

The Gulf of Mexico Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network Meeting

Evaluation Summary

A two-day meeting was held at the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve on April 18-19, 2011 with the goals of

- developing a framework for a draft Gulf of Mexico regional MPA coordination plan,
- increasing knowledge of each others MPA's among MPA managers, and,
- serve as a catalyst for increased communication and collaboration among managers.

The draft plan is intended to increase communication, coordination, and collaboration among Gulf MPA's so that we can build a platform to more effectively manage MPA's and to increase regional management of ocean and coastal resources by targeting key issues of mutual concern to the community and the Nation.

Name of the event: The Gulf of Mexico MPA Network Planning Meeting

Location: Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center, 300 Tower Road Naples, Florida 34113

Date: 04/18/2011 - 04/19/2011

Time: 8am to 5pm and 8am to 4pm

Coordinator: Ryan Young

Number of Attendees: 22

Number of surveys: 15

Summary prepared by: Ryan Young

I. Logistics

	1=Poor	2=Fair	3=Average	4=Good	5=Excellent	Blank	Total
1.General Content	0	0	0	8	7	0	15
	0%	0%	0%	53%	47%	0%	100%
2.Speakers	0	0	1	5	8	1	15
	0%	0%	7%	33%	53%	7%	100%
3.Handouts	0	0	1	9	5	0	15
	0%	0%	7%	60%	33%	0%	100%
4.Meeting Organization	0	0	0	4	11	0	15
	0%	0%	0%	27%	73%	0%	100%
5.Food & Beverage	0	0	1	4	10	0	15
	0%	0%	7%	27%	67%	0%	100%
6.Facilitation	0	0	0	2	13	0	15
	0%	0%	0%	13%	87%	0%	100%

Comments on Logistics:

Great location - thank you for the cruise and opportunity to network

II. As a result of this workshop

	Yes	No	Unsure/NA	Blank	Total
1. Do you have an increased understanding of Gulf of Mexico Marine Protected Areas?					
	14	0	1	0	15
	93%	0%	7%	0%	100%

	Yes	No	Unsure	Blank	Total
2. If yes, will you use this new knowledge in your job?	12	0	3	0	
	80%	0%	20%	0%	0%

If yes, How?
Support activities for Gulf MPA Network.
New contacts and ideas going forward.
Will be a participant in the MPA network.
Integrate resource management activities within scope of MPA network.
New contacts for information and experience.
Considering utilizing management partnerships.
Define MPA to stakeholders, use Network to share common goals.
Inform my staff as to the importance of MPAs.
I plan on sharing information with other R2 Refuges.

If no, Why?

	Yes	No	Unsure/NA	Blank	Total
3. Do you have an increased understanding of the value, purpose and goals associated with a Gulf of Mexico Network of MPAs?	13	0	2	0	15
	87%	0%	13%	0%	100%

	Yes	No	Unsure/NA	Blank	Total
4. As a result of this meeting, are you likely to participate in the Gulf MPA Network?	13	0	2	0	15
	87%	0%	13%	0%	100%

	Yes	No	Unsure/NA	Blank	Total
5. As a result of this meeting, are you more likely to communicate with other Gulf MPA managers?	14	0	1	0	15
	93%	0%	7%	0%	100%

	Yes	No	Unsure/NA	Blank	Total
6. Did you increase your knowledge of, and access to, resources relevant to your work?	11	0	4	0	15
	73%	0%	27%	0%	100%

	Yes	No	Unsure/NA	Blank	Total
7. Were you exposed to new perspectives, points of view or diverse opinions during the workshop?	14	1	0	0	15
	93%	7%	0%	0%	100%

	Yes	No	Unsure/NA	Blank	Total
8. If yes, do you intend to integrate your newly acquired perspectives, views or opinions?	10	1	3	1	15
	67%	7%	20%	7%	100%

Comments:
Need a list of those resources made available to the Network.

III. General Knowledge

9. What is the most important thing you discovered during this program?
Challenges associated with climate change - more here than other regions.
More understanding of the other types of MPA units along the Gulf Coast.
Glad to see the coordination among site managers and look forward to seeing shared information.
That we all pretty much need and want the same things from this effort.
Common issues, concerns, met new partners.
Various MPAs, opportunity for information sharing, networking with other entities.
The commonalities of issues and goals between the units.
Common issues, desire to work together, and communication strategies.
The need to communicate the economic importance of MPAs.
The passion that managers have towards MPAs.
Diversity of MPAs across the board but many of the issues were the same no matter the agency.

10. Would you like to add any information to the brainstorming sessions?
Boat trip was great for informal discussions
Let's make sure that social science and outreach to public and decision makers (politicians) regarding the economic value of the resources that we manage is always forefront in all we do.
No.

11. Please provide additional comments here:

The valuation of our resources and interpretation of this economic value to public and politicians will help ensure that we are able to get funding for what we need to do our jobs effectively.

Keep it rolling

I was a little apprehensive regarding what benefit I would be able to gain from this, but in the end it was worth my time and resources to attend. GOOD JOB!