

Outcome Stories Submitted by Participants

(Organized by DeVoe into topical areas)

Regional Planning

- We were able to identify competing uses of the ocean (understand our partners' needs) and avoid conflicts to ensure everyone's success
- We were able to share offshore sand resource data and it allowed us to better manage and reduce potential multi-use conflicts
- We were able to better understand in-water use
- We were able to link the efforts/partnerships focused on terrestrial issues to those focused on coastal/ocean issues for better collaboration and information sharing
- What public involvement is anticipated?
- Is there any plan for implementing and revising plans developed?

Mapping and Data

- We were able to develop a spatial data portal and it became a tool that helped open conversations on data sharing and data priorities within the working groups, and help with decision-making
- We were able to harness "big data" – existing and growing data sets from many partners – to provide visualizations and models to help local decision-makers at governments, businesses, and NGOs
- We were able to create and maintain a shared data and mapping portal
- We were able to create a well-maintained and up-to-date repository for easily accessible information
- We were able to develop broader more encompassing solutions to address habitat mapping needs and identification of resources to meet those needs
- We were able to leverage state monitoring activities to fill regional gaps in monitoring/observing (so that water quality is improved, e.g.)
- We were able to develop coordinated and strategic efforts to link and leverage regional offshore mapping efforts to enhance efficiencies, identify and focus on priority locations, and enhance knowledge about the resources we are responsible for managing

Organizational Structure

- Are there any concrete examples of existing networks? Of collaborative types?
- We were able to create South Atlantic networking groups and teams
- We were able to develop a true collaboration where all partners are equal and decision-making is by consensus, which will allow for flexibility in the identification of important issues and means to address them

Networking

- We were able to call people we had established relationships with and it allowed us to resolve issues more efficiently and effectively

Funding

- We were able to demonstrate the region's need to address key issues and influence federal funding priorities
- We were able to influence Congress to allocate resources to address regional needs in the South Atlantic

Resilience (Climate/Hazards)

- We were able to ID and prioritize the most critical and beneficial adaptation strategies and resilience projects on a regional scale
- We were able to learn about the national disaster recovery framework, and make regional contacts who are helping us to begin implementing it with local coastal communities in our state
- We were able to establish a clean and resilient marina program in the region, and in other regions, resulting in broad buy-in and funding from a variety of sources; in 5-10 years, 100 marinas will have been certified
- We were able to develop a regional approach to climate-related increase in coastal flooding and its impacts on communities, economies, and daily life, to enhance understanding of flood threats in the region at all levels of society, and to create and implement effective management plans
- We were able to be prepared as a region in case of a disaster such as an oil spill or hurricane by creating partnerships to prioritize work and communicate the impacts that these events could have to federal and state decision-makers, in order to facilitate a timely and effective response
- We were able to prioritize beneficial use opportunities across the southeast region, which will lead to increased community and habitat resilience in port communities, less upland and offshore dumping, and revised agency guidelines
- We were able to increase awareness of climate risk, and it led to concerted community pressure to establish a regional coastal reliance planning network
- We were able to develop a post-disaster recovery plan that enabled us to share resources in helping communities recover quickly
- We were able to share federally-funded science (data and tools) on coastal vulnerability to storms and SLR at a local scale, so that community leaders felt empowered and confident in making decisions about coastal resilience planning
- We were able to educate legislators on the science of climate, weather, and the economic impact of climate change
- We were able to access the experts and data that can help military installations understand and strategize ways to deal with coastal resiliency (SLR, erosion, etc.)
- We were able to create a comprehensive coastal storm risk management and resilience plan which provided guidance as well as justification for funding for local jurisdictions to revise land use planning, zoning, and building plans and codes, so that communities are able and incentivized to get out of harm's way
- We were able to share strategies among the states for addressing climate adaptation at the local level and implement strategies from other areas in our state, with every local government able to develop planning processes and receive funding to support these efforts

Blue Economy

- We were able to better understand the perspectives and needs of the region's marine-based economic interests, and it helped provide an effective roadmap to address and maximize the region's ocean and coastal economy
- We were able to gain non-federal support for pursuing ongoing federal investments for maintenance of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway to support industry, working waterfronts, and local and state governments across the southeast

- We were able to inform funding agencies of the need for more ocean monitoring so that permitting of offshore activities occurred more expeditiously (e.g., quicker, more confidence, less conflict)

Shoreline Management

- We were able to identify positive shoreline management techniques
- We were able to take a regional look at dock proliferation issues and determine their impacts, both positive and negative, on the ecosystem and shoreline
- We were able to share our state's experiences and practices on living shorelines, which is helping other states in the region benefit and avoid mistakes that we made
- We were able to determine the cost/benefits of living shorelines and it resulted in an expedited permitting process

Education

- We were able to provide valuable opportunities for our students to interact and work with local, state, and federal resource managers
- We were able to create win-win situations where needs of the participating entities can be met by working with our best students, while the students can gain valuable real-world experiences

Ecosystem Health/Water Quality

- We were able to develop a numeric nutrient criteria and it reduced nutrient loading to estuarine waters
- We were able to create regionalized water quality/habitat assessment protocols and it allowed for region-wide statements about quality
- We were able to document environmental harm to marine mammals, resulting in greater protections through state and community regulations
- We were able to predict the effects of severe weather events on regional fisheries recruitment
- We were able to quantify the ecosystem services and direct economic value, in dollars, of living marine resources and their habitat
- We were able to quantify the number of participants in ocean-related recreation and tourism and their impact on natural resources
- We were able to develop additional workshops/trainings on emerging stormwater managements practices (e.g., LID) to share knowledge and expertise from the region, to share success stories and challenges through provision of local experiences and examples

Offshore Sand Resources

- We were able to identify data gaps and information needs regarding offshore sand resources and it allowed us to focus resources (time and \$\$) on filling those gaps
- We were able to project future offshore sand needs and it facilitated strategic management of the resource
- We were able to use a regional forum to gather data, plans, and information to form a base for the South Atlantic Comprehensive Coastal Study