



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

**Rationale:** Evening participants were supplied with the list of priority issues generated during the afternoon session and asked to expand upon the issues or suggest additional priority issues regarding the economic and/or environmental health of the Gulf of Mexico. Beneath each general issue, additional responses from the participants are listed. The 23 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 – 20 of 110 votes
  - Public access to water
  - Sustainable practices for tourist locations such as hotels
  
2. Habitat Loss – 15 of 110 votes
  - Clearing of upland regions
  - Wetlands protection
  
3. Water Quality/Quantity – 15 of 110 votes
  - Nutrient loading/eutrophication
  - Canal management
  - Intercoastal cleanup
  - Need additional “no dumping” areas
  
4. Lack of Regulations and Enforcement – 13 of 110 votes
  - Weak enforcement of wetlands regulations
  - Insufficient “no dumping” areas
  - Weak enforcement of the Clean Water Act
  
5. Political Agendas – 6 of 110 votes
  - Selective use of science
  - Political representatives are not well enough informed
  
6. Beach Re-nourishment – 5 of 110 votes
  
6. Funding – 5 of 110 votes
  
6. Public Education – 5 of 110 votes

6. Threatened and Endangered Species – 5 of 110 votes
7. Apathy/Societal Perceptions – 4 of 110 votes
7. Lack of Information – Inadequate Information – 4 of 110 votes
  - Standardizing data collection methods
  - Modeling
  - Synthesis of data/information
8. Lack of Communication – 3 of 110 votes
  - Need holistic approach to problems
8. Non-nutrient pollution – 3 of 110 votes
  - Mercury
  - Toxins
  - Pesticides from lawn treatment
  - Desalination
8. Overfishing – 3 of 110 votes
  - Impacts of commercial fishing methods
  - Insufficient recreational fishing data
9. Harmful Algal Blooms; Red tide – 2 of 110 votes
10. Climate changes - 1 of 110 votes
  - Sea level rise
10. User traffic – 1 of 110 votes
  - Private and public waterways traffic
  - Noise pollution
11. Aquaculture – 0 of 110 votes
11. Business Agenda – 0 of 110 votes
11. Dams – 0 of 110 votes
  - Renewing and removal of dams
  - Aquifer recharge
11. Groundwater withdrawal – 0 of 110 votes
  - Deep water injection
  - Sink holes
11. Invasive Species – 0 of 110 votes
11. Oil and Gas, Liquefied Natural Gas – of 110 votes
  - Seismic testing