Shoring up our Future: A Long-term Framework for the Texas Coast
Texas Coastal Management Program

Purpose:

- The Coastal Management Program (CMP) was federally approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 1997.

- To improve the management of the state’s coastal resources.

- To ensure the long-term ecological and economic productivity of the coast.
CMP Goals & Policies

- The CMP is a “networked” program

- CMP Goals & Policies focus on:
  - Coastal erosion
  - Wetland protection
  - Water supply and water quality
  - Dune protection
  - Shoreline access

- CMP identifies 16 Coastal Natural Resource Areas
  (i.e. wetlands, preserves, beaches, dunes, reefs, aquatic vegetation, etc.)
Framework Development using the CMP Section 309 Strategies & Assessment

- HRI was contracted to draft the required CMP §309 Assessment & Strategies Report for 2011-2015.

- Report developed in conjunction with Networked Agencies & distributed for public comment/review.

- This Report & Strategy was submitted and approved by NOAA for §309 grant funding approval for the next five years.

- The breadth of the effort in soliciting input from so many different sources through HRI, extends the relevance of the results beyond §309 funding to all Coastal Resource planning.
Assessment Results:
Enhancement Area Priorities

- Cumulative & Secondary Impacts
- Coastal Hazards
- Public Access
- Wetlands
- Ocean Resources
- Marine Debris
- Energy & Government Facility Siting
- Aquaculture

Note: Texas cannot create SAMPs
Assessment: Identified High Priority Needs

**Wetlands**
- Freshwater inflows data
- Develop habitat restoration plans

**Coastal Hazards**
- Public education about hazards
- Statewide sea level rise assessment
- Coastal hazards planning for local communities

**Public Access**
- Public access data
- Effects of SLR on public access
- Planning for continued accessibility

**Marine Debris**
- Storm-water discharge data
- Data on impacts to wildlife
- Debris removal response

**Cumulative & Secondary Impacts**
- Community planning in coastal areas to mitigate vulnerability to coastal hazards
- Sediment management plans

**Energy & Gov’t Facility Siting**
- Coastal and marine spatial planning for offshore energy siting
Shoring up our Future: A Long-term Framework for the Texas Coast

Develop a framework for pro-active long-term planning and management of coastal resources, utilizing coastal & marine spatial planning concepts (CMSP).

Potential Benefits:

- Identification of critical areas and resources
- Better information (data) for decision making
- Reduce uncertainty and potential conflicts for planning and development
- Increased coordination across state and federal agencies

We want to integrate conservation and development priorities in a way that pays off both now and for future generations.
A Snapshot of the Texas Coast

- Help guide coastal decision makers and serve as a baseline for developing a long-term spatial planning tool.

- Identify current issues of concern and potential solutions in the 4 Texas coastal regions.

- A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of coastal experts was formed to evaluate the issues of concern and critical areas for the 4 coastal regions.

- Held 4 Regional TAC meetings along the Coast. (September 2012)
Technical Advisory Committee

- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC):
  - State & federal agencies, local gov’t, universities, NGOs, NPOs, engineering firms, ports, regional trusts, foundations and partnerships.

- At regional meetings TAC identified critical areas in sub-regions and evaluated projects for:
  - Benefits
  - Feasibility
  - How they address area issues of concern
  - Economic loss
  - Social-value loss
  - Ecologic loss
# Issues of Concern for Areas within the Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>0 – not at all concerned</th>
<th>1 – slightly concerned</th>
<th>2 – moderately concerned</th>
<th>3 – very concerned</th>
<th>4 – extremely concerned</th>
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<td>o. Community Resilience</td>
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<td>p. Tourism and Local Economy</td>
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Region 3 Issues of Concern

- Wetlands/Habitat Loss
- Impact to Fish & Wildlife
- Bay Shoreline Erosion
- Impacts: Mar. Resources
- Tourism/Local Economy
- Water Quality & Quantity
- Flooding & Storm Surge
- Community Resilience
- Public Access: Gulf/Bay
Coastwide Issues of Concern

- Wetlands & Habitat Loss
- Impacts to Fish & Wildlife
- Gulf Beach/Dune Erosion
- Water Quality & Quantity
- Tourism & Local Economy
- Bay Shoreline Erosion
- Flooding & Storm Surge
- Impacts to Marine Resources
Local Officials Meetings

Local officials meetings were held in each of the four regions to expand upon the Issues of Concern identified by the TAC and to identify the environmental “gems” in their areas.

- Need to communicate the importance of the coast to the rest of the state.
- Need community level planning and coalitions.
- Salinity, siltation, erosion are big causes wetlands, marsh and oyster reef loss.
- A strong, healthy dune system is key.
- Critical infrastructure sits along the GIWW and ports.
- Tourism & eco-tourism important to local economies.
- Upstream watershed issues impact the coast.
- Increasing population pressures.
Next Steps

- Website development on coastal issues of concern to assist decision makers and planners on future uses and development.

- Data Standard Committee will gather current data and information on natural resources.
  
  **Priority Data Sets:**
  
  - Marine Transportation, Infrastructure and Obstructions (oil/gas pipelines)
  - Living Marine Resources
  - Benthic and Seafloor
  - Coastal Habitats (wetlands and uplands)
  - Human Use areas
  - Coastal Population and Socio-Economic Data

- Spatial planning tool will be developed to detail current natural resource areas for better planning to manage conflicting uses.
  - Resource Management Codes (RMC)
    - The GLO maintains a natural resource information database that identifies sensitive biologic habitats, cultural resources, and other areas of concern on state-owned lands

- Stakeholder input will be a valuable part of this initiative.
Resource management codes (RMC)

- RMCs assigned to state-owned tracts in Texas bays and estuaries, and Gulf waters, represent development guidelines for activities within the tracts.
- Codes enhance protection of sensitive natural resources by providing recommendations for minimizing adverse impacts from mineral exploration and development activities.
**Resource Management Codes Up Close**

| Water Body: | MATAGORDA | **Tract:** | 68 |
| County: | CALHOUN | **Acres:** | 725 |
| Part: | CALHOUN CO NAVI DIST |
| Control #: | 02-022420 |
| **ALL:** | DA, DB, MA, ME, MK |
| **USFWS:** | DA, ME |
| **NMFS:** | DB, ME |
| **TPWD:** | DB, ME |
| **COE:** | MA |
| **THC:** | MK |

**DA** – No dredging  
**DB** – No dredging in water less than 4 feet deep  
**MA** – No special recommendations.  
**ME** – Avoid marshes and other sensitive resource areas  
**MK** – State Archeological Landmarks/cultural resources