



BACKGROUND

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org) is the Gulf States response to the U.S. Ocean Commission report and subsequently the US Ocean Action Plan released by the White House in December 2004. These reports noted certain ocean-related problems nationwide and among other solutions, called for an integrated management approach for the Gulf of Mexico, led by surrounding states.

On June 9, 2005 the state of Florida hosted the first Gulf Alliance meeting at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Naples. This meeting included white paper presentations by the five Gulf States to frame the states needs in the following areas:

1. Reductions in nutrient loading
2. Improving Gulf water quality, emphasis on beaches & shellfish beds
3. Restoration of coastal wetlands
4. Identification of Gulf habitats to inform management
5. Gulf of Mexico environmental education

These papers were a first step towards capturing the complexities, resources and issues that face the people, agencies and organizations at all levels. Much more work will need to be accomplished to begin the task of working cooperatively towards sustaining a healthy Gulf of Mexico. Your help is needed in this effort.

A key strategy of the Alliance is to engage and empower local communities so that final action items will be driven by, and useful to, the people on the ground. To meet this objective, a series of nine local stakeholder meetings are taking place in regions around the Gulf. Today's workshop represents the local stakeholder community in Southwest Florida.

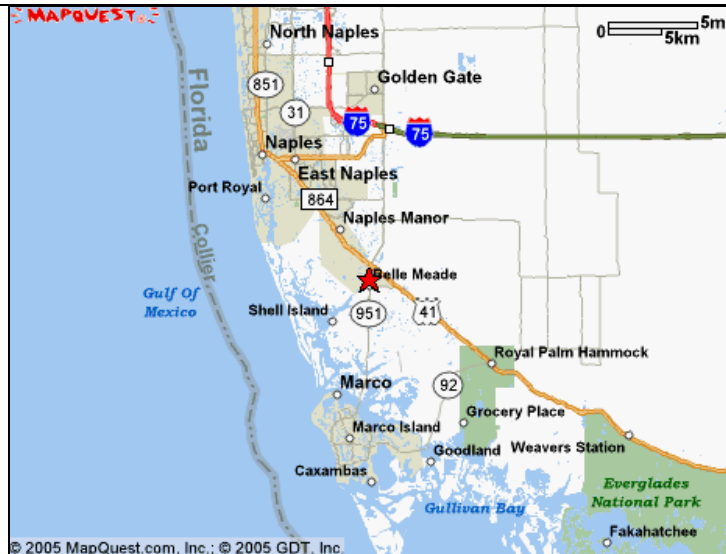
WORKSHOP GOALS

- Gain local perspectives on issues and solutions related to a healthy Gulf
- Identify programs, resources and networks that can better inform the Gulf Alliance process
- Gain support for creation of future Gulf Alliance actions
- Build better relationships between local, state and federal entities
- Educate and inform stakeholders at all levels about Gulf issues and potential solutions

AGENDAS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8	
Welcome Reception	
630p	Reception, Cocktails (Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center)
817p	Sunset on Rookery Bay – end reception at 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10	
Community Workshop	
800a	Reception, Coffee
830a	Welcome and Introductions/Review of Agenda <i>Gary D. Lytton, Administrator, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve</i> <i>Mayor William Barnett, City of Naples, Florida</i>
900a	The U.S. Ocean Action Plan and Opportunities for the Gulf of Mexico <i>Frank Müller-Karger, Ph.D., Commissioner, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy;</i> <i>Associate Professor, University of South Florida, College of Marine Science</i>
915a	The Gulf of Mexico: A Conservation Perspective <i>David E. Guggenheim, Ph.D., Consultant, Florida Department of Environmental Protection</i>
930a	Challenges from Local Perspectives: Brainstorming Possibilities <i>Facilitated Whole Group Session</i> <i>Ginger Hinchcliff, Manager, Coastal Service Center, NOAA</i>
10:30	Break
10:45	Overview of White Papers from Gulf Alliance Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Improving water quality, emphasis on beaches & shellfish beds</i> • <i>Restoration of coastal wetlands</i> • <i>Identification of Gulf habitats</i> • <i>Gulf of Mexico environmental education</i> • <i>Reductions in nutrient loading</i>
11:15	Gulf of Mexico Conference <i>David Ceilley, The Conservancy of Southwest Florida</i>
11:45	Lunch
12:45	Southwest Florida Case Studies <i>Mike Bauer, Ph.D., Natural Resource Manager, City of Naples</i> <i>Stormwater management in a growing community</i> <i>Jack Wert, Executive Director, Collier County Convention & Visitors Bureau</i> <i>Gary McAlpin, PE, Coastal Projects Manager for Collier County</i> <i>Beaches and inlets: Visitor appeal and economic impacts</i> <i>Craig Seibert, Coordinator for Science & Environmental Education, Collier County</i> <i>Gulf of Mexico Education for K-12</i>
1:45	Break
2:00	Breakout Sessions on Gulf Issues (5) <i>Facilitated Small Groups Sessions</i>
3:00	Summary of Breakouts & Wrap Up <i>Ginger Hinchcliff, Manager, Coastal Service Center, NOAA</i>
4:00p	Adjourn



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