

Mission

Universities across five U.S. Gulf of Mexico states initiated marine research consortia over the past decades. GOMURC's region-wide alliance of these consortia promotes large-scale, long-term research initiatives required to address Gulf ecosystem-wide stressors such as hurricanes, oil spills, and climate change. Just as ecosystem stressors cross state boundaries, so must efforts to understand, mitigate and restore impacted resources.



Oil in LA marsh from Deepwater Horizon oil spill (DWHOS) (credit: AP).

GOMURC Principal Member Consortia (representing 80 institutions):

Alabama Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium
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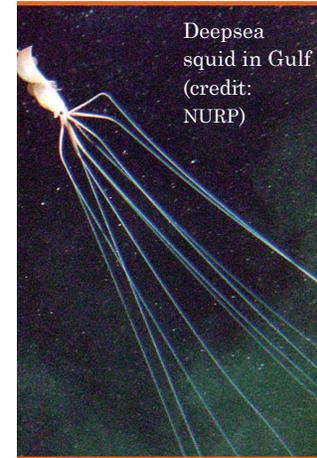
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Gulf of Mexico University Research Collaborative



*Science,
education and
outreach for
Gulf ocean and
coast*



United by Geography and Purpose

<http://www.gomurc.org>

GOMURC Vision:

Gulf of Mexico ecosystem understood scientifically and used economically in ways that ensure sustainability of natural and human capital.

Mission:

GOMURC is a multi-state university-based research consortia collaborating to promote scientific knowledge, workforce development, and understanding that informs natural resource management decisions at state, regional, national and international levels.

Objectives:

Science for Recovery- work to ensure Gulf ecosystem restoration is based on the best-available science information and practices;

One Gulf- engage scientists, engineers and educators from across all bordering Gulf nations; and

Next Generation- educate and train the experts required to handle the science and engineering needs for future generations.

Highlighted Accomplishments:

Advocate:

- * Passage of RESTORE Act, ensures most of DWH oil spill settlement funds used to restore Gulf ecosystems and economy.
- * Marine Restoration Workshop results used by Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council to develop fisheries restoration priorities for RESTORE Act.
- * Restoration Science Workshop engaged program leaders in identifying how to integrate “best available science” into restoration.
- * Publications highlighting value of Gulf ecosystem services and need and ways to restore ocean living resources.



Hurricane Katrina satellite image (NOAA)

Coordinate:

- * Facilitated Gulf Restoration Science Programs Coordination Team, inaugural coordination effort among all restoration science programs.
- * News blog features developments in Gulf restoration science, education and policy.
- * Co-sponsored regional science meetings, e.g., State of Gulf Summits, Gulf of Mexico Alliance annual meetings, and Gulf Oil spill and Ecosystem Science Conferences.



MS River drains 40% of U.S. into Gulf including 32 states and parts of Canada (USACE).

- * MOUs with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Gulf Coastal Ocean Observing System, and Mexico universities (CiiMar-GoMC).

2017 Actions:

Advocate:

- * Ecosystem and project-level monitoring and observing program.
- * Engagement of members in restoration programs.
- * New regional initiatives to deal with chronic and abrupt ecosystem stressors.

Coordinate:

- * Activities to support science-based restoration programs and integrated information management.
- * With regional partners including international alliances (Mexico and Cuba)
- * Communications among members
- * Activities to convey GOMURC priorities to decision/policy-makers.