



Governors' South Atlantic Alliance and Working Waterfronts

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S.C. Sea Grant Consortium

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Tacoma, Washington
March 27, 2013

Presentation Outline

- ▶ Brief GSAA Overview
- ▶ Working Waterfronts Priority Issue Area
- ▶ Progress to Date
- ▶ Next Steps



Partnership Agreement

- ▶ Signed by the Governors of SC, GA, FL, & NC
- ▶ Supports regionally-based actions and solutions
- ▶ Creates a partnership among states, federal and local agencies; academia; nongovernmental organizations; businesses; and the public
- ▶ Aligns with southeastern states' recommendations to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy



The State
South Carolina's Homepage™

NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS LIVING ENTERTAINMENT OPINIONS PHOTOS / VIDEO

LOCAL POLITICS CRIME NATION WORLD PHOTO/VIDEO WEIRD NEIGHBORS

News - Local / Metro
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009

4 states in Southeast form coastal alliance

CHARLESTON - Environmental officials from four Southeastern states are an alliance to deal with regional coastal issues during a meeting on the South C...

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control is hosting officials Carolina, Georgia and Florida in Charleston on Monday to announce the Gov Atlantic Alliance.



States plan to work together

Carolinas, Georgia Florida in alliance

BY BO PETERSEN
The Post and Courier
Monday, October 19, 2009

South Carolina will work with its neighboring states on coastal issues such as marine life, erosion, pollution and economics.

A newly formed Governors' South Atlantic Alliance Partnership that includes North Carolina, Georgia and Florida will focus on sustaining natural resources that support the region, as well as historical, cultural and social heritage.

Under the agreement, the states would work together on expensive projects, such as integrating the monitoring and mapping of the South Atlantic, and finding common

Mission Statement

Increase regional collaboration among South Atlantic states, with federal agency partners and other stakeholders, to sustain and enhance the environmental (coastal/marine), natural resource, economic, public safety, social, and national defense missions of the respective states and the South Atlantic region.



Goals

The Alliance provides a structure and forum for collaborating, coordinating, and sharing information that will support:

- ▶ Resource sustainability
- ▶ Improved regional alignment
- ▶ Cooperative planning and leveraging resources
- ▶ Integrated research, observations, and mapping
- ▶ Increased awareness of the challenges facing the South Atlantic region
- ▶ Inclusiveness and integration at all levels

Priority Issue Areas

The four states have identified an initial set of priority issue areas:

- ▶ **Healthy Ecosystems**
- ▶ **Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters**
- ▶ **Disaster-Resilient Communities**
- ▶ **Working Waterfronts**



Working Waterfronts

Working waterfronts include water-dependent facilities and related shore-side infrastructure offering access or support for a wide variety of public, business, recreation, and commercial uses.

The Alliance will work to:

- ▶ Strike a balance between new development, historic uses and sustained resources
- ▶ Support port development/maintenance and effective coastal planning
- ▶ Ensure public access

Technical Team Members

▶ Mentor

- Chris Russo, NCDENR

▶ State Representatives

- Maureen Meehan, NCDENR (team leader)
- Julie Dennis, FL DEO
- Shawn Jordan, GADNR
- April Turner, SCSGC

▶ Federal Representatives (NOAA, USGS, USACE)

▶ Additional Members

- Regional Level Partners
- Knowledge-Based Partners

South Atlantic Alliance – Plans

www.southatlanticalliance.org

Governors' South Atlantic Alliance

Action Plan



Bev Perdue
Governor, North Carolina



Mark Sanford
Governor, South Carolina



Sonny Perdue
Governor, Georgia



Charlie Crist
Governor, Florida

Governors' South Atlantic Alliance Implementation Plan 2011

Implementation Plan Executive Summary

The Governors' South Atlantic Implementation Plan is a regional response to address key environmental, economic, national defense, and cultural issue areas facing the Southeastern U.S. coasts and ocean. The Governors identified and promoted four priority issue areas that are of mutual importance to the sustainability of the Southeast U.S. region's resources: healthy ecosystems, working waterfronts, clean coastal and ocean waters, and disaster-resilient communities. The Issue Area Technical Teams, guided by lead state mentors and the Executive Planning Team, with input from stakeholders and other partners, will continue to develop this Implementation Plan to address objectives contained in the Alliance's Action Plan.

HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS. Healthy ecosystems are the backbone of the Southeast's thriving coastal communities. To meet the challenges of conserving the biological, economic and cultural diversity of the region, four objectives were identified: regionally-coordinated, compatible and sustainable ecosystem planning and management; assessment of economic development and climate change impacts on the structure and function of coastal habitats; development and employment of science-based land use, coastal, and ocean planning and management; and determination of long-term impacts of and remediation strategies for invasive species.

Implementation steps for the first objective include analyses of existing habitat and marine resource mapping efforts, identification of gaps in those efforts, and development of a coordinated framework through which to map priority resources. Metadata from existing monitoring programs will be collated and compared to identify resource measures of common interest. This information will be used to enhance, inform and coordinate ongoing coastal ecosystem management initiatives.

For the second objective, implementation includes development of a list of anticipated climate change impacts on priority habitats and biological resources as well as vulnerability assessment maps that integrate these impacts for use in multi-state planning efforts. Other actions include evaluation of existing "indices of condition" (e.g., for habitats, ecosystem function, community structure, etc.) to determine suitability for use at a regional scale. These efforts will inform the development of a methodology to forecast regional ecosystem "carrying capacity" that integrates climate change and cumulative impact assessments from coastal development.

Implementation actions to accomplish the third objective include identification and prioritization of resources in greatest need of conservation that would benefit from regional coastal and marine spatial planning. The Alliance will develop and define ecosystem-based land-use planning strategies that incorporate established methods and policies. Finally, the Alliance will evaluate existing public education and outreach efforts regarding ecosystem health and develop complementary programs where necessary to target specific user groups or incorporate additional information for current target groups.

With regard to the fourth objective that addresses invasive species, implementation steps include evaluation and expansion (where necessary) of invasive species map products and compilation of state invasive species remediation plans that identify mechanisms to prevent future introductions. The identification and engagement of regional species experts for life history information and understanding of gaps in knowledge, surveillance, and alert systems must also be undertaken.

WORKING WATERFRONTS. Growth, environmental degradation, and displacement are some of the issues facing traditional working waterfront communities along the southeastern U.S. coastline. Robust working waterfronts that incorporate water-dependent facilities and related shore-side infrastructure that offer access or support facilities for recreation, commerce, research, and other public uses, including military operations and training, are essential to community well-being. Further, major port complexes in the Southeastern U.S. are of vital economic importance to the

2012 Priority Actions

- ▶ Protect U.S. military waterfront access and water-dependent land use related to military footprint, operational readiness, and training missions.
- ▶ Support community-based mapping work to identify contemporary, historical, recreational and commercial working waterfront sites.
- ▶ **Develop definitions & criteria for commercially, recreationally, and culturally important waterfronts.**

2013 Priority Actions

- ▶ Inventory public access infrastructure and support facilities within the four states.
- ▶ Integrate regional long range planning for both commercial and federal ports emphasizing multi-modal, multi-use capacity, and promoting the use of existing infrastructure and navigational channels through increased communication between member states.
 - ▶ Identify underutilized brownfields for port expansion

Ideas At Work ...

- ▶ NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Grant
 - Regional Proposal Submitted January 2013
- ▶ North Carolina Beach Access Inventory
- ▶ Working Waterfronts in Florida
- ▶ Funding!!!



Questions?

www.southatlanticalliance.org

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