

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance Habitat Conservation & Restoration Team Gulf-wide Regional Sediment Master Plan

11th Annual
Southern and Caribbean
Coastal Zone Management
Regional Meeting

October 28-30, 2008
Austin, Texas

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The USACE

Regional Sediment Management Program

Goals:

- Maximize beneficial use of sediments.
- Minimize environmental impacts.
- Optimize expenditures.

Objectives:

- Improve economic performance by linking projects.
- Develop new engineering techniques to optimize/conservate sediment.
- ID/overcome bureaucratic obstacles.

RSM Implementation:

- Collaboration is a Necessity
 - Identify problems & opportunities
 - Solutions towards improved management
 - Local involvement
- External Partnerships (Ex: AL RSM Working Group)
 - Federal, State, Local
 - Academia
 - Various other stakeholders
- Internal Partnerships
 - Within all elements of the District
 - Operations, Planning, Engineering, etc.
 - Establish PDT to evaluate all projects

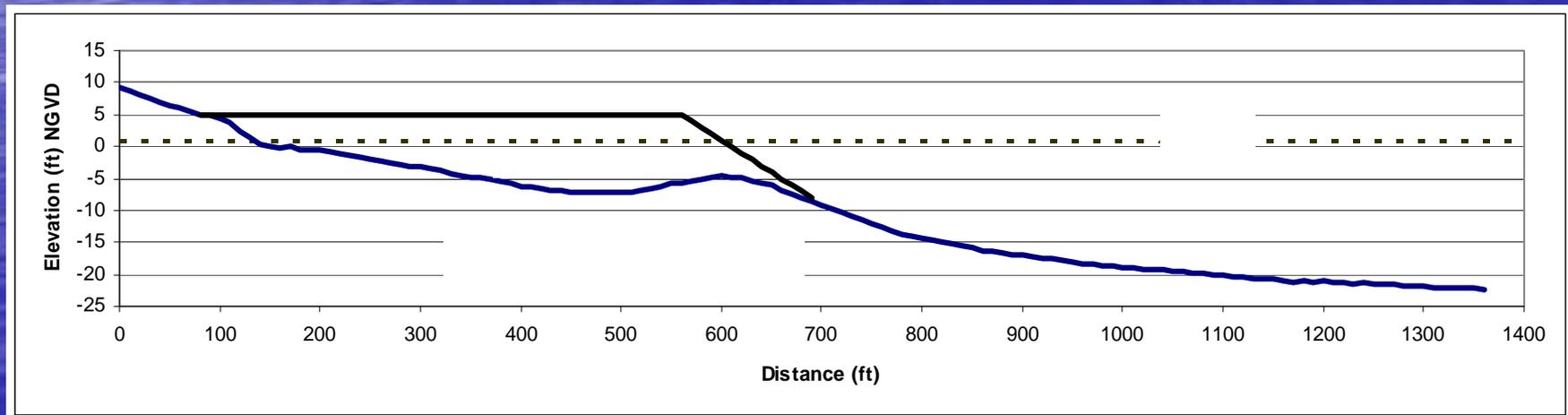
RSM in Action: Perdido Pass Navigation Project

Problem: Needed better disposal options for sand bypassing.



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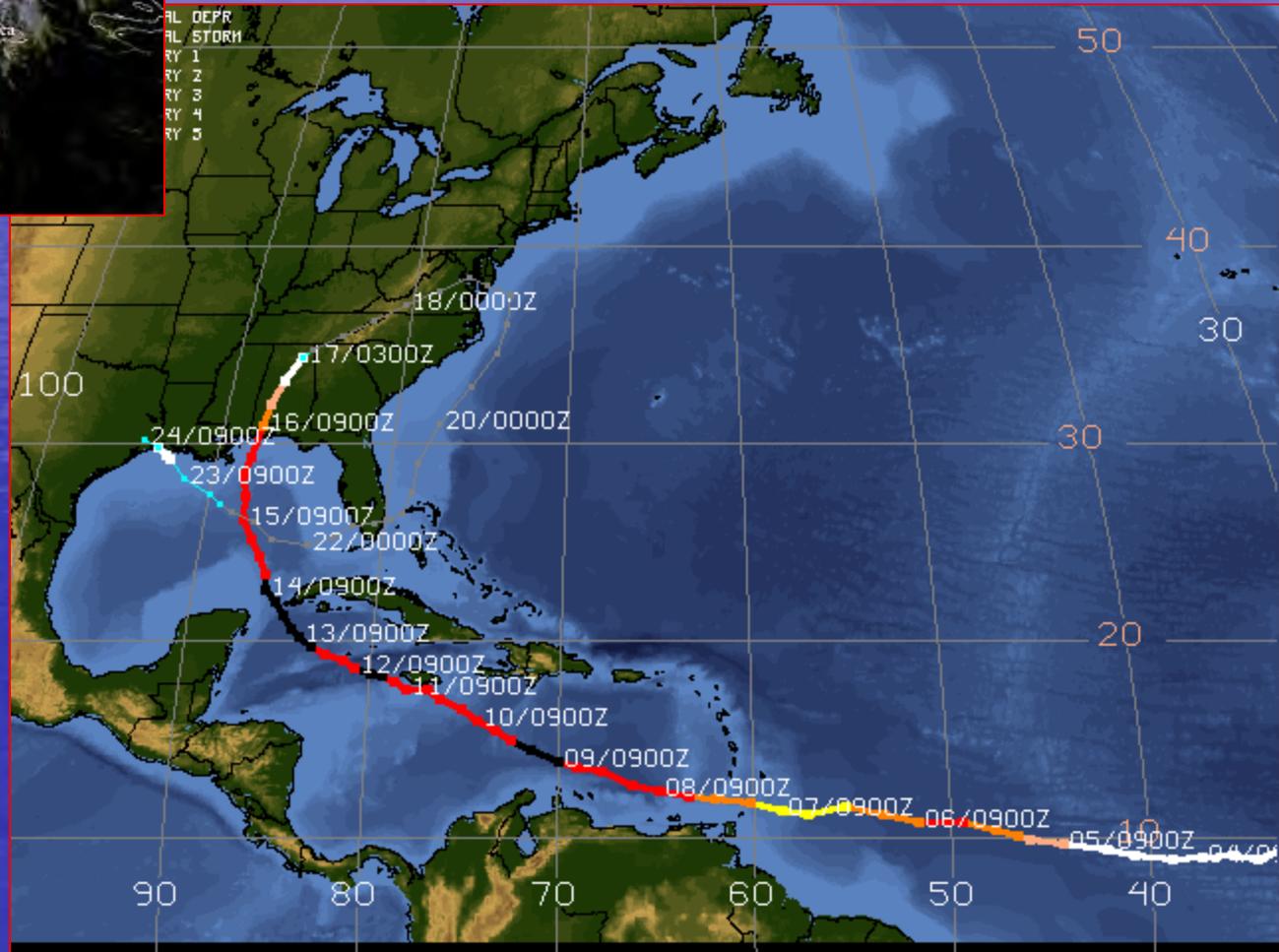
Solution: Partner with state & local governments to create DA 8.





Problem:
Hurricane Ivan (09/2004)
Causing Severe Dune Erosion
On Alabama Point.

Solution:
Work with
partners to quickly
develop and
implement
habitat restoration
plan.





Pre-Ivan



Post-Ivan



Post-Ivan
Placement



Habitat Conservation and Restoration Team

Gulf Regional Sediment Management Master Plan (GRSMMP)

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance Background:

- Initiated in 2004 by the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.
- A goal of “significantly increasing regional collaboration to enhance the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico”.
- Collaboration with the six Mexican Gulf of Mexico states has been initiated.

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance

Background:

Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts was released at the State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit on March 28 - 30, 2006. Five priority issues represent a focus for initial action through the Alliance:

- Water quality
- Wetland and Coastal Conservation and Restoration
- Environmental Education
- Identification and Characterization of Gulf habitats
- Nutrient Inputs to Coastal Ecosystems.

Resiliency has since been added as a 6th priority issue.

GOMA Habitat Conservation and Restoration Priority Issue Team

- The HCRT is responsible for implementing the Habitat Conservation and Restoration Action Items contained in the Governors Action Plan.
- The HCRT has been very active and includes members from all Gulf States, NGOs and representatives from Mexico.
- The creation of a Gulf-wide RSM Master plan is an action item for the HCRT.

Gulf of Mexico Regional Sediment Management Plan (GRSMMP)

Collaborators

- Gulf States
 - Florida
 - Alabama
 - Mississippi
 - Louisiana
 - Texas
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Geological Survey
- EPA
- NOAA
- The Gulf of Mexico Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Minerals Management Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Academia

How Does RSM Support Restoration?

- Sediment is a basic element within natural systems
 - Affects wildlife and ecosystems
 - Requires holistic approach
 - recognizing sediment as a regional resource
 - change practice of project specific management
 - not just moving sediment from one place to another
 - in concert with ecological processes
 - more effective management decisions
 - Develop policies, funding mechanisms, and optimal regional utilization of sediment resources
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Goals

- Develop understanding of sediment system dynamics towards management of sediment resources
- Recommend streamlined approach for regulatory and policy processes that considers environmental restoration issues
- Facilitate effective sediment management across political boundaries
- Inventory available sediment resources and needs
- Promote information exchange about Gulf region sediment resources and related management needs
- Encourage stakeholder participation in development and implementation of sediment management strategies

Focus Areas

- **Sediment Resources**

- Sediment Inventory - Compile information about existing studies and programs; sediment availability; characteristics, etc.
- Sediment Budgets - Sediment budget and related process information
- Dredging Activities - Assemble Corps and other dredging information into database

- **Ecological Components of RSM**

- Understand affects of sediment management on ecological processes
- Consider relationship of processes on ecological resources

- **Data/Information Management**

- Priority Habitat INformation System (PHINS) being developed by NOAA, USGS, & USACE - Identified as platform for GRSMMP information dissemination
- GIS tools – eCoastal, eBasin, eDredge

- **Policies, Authorities, and Funding**

- Provide recommendations to provide more flexibility in policies, authorities, and funding mechanisms to facilitate RSM approach

Ongoing Activities

- Continue coordination with states
- Compile and assimilate outputs from focus areas
- Draft of GRSMMP
 - Guidance to states
 - Recommendations to appropriate levels
 - Final products



Questions?

<http://www2.nos.noaa.gov/gomex/restoration/grsmmp/grsmmp.html>