - Virginia Fay (Acting)

Assistant Regional Administrator, Habitat Conservation Division
National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Region

DOI - Dr. Eric Strom

(Chair) Director, South Atlantic Water Science Center
US Geological Survey

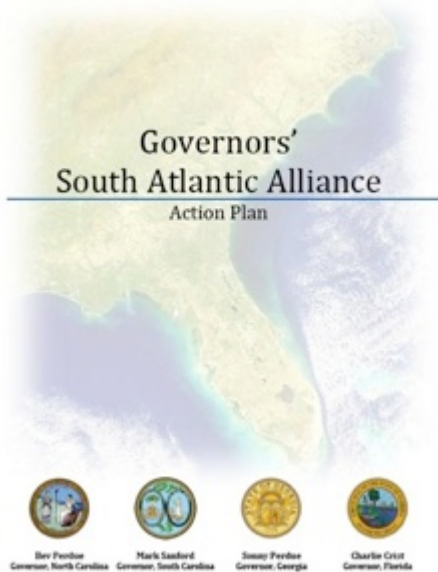
EPA - Dr. James Giattina

Director, Water Management Division
EPA Region 4

Partner Organizations



Priority Issue Areas



- Action Plan signed by the Governors in December 2010
- The states identified a set of four priority issue areas
- Priorities may be added or changed

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

Resilience Regional Driver

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.



Resilience Regional Driver

GSAA envisions a region that

Withstands, responds to, and recovers rapidly from disruptions without long-term damage to the environment or economy.

Requires less government funding to recover, rebuild, and redevelop coastal communities.

Sustains the role of ecosystem services that natural systems provide.

NEW - Annual Strategic Issues

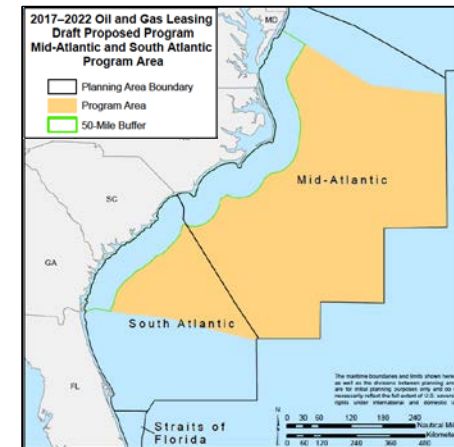
- Based on specific challenges/problems in the region
- Responsive to the Resilience regional driver
- Relevant to or actionable by the Steering Group and/or Governors
- Reviewed annually and adjusted based on needs/new challenges

NEW - Annual Strategic Issues

Selected for 2015



Business Post-Disaster
Recovery Planning



Improved Data and Planning
for Offshore Energy Siting

Problem Statement

Businesses in the South Atlantic region are vulnerable to disruptions from storms like Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina.

Hurricane Sandy caused billions in economic disruption in NY and NJ alone, much of which could have been avoided by better planning for preparation and recovery. **Businesses in the South Atlantic region have the opportunity to be better prepared and experience less disruption through implementation of FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework. The GSAA can help by advocating for the resources needed to implement the NDRF in our region.**

Problem Statement

The siting of future offshore energy facilities in the South Atlantic region remains somewhat unpredictable due to the potential for conflicts with existing ocean activities and sensitive resource areas. This could ultimately lead to delays in permitting or extensive litigation. In order to support prudent, efficient decision-making for onshore and offshore energy (alternative and traditional) exploration and production facilities, investments are needed both in policy analysis and data collection. **By joining with ocean industry leaders in the region, the GSAA can help synthesize existing data, fill data gaps, identify potential use conflicts with military (using the DoD provided offshore wind and oil/gas related military mission footprints) and other ocean operations, improve understanding and mapping of sensitive resources areas, and streamline permitting.** Investing in collecting and organizing the data and information (bathymetry, geographic features, existing/future uses, physical and ecological processes, and potential conflicts and impacts) necessary to address questions regarding suitability and ecological impacts will improve development opportunities as well as limit negative impacts.

Strategic Issue Statement

- Statement of the Challenge (brief – 1 line)
- Description of the Challenge
 - Expand as necessary on the Problem Statement
- GSAA Strategies for 2015
 - GSAA cooperative or collaborative efforts
 - Research, data, and information needs
 - Proposed changes in government policies or programs

Strategic Issue Statement

- Strategies
 - Not necessarily time limited
 - Tie directly back to the Problem Statement
 - Address specific regional needs
- Actions
 - Time limited – 1 year
 - May be no actions available for a particular strategy, or several
 - Tied to what can be done with the GSAA framework

Guidelines

- Positive, constructive dialogue
- Present opportunities and solutions, not barriers/challenges
- Strive for consensus
- No one is an “observer” – all volunteers are invited and expected to participate

Workgroup Meeting Plan

Mondays and Tuesdays @2pm

Week 1 – Review Problem Statement and Brainstorm Additional Background

Week 2 – Brainstorm Strategies

Week 3 – Refine Strategies

Week 4 – Refine Strategies

Week 5 – Brainstorm Actions

Week 6 – Refine Actions

**EPT Meeting and Industry Forum
April 7-8**

Week 7 – Refine Actions

Week 8 – Finalize Strategy

Ad-hoc Workgroup for Business Post-Disaster Recovery Planning

A Foundation for Resilience

- Post-Disaster Recovery Planning
 - Long-term Recovery Planning Summit (July 2012)
 - 2013 APA Conference Webinar (April 2013)
- Tools and Technical Resources
 - GSAA Coast and Ocean Portal
 - Hazard Vulnerability Assessment

Key Products

GSAA Coast and Ocean Portal



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

LEARN MORE ABOUT US

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[OUR FUNDERS](#) ▶

GET IN TOUCH

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

Email: gsaaportal@gmail.com

Key Products

Hazard Vulnerability Assessment



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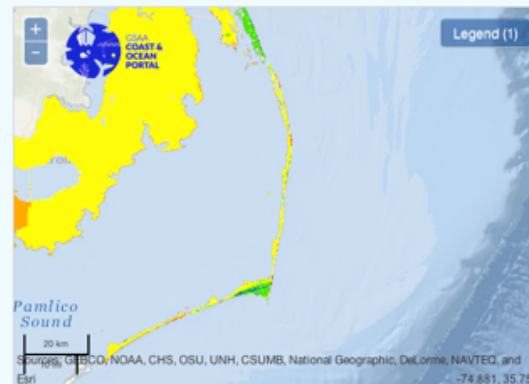
HAZARD VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

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.

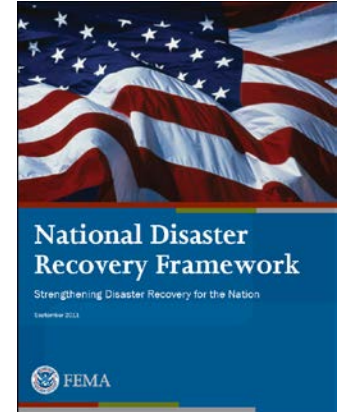


RELATED DATASETS

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

Description of the Challenge

- South Atlantic coast is vulnerable
- Disasters impact economy in short and long-term
- NDRF provides a framework for long-term recovery planning
- Focus: Economic RSF
- Key economic recovery challenges:
 - Adequate financial resources
 - Adequate knowledge and information
- Complicated network of planning efforts



Strategies/Needs

GSAA cooperative or collaborative efforts

Strategy: Businesses that better understand risk management and advanced planning for disaster events and other coastal hazards.

Strategy: Accessible financial (e.g. business tax credits) and non-financial (recognitions, awards) incentives for businesses to prepare or develop a post-disaster recovery plan.

Strategy: Targeted or tailored business education programs that include seasonal employers and their unique needs to ensure all employees (including seasonal/temporary) are informed and prepared to protect property and assets.

Strategy: Local communities and governments that are able to assist businesses when they have not adequately prepared for disaster events.

Strategy: Coordinated and integrated planning between the business community and emergency managers and other planning efforts by community leaders (development plans, public health, etc.).

Strategies/Needs

Research, data, and information needs

Strategy: Easy access to accurate information for businesses, targeted to their specific needs before, during and after disaster events.

Strategy: Accurate data to identify the most vulnerable communities where business recovery is likely to lag behind.

Proposed changes in government policies or programs

Strategy: Programs that facilitate quick recovery of businesses in the short-term to build resilience early and provide a better opportunity for long-term recovery

Strategy: Policies that motivate businesses to prepare for post-disaster recovery, both incentives for resilient businesses and dis-incentives for those that fail to prepare.

Expected Outputs/Outcomes

Output: Strategic Issue Statement on Business Post-Disaster Recovery Planning

Next Steps: Review and approval by the GSAA Executive Planning Team and Steering Group

Following adoption, definitive action with partners to implement the strategy

Expected Outcomes:

- Coastal communities in the South Atlantic are better prepared for the long-term economic impacts of storms, hurricanes, and other hazards
- Investments leveraged from multiple sources to support the PDRP activities the South Atlantic is undertaking

Marine Planning in the South Atlantic*

*Coast and Ocean off of NC, SC, GA, and FL (to the FL Keys)

Marine Planning in the Action Plan

- **Action HE3A**: Initiate a joint federal-state agency marine spatial plan that identifies the location of key coastal and marine resources and activities for incorporation into multi-use management decisions.
 - (e.g., commercial and recreational fishing areas, shipping lanes, military areas, energy development areas, sand resource areas used for beach nourishment, etc.)
- **Every priority issue area has actions related to data and mapping needs.**

Regional Marine Planning

What do we mean by “regional”?

- Of mutual interest and benefit to GSAA partners
- Based on consensus decisions/priorities

What we do not mean:

- Every project must be on a geographic scale from NC to FL
- Individual state efforts cannot be supported

Regional Marine Planning

What do we mean by “marine planning”?

- From the RPB Charter
 - Marine Planning is a science-based tool...
 - MP will support regional actions and decision-making...
 - ...opportunity for all coastal and ocean interests in a region to share information and coordinate activities.
- URI Marine Planning Assessment Report
 - ...comprehensive planning approach that considers all of the natural resources, processes, and human uses of a given area of ocean or coastal space in order to identify areas that are appropriate for specific uses, resolve conflicts between existing and future uses, and achieve a range of conservation, development, and other objectives.

Marine Planning Activities

Current Marine Planning Efforts

- The states have already undertaken some marine planning activities through individual state efforts and GSAA activities.
- State efforts are at various stages of development, but all include
 - Data and information gathering on ocean and coastal uses
 - Providing open access to spatial data
 - Some level of stakeholder engagement
- GSAA marine planning activities focused on gathering data and information via gsaaportal.org



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Port Maintenance and
Expansion

Habitat Conservation

Hazard Vulnerability
Assessment

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Beach Renourishment

The southeastern United States is known for its broad sandy beaches and visitors travel from across the globe to enjoy our coast. In the face of erosion, coastal communities are renourishing their beaches to help maintain tourism, provide local enjoyment and protect investment. It is more than just sediment data that goes into completing a beach renourishment project. [LEARN MORE ▶](#)



Port Maintenance and Expansion

The four Governors' South Atlantic Alliance states each have busy ports that help feed the coastal economy. These ports require regular dredging to maintain their shipping lanes. A variety of information goes into maintenance and deepening decisions.

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[Data Catalog](#)

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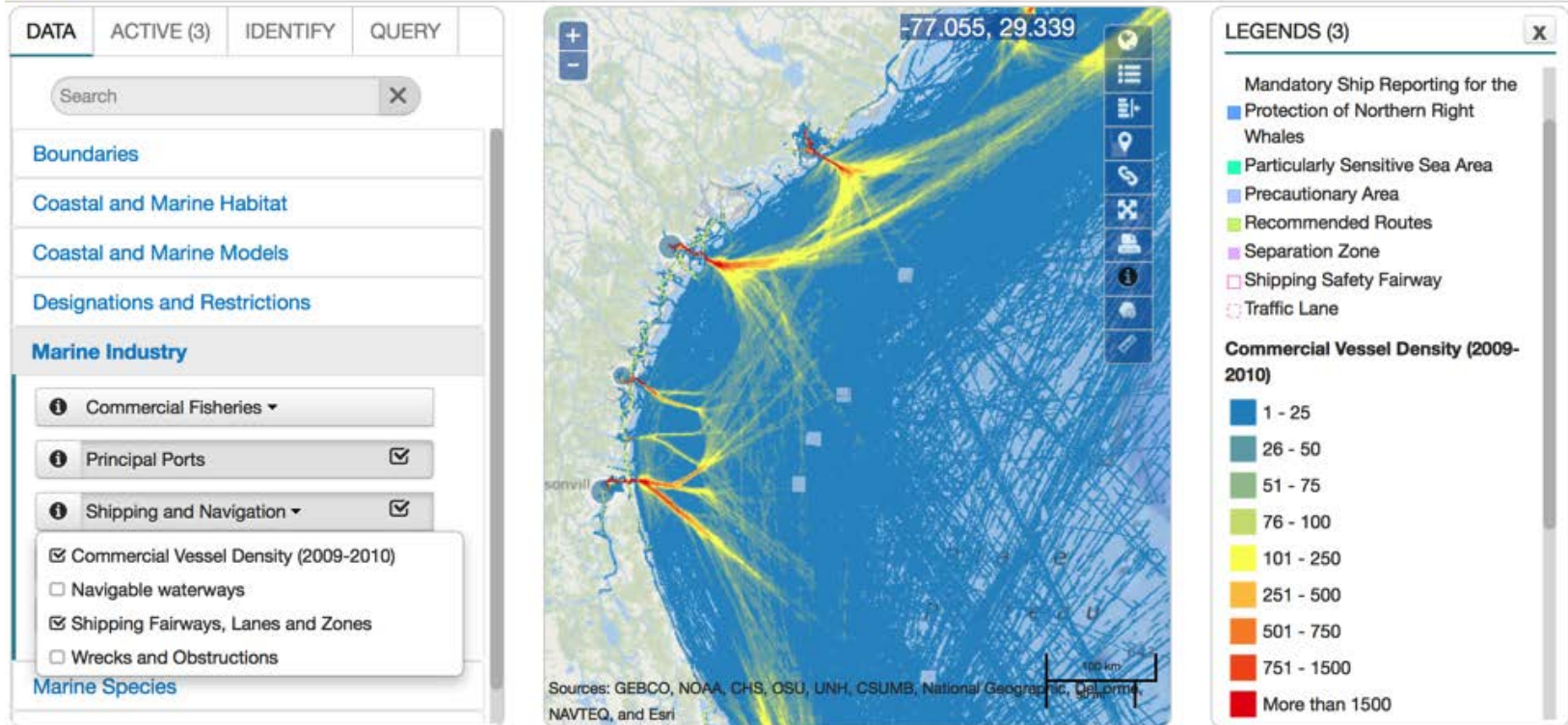
[Jurisdictions and Boundaries / 24](#) ▾[Marine Habitat / 20](#) ▾[Marine Species / 54](#) ▾[Oceanographic Features / 4](#) ▾[Ocean Uses / 22](#) ▾[Upland Uses / 2](#) ▾

The Data Catalog gathers available data and recruits new data about ocean resources and human use information such as fishing grounds, recreational areas, shipping lanes, habitat areas, and energy sites. Data falls into one of seven themes listed below. You can explore the data available under each theme, or search for the data using the form below.





FEEDBACK TOUR HELP



Marine Planning Activities

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

Regional Planning Body Progress

Oct 2013 – National Ocean Council sent letters to states, tribes, SAFMC to identify Points of Contact

Sep 2014 – All POCs named

Sep 2014 – Tentative plan for RPB discussions agreed at GSAA Annual Meeting

Dec 2014 – Draft RPB Charter provided by Navy

Apr 2015 – Review draft charter, discuss next steps

Ad-hoc Workgroup on Improved Data and Planning for Offshore Energy Siting

Description of the Challenge

- South Atlantic offshore energy activities gaining momentum
 - BOEM Draft Proposed Program
 - Wind Energy Areas
 - Hydrokinetic Energy Testing
- Potential for conflict that could lead to delays in development
- Lack of resources for collaborative framework that could reduce conflict
- Data, information coming from many sources, lacks coordination



Strategies/Needs

GSAA cooperative or collaborative efforts

Strategy: Informed political leaders and stakeholders across the region on the environmental and economic challenges, impacts, and benefits from offshore energy siting.

Strategy: Framework for information that supports decision-making so that each siting decision does not start from “scratch” on data needs.

Strategy: Collaboration among industry, government, and other stakeholders on decisions regarding scientifically-driven baseline environmental monitoring needs.

Strategy: Coordination across South Atlantic academic institutions with expertise in energy research/data/information.

Strategies/Needs

Research, data, and information needs

Strategy: Data and information for hub-height offshore wind resources in the South Atlantic region

Strategy: Improved data on human uses (commercial, recreational, and cultural) of the South Atlantic, to support conflict management for offshore energy development.

Strategy: Available, accurate data on known sensitive habitats in the South Atlantic region through the GSAA Coast and Ocean Portal.

Strategy: Baseline environmental data identifying areas in need of additional data and monitoring to fully understand ecological impacts that may result from oil spills or other anthropogenic disturbances along the Atlantic seaboard.

Strategy: Reduced uncertainty for industry through standardized collection and submission protocols for data needs (spatially, temporally, species level, etc.) that would be necessary for the states to review bottom disturbing and pelagic actions/projects proposed for offshore. This would allow industry to know what each state requires beforehand, and if projects straddle two or more states, allows for more efficient data collection and distribution.

Strategies/Needs

Proposed changes in government policies or programs

Strategy: Understand existing BOEM stipulations to determine which, if any, are applicable to the South Atlantic, or if new stipulation(s) may be needed.

Expected Outputs/Outcomes

Output: Strategic Issue Statement on Improved Data and Planning for Offshore Energy Siting

Next Steps: Review and approval by the GSAA Executive Planning Team and Steering Group

Following adoption, definitive action with partners to implement the strategy

Expected Outcomes:

- Coordinated and collaborative approaches to collecting and organizing data and information needed for prudent, efficient decision making on offshore energy development
- Practical framework for communication to reduce conflict among ocean and coastal uses and users
- Investments leveraged from multiple sources to support the planning activities the South Atlantic is undertaking

Questions and Discussion