



**Community Workshop Results of Individual Participant Issues
Afternoon Session
Tampa, Florida – August 23, 2005
Florida Aquarium**

Rationale: Participants were asked to brainstorm issues and then write down two priority issues regarding the economic and/or environmental health of the Gulf of Mexico on two separate index cards. These cards were collected and categorized by the facilitators into 16 broad issues, listed numerically below. Beneath each issue, the exact responses from the index cards are listed. The 16 broad issues were posted and participants voted to arrive at the top five. These issues then became the focus of smaller breakout groups. Please refer to the summary of the breakouts for participant responses to that aspect of the workshop.

PRIORITY ISSUES

1. Growth Management – 33 of 127 votes
 - Coastal development
 - Recreational use
 - Public access

2. Habitat Loss – 19 of 127 votes
 - Loss of habitats
 - Health of wetlands
 - Coral reef health
 - Seagrass propeller scarring
 - Dredging, bulk heading, and seawalling
 - Erosion
 - Beach renourishment
 - Impacts of storms

3. Water Quality/Quantity – 16 of 127 votes
 - Pollution
 - Litter
 - Beach closures
 - Mercury and toxins
 - Ocean dumping
 - Stormwater runoff
 - Sea level rise
 - Climate change
 - Shellfish bed closures
 - Freshwater inflow

4. Apathy/Societal Perceptions – 12 of 127 votes
 - Uncaring people
 - Societal perceptions of property rights vs. environment protection
 - Lack of vision by the public and government
5. Public Education – 9 of 127 votes
 - K-12
 - Continuing adult education
5. Nutrient Loading/Eutrophication – 9 of 127 votes
 - Atmospheric Deposition
 - Sewage
6. Funding – 8 of 127 votes
7. Lack of Communication – 5 of 127 votes
 - Lack of communication between different branches of government
 - Avoid duplication of efforts
8. Over fishing – 4 of 127 votes
 - Fishing gear impacts
 - Physical damage to habitats
9. Political Agendas – 3 of 127 votes
 - Responsibilities of industries
 - Financial constraints
9. Lack of Regulations and Enforcement – 3 of 127 votes
 - Permitting of dumping zones
 - Draining of lakes for regulatory purposes
10. Harmful Algal Blooms, Red Tide – 2 of 127 votes
10. Oil and Gas, Liquefied Natural Gas – 2 of 127 votes
 - Damage from oil spills
 - Vessel pollution
 - Offshore drilling resulting in land subsidence
 - Liquefied natural gas terminals
11. Lack of Information/Inadequate Information – 1 of 127 votes
11. Threatened and Endangered Species – 1 of 127 votes
 - Aquatic animal health
 - Invasive species