Sea Grant
Mississippi-Alabama

2015 Site Review
Briefing Book


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SITE REVIEW AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

8:00 a.m. - Welcome to Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant
LaDon Swann, director, and Stephen Sempier, deputy director

Program Management and Organization

8:30 a.m.	**The Sea Grant site review and why we're here** Chris Hayes, National Sea Grant Office and Paul Chigbu, National Sea Grant Advisory Board
9:00 a.m.	Opening remarks: Rodney Bennett, President, The University of Southern Mississippi
9:10 a.m.	**MASGC operations, plans, partnerships and adaptability** • Management structure • Strategic planning process • Local, regional, and national partnerships • MASGC ability to address emerging issues
10:00 a.m.	**Break**
10:30 a.m.	**Panel discussion about integrated extension, outreach and education (EOE) programming** This session will provide an overview of these programs, how EOE adds value to MASGC and the processes used to engage constituents. Extension: Dave Burrage, Stephanie Otts and Jody Thompson (60 minutes) 1. Education: Tina Miller-Way (30 minutes) Collaboration/Integrations (how we are organized) 2. Describe value this adds to the program (examples of integration between extension, outreach, education, legal, communication) 3. Describe how we engage locally, regionally and nationally with constituents
Noon	**Lunch** Site Review Team (SRT), Board of Directors (BOD), Advisory Council (AC) and MASGC Management Team
1:00 p.m.	**MASGC Board of Directors and Mississippi and Alabama Extension Administration** During this session, leadership, programmed team approach and support will be discussed.
2:00 p.m.	**Joint Advisory Council and Board of Directors Meeting** Moderator: LaDon Swann 1. Program summary (20 minutes) 2. Discussion about **programmed team approach** among Advisory Council members **Relevance** will be addressed from the perspective of Advisory Council members 3. Round-robin discussion among SRT, BOD and AC using questions from Site Review Criteria
3:00 p.m.	**Break**

Stakeholder Engagement – This session is designed to directly address **extension, outreach and education**.

3:30 p.m.	**Creating environmentally literate students and skilled science workers** Moderator: Tina Miller-Way • Lynn Stewart, Alma Bryant High School, Bayou La Batre, AL • Leslie Salter, Vancleave High School, Vancleave, MS • Loretta Leist, MASGC Research Coordinator
4:45 p.m.	**Adjourn**
5:00 p.m.	**Reception: White House Hotel** **Networking among SRT, AC and BOD. SRT will depart for dinner at 5:30 p.m.**
5:30 p.m.	**Site Review Team working dinner**

SITE REVIEW AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Stakeholder Engagement – This session is designed to directly address **relevance** and **relationships** through case studies.

8:00 a.m.

Building an oyster farming industry, supporting the shrimp industry and improving ecosystem health
Moderators: Dave Burrage and Stephanie Otts

Safe and Sustainable Fisheries

- Rosa Zirlott, Murder Point Oyster Company
- Tung Banh, Catholic Social Services

Healthy Coastal Ecosystems

- Marie Dyson, Oyster Gardening and Oyster Trail Volunteer
- Dottie Lawley, Homeowner
- Vince Lucido, President, Alabama Gulf Coast Reef & Restoration Foundation
- Ashley Campbell, Environmental Programs Manager, City of Daphne

9:30 a.m.

Leading communities toward resilience
Moderators: Tracie Sempier and Niki Pace

Resilient Communities and Economies

- Rhonda Price, Mississippi of Department of Marine Resources and Gulf of Mexico Alliance
- Andy Bauer, City of Gulf Shores
- Rick Stickler, City of Biloxi

10:30 a.m. **Break**

Collaborative Network/NOAA Activities

11:00 a.m.

Joining forces to reach regional/national objectives
Moderator: Steve Sempier

- **The Gulf Sea Grant Programs**
  Karl Havens, Director, Florida Sea Grant
- **Gulf of Mexico Alliance**
  Laura Bowie, Executive Director
- **Gulf of Mexico Regional Collaboration Team**
  Kristen Laursen, Team Lead, Deputy Regional Administrator Southeast Region
- **Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative**
  Charles Wilson, Chief Scientist

Noon

Lunch
Invited guests (AC, BOD, Panelists)
Site Review Team working lunch with MASGC Management Team

1:00 p.m. **Closed Session for Site Review Team**

3:45 p.m. **Site Review Team meets with MASGC Director**

4:30 p.m.

Site Review Team meets with Board and Advisory Council
A conference phone line will be open.

5:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

Table of Contents

MANAGEMENT TEAM COMPOSITION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium (MASGC) Management Team serves as the lead entity to strategically plan and meet MASGC's mission and vision to serve Alabama and Mississippi. The team members coordinate with the MASGC network to fulfill the objectives and performance measures established within the strategic plan. The Management Team participates in monthly calls to update each other on activities and identify opportunities to collaborate. Here is a partial list of responsibilities of each of the management team members:

- **Director (LaDon Swann)** – Provides vision for the overall program, presents opportunities to the management team, ensures that the program meets National Sea Grant and NOAA needs and leads MASGC staff in implementing the strategic plan.
- **Deputy Director (Steve Sempier)** – Assists the director in the above activities and gathers and synthesizes information from the management team for use by the director.
- **Research Coordinator (Loretta Leist)** – Administers research competitions, finds external reviewers, collects and synthesizes annual progress reports and inputs the annual data into the national Sea Grant database.
- **Fiscal Officer (Devaney Cheramie)** – Serves as an advisor on all fiscal matters; acts as the fiscal point of contact with the National Sea Grant Office, the University of Southern Mississippi's Sponsored Programs Administration, procurement, accounts payable, human resources, controller's office and all sub-contract institutions; and prepares budgets and justifications for MASGC proposals.
- **Executive Support Associate (Deborah Jefferson)** – Provides logistical and travel support for meetings; is the point of contact for coordinating Advisory Council and Board of Directors meetings; assists with day-to-day office management.
- **Education Coordinator (Tina Miller-Way)** – Serves as the education team leader and coordinates with other education principal investigators to support educational programming at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Discovery Hall Program, the Mobile County School System's Environmental Studies Center and the Marine Education Center at The University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Lab.
- **Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Legal Program Director and Assistant Director for Outreach (Stephanie Otts)** – Provides updates on the Sea Grant-related legal activities occurring throughout the United States and within Mississippi and Alabama. The assistant director for outreach also coordinates MASGC's outreach program and its extension, legal and communications sub-units.
- **Mississippi Extension Leader (Dave Burrage)** – Serves as the point person for overall extension programming and focuses on Mississippi activities.
- **Alabama Extension Representative (Jody Thompson)** – Represents Alabama extension programming, specialists and activities on the management team.
- **Communications Coordinator (Melissa Schneider)** – Coordinates communications across the Sea Grant program including publications, news releases, web content, social media, event promotion and press coverage.
- **Coastal Storms Program Outreach Coordinator (Tracie Sempier)** – Coordinates the Coastal Storms Program.

Program Management and Organization

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTION

The MASGC Board of Directors and the MASGC Advisory Council provide input to MASGC. This is due to the consortium structure of the program. A description of the responsibilities and members of the two groups follows.

MASGC Board of Directors

Board members are vice presidents of research or people in similar positions at MASGC's nine member institutions. The MASGC Board of Directors does the following:

- Sets administrative policy that the MASGC director implements
- Monitors and approves fiscal budgets during annual meetings
- Conducts the MASGC director's performance reviews

MASGC Board of Directors

Consortium Member	Board Member	University CEO
Auburn University	Dr. John M. Mason, Jr., Vice President for Research and Associate Provost	Dr. Jay Gogue, President
Dauphin Island Sea Lab	Dr. John F. Valentine, Executive Director	Dr. John F. Valentine, Executive Director
Jackson State University	Dr. Loretta A. Moore, Vice President for Research and Federal Relations	Dr. Carolyn W. Meyers, President
Mississippi State University	Dr. David Shaw, Vice President for Research and Economic Development	Dr. Mark Keenum, President
The University of Alabama	Dr. Carl Pinkert[2], Vice President for Research	Dr. Judy Bonner, President
The University of Alabama at Birmingham	Dr. Richard Marchase[3], Vice President for Research and Economic Development	Dr. Ray L. Watts, President
The University of Mississippi	Dr. Alice Clark, Vice Chancellor for Research and Sponsored Programs	Dr. Daniel W. Jones, Chancellor
The University of Southern Mississippi[1]	Dr. Gordon Cannon, Vice President for Research	Dr. Rodney Bennett, President
University of South Alabama	Ms. Lynne Chronister, Vice President for Research	Dr. Tony G. Waldrop, President

[1]MASGC Fiscal Host [2]Board Chair [3]Board Secretary

Function of the MASGC Advisory Council

The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Advisory Council (AC) plays a vital role for MASGC by providing program operation guidance to the Sea Grant director. The advisory council members bring advice and diverse viewpoints to Sea Grant through their expertise and practical experience in one or more of the MASGC focus areas. The advisory council is made up of approximately 20 senior officials and community leaders representing industry, elected officials, non-governmental organizations and federal, state and local governments throughout Alabama and Mississippi.

The MASGC-AC meets once annually to:

1. Participate in the long-range programmatic and administrative planning
2. Provide input in the implementation of strategic plan objectives
3. Provide input on the priorities and relevancy of MASGC-sponsored research, extension, outreach and education
4. Serve as an advocate of MASGC-sponsored research, extension, outreach and education

In addition to the annual meeting, the entire advisory council or individual members interact with MASGC on a regular and informal basis to discuss emerging issues and develop new, collaborative opportunities and projects of direct benefit to coastal businesses, residents and the environment. Finally, at least once every two years, the advisory council provides relevancy reviews of research proposals that have successfully passed through a technical review. The Sea Grant director uses the relevancy reviews and other information to make final funding decisions.

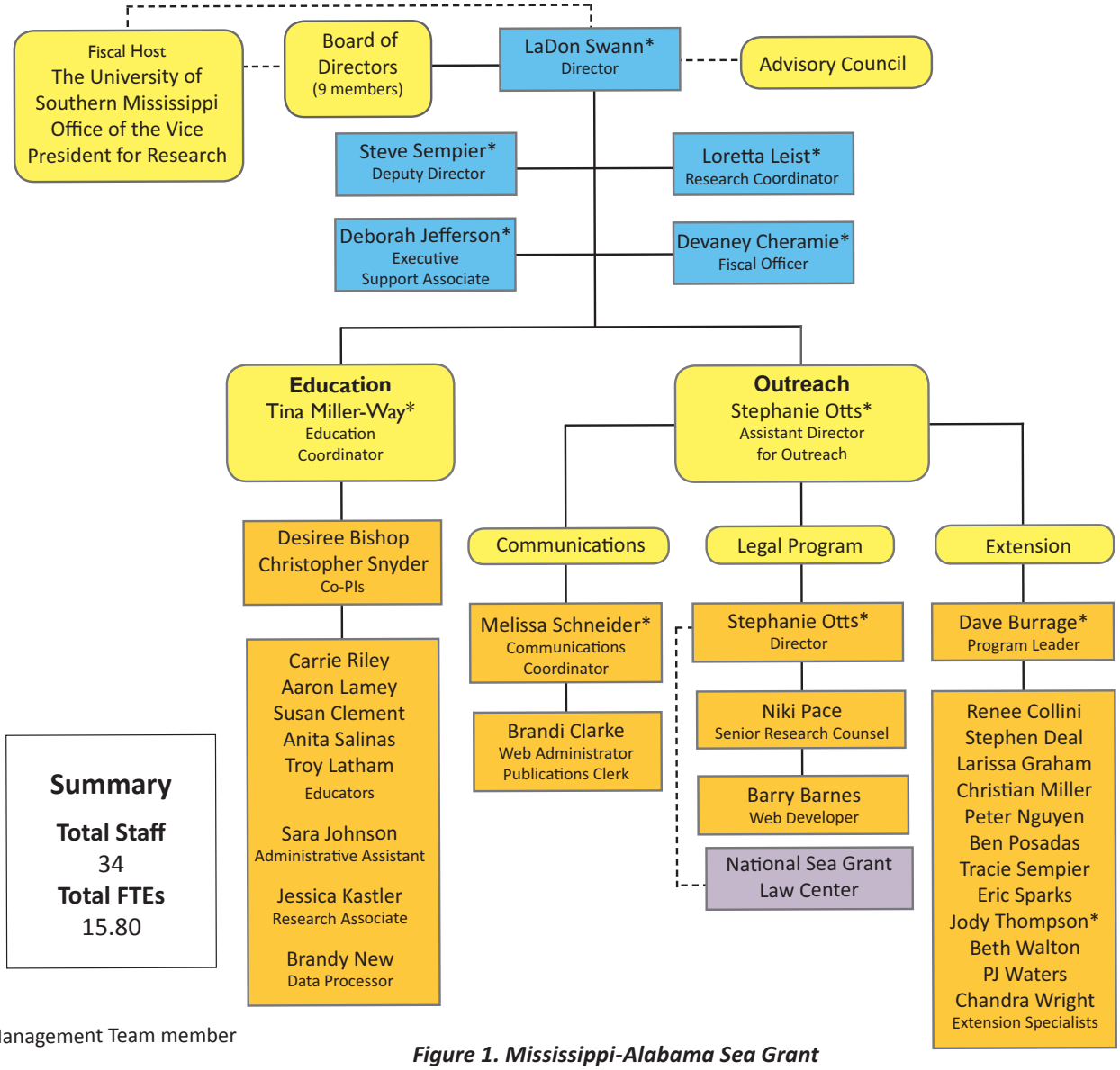
Structure of the MASGC Advisory Council

1. Members serve at least a three-year term.
2. The MASGC director names a member of the advisory council to serve as chairperson.

MASGC Advisory Council

Member	Organization
Laura Bowie	Gulf of Mexico Alliance
John Bowie	EPA Gulf of Mexico Program
Amy Clark	NOAA
Todd Davison	NOAA
Brett Dungan	Bayou La Batre, Alabama
Gary Finch	Gary Finch Enterprises
Troy Frady	Distraction Charters
Phillip Hinesley	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Kara Lankford	Ocean Conservancy
Dr. Kelly Lucas	Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Herb Malone	Gulf Shores and Orange Beach Tourism
Dr. Susan Rees	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Carl Schneider	Schneider Insurance
Rick Stickler	City of Biloxi
Roberta Swann	Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
Dr. David Veal	American Shrimp Processors Association
Thao (Jennifer) Vu	Mississippi Coalition for Vietnamese-American Fisher Folks and Families
Elaine Wilkinson	Gulf Regional Planning Commission
Tony Zodrow	GulfQuest

Program Management and Organization

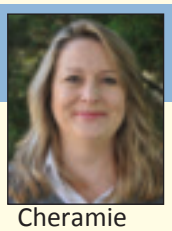


*Management Team member

Figure 1. Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium Organizational Chart

Management Team


Burrage


Cheramie


Jefferson


Leist


Miller-Way


Otts


Schneider


S. Sempier


T. Sempier


Swann


Thompson

MASGC SUPPORT FOR STAFF

Staff Member	Title	FTE
LaDon Swann	Director	0.60
Steve Sempier	Deputy director	0.40
Deborah Jefferson	Executive support associate	1.00
Loretta Leist	Research coordinator	1.00
Devaney Cheramie	Fiscal officer	0.75
COMMUNICATIONS		
Melissa Schneider	Communications coordinator	1.00
Brandi Clarke	Web administrator/publications clerk	0.50
EXTENSION		
Barry Barnes	Legal Program web developer	0.20
Dave Burrage	Extension program leader and fisheries specialist	0.50
Renee Collini	Northern Gulf of Mexico Sentinel Site coordinator	0.50
Stephen Deal	Land use planning extension specialist	1.00
Larissa Graham	Oil spill science extension specialist	1.00
Christian Miller	Water quality extension specialist	0.50
Peter Nguyen	Fisheries technologist	1.00
Stephanie Otts	Legal program director/Assistant director for outreach	0.17
Niki Pace	Legal program senior research counsel	0.79
Ben Posadas	Natural resource economist	0.04
Tracie Sempier	Coastal Storms Program outreach coordinator	0.50
Jody Thompson	Resilient communities and economies extension specialist	0.33
Beth Walton	Seafood extension specialist	0.50
P.J. Waters	Aquaculture extension specialist	0.33
Chandra Wright	Nature tourism extension specialist	1.00
Eric Sparks	Coastal ecology extension specialist	0.25
EDUCATION		
Desiree Bishop	Education program co-PI	0.08
Susan Clement	Educator	0.25
Sara Johnson	Administrative assistant	0.13
Jessica Kastler	Research associate	0.21
Aaron Lamey	Educator	0.15
Troy Latham	Educator	0.25
Tina Miller-Way	Education coordinator/Education program co-PI	0.08
Brandy New	Data processor	0.04
Carrie Riley	Educator	0.25
Anita Salinas	Educator	0.25
Christopher Snyder	Education program co-PI	0.25
Total	**34 People**	**15.80**

Program Management and Organization

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Process to develop RFP priorities

Research priorities developed for requests for proposals are always tied directly to the goals and outcomes in MASGC's strategic plan. The MASGC director and members of the MASGC Management Team begin discussing RFP priorities more than six months prior to the RFP release. This discussion begins with a review of the priorities from the previous omnibus RFP. Each priority is examined to determine its relevance. If the priority is still relevant it remains on the list. The list then grows as research priorities from other state and regional partners are compared to the MASGC strategic plan to identify commonalities. The list of priorities is sent to the MASGC Advisory Council for comment. The advisory council input is then used to finalize the list of priorities. In the most recent RFP, MASGC included 14 total priorities within the healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and resilient communities and economies focus areas.

MASGC's research budget for its omnibus is normally in the range of $350,000-$400,000 in federal dollars per year with a median funding level of around $75,000 per project per year. MASGC also sets aside $30,000-$50,000 each year in its program development (PD) fund. PD projects range from a few hundred dollars to $10,000. Oftentimes, investigators who receive good merit reviews of their omnibus proposals, but are not ranked high enough to fund, submit scaled-back PD proposals to collect preliminary data or to focus on a single objective. Funding decisions for PD research projects are based on merit reviews. PD funds support a wide range of activities, such as graduate student colloquiums and relevant local, regional and national events. PD funds also provide a small pool of resources to rapidly respond to unplanned events (i.e. oil spills and hurricanes).

RESEARCH PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

MASGC's omnibus research program solicits research proposals every two years through its request for proposals (RFP). It takes about one year to develop the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium (MASGC) Research Program from the release of the request for preproposals (RFP) to project initiation. The process consists of a two-step technical review, a relevancy review and the development of a formal outreach and education plan.

Solicitation process

The RFPs are distributed to MASGC member institutions, other Alabama and Mississippi academic institutions, local community leaders and non-profit groups. RFPs are also sent to numerous email lists in Alabama and Mississippi including the two state Water Resources Research Institutes, Gulf of Mexico Alliance and the Northern Gulf Institute. The RFP is posted on the MASGC website (http://masgc.org/funding), Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/MississippiAlabamaSeaGrant) and Twitter account (@MSALSeaGrant). Figure 2 provides a flow chart of the major steps in our proposal review process.

Technical Review Panels (TRPs)

MASGC uses different TRPs for different competitions. For example, the TRP used for MASGC base funding research program is more diverse in terms of expertise than a TRP for a specialized RFP, such as a regional competition or the recent competition for projects related to resilient communities and economies. TRP members are highly regarded experts in their fields and are from federal agencies or universities outside of Alabama or Mississippi, other Sea Grant College Programs and NGOs that are based outside Mississippi and Alabama. The expertise represented in the TRP matches the MASGC focus areas included in the RFP. Conflict of interest among TRP members is addressed by requiring panelists to recuse themselves from the review of any proposal in which they have a conflict. Beginning in 2010, there have been eight TRPs associated with base omnibus funding and an additional eight other TRPs convened for other funding competitions managed by MASGC. A total of 91 people have participated in these panels.

Process for the preproposal recommendations

MASGC distributes the preproposals to the TRP for peer review. The TRP convenes via conference call and discusses each preproposal. Each preproposal is reviewed by two members of the TRP and rated using specific criteria included in the RFP. Preproposals are either "encouraged" or "not encouraged" by the TRP, and principal investigators are sent TRP comments and reviews. Preproposals that are "not encouraged" are still eligible to be submitted as full proposals.

Process for the full proposal selection

MASGC obtains at least two merit reviews for each proposal prior to convening the TRP. A variety of sources are used to identify merit reviewers including online

databases, Internet searches and personal contacts. Two TRP members also review each proposal using review criteria provided in the RFP. By the end of the review process, each proposal receives 3–5 merit reviews. Conflict of interest forms are completed by external merit reviewers. MASGC also avoids conflicts by using scientists from outside of Alabama and Mississippi as external merit reviewers.

After the reviews are completed, the TRP convenes in person for 1–2 days to review proposals. The TRP discusses the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal using the results from the merit reviews and their proposal review. At the conclusion of each discussion, the proposal is placed into a "fundable," "maybe fundable" or "not fundable" category. All proposals are evaluated using the same criteria as the preproposals.

The MASGC Advisory Council (AC) completes a relevancy review of projects rated as "fundable" by the TRP. AC members receive the title and abstract of all "fundable" projects with any references to principal investigators or institutions in the project redacted. AC members rate the relevance of the projects online via SurveyMonkey using a 5-point Likert scale, which ranges from "very high relevance" to "very low relevance." SurveyMonkey randomly orders the projects for each reviewer.

Using the results of the TRP and AC relevancy reviews, MASGC develops its letter of intent (LOI), includes rankings of all proposals submitted, budget request per project, final recommendation of projects to fund and composition of the TRP. The LOI is sent to the National Sea Grant Office for approval. After the National Sea Grant Office approves the LOI, the MASGC Education and Outreach programs work with the principal investigators to develop an outreach plan for each project. The final outreach plan is included in final omnibus submission.

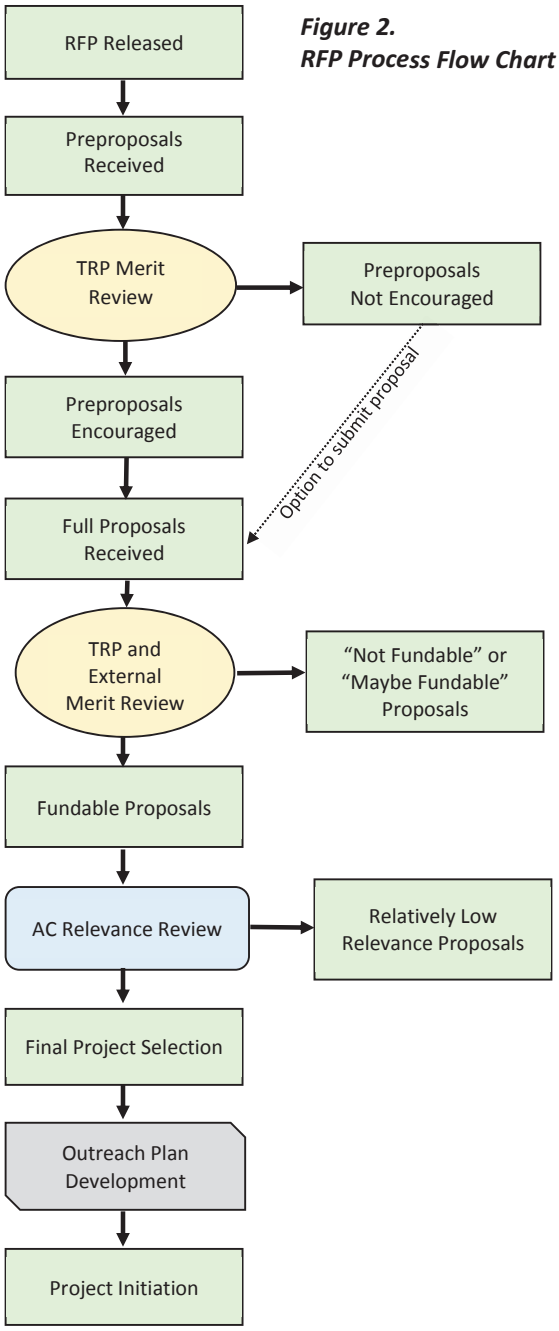


Figure 2.
RFP Process Flow Chart

Timeline for research competitions

November: RFP developed

Mid-December: RFP released

Late February: Preproposals due

Early April: Pre-proposal conference call with TRP

Mid-April: Pre-proposal notification

Early June: Full proposals due

Mid-August: TRP full proposal review meeting

Mid-August: Advisory Council relevancy review

Late August: Letter of Intent to National Sea Grant Office

Late August: Project selection notification sent to investigator(s)

Mid-September: Investigator(s) develop outreach plan in concert with outreach and education specialists assigned to each project

Late September: Investigator(s) respond to reviews, revised budgets and outreach plans

October: Omnibus submitted to National Sea Grant Office

Early February: Successful projects begin

PROPOSAL SUCCESS AND INSTITUTIONS

Over the three Omnibus cycles (2010–2015), MASGC funded 18 omnibus research projects and 10 peer-reviewed research Program Development (PD) projects. There were 14 new investigators, of which six were from consortium institutions.

Omnibus: Numbers of proposals and institutions represented in research RFP process

	10–11 Omnibus (includes PD)	12–13 Omnibus (includes PD)	14–15 Omnibus (includes PD)
Number of PI institutions represented in preproposals	9	10	11
Number of PI institutions represented in full proposals	6	5	15
Number of PI institutions represented in funded projects	5	6	10
Number of new projects funded (No projects were continuing)	8	7	13
Number of new PIs	4	3	7
Number of preproposals	40	12	50
Number of Full proposals	15	22	45

Financial Summary 2010–2014

All funding values reflect the February 1, 2010, through January 31, 2015, time frame.

MASGC Total Funding by Source 2010-2014
(Federal + Match + Pass Through + Leveraged-Managed)
$26,297,855

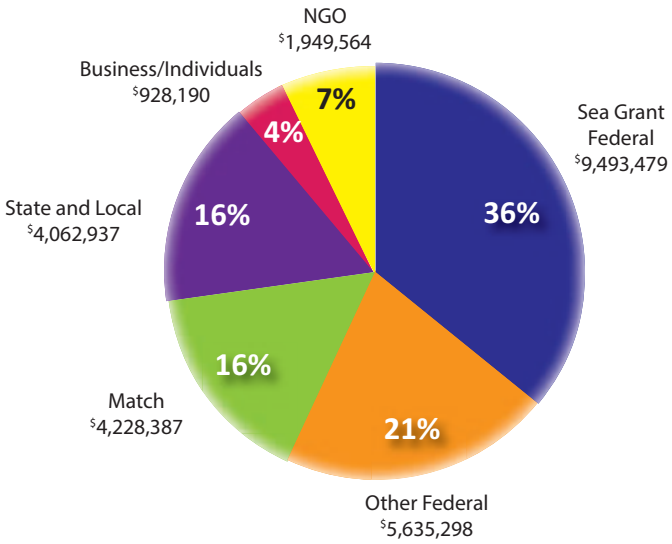


Figure 3. MASGC total distribution of funds by category (includes federal + match + pass through + leveraged – managed funds) 2010 through 2014. Total $26,297,855

MASGC Distribution of Funds 2010-2014
(Federal + Match + Pass Through + Leveraged-Managed)
$26,297,855

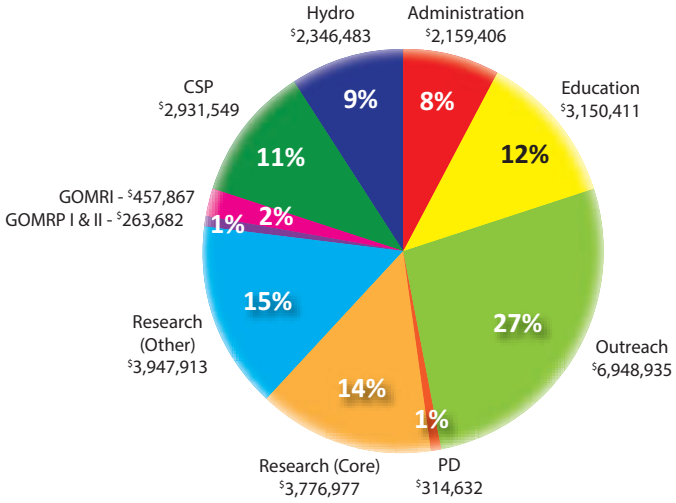


Figure 4. MASGC total funding by source (includes federal + match + pass through + leveraged-managed funds) Total $26,297,855.

MASGC total distribution of funds ($26,297,855) includes federal, pass-through and matching funds ($18,229,692) plus leveraged-managed funds ($8,068,163). Leveraged-Managed funds are additional funds that are managed by or within the direct influence of MASGC and have not been passed through the National Sea Grant College Program.

NEW VERSUS CONTINUING PROJECTS AND PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

All projects in the table below are new.

Title	PI	Affiliation
Habitat suitability index for submerged aquatic vegetation of the Mississippi Coast	Cho	JSU
Decreasing nitrate-n loads to coastal ecosystems with innovative drainage management strategies in agricultural landscapes	Kroger	MSU
Characterizing stormwater nitrogen inputs to Mississippi's coastal waters: A landscape approach	Dillon	USM
Identifying flood generating areas in 8-Mile Creek Watershed through a novel approach	Kalin	AU
Residence time as a factor controlling HABs and fecal coliform bacteria in Little Lagoon, AL	MacIntyre	Dalhousie University
Oyster farming in Alabama: Identifying most viable practices	Walton	AU
Improving wave height prediction during barrier island overtopping	Webb	USA
Fish and invertebrate community structure and food-web dynamics in tidal creeks in an anthropogenically fragmented, coastal landscape	Peterson	USM
A decision support toolkit for the functional design of structures in living shorelines	Webb	USA
Determining the role of headwater wetlands for water quality improvement in coastal Alabama	Anderson	AU
A unified approach for analyzing socioeconomic impacts from meteorological, technological, and economic shocks	Hite	AU
A national survey of consumer preferences for branded Gulf oysters and risk perceptions of Gulf seafood	Petrolia	MSU
Economic impact of working waterfronts in the Alabama coastal economies: An input-output analysis	Zhang	AU
Smart Home America communication and networking development project	Cary	Smart Home America
Crafting a mechanistic functional indicator: Examining allometric relationships of macrobenthos in response to hypoxia	Rakocinski	USM
Predicting the establishment potential of invasive tiger shrimp: The role of competition and predation	Hill	DISL
Effects of aquaculture practices on *Vibrio spp.* in the Eastern Oyster, *Crassostrea virginica*: Test of fouling control practices	Walton	AU
A circulation and transport model for fishery management in Mobile Bay and eastern Mississippi Sound	Park	USA
The value of open space as a waterfront use: A mixed methods study on the Gulf coast	Gordon	MSU
Linking Community Rating System activities to economic and environmental characteristics: Toward a measure of flood resilience	Petrolia	MSU

Program Management and Organization

Title	PI	Affiliation
Assessing past, present and future drought and floods in coastal Mississippi and Alabama (partial funding from Alabama state appropriations)	Tootle	UA
Using acoustic and satellite telemetry to track movements of Alabama's state saltwater fish, Atlantic Tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*)	Drymon	USA
Examining invasive lionfish diet and trophic position in the northern Gulf of Mexico via DNA barcoding of unidentifiable prey items	Patterson	USA
Distribution and abundance of seagrass parasite *Plasmodiophora diplantherae* in the north-central Gulf of Mexico	Biber	USM
Risk reduction through coastal urban forest management outreach	Gordon	MSU
Communication avenues for Vietnamese fishing communities in Mississippi and Alabama with coastal resource agencies	Freeman	MSU
Alabama working waterfront marketing plan	Boehm	Alabama GCCVB
A parameterized climate change projection model for hurricane flooding, wave action, economic damages, and population dynamics	Irish	TAMU
Implications of takings law on innovative planning for sea level rise in the Gulf of Mexico	Otts	UM
Integrating revealed and stated preference approaches for ecosystem service valuation	Caffey	LSU
Ecosystem services provided by Gulf of Mexico habitats: Tools, valuation, and application	Yoskowitz	TAMU
Integrating hazard mitigation into local planning to support community resiliency on the Mississippi Gulf Coast	Beasley	Southern Miss. Planning and Dev. District
A generic television program on flooding with local application	Sommer	grassroots, inc.
Measuring the relative financial vulnerability of municipal governments to tropical natural disaster risk	Fannin	LSU
Gulf of Mexico coastal training program initiative for resilient communities	Shelton	Weeks Bay NERR
Determining best practices when reseeding neighborhoods with nonprofit rebuilding after coastal storms	Mitchell	University of Central Arkansas
Texas and local: Texas tools for community resiliency (Texas coastal citizen planner)	Jacob	Texas Sea Grant
Coastal resilience Gulf of Mexico – Methods, data and web-based mapping applications to inform coastal communities on the risks of sea level rise	Raber	USM
Determining localized impacts of predicted sea level rise to engineered versus natural landscapes, and how risk perception may alter response strategies adopted by ecosystem-dependent communities versus resource-managers	Bethel	University of New Orleans
Development of sea level rise adaptation planning procedures and tools using NOAA sea level rise impacts viewer	Peng	UF
Salinity barrier removal feasibility and restoration in Tampa Bay tidal tributaries	Sherwood	Tampa Bay Estuary Program
Restoration of salinity patterns in upper Apalachicola Bay through reconnection of severed historical watershed drainage pathways	Lewis	NW Florida Water Manag. District
Bayou St. John – Removal of the obsolete flood control structure at Lake Pontchartrain	Gillen	Orleans Levee District
Fish Pass tidal hydrology restoration	Feagin	TAMU

Title	PI	Affiliation
City of Waveland: Review and update the city's mitigation plan, Coastal Storms Program Cooperative Agreement #1, climate adaptation projects	Smith	City of Waveland
Planning project to consider incorporating climate adaptation information in the Biloxi 2012 hazard mitigation plan and developing recommendations to address local risks identified in climate change projections	Holloway	City of Biloxi
Taking the plunge: Addressing climate change adaptation in Key West ordinances and hazard mitigation	Higgins	City of Key West, FL
Building business resiliency in Delcambre	Verret	Twin Parish Port Commission
Adapting infrastructure to climate conditions, Ocean Springs, Mississippi	Martin	City of Ocean Springs, MS
Monitoring coastal boundary along Nueces County beaches	Cross	Nueces County
Development and implementation of a comprehensive resiliency plan for Aransas Pass	Torres	City of Aransas Pass
Franklin County – Planning for disaster resistant businesses	Imbler	Apalachee Regional Planning Council
Proactive planning for safer citizens	Martin	City of Ocean Springs, MS
Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government community project proposal for level safety public outreach program and materials	Gordon	Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government
Development of marine mammal stranding and identification/viewing smartphone apps for the Southeast region	Bates	Versar GMI
Determining the factors contributing to human-dolphin interactions in a long-term resident inshore bottlenose dolphin community	McHugh	Chicago Zoological Society
Testing tackle modifications and fish descender tools for reducing dolphin depredation and scavenging of sport fish	Shippee	Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge
Sea level rise projection for Ocean Springs and mitigation alternatives	Miller	Eco-Systems, Inc.
Assessing vulnerabilities to climate related stressors in Orange Beach, Alabama	Alexander	City of Orange Beach, Alabama
Smart Home Alabama community resilience	Murzin	Smart Home Alabama
A continuing education program for realtors on home owner's insurance	Sommer	grassroots, inc.
Building code education and smart home expo	Smith	City of Orange Beach
Smart Home America community resilience project II	Cary	Smart Home America
Community engagement during the development of the Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan	Powell	AL Dept. Conserv. & Nat. Resources
Community needs assessment: Sea Grant climate change survey	Goidel	LSU
Sea Grant extension for the north Central Gulf of Mexico: A submission to the NOAA Sentinel Site Competition	Collini	DISL

Stakeholder Engagement

LEADERSHIP BY STAFF ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

MASGC team members have held the following leadership and committee positions since the previous site review.

International, National and Regional

- 2014 National Climate Assessment Southeast Technical Working Group (Swann)
- 2015 National Working Waterfronts and Waterways Symposium Co-Chair and Program Chair (Otts)
- 2015 Tri-State Environmental Law Conference (AL, LA, MS) Planning Committee (Pace)
- National Working Waterfront Network Steering Committee (Thompson)
- American Bar Association, Section of Environment Energy and Resources, Marine Resources Committee, Chair (Pace)
- Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation – Outreach and Career Development Committee (Miller-Way)
- Gulf Ecological Management Sites, Coastal Habitat Restoration Planning Committee (S. Sempier)
- Gulf Estuarine Research Society Executive Board, Secretary-Treasurer (Miller-Way)
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance
  - Coastal Community Resilience Priority Issue Team (Pace)
  - Coordination Team (S. Sempier)
  - Data Management Advisory Committee (S. Sempier)
  - Management Team (Swann)
- Gulf of Mexico Climate Community of Practice Planning Committee (Pace, T. Sempier)
- Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System, Products and Services Advisory Council, Interim Chair/Member (S. Sempier)
- Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Gear Advisory Committee (Burrage)
- Gulf of Mexico Regional Research Funders Forum, Interim Chair (Swann)
- Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Communications Team (S. Sempier)
- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Sea Grant Advisory Subcommittee, chair-elect (Burrage)
- Institute for Energy Law, Advisory Board Representative (Pace)
- National Academy of Sciences Gulf Research Program Advisory Group and Program Board (Swann)
- National Association of Marine Labs (Swann)
- National Association of Marine Laboratories Education Committee (Miller-Way)
- National Climate Assessment Southeast Technical Working Group 2014 (Swann)
- National Coastal Storms Program, Leadership Team (T. Sempier)
- National Marine Educators Association, 2012 NMEA Conference Volunteer Committee, Chair (Bishop)
- NOAA Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas Committee (S. Sempier)
- NOAA Gulf of Mexico Regional Collaboration Team (S. Sempier, Swann)
- NOAA-Northern Gulf Institute (NGI) Diversity Internship Program (Miller-Way)
- NOAA's Team Member of the Month (December 2013) (Swann)
- National Ocean Science Bowl Host Committee (S. Sempier)
- Ocean Research Advisory Board (Swann)
- Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program Advisory Committee (T. Sempier)

State and Local

- Alabama Clean Water Partnership – Coastal Basin (Miller)
- Alabama Coastal Recovery Commission (Swann)
- Alabama Fisheries Association, Treasurer (Waters)
- Alabama Gulf Coast Reef & Restoration Foundation, Director and Secretary (Wright)
- Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network (Walton)
- Alabama/Mobile Bay Basin Healthy Watershed Working Group (S. Sempier)
- Bays and Bayous Symposium (biannual Mississippi-Alabama Coastal Symposium)
  - Living Resources Sub-Committee Co-Chair (Burrage)
  - Marketing Committee (Schneider, Snyder)
  - Program Committee Co-Chair (S. Sempier)
  - Steering Committee (T. Sempier, Swann)
  - Water Quality Program Committee (Miller)
- Coastal Nature Destinations Group, Founder and Coordinator (Snyder)
- Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board member (Swann)
- Environmental Educators of Alabama
- Board Member and Exhibitors Chair (Bishop)
- Vice President (Salinas)
- Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Advisory Committee (T. Sempier)
- Gulf Coast ADVANCE at DISL, Program Director (Miller-Way)
- Keep Mobile Beautiful Commission – City of Mobile, Board and Education Committee (Bishop)
- Little Lagoon Preservation Society, Director (Wright)
- Mississippi GoCoast 2020 Coastal Plan Development Team (Swann)
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Plan For Opportunity Advisory Council (S. Sempier)
- Mississippi Governor's Oyster Council, Aquaculture and Emerging Technologies Committee (Swann)
- Mississippi State Bar Section of Natural Resources, Environment and Energy, Executive Committee, Member at Large (Pace)
- Mobile Bay Interagency Working Group (Collini)

- Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
  - Executive Committee (Swann)
  - Science Advisory Committee (Collini, S. Sempier)
  - Restoration Monitoring Working Group, Chair (Collini)
  - Government Networks Committee (Miller)
- Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce Advisory Board (Snyder)
- Tyndall Federal Credit Union, Community Advisory Council (Bishop)
- University of Southern Mississippi Oil Spill Response Team (Snyder)
- University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Lab Oil Spill Operations Committee (Snyder)
- Weeks Bay National Estuary Research Reserve
  - Advisory Committee (Collini, Swann, Salinas)
  - Collaborative Management Advisory Team (S. Sempier)

Sea Grant

- Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant Regional Conference Committee, Lead (S. Sempier)
- Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant Outreach Award Committee (Burrage)
- Sea Grant 50th Anniversary Planning Committee (Swann)
- National Sea Grant College Program Strategic Planning Committee, Co-Chair (Swann)
- Panel reviewer or external reviewer for North Carolina, Oregon and Texas Sea Grant programs and the Coastal Response and Restoration Center (S. Sempier and Swann)
- Sea Grant Association, President-Elect/President/Past-President (Swann)
- Sea Grant Hazard Resilient Coastal Communities Focus Team, Vice-Chair (Swann)
- Sea Grant Week Planning Committee (Swann)

KEY PARTNERSHIPS AND HOW THEY ARE INVOLVED

NOAA's policy on research to application (RtoA) includes the use of non-NOAA research to maximize the timely application of NOAA mission critical tools, products and services. Those familiar to Sea Grant recognize the inherent strength of a credible "boots-on-ground" research, outreach and education organization in implementing NOAA's RtoA policy. Successfully implementing MASGC's strategic plan requires strong and enduring partnerships with programs who have similar missions.

The success of a bi-state consortium creates unique operational opportunities that are not common among single state programs. These opportunities begin with our internal programmatic areas and extend to our regional partnership with the Florida, Louisiana and Texas Sea Grant college programs.

- MASGC, unlike most other Sea Grant college programs, is a consortium of nine institutions of higher education. The partnership by these institutions forms the foundation of this Sea Grant college program. The Vice President of Research or laboratory director for each consortium institution serves on the MASGC Board of Directors.
- Dauphin Island Sea Lab's Discovery Hall Programs, Mobile County Public Schools' Environmental Studies Center and The University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Lab's Marine Education Center partner to implement the environmental literacy component of MASGC's programming.
- Mississippi State University, Auburn University, The University of Mississippi, The University of Southern Mississippi and Dauphin Island Sea Lab are the university programs that collectively implement MASGC's outreach programs (communications, extension, and legal).
- MASGC has used a regional research partnership with the three other Gulf Sea Grant college programs to jointly fund research on resilience, climate and ecosystem service valuation. The regional research program was highly leveraged through financial support from the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program and the NOAA Coastal Services Center

MASGC has established numerous external funding partnerships with organizations in Alabama, Mississippi and around the Gulf of Mexico. In every example, MASGC and the partnering program(s) have successfully achieved more through the partnership than could have been achieved independently. Key examples include:

- The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and MASGC co-fund a non-point source pollution outreach position (Miller).
- The City of Orange Beach and Gulf Shores Tourism provide in-kind support for a nature-based tourism outreach position (Wright) located in Orange Beach, Alabama.
- The City of Biloxi provides in-kind support, including office space, for a Land Use Planning Extension Specialist position (Deal).
- The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) co-funds one position (T. Sempier) who serves as the regional program manager for GOMA and the coastal storms outreach specialist for MASGC.
- Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) provides support for 4.5 FTEs to provide oil spill outreach to stakeholder groups within the region. Each of the four

Sea Grant programs hosts one specialist, and MASGC hosts a half-time project coordinator (Graham, S. Sempier).

- The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) has a long-term partnership with the Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant Programs. Besides hosting a regional Sea Grant Extension committee, the GSMFC provided funding to support staff (B. Walton and Posadas) to implement MarketMaker. MarketMaker is a national online seafood sourcing tool.
- NOAA Coastal Storms Program partnered with MASGC to implement the coastal storms program in Mississippi, Alabama and a portion of Louisiana. Because of the success of the program MASGC administered, NOAA -- for the first and only time to date -- invested in a second round of funding with an expanded scope to cover the Gulf of Mexico region.
- NOAA's Gulf of Mexico Regional Collaboration Team (GoMRCT), NOAA's Office of Coastal Management (formally NOAA Coastal Services Center) and MASGC work together on a variety of local and regional issues including the Gulf of Mexico Climate Community of Practice (CoP) and the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Storms Program.
- NOAA Fisheries collaborated with MASGC on three separate occasions to run regional dolphin interaction research competitions.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND EXAMPLES OF HOW MASGC INVOLVES THEM

The following examples demonstrates how MASGC involves some of its important stakeholders to fulfill the goals and outcomes in its focus areas found in the 2010–2013 and 2014–2017 strategic plans.

Increasing environmental literacy of students

Important stakeholders: K–12 students in Mississippi, Alabama and beyond

How MASGC does it: Three education-based groups jointly implement the MASGC education program. They offer award-winning day and overnight opportunities for K–12 students. They identify topics of interest to K–12 students, develop programming, and use on-site expertise and state standards. Students can also be taught remotely or in a visiting classroom. Educators evaluate increases in content knowledge from the programming.

Examples: MASGC education programs offer field learning experiences, evening programming and engineering-based programming (remotely operated vehicles) that are tied to Mississippi and Alabama state level standards. A travelling marine science classroom visits inland schools and summer camps are also offered to reach students who want to explore coastal science during the summer.

Key partners: Dauphin Island Sea Lab's Discovery Hall Programs, Mobile County Public Schools' Environmental Studies Center, The University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Lab's Marine Education Center, Alma Bryant High School

Increasing teacher proficiency in coastal sciences

Important stakeholders: K–12 teachers in Mississippi, Alabama and beyond

How MASGC does it: MASGC education program increases teacher proficiency in coastal science. Teachers learn through presentations from scientists, field experiences, hands-on activities and lesson plan development based on their experiences. These approaches, recognized as best practices in teacher development, ensure high-quality opportunities for educators.

Examples: For the last four years, a week-long

workshop has allowed educators to hear from fisheries research scientists, use different fish collection methods in the field, learn about common Gulf fish species, and tour aquaculture facilities. Educators also explore hands-on activities suitable for their classrooms and develop grade appropriate lesson plans.

Key partners: Dauphin Island Sea Lab's Discovery Hall Programs, Mobile County Public Schools' Environmental Studies Center and The University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Lab's Marine Education Center

Reducing the financial burden of flood insurance

Important stakeholders: Local officials and coastal residents

How MASGC does it: Our outreach team conducts workshops to help local officials navigate the new Community Rating System (CRS) manual, prepares templates for communities to create Programs for Public Information, offers mitigation solutions tailored to local needs and introduces communities to tools that assess

vulnerabilities. Team members attend floodplain meetings to assess local needs, bring municipalities together to solve similar problems and leverage partner resources to fund outreach materials and tools.

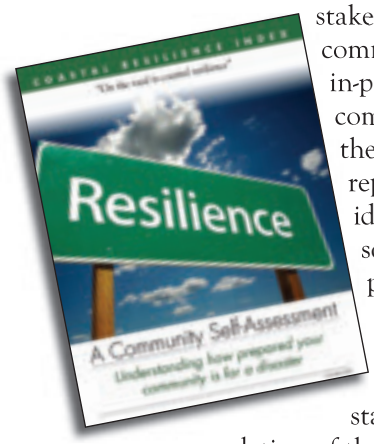
Example: The City of Biloxi decreased its CRS score to a Class 5 as a result of MASGC technical assistance and small grant funding.

Key partners: The City of Biloxi, Southern Climate Impacts and Planning Program

Bouncing forward: Helping communities identify, address vulnerabilities to disasters

Important stakeholders: To date, 47 municipalities, counties and parishes within the five Gulf of Mexico states

How MASGC does it: MASGC staff members contact communities and volunteer to facilitate a self-assessment, organize lists of key stakeholders and invite those stakeholders to meet with the community. MASGC facilitates in-person meetings and guides community members through the assessment, takes notes and reports back to city officials, identifies key actions and funding sources for how to move forward, provides technical assistance to communities on action steps and evaluates the community's progress over time and the status of resilience measures. After completion of the self-assessment, MASGC has provided small grant opportunities to help communities take action to decrease their risk.



Example: The City of Ocean Springs completed the Resilience Index and identified training for their planning commissioners as a key action. As a result, the city applied for a small grant from MASGC and was awarded funds to conduct training for its planning commission. Those funds came from a Gulf of Mexico Alliance grant and were administered through MASGC.

Key partners: The City of Ocean Springs, Allen Science and Engineering, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance

Incorporating climate change into planning

Important stakeholders: Coastal residents and local community leaders

How MASGC does it: MASGC staff identifies communities at risk, convenes meetings to discuss vulnerabilities and provides resources and tools to help communities better understand their options for mitigating risks. MASGC introduces best management practices and examples from other communities to help guide their projects, offers technical assistance, such as drafting language for ordinances and hazard mitigation plans, and offers feasible mitigation solutions along with their pros and cons. MASGC provides resources to assess risk, small grants to incorporate sea level rise into hazard mitigation plans, and outreach expertise to disseminate risk maps and brochures at local venues.

Example: The City of Waveland received a small grant from MASGC to incorporate climate risks into its hazard mitigation plan using localized maps to identify new risks from sea level rise. These maps and subsequent information were updated in the city's hazard mitigation plan and used to make planning decisions.

Key partners: The City of Waveland, AMEC Consulting, FEMA

Residents tackle hazards with home improvements

Important stakeholders: Homeowners in Mississippi and Alabama

How MASGC does it: MASGC established a working group of experts to draft the material important for homeowners to know about natural hazards, published the book with funds from various partners (including state agencies), and disseminated the Homeowners Handbook for Natural Hazards to additional partners for their use at local and regional events (i.e. Red Cross, emergency management). MASGC evaluated the utility of the book for improving resilience. The handbook provides guidance on mitigation measures that can save money.

Example: MASGC supported outreach for Mobile and Baldwin county realtors, which included providing them with copies of the Homeowners Handbook to present to home buyers. As a result, realtors have requested more copies.

Key partners: Smart Home America, Institute for Business and Home Safety, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Red Cross, Simpson Strong-Tie, Schneider Insurance, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Gulf of Mexico Alliance, EPA, NOAA, Coast Electric, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, Alabama Emergency Management Agency, four Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant college programs

Stakeholder Engagement

Creating citizen scientists through oyster gardening

Important stakeholders: Residents and visitors to the Alabama Gulf Coast

How MASGC does it: MASGC outreach coordinates dozens of volunteer "gardeners" supported by corporate citizens, adoptions and NGO partnerships in an annual effort to produce oysters for planting each fall. This program allows stakeholders to play an active role in oyster restoration. It also provides hands-on learning opportunities for students and instills in them ownership of the health and well-being of the local waters. This ownership is extended to other stakeholders, local and visitors, by way of the 26 stops along the Oyster Trail. Each stop, sponsored by a local business or group, has fun facts about oysters and estuarine ecology and provides a lasting impression in the form of 4-foot oysters painted by local artists.

Example: Oyster Trail visitors from the U.S., Europe and Central America have submitted scavenger hunt forms (pursuit of knowledge conveyed through facts on statues). The Virginia oyster gardening program has installed two statues of their own after a gardener visited the Mobile Oyster Trail. An oyster statue has been placed in the Netherlands after a tourist visited the trail, indicating the successful transfer of knowledge and communication of the value of aquatic ecosystems.

Key partners: Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University Shellfish Laboratory, Mobile Arts Council, Mobile Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau, City of Mobile, corporate sponsors of the Oyster Trail

Creating an oyster aquaculture industry from scratch

Important stakeholders: Organized Seafood Association of Alabama, Gulf Oyster Industry Council, Point aux Pins Oysters, Murder Point Oyster Company, Bon Secour Fisheries, seafood restaurants, restoration practitioners

How MASGC does it: MASGC invests in research to remove barriers to oyster aquaculture development. It collaborates with state agencies and others to refine permitting process and develop oyster-farm "parks" to serve as business incubators. MASGC partners with industry and academic experts to assess market demands and serves on the Mississippi Governor's Oyster Council and other industry-supporting efforts.

Examples: In less than four years, MASGC and its partners have developed a successful, profitable oyster farming industry that produces high-value products in Alabama. MASGC is now working in Mississippi to assist in advancing oyster aquaculture.

Key partners: Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Marine Resources, Alabama Department of Public Health – Seafood Branch, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Mississippi Governor's Oyster Council, Texas Sea Grant College Program, Louisiana Sea Grant College Program

Enabling sustainable waterfront management

Important stakeholders: Working waterfront businesses, waterfront property owners, City of Gulf Shores, Alabama Working Waterfront Coalition

How MASGC does it: MASGC partners with permitting agencies, works with city planners, shares innovative living shoreline practices with waterfront property owners and leads a state-wide working waterfront coalition.

Examples: MASGC held living shoreline workshops for more than 504 participants, helped develop an Alabama working waterfront plan to guide waterfront development, and helped a coastal community establish a working waterfront overlay district. MASGC has collaborated closely with waterfront property owners, including those that use the property as "working waterfronts," to individuals looking to protect their property from erosion. This collaboration covers many issues, including developing a working waterfront state plan, developing overlay zones and streamlining the living shoreline permitting process.

Key partners: Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Lands Division, Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, Maine Sea Grant College Program, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Improving the livelihoods of fishermen

Important stakeholders: Shrimpers and shrimper families in Mississippi and Alabama

How MASGC does it: MASGC shares methods that enable shrimpers to operate more cost effectively, provides value-added programing to shrimpers and improves safety of shrimpers.

Examples: Sharing new trawl gear technology has allowed Mississippi shrimpers to save more than $1 million in fuel costs. Trade Adjustment Assistance training, which MASGC offered, allowed Mississippi and Alabama Shrimpers to receive more than $2 million. And, MASGC hosted training for the U.S. Coast Guard to certify trainers to train shrimpers in vessel safety.

Key partners: Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Mississippi Cooperative Extension Program, U.S. Coast Guard

Reducing non-point source pollution in estuaries

Important stakeholders: Daphne, Spanish Fort, Mobile, Prichard, Fairhope, Orange Beach, AL and Diamondhead, MS

How MASGC does it: Coastal communities in Mississippi and Alabama have engaged with MASGC in projects related to mitigating non-point source pollution, water quality monitoring and conservation and restoration of natural resources.

Examples: These efforts include the development and implementation of comprehensive watershed management plans addressing coastal watersheds and programs, such as NEMO and Alabama Water Watch, which educate local elected and municipal officials and coastal residents on the impacts of non-point source pollution on coastal water quality.

Key partners: Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, Alabama Cleanwater Partnership, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality – Coastal Basin Team

Creating resilient nature-based tourism businesses

Important stakeholders: Recreational charter-for-hire fishing operators, dolphin and nature cruise operators, kayak/canoe outfitters, SCUBA diving shops and charters, and nature attractions

How MASGC does it: MASGC provides technical assistance in business planning, marketing, sustainable business best practices, and other topics through one-on-one meetings, needs assessment surveys, small group meetings and educational workshops.

Examples: MASGC offers technical assistance to the Alabama Gulf Coast Reef & Restoration Foundation, a nonprofit organization formed to develop additional artificial reefs in coastal waters to benefit both charter-for-hire and private recreational fishing and to increase SCUBA diving tourism. The foundation's inaugural project was the successful deployment of the first wholly intact purpose-sunk cargo freighter in Alabama.

Key partners: Gulf Shores and Orange Beach Tourism, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama Gulf Coast Reef & Restoration Foundation

Collaborative Network and NOAA Activities

COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER SEA GRANT, NOAA AND AGENCY PARTNERS

Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant Programs (Swann and S. Sempier)

The four Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant Programs have an excellent working relationship. The programs have funded 6 regional research projects over 3 funding cycles totaling $3.8 million in partnership with the NOAA National Ocean Service (NOS) and the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program. MASGC has contributed to or coordinated an additional 66 regional research, restoration and outreach projects totaling $6.9 million. The outreach programs work together on regional in-reach network meetings and a regional economics project. Most recently, the programs initiated a partnership with the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) to conduct oil spill research extension.

Sea Grant Association (Swann and Cheramie)

LaDon Swann has been involved in the Sea Grant Association (SGA) where he has served president and is currently serving as immediate past-president. During his tenure as president, Sea Grant experienced two years of increased budgets, the issue of funding allocation was resolved and SGA was invited to serve on the NOS-led NOAA Coastal Roundtable. While serving as president-elect, he was vice-Chair of National Sea Grant Strategic Planning Committee. He currently is serving on the 50th Anniversary committee. Devaney Cheramie is working as a contractor to provide fiscal support and event management for the SGA.

NOAA Gulf of Mexico Regional Collaboration Team (Swann and S. Sempier)

MASGC is an active member of the Gulf of Mexico Regional Collaboration Team (GoMRCT) and was one of the first Sea Grant programs to become a Weather Ready Nation (WRN) Ambassador. The Gulf of Mexico Climate Community of Practice (CoP) was created in 2010 in partnership with the GoMRCT and the four Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant college programs. The CoP provides in-reach to Sea Grant outreach personnel and provides climate adaptation outreach to coastal communities.

Coastal Storms Program (T. Sempier)

The NOAA Coastal Storms Program (CSP) is a nationwide effort that works to reduce the impact of coastal storms, including loss of life, through increasing the resiliency of affected communities. MASGC was selected to implement the CSP from 2007 to 2012 under two separate cooperative agreements. This is the first time NOAA supported a coastal region for CSP for longer than three years. As a result, the program successfully managed 38 small grant awards, completed a social network analysis of products and services, and conducted the first formal evaluation of a region under the CSP (including return on investment of the program). In addition, CSP products and tools have been implemented Gulf wide in five states with documented cost savings to local communities.

Community-based Restoration Partnership with the NOAA Restoration Center: Gulf of Mexico Hydrologic Restoration (S. Sempier)

The four Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant college programs successfully competed for one of the few community-based restoration partnerships available through the NOAA Restoration Center. This partnership has resulted in an inventory of 88 potential hydrological restoration sites throughout the region that has been used by the NOAA Restoration Center, groups responding to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and others. In addition, MASGC and the other Gulf Sea Grant programs have successfully funded four on-the-ground restoration projects around the region that, by completion, will restore approximately 3,000 acres.

Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) (multiple staff)

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance is the Gulf's regional ocean partnership that was initiated by the five Gulf governors in 2004. MASGC is an active participant in and supporter of almost every GOMA Priority Issue Team (PIT), working group, advisory council and other management or coordination teams. The Coastal Storms Program coordinator has a co-funded position with MASGC and is the regional program manager for GOMA. The MASGC director serves on the Alliance Management Team, which includes the Governor appointees and federal partners. The MASGC deputy director serves on the Alliance Coordination Team and Data Management Advisory Committee. At least seven additional MASGC outreach and education specialists serve on various GOMA PITs and committees. Key GOMA projects with significant MASGC involvement include the Homeowners Handbook, StormSmart Coasts (an online web resource), Community and Industry Resilience Indices and the Gulf of Mexico Research Funders Forum.

National Working Waterfronts Network (Thompson)

The National Working Waterfront Network increases the capacity of coastal communities and stakeholders to make informed decisions, balance diverse uses, ensure access and plan for the future of working waterfronts and waterways. MASGC outreach personnel (Thompson, lead) have been active participants in the NWWN, including serving as a founding steering committee member and as a symposium co-chair for the upcoming National Working Waterfronts and Waterways Symposium in Tampa, Florida. MASGC has contributed to the development of NWWN outreach materials, including regional case studies.

Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (S. Sempier, Graham and Swann)

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) is investing $500 million over a 10-year period to better understand the impacts of oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico. GoMRI's primary investment is in research. As discoveries are made, GoMRI has identified a need to share these results with people whose livelihoods depend on a healthy Gulf of Mexico. Because GoMRI values the outreach that Sea Grant does, it selected the four Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant college programs to jointly develop and implement an oil spill science outreach program as part of GoMRI's overall outreach efforts. The Sea Grant/GoMRI oil spill science outreach team is working with numerous stakeholder groups to deliver relevant oil spill science information through seminars, bulletins, face-to-face meetings and other means.

National Academies of Science's Gulf Research Program (Swann)

As part of legal settlements with the companies involved in the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the federal government asked the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to establish a new $500-million program to fund and conduct activities to enhance oil system safety, human health and environmental resources in the Gulf of Mexico. Over its 30-year duration, the Gulf Research Program will work to enhance oil system safety and the protection of human health and the environment in the Gulf of Mexico and other U.S. outer continental shelf areas.

SUCCESS IN SEA GRANT NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Between 2010 and 2014, MASGC placed eight Sea Grant Knauss Fellows and one NMFS Fellow. These fellows included Anne Marie LeBlanc Eich, Andrew Coleman, Clifford Hutt, Courtney Smith, Elizabeth Bevan, Jennifer Zeigler, Anthony Marshak, Shailesh Sharma and Steven Garner. MASGC also was successful in the following National Sea Grant Competitions.

National Strategic Investment 2010 Research		
Sea Grant Aquaculture Research Program 2010: Eliminating human-pathogenic *Vibrio vulnificus* from Gulf Coast oysters with high salinity depuration	Arias	AU
Aquaculture Research NSI 2010: An engineered multi-trophic approach to minimizing effluent impacts from marine recirculating aquaculture systems	Blaylock	USM
2010: Enhancing Sea Grant's Ability to Help Coastal Communities Adapt to Climate Change		
Sea Grant Omnibus Proposal Climate Initiative: Enhancing Sea Grant's ability to help coastal communities adapt to climate change	Swann	MASGC
National Strategic Investment 2010 Extension		
Farming the fertile crescent: Intensification of oyster culture in the northern Gulf of Mexico	Walton	AU
National Strategic Investment 2012 Research		
Quantifying the economic value of ecosystem services of oyster farming as offsets to regulatory fees	Walton	AU
Innovative application of classic microbiology for detecting *Vibrio vulnificus* in raw and post-harvest processed oysters	Kim	MSU
A genomic approach to the genetic management of aquaculture and stock enhancement in emerging marine species	Saillant	USM
National Strategic Investment 2014 Research		
Validation of field-applicable detection kits for total and pathogenic Vibrio parahaemolyticus in oysters	Kim	MSU

Increasing the reliability, nutritional value, and economic viability of large-scale copepod production for marine fish larviculture	Blaylock	USM
National Sea Grant College Program 2014 Special Projects		
SG Extension for the North Central Gulf of Mexico: A submission to the NOAA Sentinel Site Competition	Collini	DISL
2012–2013 Social Science Initiative		
Gulf of Mexico Economics Working Group	Posadas	MSU
2012–2013 Climate Adaptation Capacity Building Initiative		
Dauphin Island Climate Resiliency Study	Otts	UM
Resilience benchmarking for the North Central Gulf Coast	Price	MS DMR
2014–2015 Omnibus Climate Extension		
Enhancing MS-AL SG outreach to address community climate adaptation meeds in MS and AL	Otts	UM
2014 Social Science Initiative		
2014–2015 Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium Social Science Initiative	Swann	MASGC

Program changes resulting from previous site review

2010 SITE REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2010 site review team made one recommendation and one suggestion. The recommendation was to "evaluate the membership of the Advisory Council (AC), not simply based on representing a range of agencies, but rather by focusing on specific areas of expertise and access that would most benefit the MASGC. One path to such evaluation is evaluating the networks that the MASGC can influence through extension and other outreach. Such an evaluation might result in the inclusion of additional members, for example, elected officials and representatives from emergency management and other organizations."

The MASGC addressed this recommendation through a thorough evaluation of the AC. Elected officials, emergency management representation and members to increase representation of specific areas of expertise were recruited to the AC that would most benefit MASGC. AC members were retained or new members identified based on their alignment with the MASGC focus areas in order to address this recommendation and provide MASGC leadership with useful input to advance the program.

In addition to the recommendation, the 2010 site review team made this suggestion: "This two-state consortium represents a powerful model that has been effective for 38 years. A full analysis, however, recognizes that there are resulting costs to this consortium arrangement. Managing operational, fiduciary and political differences between the states does exert additional transactional costs. And, it is possible that either state might take a stronger advocacy role if the program was not a shared program. Revisiting the cooperative model would be a major distraction. However, there are very effective one-state and one-institution organizational models elsewhere in the country. Therefore, it is suggested that the MASGC should informally re-evaluate if the current model remains the best model for the two states."

The MASGC Board of Directors addressed this suggestion during its 2011 annual meeting. After a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of a bi-state model versus creating two separate programs, the board concluded that overall the program is more effective through the bi-state consortium model.

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