



**Community Workshop Whole Group Brainstorming Session 1 of 2  
Naples, Florida – June 10, 2005  
Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**

**WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION ABOUT THE GULF OF MEXICO?**

- Newspapers, media
- Collect it myself
- Boaters out on the water (users)
- Scientific literature – journals (e.g. Science, Conservation Biology)
- Florida Fish & Wildlife
- List serves, Email
- Gary!
- Gulf of Mexico Program EPA
- Collect it ourselves (researchers) – cottage industry of researchers, coming together in ocean observing systems
- Florida Sea Grant
- Internet (e.g. NOAA's weather information)
- Non-profit educational institutions
- State agencies – for data, shape files
- Fishermen
- Educational texts
- Watershed Council, professional discourse
- National Estuary Program (NEPs)
- Invited speakers
- Word of mouth (but can get good information and misinformation)
- Old Timers – people who've lived in a place for a long time
- Public broadcasting, nature channels
- Volunteers (e.g. shorebird protection program)
- Conferences and meetings (e.g. Greater Everglades Ecological Restoration Conference, National Restoration Conference)
- Conservation organizations (e.g. TOC, Audubon)
- NOAA Coastal Services Center
- Retirees' Programs – lifelong learning (e.g. Renaissance Academy)



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**WHAT ARE ISSUES FOR SOUTHWEST FLORIDA?**

- Offshore leases (aquaculture, IT corridors, wind farms)
- Over-fishing
- Continued loss of coastal wetlands
- Altered freshwater flow
- Retention and reuse of freshwater
- Estuary habitat destruction (seagrasses)
- Brackish water used for drinking water (reverse osmosis)
- Public awareness of environmental issues
- Access to the Gulf by recreational and commercial boaters
- In-shore coral status and health
- Fertilizer run-off, nutrient pollution
- Increase in toxic algae blooms
- Health of animals, humans – medical component
- Less knowledge on red-tides
- Stormwater runoff non-point pollution
- Sustaining the environment for future generations
- Estuary erosion control – impacts flushing, runoff
- Public beach access
- Boat speeds
- Manatees
- Sediment management
- Land use conversion
- Education
- Global climate change, sea level rise – impacts on habitats and communities
- Discharges from phosphate mining and processing
- Sewage proposal
- Sugar “barons”
- Creation of artificial reefs
- Lack of enforcement of current environmental regulations
- Invasive species
- What is the success of restoration efforts
- Cultural loss – e.g. fishing communities are being lost
- Sea-turtle nesting and foraging habitat

- Preserving recreational rights in balance with conservation
- Sustainability of programmatic funding
- Offshore sediment management and onshore – nesting habitat for sea-turtles
- Population explosion
- Multimedia's responsibilities to educate (edutainment)
- Coordination of research activities and linkage to management activities
- General knowledge, respect, and enforcement of issues related to ecosystem and maintaining wildlife (manatees, sea turtles, fish, shorebirds)
- Inconsistency between regulations, conflicting regulations
- Education and engagement of upstream communities
- Shipping and port management
- Freshwater as a pollutant, water mis-management
- Support for teacher, civic education/workshops
- Insect management (mosquito control) – spraying pesticides on natural areas
- Ambiguously written ordinances and guidance documents – make enforcement hard