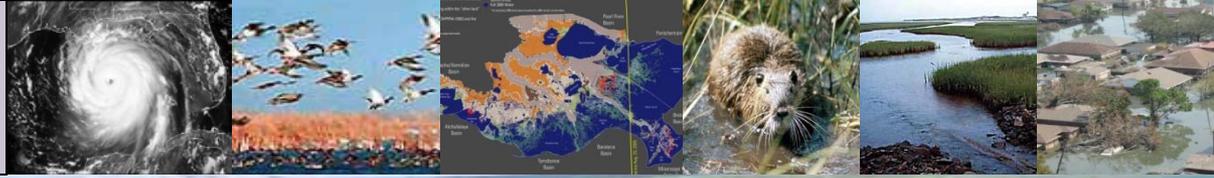


**GULF COAST  
LONG-TERM RESTORATION**



**THE GULF COAST ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION TASK FORCE:**

***From Strategy to Implementation***

**Dr. Alyssa Dausman, USGS**

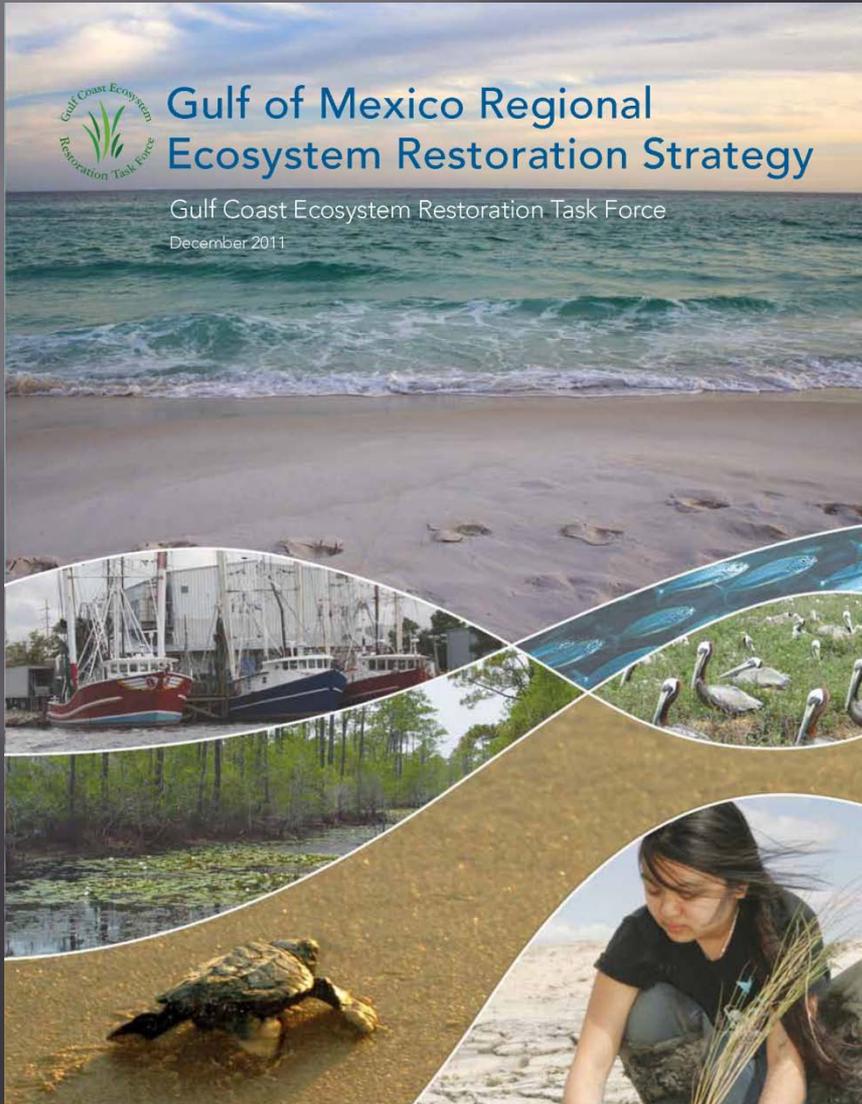
**Dr. Jan Kurtz, EPA**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hypoxia Coordination Workshop**

**Bay St. Louis, MS**

**March 27, 2012**

# Strategy Released December 5, 2011



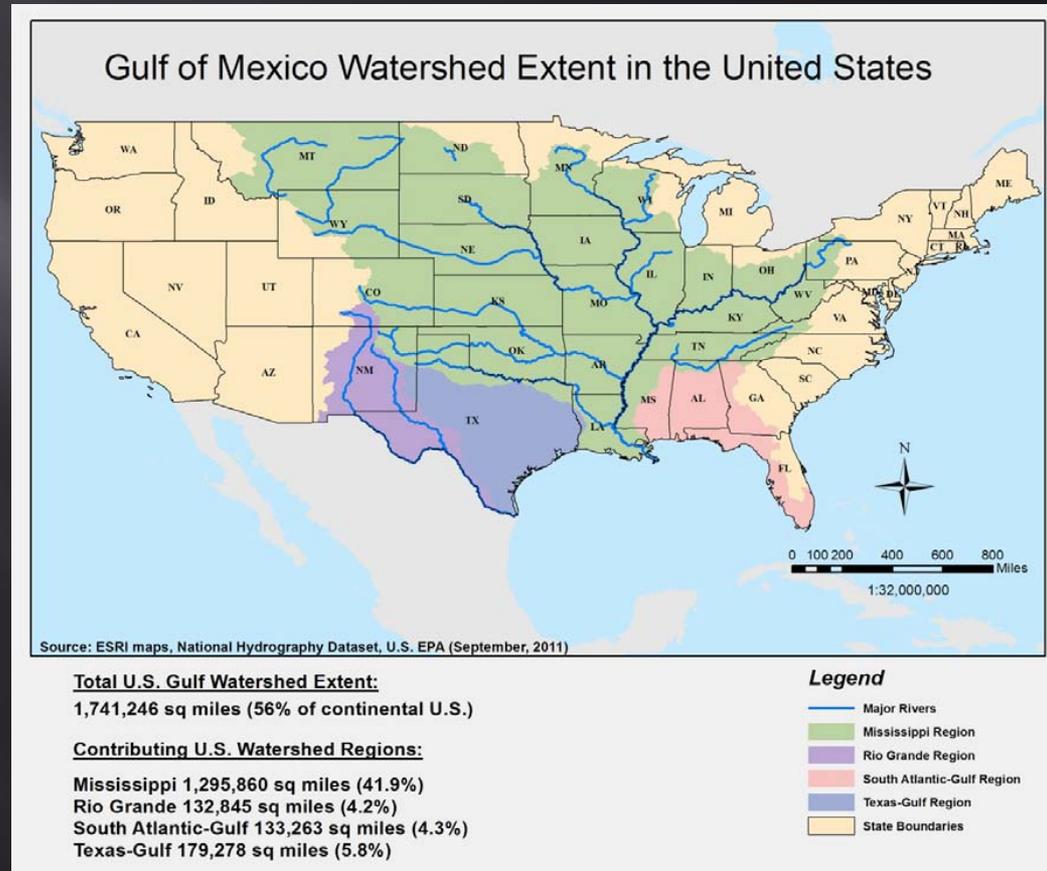
## Strategy Goals

- ▣ Restore & Conserve Habitat
- ▣ Restore Water Quality
- ▣ Replenish & Protect Living Coastal & Marine Resources
- ▣ Enhance Community Resilience

*Supported by a science and adaptive management framework*

# Restore Water Quality

- ▣ Reduce nutrient input
  - State Management Nutrient Plans
  - Target Priority Watersheds
- ▣ Reduce pathogens & pollutants
- ▣ Improve Quantity & Quality for Estuaries (freshwater inflow)
- ▣ Expand monitoring



# Science -> Strategy -> Implementation

- ▣ Identifying Needs:
  - Monitoring
  - Modeling
  - Research
- ▣ Foundational Elements for Implementation
- ▣ Science Plan - Adaptive Management

Table 1. Specific Data Acquisition Needs

	Habitats (coastal)	Habitats (inland) and watersheds	Living coastal and marine resources and offshore environments	Coastal communities (including storm buffers)
<b>Physical</b>				
Sediment, nutrient, pollutant loads, and freshwater flow rates	x	x	x	x
Land:water ratios	x	x	x	x
Topography/bathymetry	x	x	x	x
Shoreline position and form and dimensions of beaches and dunes and barrier islands	x		x	x
Erosion and accretion rates	x			x
Seafloor change	x	x		
Hydrology (water surface elevation, current velocity, wave characteristics, salinity, temperature)	x	x	x	x
Meteorology	x		x	
Air quality		x	x	
Marsh elevation (accretion, subsidence, sediment elevation table)	x		x	x
Relative sea-level rise rates (subsidence and global sea-level rise)	x	x	x	x
Geodetic vertical datum	x	x		x
<b>Biological</b>				
Invasive species	x		x	
Fisheries composition/abundance/diversity/productivity/tissue contaminants	x		x	
Fisheries landings			x	x
Wildlife and living marine resources abundance/diversity and distribution (including sentinel species)	x	x	x	
Plant community composition/abundance/diversity/productivity	x	x	x	
Benthic macroinvertebrates or key benthic assemblages	x		x	
Phytoplankton, harmful algae species occurrence, toxin production	x	x	x	
Zooplankton	x		x	
Pathogens	x	x	x	
Microbial ecology		x	x	
<b>Chemical</b>				
Water quality (nutrients, ammonia, silica, turbidity, total suspended solids, water clarity, contaminants [e.g. PAHs, PCBs], metals, dissolved oxygen, salinity, temperature, depth, conductivity, secchi depth, photosynthetically active radiation, pH, chlorophyll a, carbon)	x	x	x	
Coastal, nearshore and offshore seafloor sediment characteristics (sediment composition, bulk density, organic matter, total carbon, total nitrogen, phosphorous, grain size, total organic carbon, sediment toxicity)	x	x	x	

# What's Next?

Strategy -> Implementation

GCERTF OFFICE AT

*STENNIS SPACE CENTER*



# Gulf Restoration Funding

Funding Undetermined:

- ▣ RESTORE Act
- ▣ NRDA restoration funding
- ▣ Some type of settlement
- ▣ Annual appropriations
- ▣ Planning needs to precede funding



# Shifting Focus: IMPLEMENTATION

## Transition Period



- ❑ Identify GCERTF staff and support for Stennis office
- ❑ Engage with GOMA and Gulf coast stakeholders
- ❑ Re-engage Task Force members – States & Federal Agencies
- ❑ Continue coordination with NRDA process
- ❑ Develop process for Strategy Implementation Plan

# Implementation Plan: Science

- Adaptive management framework
  - Monitoring, modeling, and research
- *GoM Ecosystem Science Assessment and Needs* by GCERTF Science Coordination Team contains a Science Plan which will be expanded  
[www.epa.gov/gulfcoasttaskforce](http://www.epa.gov/gulfcoasttaskforce)

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**GULF COAST ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION TASK FORCE**

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**Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem  
Science Assessment and Needs**

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March 2012



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force  
Science Coordination Team (SCT)

**Edited by:**

Dr. Shelby Walker (NOAA, SCT Lead)  
Dr. Alyssa Dausman (USGS, SCT Lead)  
Dr. Dawn Lavoie (USGS, SCT Lead)

# Implementing Monitoring

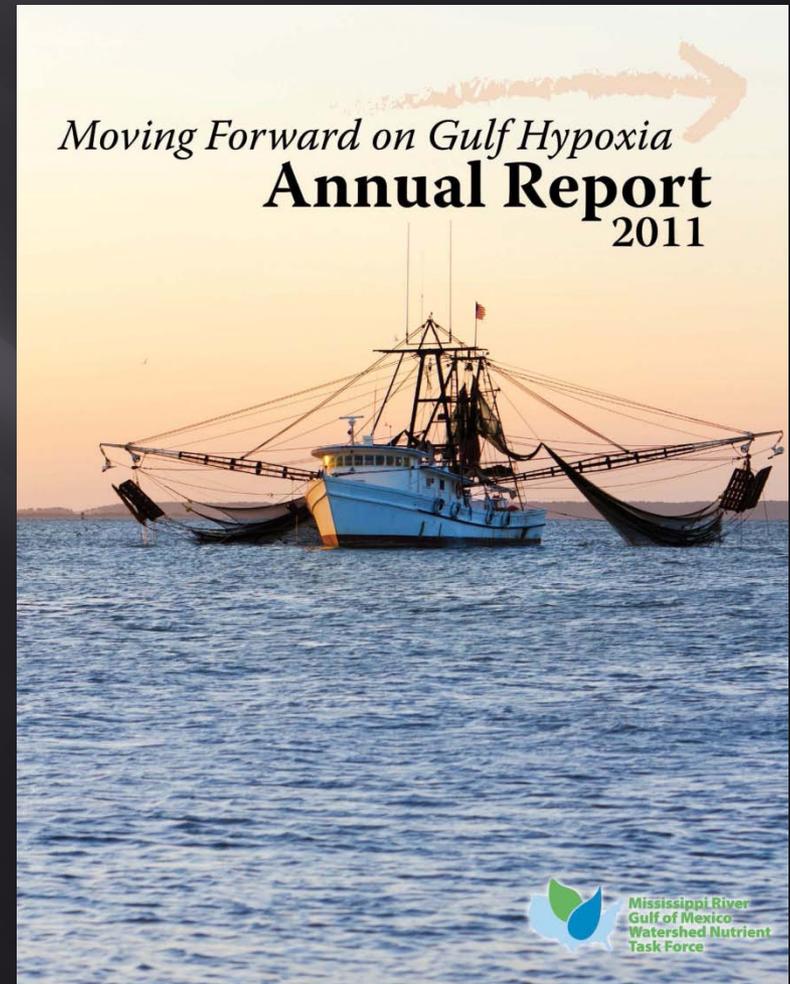
- ❑ Developing Strawman for monitoring program or with Gulf representatives (State and Federal)
- ❑ A tiered framework for nutrient monitoring will be included
  - ❑ What/Where are the needs?
  - ❑ What do we have?
  - ❑ Where are the gaps to invest resources?
- ❑ Gulf Monitoring Workshop at National Water Quality Monitoring Conference



# NEXT STEPS on Implementation

## HOW DO WE ENGAGE WITH CURRENT HYPOXIA WORK?

- ❑ GCERTF is intergovernmental-strength (11 Fed Agencies + 5 States)
- ❑ Hypoxia TF
- ❑ Where do our all our goals overlap? (Water Quality Chapter)
- ❑ How do you want to be engaged in developing the Implementation Plan?
- ❑ How do we work together better? Ideas? Coordinate without overlapping.



# DISCUSSION