

GULF OF MEXICO RESTORATION

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WHY IS RESTORATION IMPORTANT IN THE GULF OF MEXICO?

Large areas along the Gulf of Mexico have been altered by land use, development practices, and natural disturbance. While growth is necessary, the resulting changes can impact habitats that provide valuable services to communities. Wetlands, for instance, provide water filtration, protection from storm surge and nurseries for commercially important fish. Restoring habitats will also help bring back the services provided by that habitat and benefit Gulf communities now and in the future.



Stakeholders observe a shoreline restoration project that will create habitat and provide erosion protection without a seawall.

RESTORATION IS A REGIONAL ISSUE...

While restoration provides numerous local benefits, some benefits are magnified when restoration is coordinated on a larger scale. Habitat restoration for valuable commercial fish species is an excellent example. Coastal waters provide habitat for 75% of America's commercial fish catch. Improved fish habitat will provide local benefits, but coordinated restoration across the Gulf of Mexico will result in cumulative benefits to the commercially valuable species throughout the region.

Habitat restoration is valuable for ecotourism, fisheries and other industries. The habitats in the Mississippi River Delta alone provide services to local communities valued between 12 and 47 billion dollars annually!

THE GULF COASTAL TRAINING PROGRAMS CAN HELP YOUR RESTORATION EFFORTS:

- Shoreline restoration and living shorelines techniques
- Invasive species and native plants
- Wetlands and water quality workshops
- Stormwater best management practices
- Geographic information systems for prioritization



REGIONAL COASTAL TRAINING

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Providing professional training and facilitation as an essential bridge between scientists, resource managers, and decision-makers in the Gulf of Mexico Region.



WHAT IS THE COASTAL TRAINING PROGRAM?

The Coastal Training Program (CTP) is a trusted source for science-based training for those who make decisions about coastal resources. CTP is part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, which consists of 28 Reserves located in estuaries throughout the country. The five Gulf CTPs formed a regional partnership in 2008 supported by external funding to coordinate their efforts to provide training opportunities around the Gulf.



IN FY2011 GULF TRAINING PROGRAMS:

- Trained 2,088 decision-makers
- Hosted a total of 100 events
- Provided more than 18,000 hours of training

WORKSHOP TESTIMONIALS:

- *"One of the most on-topic, informative seminars I've been to in many years"*
- *The workshop content "challenged me to think about things I do daily"*
- *This event was "a very good use of my time"*

THE REGIONAL COASTAL TRAINING PROGRAM CAN HELP YOU:

- **Communicate** information via existing networks.
- **Collect** input and assess decision-maker needs.
- **Host** trainings throughout the Gulf Region.
- **Assist** Gulf decision-makers with questions and identify experts.



For information about upcoming events or to contact the project partners, please visit our website:

www.GulfCoastalTraining.org

