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Governors' South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA)
Issue Area Project and Resource Needs "Snap Shot"
HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS TEAM

This Snap Shot is designed to collect brief information on the prospective projects and resource needs of the GSAA Issue Area Technical Teams to progress the GSAA Action Plan and Implementation Plan.

Issue Area: Healthy Ecosystems.

Continue mapping priority habitats and biological resources in estuarine areas with priorities defined by surveys [IATTs, HE team, and coastal managers]

Project Title: Standardize and create estuarine habitat and biological resources data and upland land cover and land use.

Action to be Addressed: *Please write out the Action and reference its code number [e.g. CCOW1A, WW2B]*

HE1A : Develop coordinated state programs to map known distributions of key estuarine and marine habitats and land use cover [i.e., upland land cover and land use] in the coastal watersheds of each state, and distribution of key species of management concern using a common set of standards and attributes.

Resources Needed: *[including cost in thousands]*

Dedicated personnel and funding to distill data

Funding for workshops

\$40,000-\$80,000 (a portion of this funding requested through SECOORA Phase 3 proposal)

Expected Timescale: *[in years and months]*

One year

Description

Background: *Please provide 1 to 2 paragraphs. Include details about the needs this project addresses and a description of the current status of information for the proposed topic and its level of adequacy.*

The HE team has identified a clear need to expand from the offshore to the inshore habitats and resources. There is a need to coordinate more closely with the other IATTs (e.g. CCOW, WW). Many of the upland and wetland data layers already exist, but may need to be distilled for better consistency amongst states. Biological data sets will be more problematic and will require databases to be provided by each state using a common suite of parameters and then distilled in a consistent framework following consensus from the work groups.

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Objectives: *Clearly and succinctly state the objectives or expected outcomes of this project.*

1. Complete surveys to define highest priority data layers
2. Hold several workgroup sessions of experts (habitats, fisheries) to develop consensus on scale, period of reporting, and data format

Approach/Methods: *Provide a brief description on the process, techniques, or tools that may be used to meet the objectives of the project. If applicable, describe where this project ties in with other efforts, and if so, how.*

The same process that was used to inventory the offshore data layers will be used. States will compile existing inshore data layers and the HE team will identify priority data layers of interest for the region.

Some data layers are already being mapped or have been mapped by federal agencies; these will be investigated as a first step prior to consulting w/states and other partners.

Potential Partners: *Identify partners that could work with the IATTs to accomplish the project objectives, or partners that have the expertise to develop and execute the project as an independent study. Where possible, include points of contact and descriptions of roles.*

NC DENR/WRC

SC DNR/DHEC

GA DNR

FWC/FDEP

NOAA/NMFS/NOS

SAFMC

NPS

USFWS

TNC

DOD (ACE, Navy)

EPA

USGS

Academia

NEPs (National Estuarine Programs)

SALCC