



**Community Workshop Evaluation Summary Questions 1-7
Tampa, Florida – August 23, 2005 : Afternoon Session
Florida Aquarium**

	Mailed Announcement	Email	Word of Mouth	Telephone call	Website		Other
1. How did you learn about this workshop?	1	25*	4*	0	0		2
	Fed. Gov't	State Gov't	Local Gov't	Non-profit	Private Business	Citizen/No Affiliation	Other (incl academia)
2. Please tell us which of the following best describes your organization or company?	3	6	6	7	4	1	5
	1 (Low)	2	3	4 (High)	Total Respondents		
3. What is your level of understanding of issues that can affect a healthy gulf?	1	0	14	16	31		
	3%	0%	45%	51%	~100%		
4. How helpful was the overview of white papers in understanding the Gulf States' issues?	1	4	19	7	31		
	3%	13%	61%	23%	~100%		
	Yes	No	Unsure	Total Respondents			
5. Was the format of this workshop conducive to discussing your issues with respect to the health of the Gulf of Mexico?	28	1	1	31			

* Participant has answered "yes" to more than one question.

4) Two respondents noted that the review of white papers was too brief and fast-paced. Copies may have benefited some participants.

5) Was the format of this workshop conducive to discussing your issues with respect to the health of the Gulf of Mexico? Why or why not?

- Yes – Breakout sessions encourage participation.
- Yes – Breakout session allowed a more intimate discussion of ideas.
- Yes – Smaller group discussions are effective in getting details.
- Yes – Discussion between a variety of government and private entities and public citizens (Need to invite more government, private, and public to get involved. Advertise these workshops more.)
- Yes – There was ample time in breakout groups for discussion.
- Yes – Good introduction to issues with opportunity for meaningful input.
- Yes – Small focused groups. Right mix of people there.
- Yes – Participants represent public, private, and academia sectors.
- Yes – More discussions/breakout groups.
- Yes – Intro first, presentations – got the wheels going. Breakout session, then more focused.
- Yes – Initially skeptical of discussion groups, but, in the end, very pleased.
- Yes – All able to rate an important issue and then choose to talk about one of these.
- Yes – Deals with need for public education and involvement.
- Yes – Very good exchange of ideas.
- Yes – Good opportunities for everyone to contribute ideas; well-facilitated.
- Yes – We tend to concentrate in our field rather than bigger scope.
- Yes – Note: For Naples workshop 5 issues: would rewrite #3 to say “Restoration, preservation, and management of coastal ecosystems/communities” “Restoration of coastal wetlands.” (i.e., Not just need full suite of habitats).
- Yes – Heard reports from other meetings/groups, able to ask questions. Small group was very effective.
- Yes – However, could have spent more time on this – a full day.
- Yes – Breakout sessions were helpful in speaking with colleagues on issues with a specific area.
- Yes – I learned a lot about the health of the gulf. I was stimulated to share the knowledge I acquired with others.
- Yes – Breaking into smaller groups allows everyone to participate.
- No answer – Both good discussions of topics covered, but, unfortunately, the number of topics were few.
- Unsure – Much not spoken to Gulf of Mexico as a region.
- No – Personal focus too narrow.

6) If you could accomplish one thing under each of the five priority issues what would it be?

Reductions in nutrient loading

- Improve erosion control, etc. to minimize amount of sediment getting into waterways and GOM.
- Establish and implement Best Management Practices region-wide.
- Manage growth (less sprawl/planned communities).
- Growth management – look at current growth and plan for the future (100 years out, not just this political term).
- Reduction in industry.
- Offshore dumping.
- Maintain and reinforce, i.e. air and water, regulatory programs (rules and enforcement).
- Provide disincentives to growth (which is the source of the problems).
- Agencies make sure that the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program is effective.
- Improve growth management by local governments and improve stormwater regulations (state water management districts need to update the existing inadequate regulations).
- Treat all agricultural runoff.
- Storm drain markers.
- Stormwater treatment retrofits in urban areas.
- Ensure the public understands the impacts and causes of nutrient loading and give them options for lifestyle changes that can help reduce this problem.
- Make industry financially responsible for cleaning up its own mess (ie, Piney Point).
- Work with homeowners associations on chemical treatment for lawns.
- Less use of fertilizers/pesticides.
- Improve data management, communication, and sensor technologies.
- Reduce loading from important sources.
- Identify sources.
- Teach everyone to not overfertilize their lawn (less is better than more in this case).
- Make reclaimed water a requirement for new development lawn watering as well as offer credit to older homes that install system.
- TMDLs – set, enforce and impose adequate fines.
- Refine source tracking.
- Address issue of old septic systems in coastal zones.
- Fewer golf courses.
- Educate public on their role in nutrient loading/reduction.
- Improve data collection efforts to develop baseline and then monitor to gauge success or degradation of resources.
- Decrease air pollution and educate public about this source.
- Build partnership/ownership of issues with industry/public/government.
- Agriculture responsibility.
- More control on phosphate effluent.

Improving Gulf water quality, emphasis on beaches and shellfish beds

- Improve wastewater systems, stormwater runoff, etc. to minimize inflow to GOM.
- Improve our understanding by improving data acquisition.
- Communicate results across the Gulf states, Mexico, and Cuba.
- Growth management – government enforcement.
- Better management of nutrients entering the Gulf. Look at anthropogenic causes and sources.
- Treatment of stormwater runoff. (This includes need for restoration, preservation, and management of coastal ecosystems/communities and restoration of coastal wetlands. See starred comment related to “restoration of coastal wetlands*”).
- Better science ie, indicators (bacteriological, etc.)
- More funding for monitoring.
- Treat all stormwater runoff.
- Wastewater treatment, stopping septic usage.
- Controlling boat wastes.
- Reduce emissions into the environment.
- Non-point runoff – clean up and reduce.
- Allocate stormwater runoff into wetland filtration systems.
- Improving spatial extent of observations.
- Reduce wastewater and stormwater impacts.
- Mandatory planting of mangroves and, where possible, offer credit to homeowners who plant (maybe once educated about benefits they would have have if they cut them down).
- Coordinate gulf region volunteer monitoring to bring public into solution equation.
- Much not discussed (in the workshop) about GOM as a region.
- Get funding for my Tampa Bay monitoring study.
- Controlling stormwater.
- Development/use of green building.
- Develop and maintain GIS tools to support BMPs.
- Reduce stormwater inputs – treat first.
- Reduce sewage inputs – treat longer.
- Get public’s buy-in.
- Get public educated.
- Funding from government.
- Industry – chemical output responsibility.
- More restriction on industry dumping.

Restoration of coastal wetlands

- More stringent permitting of coastal development or better yet, decrease amount of permitting.
- Enforce and protect wetlands. Educate general public and developers.
- Buy now, restore later, especially in Texas.
- Quantify post-restoration success.
- Improve restoration.
- Provide funding for land acquisition, for on-the-ground restoration projects.
- Buy and conserve land.
- Educate homeowners about importance.
- * Coastal wetlands → ecosystems. All habitats (uplands and all the way to the pelagic habitats.)
- Buy/preserve land habitats. Way to preserve habitats: buy, buy, buy and remove from threat of development. Buy now and restore/manage later.
- More funding for land acquisition.
- Need to move more quickly to acquire, given pace of development.
- More funding for restoration.
- Buy more land.
- Acquisition of habitat.
- Partnership for restoration/stewardship.
- Remove exotic species.
- Prevent destruction of existing wetlands by development.
- Repair what the hurricanes are destroying.
- Increase success rate and acre amount being restored.
- Improve coastal land management decisions.
- Protect from further impacts.
- Mandatory planting of mangroves and, where possible, offer credit to homeowners who plant (maybe once educated about benefits they would have had if they cut them down).
- Stop the loss.
- Encourage coastal land owners to be stewards of their own piece of Gulf/bay.
- Make Army Corps of Engineers stay in that business (not for state only to decide).
- Less coastal development.
- Increase use of remote sensing technologies to provide baseline and monitor wetland systems.
- Stop filling wetlands for development and mitigation option.
- Stop trimming of mangroves.
- Keep on building and preserving (more of existing programs).

- More volunteer opportunities! My time schedule is busy and if I miss an estuary opportunity, it could be months before another comes available.
- Reduction of coastal development and land acquisition.
- Establishing more sanctuary-type areas.

Identification of Gulf habitats to inform management

- Increase research funding of critical habitats.
- Refine and development remote sensing techniques for spatial and temporal characterization of Gulf habitats.
- Increase dramatically ground-truthing for calibration of remote sensing.
- Come up with a uniform or standard set of habitats amongst the five states and among all levels of government.
- More documentation and research.
- Mapping assessment.
- Make sure that good useable data is collected and maintained for all habitats.
- Use of remote sensing, GIS, and GPS so you can have a map to start with which will let you measure results against goals.
- Identify different ecosystems but still realize all smaller ecosystems are really one big ecosystem.
- Improve tools and data used to identify habitats and disseminate to decision makers.
- Provide high quality and accurate maps of habitat.
- Create and maintain a geospatial inventory of gulf habitats.
- Enforcement of regulations (no empty threats).
- Take member of Congress on a diving trip.
- Standardize mapping and data collection techniques and fund long-term programs.
- Coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves.
- Videos of habitats – picture worth a thousand words.
- Develop indicators in seagrass environments to inform on ecosystem health issues.
- Assess environmental health of Pinellas Gulf coastal seagrasses. Develop actions to preserve and protect Pinellas Gulf coastal seagrass habitat.
- Field research funded federally.

Gulf of Mexico environmental education

- Make a mandatory requirement in primary/secondary schools for science classes/GOM issues.
- Let all learn the consequences of their actions – K-12 and lifelong learning.
- Better scientists to media communication.
- Put environmental education in all three levels – elementary, middle, and high – of K-12 public schools
 - Coastal habitats
 - Pelagic habitats

- Helping the average citizen understand the connectedness of the ecosystem in their yards all the way to the other side of the Gulf.
- Educate public to hopefully motivate them to get political and vote for better government to protect, restore, and manage our ecosystems.
- More public involvement.
- Consolidated messages.
- More programs on cable tv, Animal Planet, and PBS.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of education programs – is the goal of the program being met, what works and what doesn't? Stop throwing money at, for example, brochures if they're not effective.
- Get the children at the program.
- Education aimed at the users of the Gulf – boaters, etc.
- Environmental educational programs mandatory throughout all US public schools in every grade level.
- Improve funding to educational institutions to support GOM education.
- Bring it to the schools K-12.
- Mandatory K-12 environmental education course.
- Get people involved/field trips.
- Regional workshops or festivals to disperse information to general public.
- More funding for school-age environmental education.
- Regulations (across states lines).
- Make a tenure-track faculty member.
- Educate public on their importance and the general health of the bay and the importance of their involvement on on-going basis, not just when the “warm and fuzzies” are affected, i.e., dolphins.
- Expand use of GIS in schools and for public outreach as applied to various Gulf environmental issues.
- Education of legislators – workshop, caucuses, junkets.
- Increase education of public at every level – utility bill enclosure and public access tv programs, neighborhood projects and education.
- Get people to care – fight apathy!
- Empower public to engage in citizen science.
- Government at all levels educated. Introduce political leaders and top management to more educational opportunities. May have to entice, sort of like the Museum of Science and Industry has its annual Einstein on Wine to encourage after-hours education.
- Educational programs specific to local habitat.
- Emphasis on public education.

Any additional comments

- I enjoyed the workshop, but it was very focused on Florida issues. I will be interested to see how topics change when the workshops go to other states.
- Thank you for an educational day.
- Increase the frequency of these meetings. This is a great resource for all involved.
- Thank you for this!
- Attending this meeting gave me hope that we will not let the Gulf ecosystem collapse. I hope we really carry through with this and make it happen – not just talk about it.
- For growth management, set carrying capacity for humans in coastal areas and then do not exceed them once ranked, i.e., stop growth in coastal areas once you reach a point – no infinite growth curve!
- It's difficult for a stakeholder in one part of the Gulf to even know what's going on in other states, let alone have an impact on them.
- Good luck! Hope this program initiative produces some significant results.
- Disappointing that industry and developers were not present at the meeting.
- Bottom line for all is effective communication, prioritization, and collaboration.
- As we focused on small topics, remember the whole picture. Accomplish smaller goals for the bigger picture. Maybe we should want to think about our US population growth. We overall determine our own destiny.
- Wonderful opportunity. Should be done on an annual basis for citizens to be educated, somewhat like a coastal cleanup opportunity.
- Great workshop.
- Keep in regional.
- Stop using the words development or growth if it is not.
- Very interesting format.
- Worthwhile. Need to take these messages back to policy makers.
- Good workshop! Thank you.
- I work for Hillsborough County. The government itself needs to be better educated (somehow should be mandatory) so that they may lead. This is not a high issue for inner(state)counties even though their runoff of pollution, population, etc. affects the Gulf. They didn't make the development decisions with the lands. They don't make the best zoning/development decisions with the lands and they do manage and let alone "care" for waters (Gulf) that they don't "see." Out of sight- out of mind.