

## Gulf Summit Remarks – Zultner

- In order to maximize the variety of benefits and opportunities the coast and ocean provide, it is essential to improve the capacity and coordination of federal, state and local governments to make informed decisions.
- The national policy and framework will enable federal agencies and states to better proactively plan for emerging coastal resource uses, including the increasing demand for both traditional and renewable energy in coastal and offshore areas, restoring and maintaining fisheries and adapting to the effects of climate change.
- Texas and other Gulf states have begun coordination on data collection, observations and mapping efforts through the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) and planning for ecosystem based management through the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Taskforce.
- The Texas coast and adjoining waters are experiencing a growing number of important and often competing activities such as maritime transportation, oil and gas drilling, development of offshore and coastal renewable energy, and waste disposal. These conflicting uses extend into recreational and conservation activities.
- While planning and mapping of coastal areas for a variety of purposes has been conducted in Texas, a more integrated and comprehensive approach to planning, managing, and preventing conflict within the state's coastal and marine areas is needed. This approach can be achieved through coastal spatial planning. Rather than focusing on individual coastal sectors and projects, a spatial planning process would integrate information and bring stakeholders to the table to identify goals and objectives.
- Texas's coast-wide spatial planning framework will also guide state policy-makers to achieve a sustainable balance among ecological, social, economic, and governance objectives; create greater certainty and less risk for users; and streamline permitting and regulation.
- The National Ocean Policy will serve as a basis of support and guidance for coastal management, planning and decision making related to protection and restoration of Gulf ecosystems.
- It is critical that the national framework process is conducted in collaboration with and builds on existing state and regional coastal planning efforts. This will enable more efficient use of resources, addressing of key priorities and building a common baseline and data standards for assessing and managing resources.
- Both state and federal agencies should be responsible for synthesis of best available data and information; however the federal agencies, in cooperation with the states and regional efforts should guide the development, conversion, collection and standardization of current and new data and information for coastal spatial planning in Texas and elsewhere.