



Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force is holding a series of public meetings and listening sessions to gather input from local stakeholders for use in developing the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Strategy. An online discussion is being held in conjunction with those meetings and comments are being collected using a [comments webpage](#). The schedule for meetings is posted to <http://www.epa.gov/gulfcoasttaskforce/>. Read [more](#)>

After the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster, the President requested that Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus develop a framework for long-term recovery. The resulting report, "[America's Gulf Coast: A Long Term Recovery Plan after the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill](#)" identified five principles for restoration of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem:



Principle 1: Coastal Wetland and Barrier Shoreline Habitats are Healthy and Resilient.

Principle 2: Fisheries are Healthy, Diverse and Sustainable.

Principle 3: Coastal Communities are Adaptive and Resilient.

Principle 4: A More Sustainable Storm Buffer Exists. Persistent coastal land loss, compounded by sea level rise, is deteriorating natural lines of defense, leaving coastal communities vulnerable to tropical storms.

Principle 5: Inland Habitats, Watersheds and Off-Shore Waters are Healthy and Well-Managed.



Based on the recommendation of the report, the Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Restoration Task Force was established by [Executive Order](#) to prepare a Strategy that proposes a Gulf Coast ecosystem restoration agenda, including goals for ecosystem restoration, development of a set of performance indicators to track progress, and means of coordinating intergovernmental restoration efforts guided by shared priorities.

[Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force](#)

The Task Force was formed to build on the ongoing spill response and natural resource damage assessment effort, as well as achieve overall recovery for the gulf, and is comprised of federal and state leaders and informed by stakeholders in the region. NOAA is represented on the Task Force by Assistant Secretary Dr. Larry Robinson. Solidifying its commitment to the effort, NOAA has provided two detailees, Buck Sutter (SE Region Deputy Administrator and Gulf of Mexico Regional Collaboration Team Lead) and Dr. Shelby Walker (Office of Oceanic & Atmospheric Research, Strategic Planning Team Lead), to the Executive Director of the Task Force. NOAA has also established a team to support NOAA's participation and the work of the Task Force.