



Governors' South Atlantic Alliance

Becky Prado

October 9, 2012

Presentation Outline

- ▶ Brief Background
- ▶ Organization
- ▶ Priority Issue Areas
- ▶ Progress to Date
- ▶ Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters

Mission Statement

Increase regional collaboration among South Atlantic states, with federal agency partners and other stakeholders, to sustain and enhance the environmental (coastal/marine), natural resource, economic, public safety, social, and national defense missions of the respective states and the South Atlantic region.



Partnership Agreement

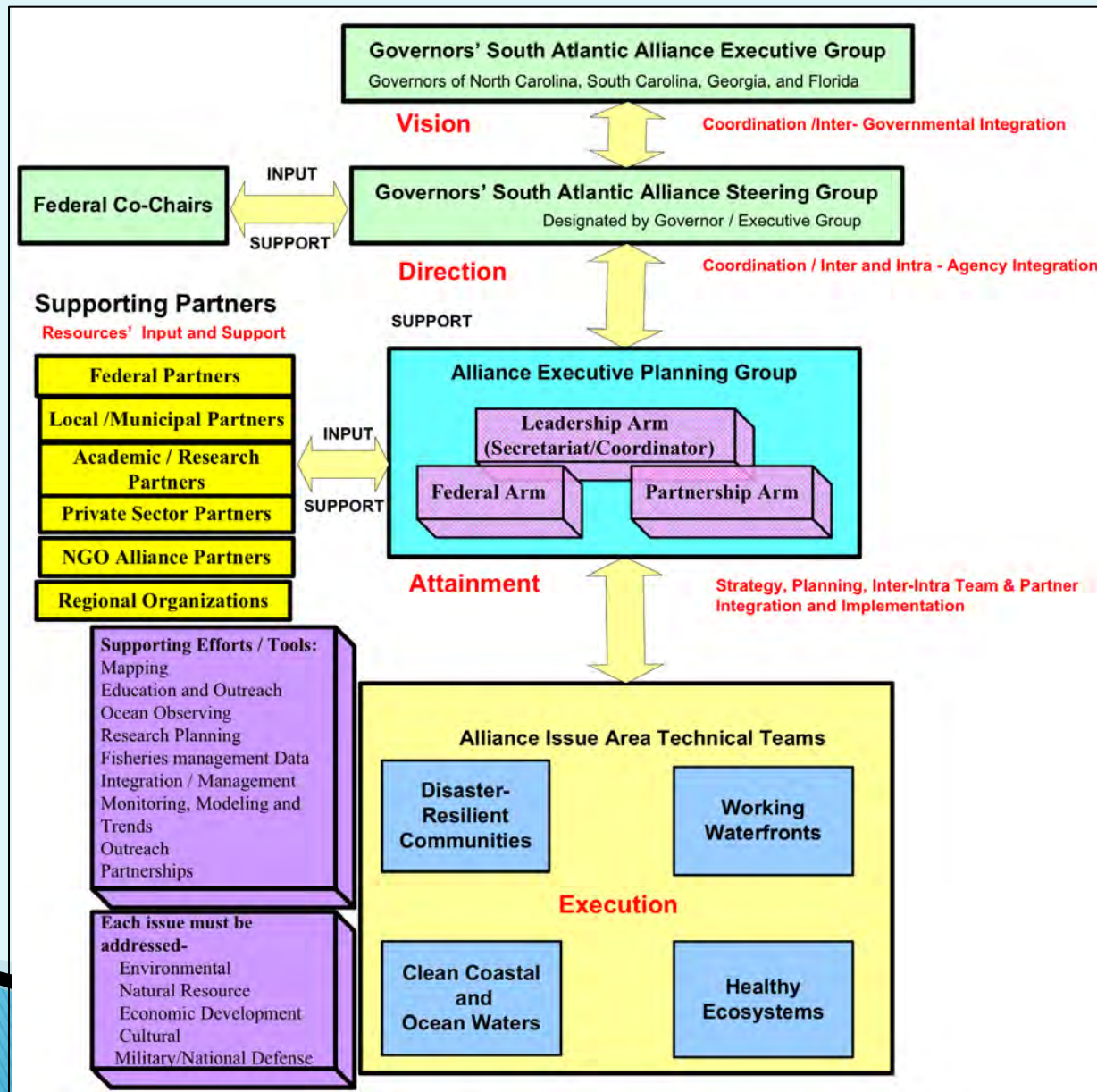
- ▶ Signed by the Governors of NC, SC, GA & FL in May 2009
- ▶ Agrees on four regional priority issues:
 - healthy ecosystems,
 - working waterfronts,
 - clean coastal and ocean waters, and
 - disaster resilient communities
- ▶ Creates a partnership among states, federal and local agencies; academia; nongovernmental organizations; businesses; and the public

Goals

The Alliance provides a structure and forum for collaborating, coordinating, and sharing information that will support:

- ▶ Resource sustainability
- ▶ Improved regional alignment
- ▶ Cooperative planning and leveraging resources
- ▶ Integrated research, observations, and mapping
- ▶ Increased awareness of the challenges facing the South Atlantic region
- ▶ Inclusiveness and integration at all levels

Alliance Structure



Steering Group Members

NC – Dee Freeman, Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural
Resources

SC – Catherine Templeton, Director

Department of Health and Environmental
Control

GA – Mark Williams, Commissioner

Department of Natural Resources

FL – Greg Munson, Deputy Secretary

Department of Environmental Protection

Federal Agency Co-Chairs

NOAA – Dr. Paul Sandifer

Chief Scientist, National Ocean Service

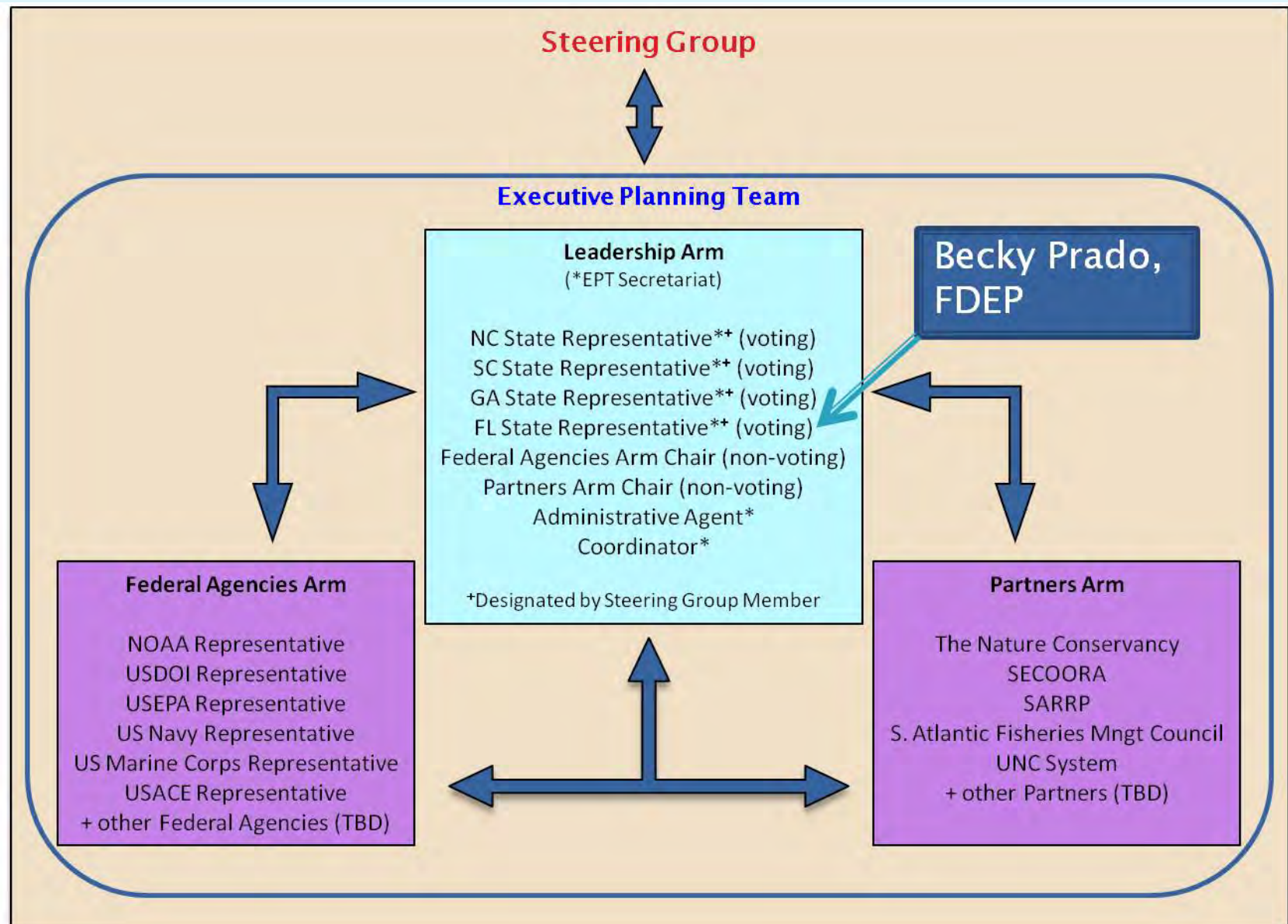
USDOI – Dr. Eric Strom

Director, South Carolina Water Science Center
US Geological Survey

USEPA – Dr. James Giattina

Director, Water Management Division
EPA Region 4

Configuration of Executive Planning Team



Priority Issue Area Team Florida Leads

- **Healthy Ecosystems – Jan Landsberg, FWCC**
- **Working Waterfronts – Julie Dennis, FDEO**
- **Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters – Mike Shirley, FDEP**
- **Disaster-Resilient Communities – Julie Dennis, FDEO**

Healthy Ecosystems

The South Atlantic supports a diverse array of coastal, estuarine, and offshore ecosystems which provide numerous ecological and economic benefits. The Alliance will work to:

- ▶ Enhance ecosystem-based management efforts
- ▶ Maintain and improve ecosystem structure and function
- ▶ Increase understanding of the scope, scale and distribution of resources
- ▶ Standardize, integrate, and make accessible spatial and temporal data

Working Waterfronts

Working waterfronts are commercial facilities that require direct access to or a location on, over or adjacent to coastal waters. Sustaining adequate access and infrastructure is crucial.

The Alliance will work to:

- ▶ Strike a balance between new development, historic uses and sustained resources
- ▶ Support port development/maintenance and effective coastal planning
- ▶ Ensure public access

Disaster-Resilient Communities

Both short-term and long-term changes in weather and climate are major concerns in the southeast. These changes threaten our coastal communities, tourism, and fishing industries. The Alliance will work to:

- ▶ Share best practices as we prepare for the next emergency
- ▶ Increase understanding of our vulnerability to, and the impacts of, storms and climate change
- ▶ Improve prediction, observation and forecasting capabilities

Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters

Significant impacts to estuarine water quality and coastal ecosystem health are predicted as a result of increasing coastal urbanization. The Alliance will work to:

- ▶ View impacts and management at a regional level
- ▶ Consider point and non-point discharge impacts on oceans and human health
- ▶ Utilize regional observation and monitoring in decision-making

South Atlantic Alliance – Plans

Governors' South Atlantic Alliance Implementation Plan 2011

Governors' South Atlantic Alliance Action Plan

to address key environmental, coastal, and ocean. The Governors' Alliance will ensure the sustainability of the Southeast U.S. coastal waters, and disaster-resilient coastal communities. The Executive Planning Team, with the Action Plan to address objectives

east's thriving coastal communities. By the year 2020, four objectives were identified: assessment of coastal habitats; development and management of coastal habitats; and determination of long-term

coastal and marine resource mapping network through which to map priority areas and identify resource measures of ongoing coastal ecosystem

anticipated climate change impacts on coastal resources. The Alliance will integrate these impacts for use in coastal planning (e.g., for habitats, coastal resources, etc.). These efforts will be integrated into the Alliance's capacity that integrates climate

coordination and prioritization of resources in coastal planning. The Alliance will establish methods and policies regarding ecosystem health and develop additional information for current coastal planning.

Implementation steps include evaluation and assessment of coastal resources and state invasive species remediation plans. Engagement of regional species experts and alert systems must also be

Implementation are some of the issues facing coastal working waterfronts that require access or support facilities for coastal communities, are essential to the economic importance to the

document.

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- ▶ Action Plan Signed in December 2010
- ▶ Implementation Plan agreed by Steering Group on June 30, 2011



Bev Perdue
Governor, North Carolina



Mark Sanford
Governor, South Carolina



Sonny Perdue
Governor, Georgia



Charlie Crist
Governor, Florida

Governors' South Atlantic Alliance Progress...

- ✓ Governors Sign Partnership Agreement (October 2009)
- ✓ Publish Governors' Action Plan (December 2010)
- ✓ 1st GSAA Funding Submittal (December 2010)
- ✓ Publish Implementation Plan (June 2011)
- ✓ 1st Annual Meeting (September 2011)
- ✓ 2nd GSAA Funding Submittal (March 2012)
- ✓ 2nd Annual Meeting (September 2012)
 - ▶ 3rd GSAA Funding Submittal (Winter 2012)
 - ▶ Hold EPT/IATT/Project in-person meetings (Spring 2013)

Support for GSAA Activities

NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program

► FY2011 Funding Competition

- GSAA Proposal Package Submitted, December 2010
- Two Grants Secured
 - Total = \$1,062,431
 - Programmatic – Develop a multi-state and regional framework for CMSP in the Southeast U.S. (\$784,431)
 - Administrative – Continued development of the GSAA (\$278,827)

► FY2012 Funding Competition

- GSAA Proposal Package Submitted, March 2012
- One Grant Secured
 - Total = \$276,00
 - Programmatic – Develop a multi-state and regional framework for CMSP in the SE U.S. (includes admin)

Regional Information Management System (RIMS)

- Purpose:
 - Enable regional collaboration
 - Support regional & state level decision making
 - Initial themes:
 - Sediment management and Ports
 - Habitat conservation
- Develop RIMS:
 - Framework to access data and information
 - Data discovery
 - Data visualization
 - Limited decision support tools (DSTs)
- Project PI: Debra Hernandez, SECOORA

Regional Hazard Vulnerability Assessment

- ▶ Develop and apply a new digital geospatial analysis tool for performing a consistent regional evaluation of vulnerability to coastal hazards
 - Assess vulnerability to coastal hazards where:
 - "vulnerability" is clearly defined
 - "hazards" are clearly defined
 - datasets used in assessments are meaningful
 - geospatial tools are developed for coastal scientists/managers
 - results are useful to scientists, managers, & public
 - methods are applicable to most coastal settings
 - Project PI: Clark Alexander, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography

Collaboration

- ▶ FL DEP has a leadership role in both the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance and Gulf of Mexico Alliance
 - Developed the monitoring program database (GGOMA)
- ▶ Strong focus be given to coastal water quality issues incorporating current partners of the GSAA
- ▶ FL DEP Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas
 - National Estuarine Research Reserves
 - Aquatic Preserves
 - Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
 - Coral Reef Conservation Program

Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters Update

Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters

- ▶ **MENTORS**

Brad Gane (Lead) – NC DENR

Rebecca Prado – FL DEP

Eric Strom – DOI/USGS

- ▶ **STATE REPRESENTATIVES**

Dianne Reid – NC DENR

David Wilson – SC DHEC

Kelly O'Rourke – GA DNR

Mike Shirley – FL DEP

- ▶ **FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES**

Geoff Scott – DOC/NOAA

Shawnielle Campbell-Dunbar – EPA

Andrea Zimmer – EPA

C. Anna Toline – DOI/NPS

Elden Gatwood – DOD/USACE

- ▶ **ADDITIONAL MEMBERS**

David Graves (Team Lead) – SC DHEC

Sean Torrens – SC DHEC

Andrea Small – FL DEP

Mathew Kimball – FL DEP



Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters

The Goal of Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters (C.C.O.W.) is to enhance managers' abilities to effectively target prevention, enforcement, response, mitigation activities, and integrate coastal and ocean observing systems in the South Atlantic



Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters

Prioritized Action Items, Sept. 2011

CCOW1A – Establish a regional technical level work group for the purpose of sharing watershed water quality improvement processes.

CCOW1C – Develop recommendations on processes and protocols to transfer knowledge/implement BMPs for point and non-point source controls, and to encourage smart growth and green infrastructure (including monitoring-based performance measures). Potential focus is TMDLs.

CCOW1A – Establish a regional technical level work group for the purpose of sharing watershed water quality improvement processes.

- ▶ Workshops–Fall 2011
 - Tallahassee (September)
 - Ponte Vedra Beach (October)
 - Vero Beach (November)
 - Dania Beach (December)

- ▶ Invitation to Participate –Winter 2012
 - Team selected (March 2012)



Watershed Improvement Work Group (WIWG)

Andy Miller
SC Dept. of Health and Environmental
Control
Bureau of Water
Watershed Manager Edisto/Santee Basins



Adriene Weaver
North Carolina Department of
Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Water Quality
Environmental Senior Specialist



Michael Thomas, PE
Florida Dept of Environmental Protection
Nonpoint Source Management Program
Professional Engineer



Elizabeth Booth, PE and PhD
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division
Watershed Planning and Monitoring
Program Manager



CCOW1C – Develop recommendations on processes and protocols to transfer knowledge/implement BMPs for point and non-point source controls, and to encourage smart growth and green infrastructure (including monitoring-based performance measures). Potential focus is TMDLs.

- ▶ States are in the process of compiling accepted and promising BMP practices for inclusion in a compendium
- ▶ We have established a website for the purpose of compiling and sharing data.

Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters

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