

Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Gulf of America Alliance
(GOAA)
and
Gulf of America Coastal Ocean Observing System-Regional
Association (GCOOS)

PURPOSE:

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) constitutes an understanding by the undersigned representatives of the Gulf of America Alliance (GOAA) and Gulf of America Coastal Ocean Observing System-Regional Association (GCOOS-RA), hereafter referred to as "the Parties," confirming their commitment to collaborate on matters of regional importance to the Gulf of America environment.

PARTIES:

Initiated in 2004, the GOAA is a partnership of the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, with a mission to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of America through increased regional collaboration as an authorized Regional Ocean Partnership under NOAA.

The GCOOS-RA Corporation is one of eleven regional associations that are building regional coastal ocean observing systems along the coasts of the United States and its territories, as part of the United States Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®), as such system is defined and authorized by The Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (the "Act").

RATIONALE:

The shorelines, ecosystems and marine life of the Gulf of America are critically important to the economy and quality of life of the people who live along its coasts. For those States within the United States that share a coastline along the Gulf of America (Gulf States), these

coastal regions and territorial seas host nationally important ecosystem services that support economically valuable resources, for example, mineral and energy industries, tourism, fishing and seafood industries, and many natural areas of critical importance to wildlife and natural resources. Collectively these resources generate significantly to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and supports millions of jobs. Importantly, they are home to some of the most sensitive coastal and marine ecosystems in the world that are subject to stress from a variety of natural and human-induced disturbances. It is critically important that marine and other environmental data (including model output) in the estuarine and U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone of the Gulf of America be collected, integrated and shared openly with all stakeholders including the public, the private sector, scientists, and federal and state partners.

Because our organizations have unique and complementary missions and share many areas of common interest, including enhanced coastal resilience, robust ecosystem health, and healthy marine water resources, fisheries and habitats, we wish to ensure that GOAA and the GCOOS-RA work in full cooperation toward these ends.

COLLABORATION:

GOAA and GCOOS agree to collaborate as follows:

Priorities:

- Meet regularly to identify regional coastal and ocean data, information, and management issues that would benefit from a collaborative approach
- Identify collaborative actions that can be taken by both organizations in support of institutional missions
- Include collaborative actions in our respective work plans

Participation:

- Invite appropriate organizational representatives to participate in each other's Teams and Working Groups

- Be intentional about providing opportunities for presentations from each other's organizations to interested audiences regarding priority action efforts and data products

Communications, Education & Outreach:

- Identify opportunities to amplify organizational efforts and leverage relationships to extend access, educate, and engage the region's stakeholders on opportunities for collaborative activities as well as coastal data collection and dissemination, and science priorities
- Facilitate educational opportunities that mutually benefit both organizational partners and stakeholders

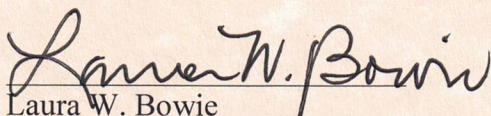
Data, Data Products, and Information:

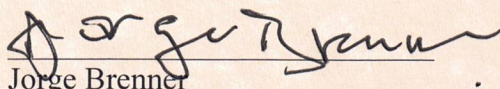
- Identify opportunities to coordinate on development of data collection, data products and synthesis of information of mutual interest
- Continue and expand cooperation and align mutual understanding regarding respective organizational roles related to development of data, data portals, data products, and information which inform regional ocean and coastal management

SUNSET AND MODIFICATION:

The Parties agree that, on or before December 31, 2027, representatives of GOAA and GCOOS-RA will meet and determine whether the MOU purpose is being met, whether modifications to this MOU are appropriate, and whether the MOU should continue.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed:


 Laura W. Bowie
 Executive Director, GOAA


 Jorge Brenner
 Executive Director, GCOOS-RA

5 / 6 / 2025
 Date

May 6, 2025
 Date