

GMPO Efforts in Mexico

The University of Florida was awarded cooperative agreements in 2006, 2008 and for 2010. The goal of these cooperative agreements are to provide taxonomy identification workshops in each of the six Mexican states that border the Gulf of Mexico. To date, three of the six states have received the workshops with participants from all six states. A total of 77 scientists and biologists have received the taxonomy training. The three states that have completed workshops include Veracruz, Campeche, and Tabasco. In addition to the workshops, microscopes with digital cameras and mounts, laptops, lab supplies, and handheld multi-parameter instruments have been sent to Acuario de Veracruz, Center of Research and Advanced Studies (Cinvestav, Merida), Ecology Institute in Xalapa (INECOL), Laboratory of Public Health in Veracruz, and the Laboratory of Public Health in Tabasco with the State Health Services in Campeche, Yucatan, Tamaulipas, and Quintana Roo to receive the same equipment in 2010.



Veracruz Workshop
February 2008



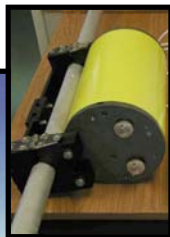
Campeche Workshop
December 2009



Tabasco Workshop
December 2009



The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) has also been involved with bi-national relations with Mexico. In 2009, GOMA donated a 21 foot Carolina Skiff vessel to the Laboratory of Public Health for Veracruz and one to the Laboratory of Public Health for Campeche. These vessels will support red tide monitoring and aid in the rapid detection of harmful algal blooms along the coastlines of Veracruz and Campeche.



NOAA's National Data Buoy Center was contracted to provide three C-MAN stations and three breve busters for Veracruz. This equipment will allow the data to be incorporated into the Harmful Algal BloomS Observing System (HABSOS).

HABSOS incorporates satellite imagery, meteorological data, and in situ field observations to aid in tracking and forecasting HABs in the Gulf of Mexico. Installation dates for this equipment is set for late February 2010.





In 2009, Auburn University was awarded a agreement entitled, "Fostering Environmental Stewardship of the Gulf of Mexico: A Trans-Boundary Network of Water Education and Monitoring for Animal Producers, Classrooms, and Community Volunteers." This project's main goal is to conduct environmental education activities for underserved populations via pilot projects in both Alabama and Veracruz, Mexico. This project is targeting animal producers (trout and cattle), middle and high school teachers and students, and volunteer water monitors in pilot projects that will teach about Gulf issues and protecting water quality.



The Gulf of Mexico Foundation was awarded a cooperative agreement for 2010 that will help integrate Mexico into the work of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Habitat Conservation and Restoration Team (GOMA HCRT). This proposal expands efforts on the development of international collaboration, and adds actual restoration projects through collaboration with NOAA's Community Based Restoration Program. This proposal will provide workshops that include topics in policy, funding, land use planning, technology, and opportunities for collaboration.



The University of Southern Mississippi, J.L. Scott Marine Education Center was awarded for 2010 a cooperative agreement entitled, "Enhanced Public Awareness and Understanding of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance's Priority Issues Through Exhibitory within Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELCs) in the Gulf."

The overarching goal of this proposal is to enhance the awareness and understanding of the relevance of the Gulf of Mexico to the everyday lives of the citizenry within the five U.S. states and one of the six Mexican states bordering this region. The six, Gulf of Mexico CELCs include: the Audubon Institute-Aquarium of the Americas, New Orleans, LA; the Florida Aquarium, Tampa; the Texas State Aquarium, Corpus Christi; the Dauphin Island Sea Lab's Estuarium, Dauphin Island, Alabama; the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center, Ocean Springs, MS; and the Veracruz Aquarium, Veracruz, Mexico.

