

SGM SUMMIT 2017 AGENDA



Sunday–March 26

6:00–8:00 Welcome Reception

Monday–March 27

An Ecologically and Economically Sustainable Gulf of Mexico – A perspective on day one of the Summit.

The Gulf of Mexico is vital to the energy security, economic vitality, and environmental and human health of the United States. Plenary speakers were invited because they have a vision of a future Gulf and the world ocean of which it is a part that is positive and compelling. Our speakers are well aware of challenges that face our oceans, but they are also solutions orientated and willing to share their thoughts and ideas to help set the stage for a productive Summit. The remainder of the day builds on these thoughts and ideas. How we approach the challenge of Gulf restoration can have a greater impact, beyond environmental health, for Gulf communities and economies. A key aspect of this is to better understand how environmental health is linked to human health. Equally important, is determining how a robust environment drives societal well-being. This information must then be made digestible and actionable so decision-makers and stakeholders can use science to improve policy, management actions and every day decisions. These considerations will be the focus of Monday's sessions as we envision and examine priority challenges and opportunities for developing **The Future Gulf**.

8:00–8:30 Introduction and defining the goals for the summit.

8:30–12:15 **The Future Gulf – Looking to New Challenges and Opportunities.**

Sylvia Earle – Mission Blue

Russell Callender – NOAA/NOS Assistant Administrator

Elba Rosa Perez Montoya - Ministeria de Ciencia y Tecnologia y Medio Ambiente, Cuba

Rick Woychik, Ph.D. – Deputy Director, National Institute of Environmental Health

10:30–11:00 *Networking Break*

Andreas Merkl – Ocean Conservancy

Dr. José Piña – President of Universidad Juárez de Tabasco and CiiMAR-GoMC

Toby Baker – TCEQ Commissioner, RESTORE, GOMA Chairman

12:30–1:30 **Lunch – OneHealth OneGulf –Linking Humans and Ecosystems.**

Dr. Rita Colwell, Chair of the GoMRI Research Board, Distinguished Professor University of Maryland College Park, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, and former NSF Director, will introduce One Health as a unifying approach to Gulf restoration. One Health is the collaborative effort of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally, and globally to attain optimal health for people, animals, and the environment.

1:45–3:30 **Environment – Human Health and Well-being.**

This session will investigate linkages between Gulf ecosystems and human/public health, as well as how future disasters – both manmade and natural – may affect such linkages. The session will provide an overview of efforts at the national level to support research, information gathering, and capacity building on environmental and human health linkages, in particular the health impacts from exposures. This session will also examine how these and other state/local efforts are building community resilience to potential exposures, the major challenges that remain, and potential solutions to overcome such challenges. By drawing from and building on a multi-stakeholder training exercise simulating a hydrofluoric acid release in an urbanized area, experts will discuss the operationalization of disaster preparedness, response and recovery to mitigate the impact of a disaster, and enhance resilience across the human health to environmental spectrum. Panelists will then apply lessons learned, emphasizing the training needs and remaining research questions, to this and other disaster scenarios (e.g., hurricanes and oil spills).

Moderator:

Cornelis Elferink – Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Texas Medical Branch

Panelists:

Aubrey Miller – National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, NIH

Sharon Croisant – Community Research, University of Texas Medical Branch

Mike Mastrangelo – Disaster Preparedness, University of Texas Medical Branch

Jennifer Horney – Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Texas A&M Health Science Center

3:30-4:00 *Networking Break*

4:00-5:30 **Gulf Restoration – Bridging Environment and Community Well-being.**

RESTORE and NRDA driven restoration and mitigation must link seamlessly with the dynamic nature of the Gulf of Mexico large marine ecosystem. This panel of Gulf management and restoration leaders will reflect on what they anticipate as the critical science needs for the next fifteen years and beyond of Gulf restoration effort as well as how they hope to bring it all together.

Moderator:

Robin Riechers - TPWD

Panelists:

Buck Sutter – Deputy Executive Director, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

Janelle Stokes – Galveston Dist. Corps of Engineers Gulf of Mexico

Michael Poff – Coastal Engineering Consultants

Bob Bendick – Director of The Nature Conservancy Gulf of Mexico Program

6:30-8:30 **Dinner Cuba - Economy, Tourism and Environment: A Challenge of Balance.**

Dr. Richard Feinberg (UC San Diego/Brookings Institute) world renowned expert on Latin America and author of the 2016 Open for Business: Building the New Cuban Economy and Fernando Bretos (Curator, Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science / Director, Cuba Marine Research and Conservation Program, Ocean Foundation) one of the USA's leading conservation experts on Cuba and director of the Trilateral Initiative share perspectives on an evolving Cuba.

Moderator:

Dr. Victoria Ramenzoni– HRI

Tuesday-March 28

Science Based Restoration and Accountability – A perspective on day two of the Summit.

Over the next fifteen years, some sixteen billion dollars will be expended to “restore” the Gulf of Mexico. How can the American public be assured that these funds are being expended wisely and that the funded projects have the best chance for success? Restoration Science is the collective term for activities to address this challenge. Science based adaptive management allows decision-makers to learn from both success and failure, improving future decision-making. Integrated monitoring on both a project and regional scale informs adaptive management. Assessing the health and productivity of the Gulf at the macro-ecosystem scale measures the success of restoration in relation to other drivers on environmental change. What are the metrics for assessing Gulf ecosystem health on a scale that is understandable by the American public; useful to managers and decision-makers; and defensible by the Gulf science community? How do we integrate individual restoration project metrics on a meaningful spatial scale? How do we link restoration to impacts on human health and well-being? How can we provide managers and decision-makers the means to meet the adaptive management challenges of a fifteen year restoration process and beyond? The remainder of the Summit is dedicated to answering these questions.

8:00-9:30 **Communicating Science in Order to Adaptively Manage.**

This session will feature issues of importance to the Gulf RESTORE Council and other programs funding restoration and conservation projects as well as the various science programs. For decision-makers to be effective at adaptively managing, the science hidden away in journals, technical reports, or even on researcher's computers needs to reach decision-makers in a manner that is relevant and timely to their decision context. This information must be accessible and effectively communicated in a context that it is readily understood and utilized in coastal and marine resource management decisions. However, we know there are serious barriers to creating these connections and providing timely, actionable insight. What are some possible solutions? What examples are there of “breaking through the bottleneck”? What incentives are there for the scientists and the decision makers to see this happen? The session will build upon connected work at the Restore America's Estuaries Summit in December 2016.

Session Conveners:

David Yoskowitz – HRI

Buck Sutter – RESTORE

Alyssa Dausman – RESTORE

Erica Goldman – COMPASS

Heather Mannix – COMPASS

Panelists:

Roberta Swann – Mobile Bay NEP

Nick Aumen – USGS

Robert Twilley – LSU/Louisiana Sea Grant

Don Boesch – University of Maryland

9:30–10:00 *Networking Break*

10:00–11:00 **Science-based Restoration Monitoring.**

It is important for restoration programs to develop clear and measurable ecological and, where appropriate, socio-economic objectives at a programmatic level to guide the evaluation of success in restoration projects. Such objectives are needed to target assessment indicators and identify critical uncertainties in the science in order to design monitoring systems that can evaluate progress toward meeting restoration goals. Gulf restoration science programs, in a collaborative setting, could then potentially align science/monitoring resources to achieve those objectives. This session will discuss key recommendations in the NAS Effective Monitoring Report about how restoration science - monitoring, modeling, research and adaptive management - can inform the restoration community and improve restoration effectiveness; availability of existing data inventories and conceptual models to design regional scale monitoring; and the importance of Gulf-wide baseline or reference conditions to describe restoration endpoints.

Session Conveners:

Paul Montagna – HRI

Gregory Steyer – USGS

Panelists:

Kenneth Heck – Dauphin Island Sea Lab, NAS Committee Member

Alexis Baldera – Ocean Conservancy

Leigh Anne Sharp – Louisiana CPRA

11:00–12:00 **Assessing the Gulf of Mexico as a Large Marine Ecosystem.**

Two important assessments of the Gulf of Mexico will be presented and discussed. The first is the Gulf Report Card and Gulf Metrics Project of Texas OneGulf, which details progress on assessing the health of the Gulf on a macro-scale. The second is the release of NOAA's much anticipated 2016 update: Ecosystem Status Report for the Gulf of Mexico. The original 2013 report was praised for its detailed but succinct summaries of a suite of important indicators for Gulf health. Mexico is also assembling a Report Card on coastal and marine health and will report on progress on this important effort.

Session Conveners:

Larry McKinney – HRI

Panelists:

Mark Harwell – Harwell Gentile & Associates

Jack Gentile – Harwell Gentile & Associates

Heath Kelsey – University of Maryland

Mandy Karnauskas – NOAA

12:15–1:15 **Tuesday Lunch – Cuba, Tourism and Conservation Science: The Challenge of Balance.**

Scientists and institutions bordering the Gulf of Mexico in both Mexico and the USA are working together to better understand and manage the world's ninth largest body of water. Their work can be foundational positive progress and model on which to build positive international relationships.

Moderator:

Dr. Katya Wowk – HRI

Panelists:

Dr. Chris D'Elia – Chair of the Gulf of Mexico University Research Collaborative (GOMURC)

Dr. Porfirio Alvarez – Secretary General of the Consorcio de Instituciones de Investigación Marina del Golfo de México y del Caribe (CiiMAR-GoMC)

1:30–3:00 **Gulf Science – The Way Forward.**

This panel of Gulf science program leaders will reflect what they have heard from other summit panels and what they anticipate as the critical science issues for fifteen years of Gulf restoration effort. They will also be asked to look beyond restoration to the broader science challenges facing the future Gulf.

Moderator:

Barbara Kirkpatrick – Executive Director, Gulf Coast Ocean Observing System

Panelists:

Chris Elfring – Director, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Gulf Research Program

Julien Lartigue – NOAA RESTORE Science Program

Elizabeth Fetherston-Resch – Florida RESTORE Act Center of Excellence

Jeff Francis – Texas OneGulf RESTORE Act Center of Excellence
Ruth Perry – Marine Scientist and Regulatory Policy Specialist, Shell Upstream Americas
Chris Robbins – Sr. Manager, Restoration Planning Ocean Conservancy

3:00-3:30 *Networking Break*

3:30- 4:30 **GOMA Session Linking Science to Policy to Action.**

This session will discuss ongoing work by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance as related to Summit topics.

Speaker:

Laura Bowie –Executive Director GOMA

4:30-5:00 **Summit Wrap Up:**

Transition to GOMA All Hands and International Research Workshop.

6:00-7:30 **GOMA Tools Café and Reception**

6:00-7:30 **HRI International Research Workshop Welcome Reception**

Wednesday March 29 - Thursday March 30

Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands Meeting. Draft agenda not yet available.

Wednesday March 29 - Thursday March 31

The Gulf of Mexico Workshop on International Research.

Sponsored by BOEM, NAS-GRP, HRI and NOAA. Some 150 of the Gulf's top scientists from the USA, Mexico and Cuba will develop research priorities for international collaboration.

