



The Gulf of Mexico

“America’s Sea”



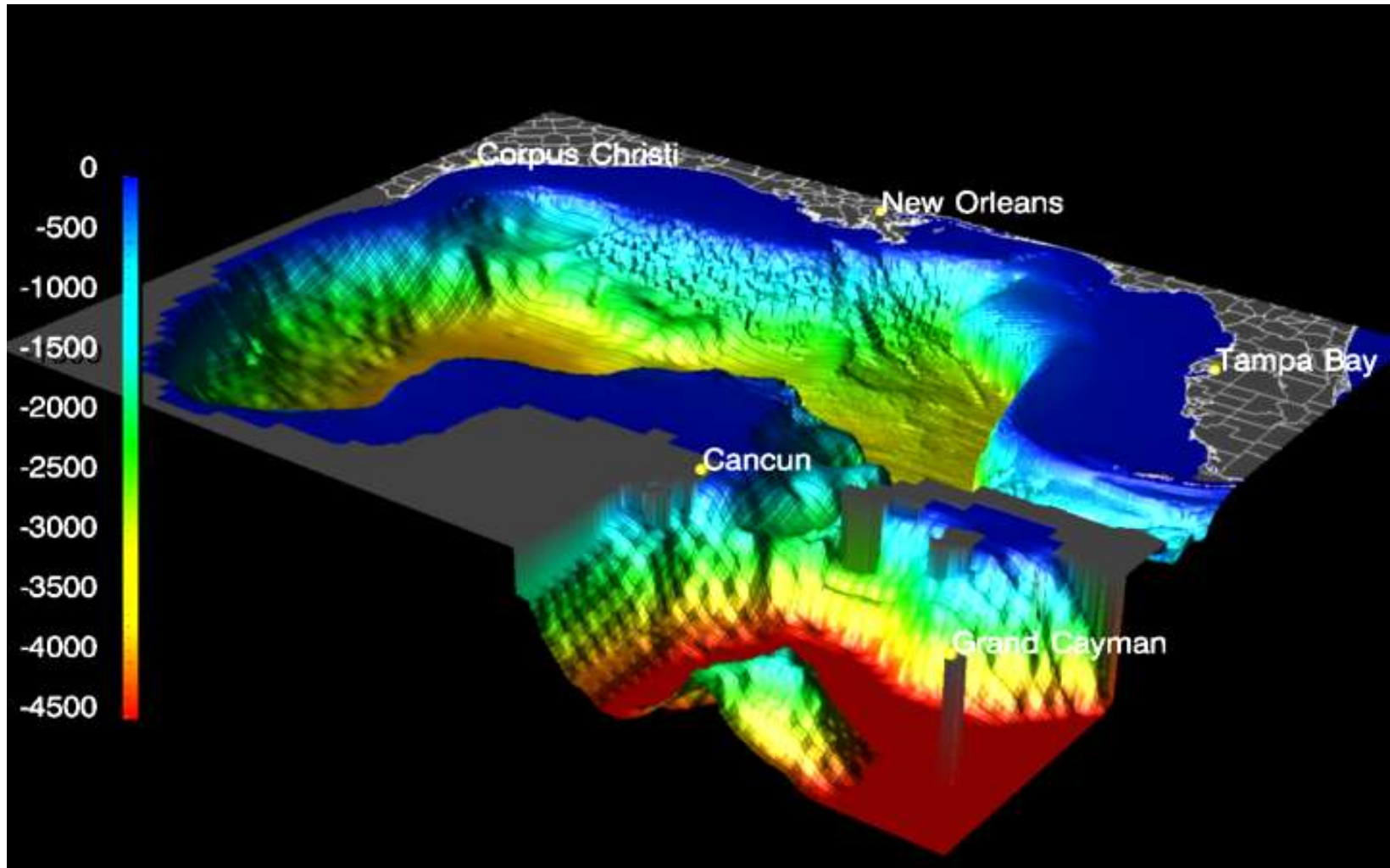
Citizens Advisory Committee Briefing
April 1, 2009



Briefing Outline

- **The Gulf's Relative Importance to the Region and Nation**
- **EPA's Gulf Program – History in Brief**
- **Current Regional Governance Structure: Gulf States Governors Alliance**
 - Priority Regional Issues
 - Governors Action Plan I (2006 – 2009) – Accomplishments Overview
 - Action Plan II (2010 – 2014) Release – June 2009
- **Bi-National (U.S. / Mexico) Collaborations**
- **Active Legislation – S3558 – “Gulf of Mexico Restoration and Protection Act”**
- **Strategic Actions Discussion**
 - Short-Term (2009 – 2010)
 - Mid-Term (2011 – 2012)
 - Long-Term (2013 – 2016)

***By virtue of ecologic, economic, and national security function.....
..arguably the “most valuable” Large Marine Ecosystem in the World.***

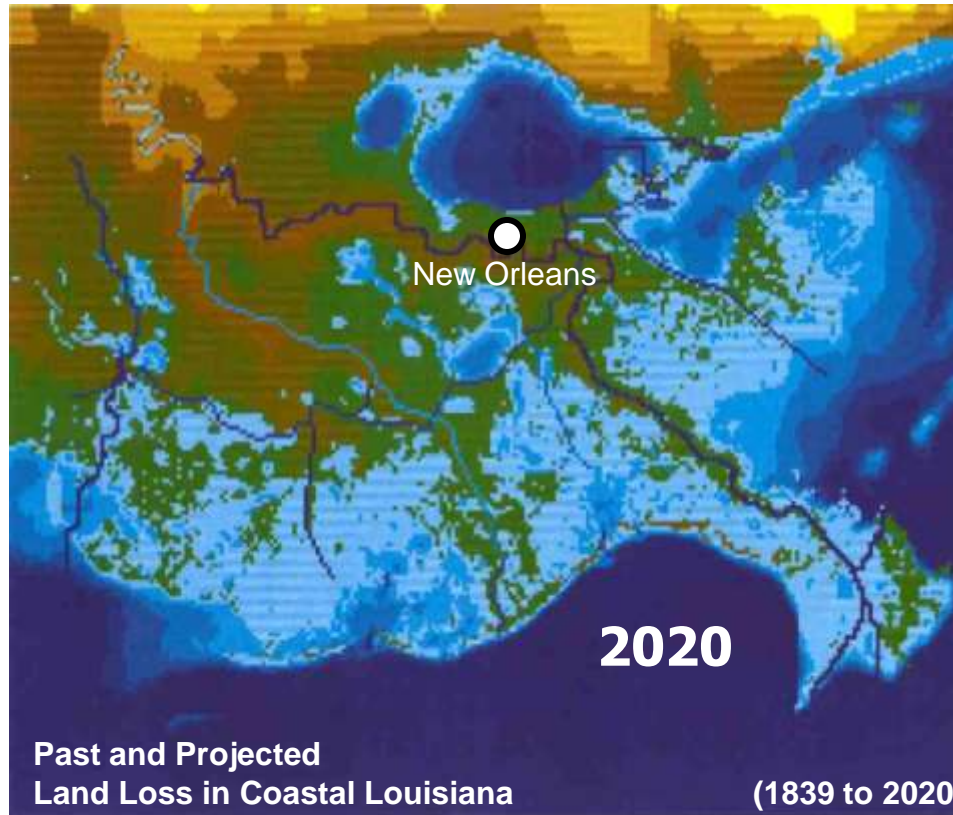




Relative
Importance:

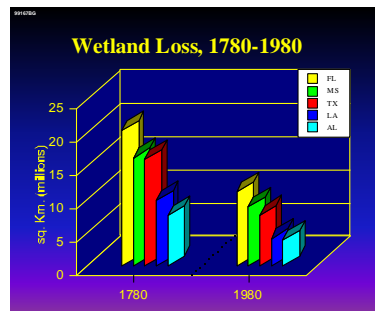
ECOLOGY (Coastal Wetlands)

Approximately 50% of the Nation's Remaining Coastal Wetlands are Located along the Gulf Coast



- 30% of the Nation's coastal marsh (~3 million acres)
- 90% of the continental US coastal marsh loss
- Every 38 minutes, a football field sized parcel of land turns to open water

Coastal Habitat Restoration and Conservation





Relative
Importance:

ECOLOGY (Fisheries)

Commercial
& Recreational

83% of Total U.S. Shrimp
Landings



56% of Total U.S. Oyster
Landings



Over **40%** of all U.S.
Marine Recreational Fishing



Relative
Importance:

ECONOMY

Regional GDP

\$2.3T



7th Largest Economy
in the World

Fisheries

\$662M –
Dockside Value



3 of the Nation's Top
6 Commercial Ports

Tourism



\$__B
620,000 Jobs
\$9B Wages

Energy

Nation's
Oil & Gas
Backbone



52% Crude
54% Gas
47% Refining Capacity

Shipping

740M Short Tons



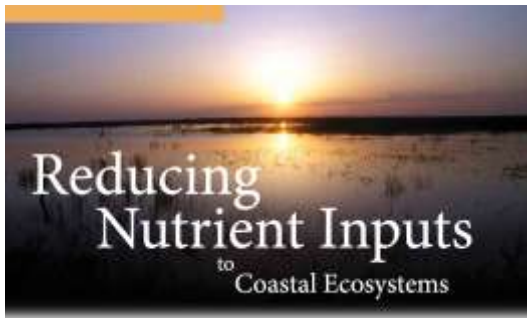
7 of the Nation's Top
10 Ports



Priority Regional Issues:

GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE

Water Quality –



The “Mother” of Receiving Waters

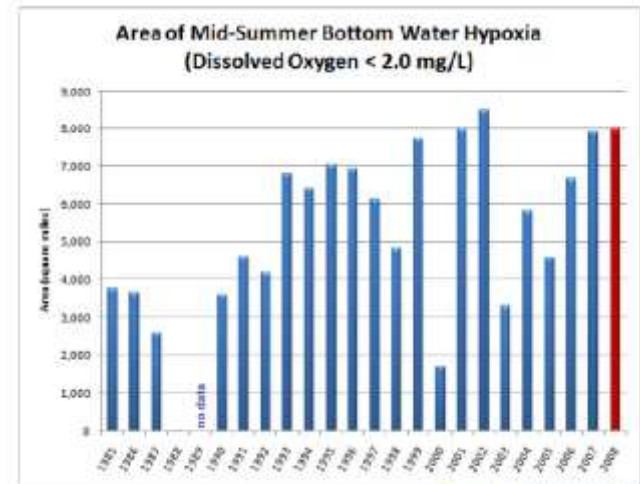
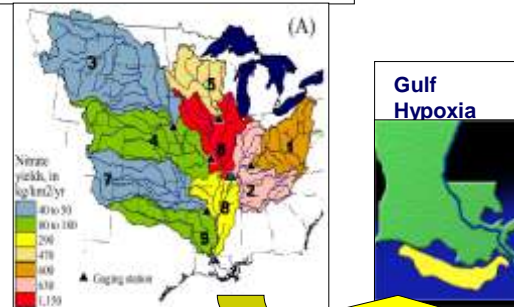


Source: U.S. EPA, Region VI

66% of the Rivers within the Continental U.S. Flow to the Gulf.....

...and, 80% of all precipitation reaches the Gulf.

Nutrient Enrichment of Gulf Coastal Estuaries



Source: N. Rabalais, LUMCON



Priority Regional Issues:



Water Quality — (Public Health)



- Recreational Beach Safety

- Shellfish Growing Water Recovery

- Harmful Algal Blooms (Red Tides)

- Mercury in Gulf Seafood



Percent of monitored beaches affected by a notification action

2005	2006	2007
49.7%	48.1%	50.8%



55 - 60% of U.S. Gulf Shellfish Growing Waters that are Conditionally / Permanently Closed to Safe Harvest



Chronic in SW Texas & South Florida

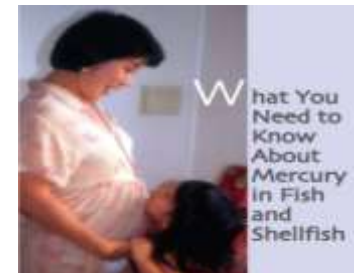
Estimated Economic Losses Per Major Bloom:

> \$25M

MOBILE REGISTER
Toxic methylmercury in the nation's seafood supply
What you don't know

MOBILE REGISTER
Seafood riddled with mercury

Effective Risk Science, Monitoring, and Communication (Gulfwide)





Priority Regional Issues:



Community Resilience

(a.k.a. – Sea Level Rise and Climate Adaptation)

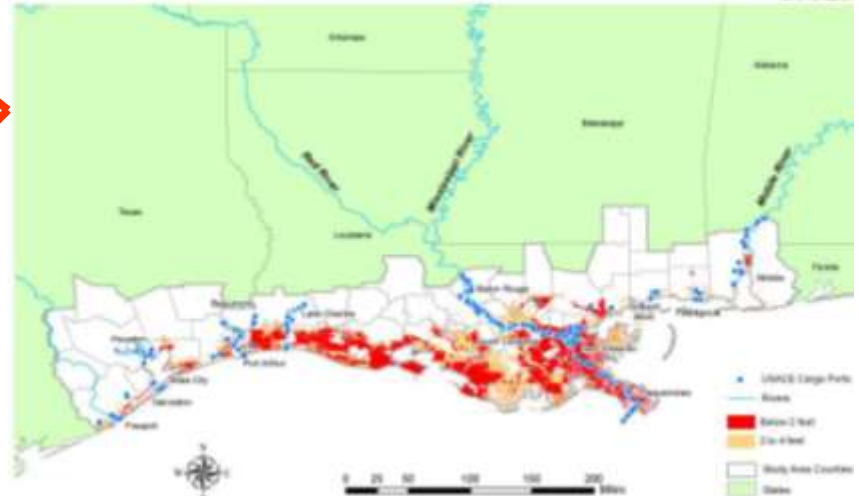
Graphics / Statistics Depicted:

USDOT
Climate Change
Study – (Freeport, TX –
Mobile, AL)

Minimal Climate Change Threatens the Gulf's / Nation's Critical Infrastructure...(Central Gulf Example Analysis)

Risk of Relative SLR of 2'

-50% Highway / Rail Miles
-70% Ports



Risk of Increasing Storm Severity (Facilities <18')

-51% Highway / Rail Miles
-98% Ports





Program History & Structure

Origin: 1988 – EPA Response to Petition by Gulf States Citizens for a 3rd “Great Waters” Program for the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem.






Mission:

“To facilitate collaborative actions to protect, maintain, and restore the health and productivity of the Gulf of Mexico in ways consistent with the economic well-being of the Region.”

Partnership Structure:

Gulf of Mexico Program *Environmental Partners at Work*

States

-  State of Alabama
-  State of Florida
-  State of Louisiana
-  State of Mississippi
-  State of Texas

Federal

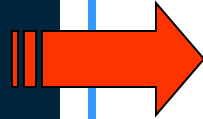
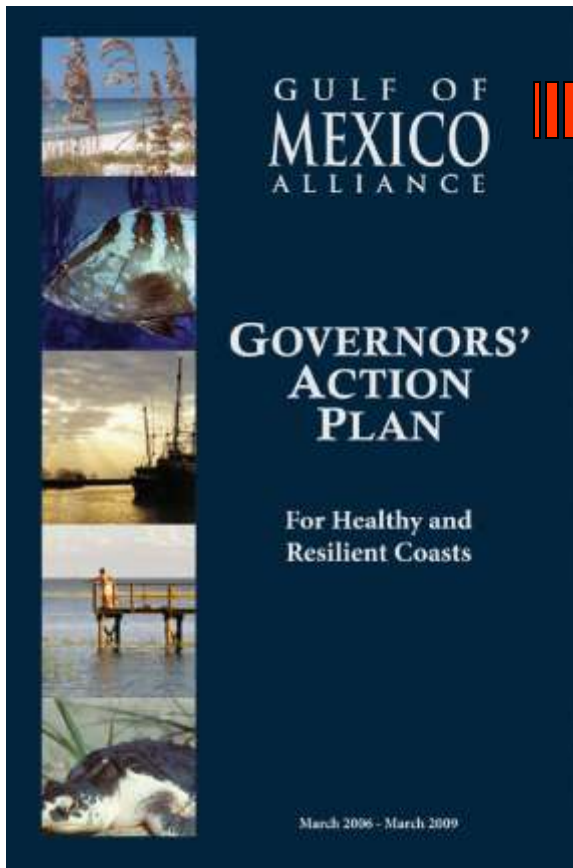
-  Environmental Protection Agency
-  National Aeronautics and Space Administration
-  Department of Agriculture
-  Department of Commerce
-  Department of Defense
-  Department of Energy
-  Department of Health and Human Services
-  Department of Homeland Security
-  Department of Interior

Non-Government Organizations

-  American Farm Bureau Federation
-  Conference of Southern County Associations
-  Gulf Coastal Zone Managers
-  Gulf of Mexico Program Citizens Advisory Committee
-  Gulf of Mexico Business Coalition
-  Gulf Restoration Network
-  Gulf States Association of Conservation Districts
-  Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
-  The Nature Conservancy



Action Plan I (2006 – 2009)



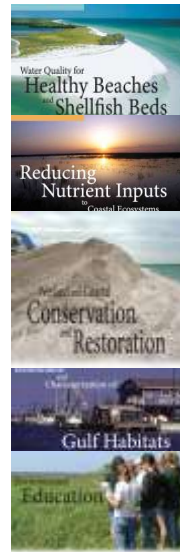
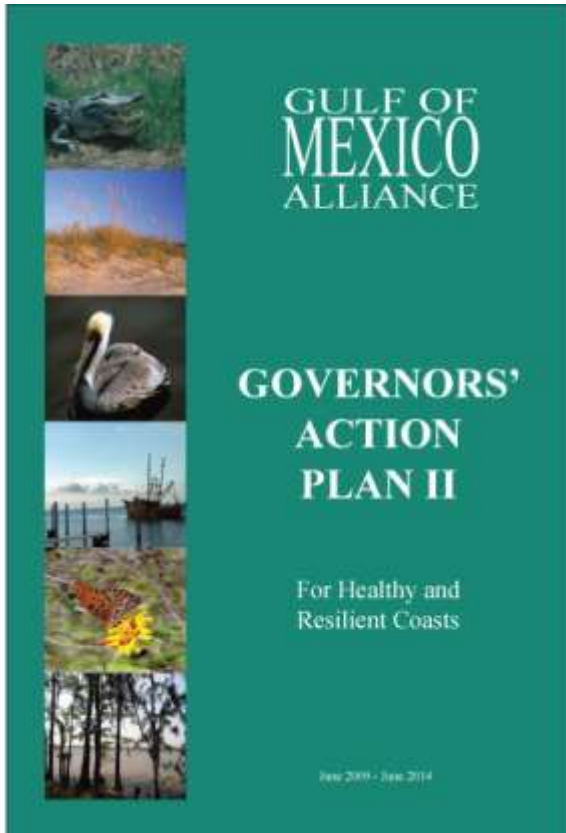
99% Complete / On Track
to be Completed 2009

Subject	Grade	Comments
National Ocean Governance Reforms	C-	
Regional and State Ocean Governance Reforms	A-	
International Leadership	C	
Research, Science, and Education	C	
Fisheries Management Reforms	C+	
New Funding for Ocean Policy and Programs	D+	
Links between Oceans and Climate Change	C	

“The Joint Initiative commends the Gulf states’ leadership and achievements in regional ocean governance reform, as well as the active engagement by federal agencies to support progress in the region.”



Action Plan II (2010 – 2014)



Coastal Resilience

“100” Priority Collaborative Actions

Release Scheduled for:



June 9 - 11, 2009



Bi-National Collaborations

- Bridging Science, Monitoring & Education



Joint HABs (Red Tide) Research and Monitoring



Regionally Integrated Science Education & Outreach





Active Legislation

110th Congress

2D Session S. 3558

“Gulf of Mexico Restoration and Protection Act”

Historically, the region feels orphaned dating back to the originating Administration...



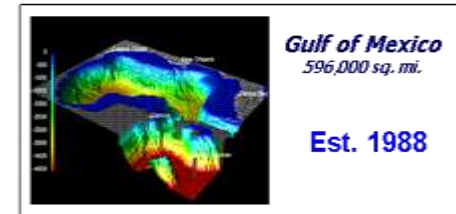
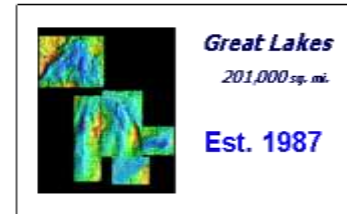
“The Program is progressing very vigorously and is in the process of being elevated to a level equivalent to our other large, multi-state programs, the Great Lakes and the Chesapeake Bay.” – Bill Reilly, EPA Administrator, Texas Shores (1992)

“The modest start-up budget for the GMP has increased to the present level of approximately \$6 million and the President’s proposed budget for fiscal year 1993 requests \$20 million for the program.” – Bill Reilly, EPA Administrator, Texas Shores (1992)

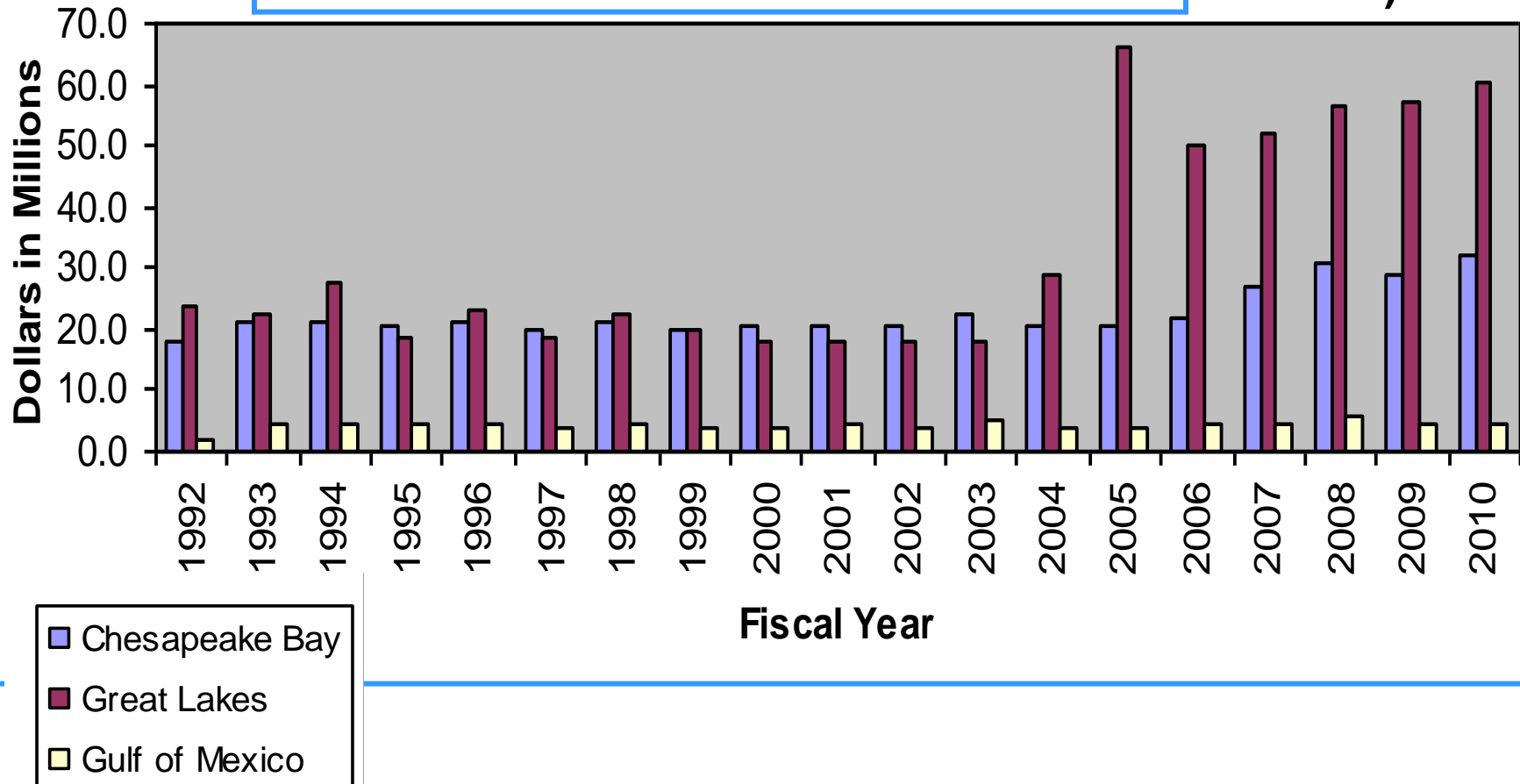
Title:	Gulf of Mexico Restoration and Protection Act
Sponsors:	Senator Wicker (MS) and Senator Cochran (MS)
Status:	Originally introduced in the 109th Congress (Senators Landrieu (LA), Lott (MS), Cochran (MS)) Re-introduced on September 17, 2008 Referred to Environment and Public Works
Purpose:	- Expand and strengthen cooperative efforts to restore and protect the Gulf - Expand monitoring, management and restoration - Improve water quality and resource productivity - Establish EPA Gulf of Mexico Program as a national and international collaborative management model
Partnership Structure:	Gulf of Mexico Executive Council (Federal, State, local, and private collaborative)
Grant Structure:	75% Federal Share Cap
Authorization:	\$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2013.”.



Comparative Resource Profiles:



Great Water Bodies Funding Comparison (inclusive of earmarks and special initiatives)



CAC's desired legacy?



2009 - 2010
2011 - 2012
2013 - 2016