

Introduction to the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA)

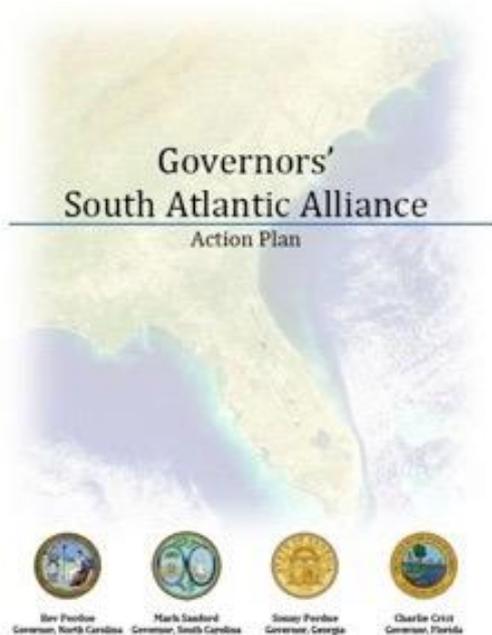
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GSAA Coordinator

What is the GSAA?

GSAA is a collaboration of four states and their partners focused on shared ocean and coastal challenges and opportunities promoting environmental sustainability, disaster preparedness, and strong economies.



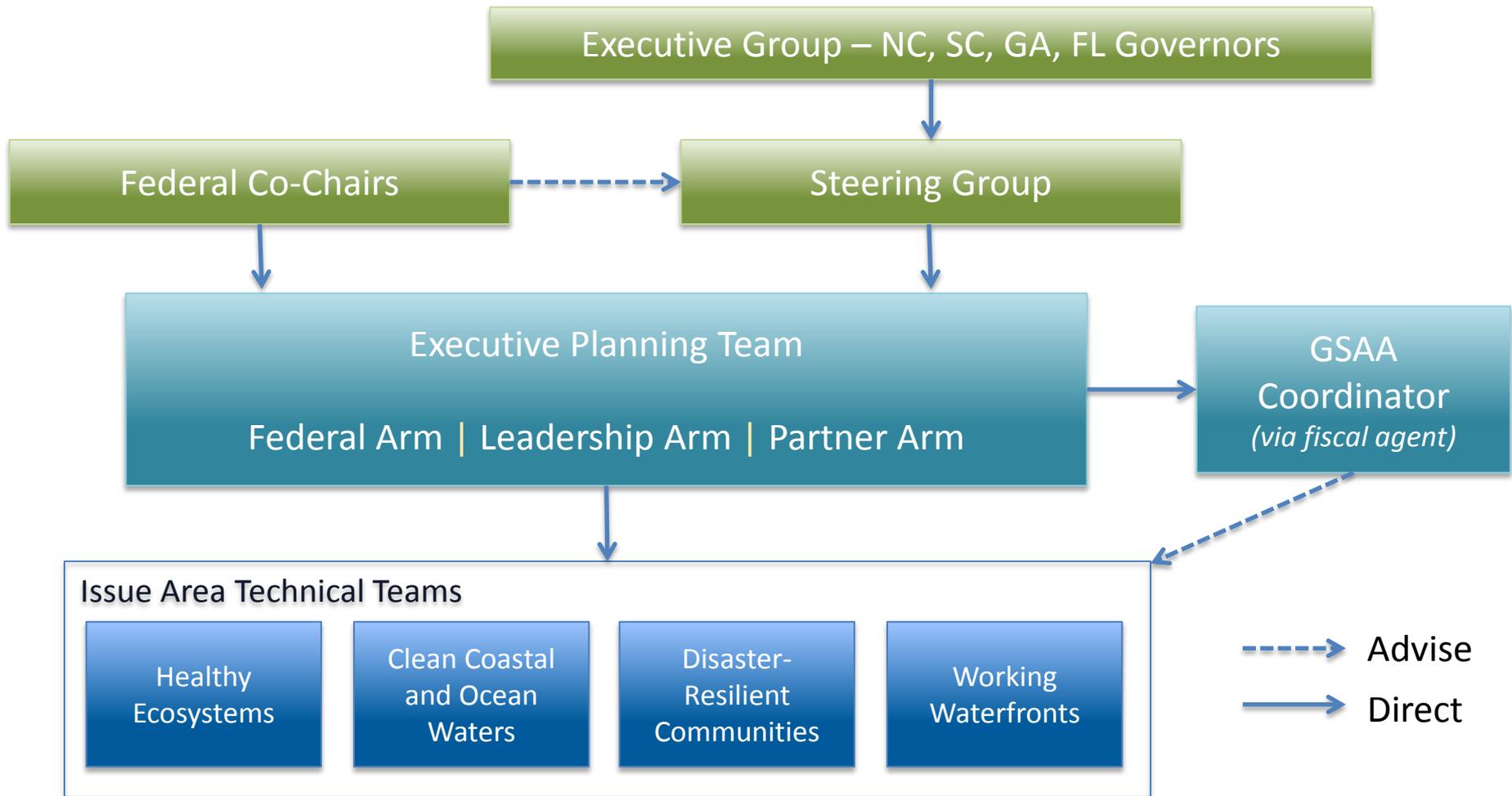
Priority Issue Areas



- Action Plan signed by the Governors in December 2010
- The states identified a set of four priority issue areas

Healthy Ecosystems
Working Waterfronts
Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters
Disaster-Resilient Communities

GSAA Structure



Partner Organizations



NOAA



USCG



South Atlantic
Fishery
Management
Council



DOI



Army



Southeast Coastal
Ocean Observing
Regional Assoc.



EPA



USACE



South Atlantic
Regional Research
Project



NAVY



SCSGC



Southeast Regional
Partnership for
Planning and
Sustainability



USMC



TNC



UNC System

Wetland Loss at an Ecosystem Scale

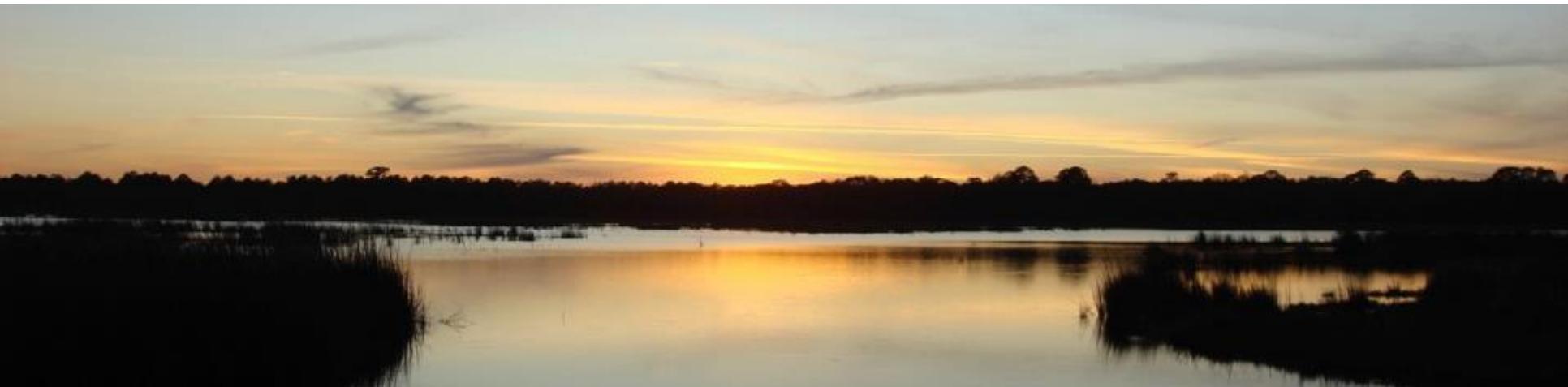
- Losing Coastal Wetlands at a rate 6x faster than wetlands in the rest of the nation
- Atlantic Coast lost 111,960 acres of coastal wetlands between 2004-2009
- Wetland ecosystem influences and impacts are not constrained by state boundaries
 - Habitat for commercially important fish species, migratory birds, improve water quality, protect coastal communities, economic value for tourism and recreation
 - Impacted by currents, tides, coastal storms, sea level rise, shoreline change, variety of man-made and natural stressors

EPA Region 4

Wetlands Program Development Grant

Provide regional-scale data, analysis, information, and research that meets the common needs of the states in pursuing their priorities for wetlands protection, restoration, and management with the **ultimate goals of improving water quality and coastal resilience**

1. Enhance the comparability of coastal wetlands monitoring efforts
2. Increase capacity for implementing water quality BMPs
3. Support the expanded use of living shorelines



Coastal Wetlands Monitoring

Objectives

1. Improve coordination of fragmented monitoring programs
2. Identify opportunities to enhance comparability of monitoring programs
3. Build awareness of available data and improve information sharing



Coastal Watershed Planning

Objectives

1. Increase capacity for development of watershed restoration plans by local authorities and resource managers
2. Facilitate implementation of Coastal Water Quality Best Management Practices (BMPs)



Living Shorelines

Objectives

1. Develop a network of living shorelines practitioners in the Southeast
2. Build awareness of the scope of living shorelines activities in the region
3. Identify gaps in knowledge and capacity that, if filled, would expand the appropriate use of living shorelines



Partners



The Nature Conservancy



SERPPAS
Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability



North Carolina Coastal Federation
Working Together for a Healthy Coast



Governors'
South Atlantic
Alliance

North Carolina • South Carolina • Georgia • Florida

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a bright orange and yellow glow from the setting sun visible near the horizon. The water is dark blue with gentle ripples. In the foreground, a small, yellow buoy with a metal structure on top is visible in the water.

Thank you!