

Apalachicola NERR
GOMA Community Workshop
August 25, 2005



		Mailed Announcement	Email	Word of Mouth	Telephone call	Website	Other	
Q1	How did you learn about this workshop?	4	19	5		1	4 (My wife, Newspaper (3) - Apalachicola Times)	
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		Federal Gov't	State Gov't	Local Gov't	Non-Profit	Private Business	Citizen/ No Affiliation	Other
Q2	Please tell us which of the following best describes your organization or company?	3	13	6	6	2	3	3 (Academic, University/ Local Gov, Extension Education)
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		1 (Low)	2	3	4 (High)	Total Respondents		
Q3	What is your level of understanding of issues that can affect a healthy gulf?	0	2	14	13	29		
		0%	6.90%	48.28%	44.83%	100.00%		
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		1 (Low)	2	3	4 (High)	Total Respondents		
Q4	How helpful was the overview of white papers in understanding the Gulf States' issues?	0	9	14	5	28		
		0.00%	32.14%	50.00%	17.86%	100.00%		
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		1 (Low)	2	3	4 (High)	Total Respondents		
Q5	How helpful were the case studies in understanding the complexity of issues and possible solutions?	1	3	18	6	28		
		3.57%	10.71%	64.29%	21.43%	100.00%		
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		Yes	No	Unsure	Total Respondents			
Q6	Was the format of this workshop conducive to discussing your issues with respect to the health of the Gulf of Mexico?	26	1	2	29			



**Community Workshop Evaluation Summary Questions 6-8
Apalachicola, Florida – August 25, 2005
Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve**

6) 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?

- The workshop was very conducive to allowing agency and non-agency people to meet one-on-one and in small groups to discuss a wide range of local and Gulf-wide issues.
- The prioritization process led to a narrow selection for breakout groups. Effort should be made to ensure no overlap in groups.
- Small groups – good direction by facilitators
- Good cross-section of stakeholders with some obvious omissions, i.e. seafood industry
- Open, non-confrontational format
- Great opportunity to exchange ideas and become aware of various perspectives
- Was not confrontational, but good discussion and exchange of ideas
- Plenty of opportunity for input!!
- Yes – I like ballot voting with dots – good discussion during breaks and lunch. No – not enough time to discuss “less emphasized” issues that might be important to me or someone else not present at the meeting.
- Good, interactive with others. Should have been longer – maybe two breakouts.
- Excellent open forum that allowed beneficial commentary
- It’s always good to communicate with people who care

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

Reductions in nutrient loading

- More effective stormwater regulations
- Better education of people in entire watershed areas about impact of their activities on environment, i.e. agricultural practices, lawn-care practices, dredge and fill activities, etc.
- Increase enforcement
- Enforce existing regulations
- Restore hydrology and wetland functionality in major rivers draining to the Gulf

- Incorporate all watersheds contributing to Gulf of Mexico into comprehensive management plan (BMPs, TMDLs, etc.)
- Educate farmers to properly implement effective BMPs.
- Switch all septic to sewer
- Need data shared with municipal officials
- Water quality monitoring to see if there is a problem
- Teach watershed concept – everyone is connected by water to the Gulf. Residential/businesses application at recommended levels – don't over-fertilize needs to be emphasized. Proper functioning sewage treatment both septic and municipal.
- Require pervious surfacing percentages for all development and don't all any commercial docks, etc. or building on dunes.
- Enforcement of regulations
- Work throughout the Gulf of Mexico watershed to coordinate with local agencies to reduce nutrient loading
- Mandatory upgrade of sewage and stormwater treatment across the entire water drainage system
- More stringent stormwater regulations – agriculture/silviculture BMPs that actually work and are implemented
- Monitor water quality to pinpoint source of nutrient loading
- Replace all septic systems (OSDS) within one mile of wetlands, rivers, bays, aquifers
- Coordination within watersheds

Improving Gulf water quality, emphasis on beaches and shellfish beds

- Limit coastal development
- Providing sewer service, to get rid of septic tanks in coastal/low-lying areas
- Enforce existing regulations
- Good rapid response
- All development should go to tertiary treatment; retrofit all septic systems accordingly
- Address bacterial contamination w/ source tracking
- Re-establish historical hydrology
- Collect good baseline data
- Better stormwater treatment
- Expand volunteer collection efforts to bays and Gulf – requires funding and legislative support – need to sell.
- Enforcement of TMDLs and other discharge regulations
- Increase knowledge of and dissemination of Gulf of Mexico watershed quality parameters through an Integrated Ocean Observation System
- Pick at least one and possibly two well understood measures and communicate that frequently to the public, similar to air quality (ozone, pollution rating)
- Erosion control
- More organic farming
- Work on stormwater treatment in Franklin County

- Establish good database, monitor regularly and mitigate daily
- Stormwater management improvements

Restoration of coastal wetlands

- Tax development to pay for restoration
- Stop mitigation of wetlands for development purposes
- Create more flexible funding programs to get work done
- Set priorities for work in Gulf from consensus building around the Gulf. (One platform for decision-making.)
- Provide directed funds for focused restoration efforts by all constituents
- Complete Project Greenshores restoration in Pensacola Bay!
- Establish large protected, inter-connected areas
- \$ \$
- Stop dredge and fill
- Producing education events for property owners and citizens valuing the role and function of wetlands
- I don't know much about restoration, except: plant aquatic.
- ERP in the Panhandle
- Base restoration projects on historical data
- Use best practices being applied in other parts of the country to protect existing habitat, and second plant grasses, shrubs, trees in damaged or at risk areas, also protect them with signs and enforcement.
- Reduction of development
- Adequately fund projects and project management
- Stop the filling and assist local planners develop [LDRs?] to protect wetland
- Restore and maintain them in perpetuity
- Enforce laws to protect wetlands

Identification of Gulf habitats to inform management

- Invest in recording history of "human habitat"
- Coordinate research to reduce duplication of effort
- Initiate the process of prioritization NOW!! and as data gets developed incorporate but don't wait until you have better data!!
- Comprehensive mapping/monitoring program
- Initiate Coastal Wetlands Status and Trends
- Central database
- Communication and sharing of databases between agencies
- Add muscle to these efforts and bridge the gap between products and decision-makers
- Try to categorize/summarize
- Increase knowledge of community leaders of the interconnectiveness of Gulf of Mexico habitats and impacts from upland sites

- Put educational signs in high access areas or in areas of special interest. Include “requests/requirements” on the sign to tell people what they are seeing and what they should or shouldn’t do.
- Compile existing data and continue monitoring. Highlight reference streams and ecosystems.
- Data is probably out there; however, needs to be collected and distributed widely
- Identify gaps in information

Gulf of Mexico environmental education

- Develop job training programs that lead to environmental education jobs for locals
- Environmental/marine science programs in local schools in rural coastal areas
- Spread the word to all areas of the watershed
- Public outreach about five issues
- Expand Gulf of Mexico education to all citizens in a standardized format
- Include local issues in public school curriculums
- Outreach / stewardship
- Share successful programs between providers
- OK!
- Implementing LIFE (Learning in Florida’s Environment) program in Walton County – extension programs such as Florida Master Naturalist and Youth/4-H Marine Camp – bring these to other areas.
- Help teach adults, others
- Environmental stewardship, coastal and rural areas
- Continue on-going projects such as COSEE, coordinate ongoing education projects such as Resource Rangers, LIFE, and others throughout the Gulf of Mexico region.
- Use the newspaper and radio to communicate the short list of key data that informs everyone to issues and actions. Target specific groups of the public to inform and educate to their specific interests, rumors or beliefs.
- Expand to national education
- Fund programs in schools and fund general public education
- When “educating” public don’t just put up signs to give “lecture.” Show them how pollution, excess fertilizers, etc. affect water and how that affects them. If we had no problem with money you could set up mini demos in all malls or similar areas – scaled down version of what you see in museums/aquariums, etc. You need to convince public this is important – not just “tell them!” We need a “Jesse James” of environmental preservation!
- Get it out there
- Keep telling the stories – again, again and again to more and more people
- Establish more programs like LIFE

8) Any additional comments

- Preservation of culture and community in the Gulf region must be a priority.

- Limiting development on dynamic, primary dune systems – they're the first line of protection during storm events!
- #7 is a loaded question – five is an insufficient list
- I have high hopes
- A good meeting!
- Bathroom facilities were in really poor condition w/ out of order plumbing. This made it inconvenient for participants.
- International discussions
- Broad-based support requires broad-based communication methods. If you want buy-in from the general public seek methods to include them in the process – in the end they are the solution.
- This was a great workshop
- Good workshop. Thanks. Great job Roz and ANERR staff!
- This Alliance needs three things they can implement in a public way that will be easily seen as a practical success. The level of cross-agency infrastructure improvement is broad and deep and this will take time to effect and more time to realize the benefit. Governor Bush needs to appoint one accountable person to make it happen.
- Need more political attention and corroboration that extends political and state boundaries
- If we can't fund [addressing the priority issues], try to use volunteers to assist trained personnel
- Never give up! It's always too soon to stop. Excellent breakout session summaries.
- Apply to all the above [five priority issues] -- coordinate info resources, provide education, encourage advocacy, understand (habitat waters interdependency), enforcement and accountability
- Great workshop/meeting