

GOVERNORS' SOUTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE (GSAA) ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2012 - 2016

Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters

- Established a regional Watershed Improvement Working Group to share watershed water quality improvement processes, develop recommendations and transfer knowledge on best management practices for point and non-point source pollution controls.
- Prepared a compendium that includes information from each state and nationally on accepted water quality best management practices for point and non-point source pollution controls, along with links to reports and other information.
- Prepared a flexible watershed restoration curriculum for use in each state to promote the use of water quality best management practices. Trainings will be hosted in each state.¹
- Initiated cataloguing and evaluation of water quality processes in each state and review of best management practices for Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) of water pollutants.
- Developed a status report related to activities in each state that contribute to nitrogen modeling regionally. Worked with USGS to refine SPARROW modeling efforts looking at seasonal variation.
- Established a regional-level monitoring workgroup to address comparability and compatibility of coastal wetland monitoring efforts across the states. Results will be available by the end of 2016.²

Disaster-Resilient Communities

- Supported development of a Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment tool (AMBUR-HVA) that takes into account multiple hazards, leveraging existing geospatial data and incorporating the natural environment and social vulnerabilities.³
- Hosted a Post-Disaster Long-Term Recovery Planning Summit in June 2012 to discuss the application of both state (Florida's Statewide Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning Initiative) and federal (National Disaster Recovery Framework) long-term recovery planning to the region, using mechanisms such as public-private partnerships and engaging researchers, NGOs, the private sector, and local governments.
- Initiated evaluation of Florida's successful public-private partnerships for post-disaster redevelopment processes to inform partnership development in other states.
- Sponsored a live broadcast of a session, *Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery*, at the 2013 American Planning Association (APA) Conference in Chicago, IL, which reached over 500 planners and other stakeholders.
- Hosted a training webinar in September 2014 on FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework for interested partners.
- Preparing to host the first South Atlantic Living Shorelines Summit in April 2016.⁴

Healthy Ecosystems

- Supported development of the GSAA Coast and Ocean Data Portal to provide access to data information, analysis and mapping tools relevant to ocean and coastal resource managers and decision makers.⁵
- Assessed South Atlantic priorities for spatial data needs through a region-wide survey of ocean and coastal resource managers, which identified beach renourishment, port maintenance and expansion, and habitat conservation as initial focus areas for the GSAA Data Portal.

¹ Funded by the EPA Region 4 Wetland Program Development Grant program.

² Funded by the EPA Region 4 Wetland Program Development Grant program.

³ Funded by the NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program.

⁴ Funded by the EPA Region 4 Wetland Program Development Grant program.

⁵ Funded by the NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program.

- Compiled, analyzed, and prioritized regional data resources for key estuarine and marine habitats and distribution of key species of management concern.
- Supported the Southeast Tidal Creek Summit in December 2013 to explore research and outreach needs for this critical habitat.
- Coordinated with the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center and Rhode Island Sea Grant College Program to consider lessons learned in northeast marine planning efforts, and identify potential drivers and next steps for South Atlantic marine planning efforts.
- Partnered with the World Ocean Council to complete a plan of work to support business engagement in marine planning activities.

Working Waterfronts

- Developed a common lexicon and criteria for classifying working waterfronts.
- Coordinated with the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association to prepare a report identifying and prioritizing areas along the Intracoastal Waterway that experience chronic navigational problems which could be alleviated by dredging.
- Compiled waterway and land-use planning and policy options as a resource for communities challenged with balancing diverse waterfront uses, including ensuring public access and future working waterfront initiatives.
- Exploring the potential for a Clean and Resilient Marinas Program for the South Atlantic region, adapted from an initiative developed for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance.