

Alabama's Working Waterfronts: Preserving Vital Economies

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Historic Waterfronts

- Traditional fishing villages along the Gulf Coast: commercial fishing, processing facilities, boat yards, supporting businesses
- Large participation from Vietnamese and Laotian communities (Bayou La Batre, AL: 51.7% white, 23% Vietnamese, 9.5% other Asian, approx. 1500 total residents)



Coastal Alabama



Waterfront-Based Economic Impacts

- ❖ Commercial shellfishing
- ❖ Charter fishing
- ❖ Water-related tourism, nature-based tourism, birding
- ❖ Economic expenditures related to fishing and non-consumptive activities around Mobile Bay, AL = \$3 billion/year (S. Chang and S. Canode, University of South Alabama, 1999)



Effects of Natural Hazards



Alabama Working Waterfront Coalition

- ❖ Over 40 stakeholders: shrimping, oystering, processing, ship building, real estate, tourism, local & state governments
- ❖ Facilitated by Auburn University Marine Extension & Research
- ❖ Center/MS-AL Sea Grant in response to industry concerns
- ❖ With AUMERC/MASGC assistance, moving towards a stand-alone stakeholder group



Alabama Waterfront Access Study Committee

- ❖ Created by HJR 656 of the Alabama Legislature: May 2008.
- ❖ Charge
 - ❖ provide a report studying the loss and potential loss of the diversity of uses along the shorelines of Alabama, and how these losses impact access to the public trust waters of the state.



AWASC Recommendations

- ❖ Final report and recommendations presented to the Legislature March 2010.
- ❖ 13 management technique & tool recommendations in 4 categories in 3 priority tiers:
 - ❖ Planning/Zoning Issues
 - ❖ Socio-economic Issues
 - ❖ Infrastructure Issues
 - ❖ Financial Incentive Issues

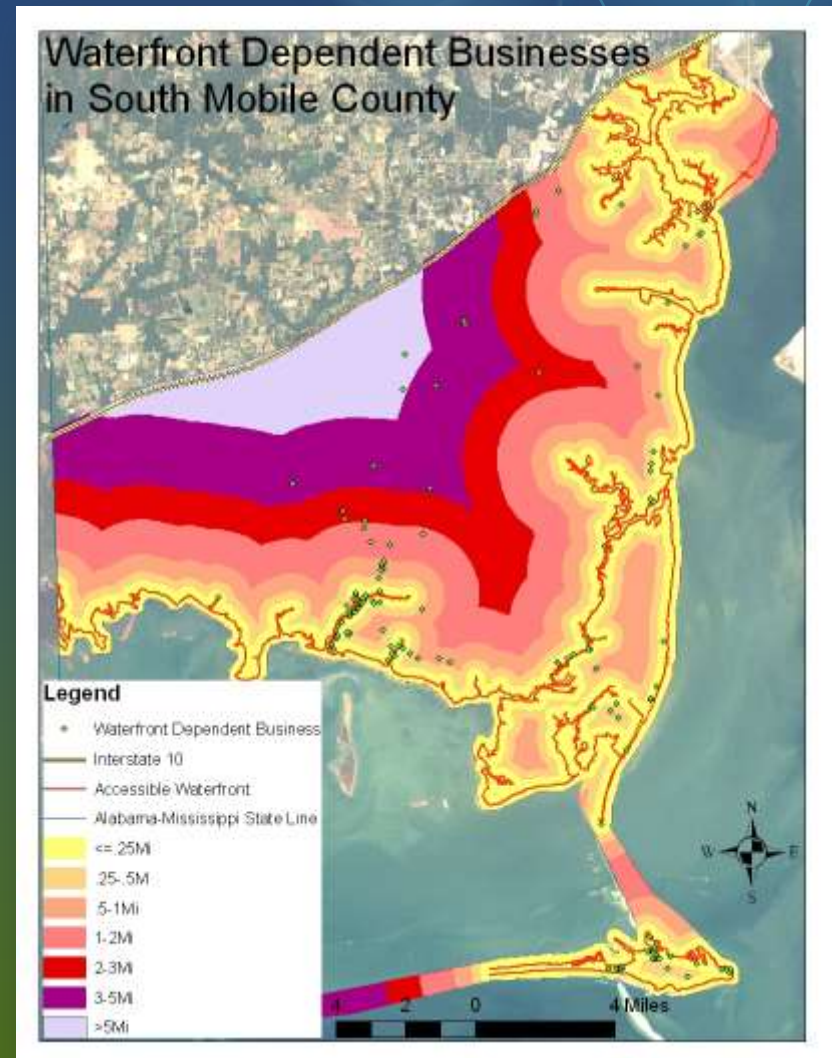


Alabama Waterfront Access Study Committee

- ❖ Renewed by the Legislature in 2011, 2012, and 2013
- ❖ No state funding
- ❖ No new charge

Socio-Economic Survey

- ❖ Initial survey funded by MASGC in 2007
- ❖ Portions of Mobile County only
- ❖ GIS mapping, Community Survey
- ❖ Additional MASGC funding in 2012 to expand area/focus
- ❖ Two-year project; results expected soon



Community Efforts



- ❖ Gulf Shores, AL
 - ❖ Adopted Working Waterfront Overlay District in 2012
 - ❖ With assistance from AUMERC, MASGC, MS-AL SG Legal Program and National Sea Grant Law Center
 - ❖ Pursuing acquisition of property to develop dock space and seafood marketing

Community Efforts

- ❖ Dauphin Island, AL
- ❖ ID'ed Working Waterfront in strategic plan
- ❖ Developing WWF District



Questions?

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