

Governors' South Atlantic Alliance Overview, Status, Aspirations

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South Carolina DHEC-OCRM

2010 Southeast Regional Meeting
November, 2010

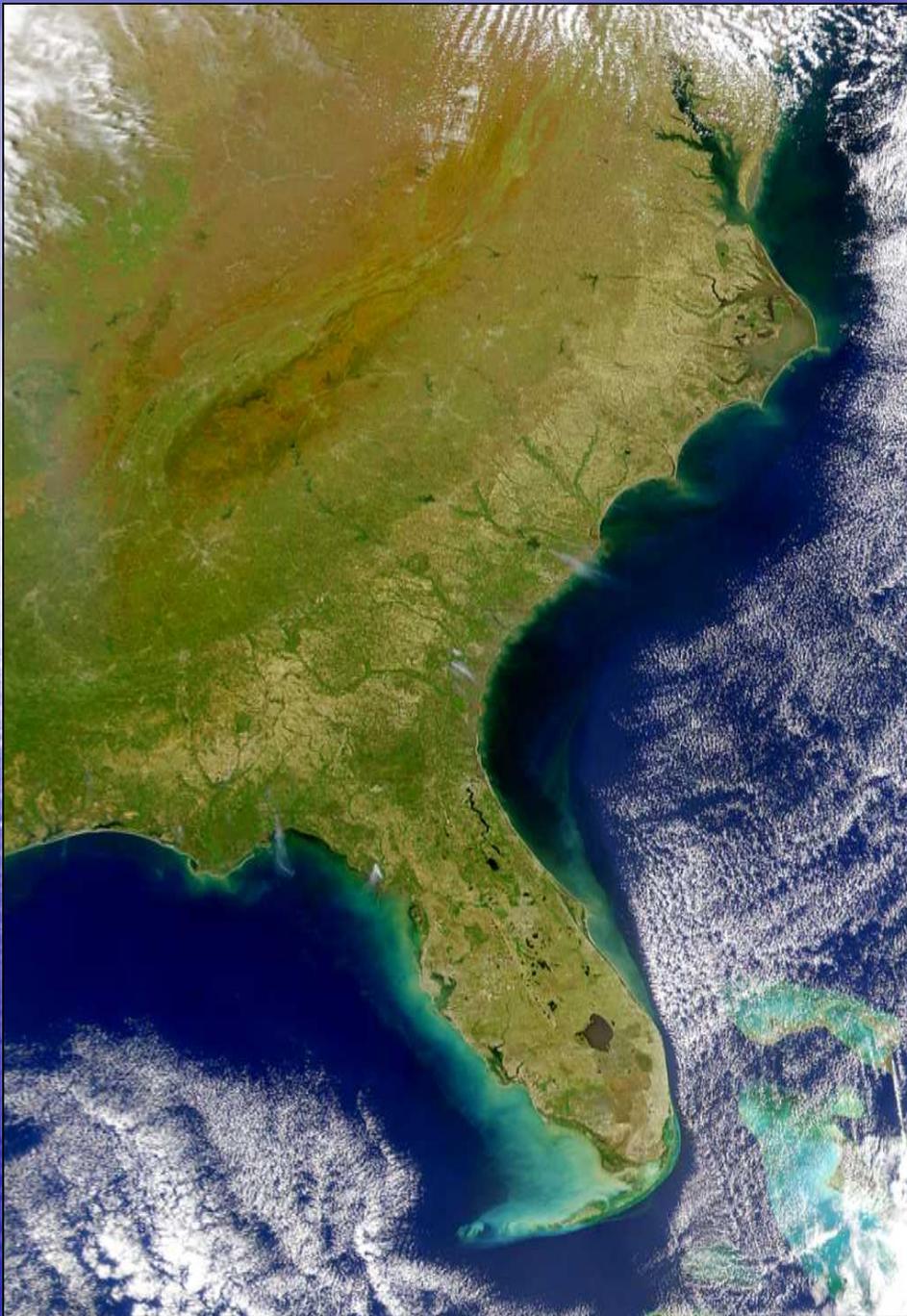


Presentation Outline

- Background
- Formation and Organization
- Regional Framework
- Priority Issue Areas
- Next Steps
- Discussion

South Atlantic

(...or, to be geographically correct, the Southeast U.S. coast and ocean, or the Southwestern North Atlantic)



South Atlantic Alliance Partnership Agreement

- Signed by the Governors of SC, GA, FL, & NC
- Joint formal announcement of Alliance held in Charleston, SC on October 19, 2009
- Regional and national attention
- Web site – <http://www.southatlanticalliance.org>

The State
South Carolina's Homepage™

thestate.com archives Web

NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS LIVING ENTERTAINMENT OPINIONS PHOTOS / VIDEO

LOCAL POLITICS CRIME NATION WORLD PHOTO/VIDEO WEIRD NEIGHBORHOODS

News - Local / Metro
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009

4 states in Southeast form coastal alliance

RECOMMEND (0)
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CHARLESTON - Environmental officials from four Southeastern states are announcing an alliance to deal with regional coastal issues during a meeting on the South Carolina coast.

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control is hosting officials from North Carolina, Georgia and Florida in Charleston on Monday to announce the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance.



States plan to work together

Carolinas, Georgia Florida in alliance

BY BO PETERSEN
The Post and Courier
Monday, October 19, 2009

South Carolina will work with its neighboring states on coastal issues such as marine life, erosion, pollution and economics.

A newly formed Governors' South Atlantic Alliance Partnership that includes North Carolina, Georgia and Florida will focus on sustaining natural resources that support the region, as well as historical, cultural and social heritage.

Under the agreement, the states would work together on expensive projects, such as integrating the monitoring and mapping of the South Atlantic, and finding common

Partnership Agreement

Signed by the Governors of NC, SC, GA & FL,
the Alliance Partnership Agreement:

- Recognizes Southeast challenges
- Supports regionally-based actions and solutions
- Creates a partnership among states, federal and local agencies; academia; nongovernmental organizations; businesses; and the public
- Aligns with states' recommendations to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy

Goals

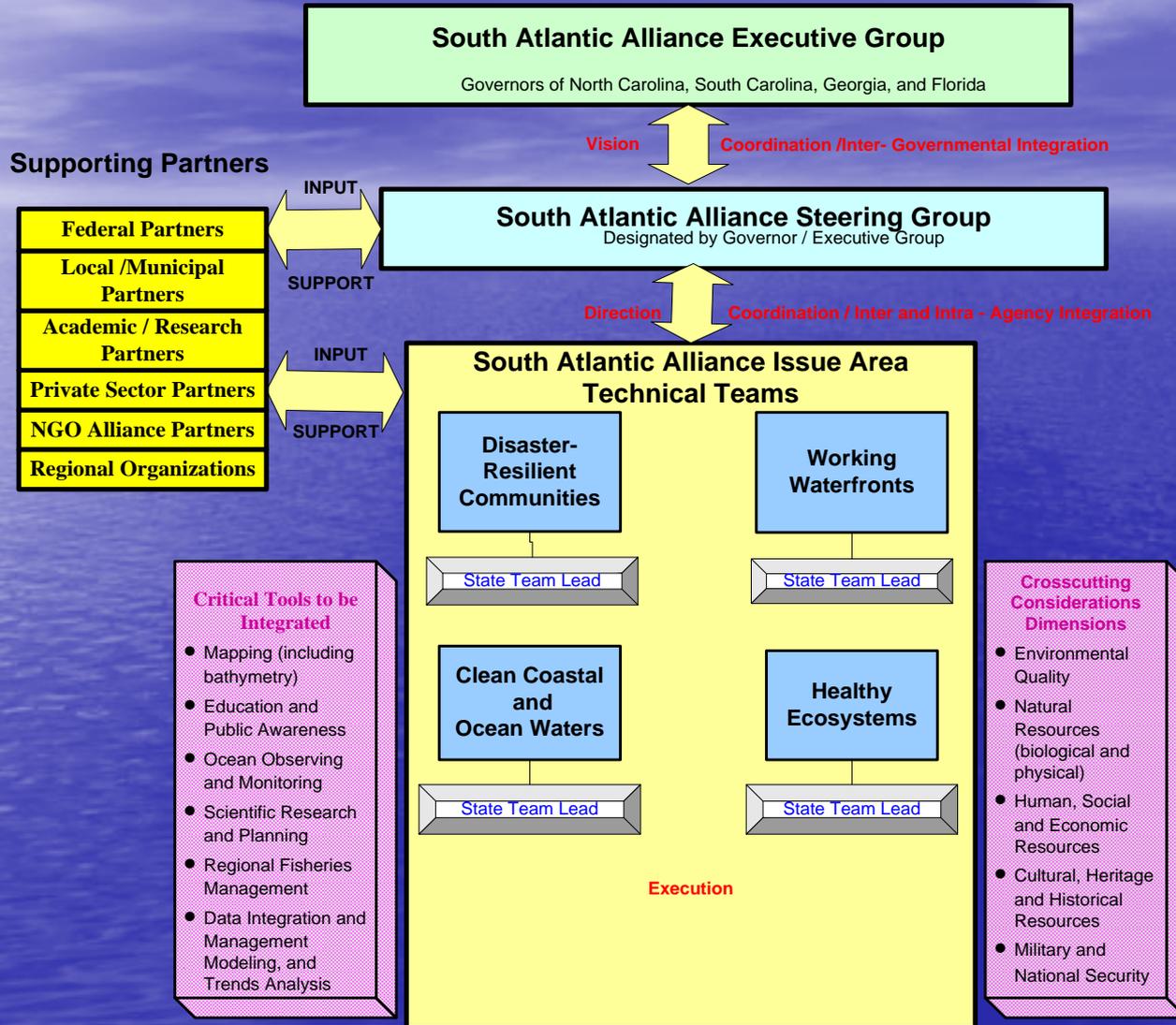
The Alliance provides a structure and forum for collaborating, coordinating, and sharing information that will support:

- 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

What the Alliance is NOT...

- It is not a governing body
- It does not dictate actions
- It does not duplicate actions
- It is not insular

Alliance Structure



Steering Group Members

- NC – Dee Freeman, Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- SC – Earl Hunter, Commissioner [*Chair*]
Department of Health and Environmental Control
John Frampton, Director
Department of Natural Resources
- GA – Chris Clark, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources
- FL – Bob Ballard, Deputy Secretary
Land and Recreation
Department of Environmental Protection

Federal Agency Co-leads

- NOAA - Dr. Paul A. Sandifer
Interim Science Advisor to the Administrator
- USDOJ - Dr. Jess D. Weavor
Chief Executive, Office of Water, SE Region
U.S. Geological Survey
- USEPA - Dr. James D. Giattina
Director, Water Management Division
U.S. EPA Region 4

Executive Planning Team

Chris Russo	Organizational Effectiveness Director, NC DENR
Louis Daniel	Director, NC DENR - Division of Marine Fisheries
Jim Gregson	Director, NC DENR - Division of Coastal Management
Michelle Duval	Exec. Asst. for Councils, NC DENR – Div. of Marine Fisheries
Carolyn Boltin-Kelly, <i>Chair</i>	Deputy Commissioner, SC DHEC Ocean & Coastal Resource Mgt
Robert Boyles	Director, SC DNR - Marine Resources Division
Rick DeVoe	Executive Director, SC Sea Grant Consortium
Brad Gane	Assistant Division Director, GA DNR – CRD, Ecological Services
Rebecca Prado	Sr. Mgmt Analyst, FL DEP - Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas
Craig Diamond	Chief, State Planning, FL Department of Community Affairs
Nick Wiley	Exec. Director, FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Gil McRae	Director, FL Marine Research Institute
Lee Edmiston	Director, FL DEP – Office of Coastal & Aquatic Managed Areas
Paul Friday	Director, Government and External Relations, US Marine Corps
Camille Destafney	Regional Environmental Director, US Navy - Southeast
Ginny Fay	Senior Policy Analyst, NOAA
Eric Strom	Director, USGS South Carolina Water Center
Tom Welborn	Chief, EPA Region 4 Wetlands Coastal, and Oceans Branch
Mary Conley	Southeast Marine Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy
James Leutze	Chancellor Emeritus, University of North Carolina-Wilmington
Ron Baird	UNC Wilmington Center for Marine Science
Roger Pugliese	Sr. Fishery Biologist, S.A. Fishery Management Council
Debra Hernandez	Exec. Dir., Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Assn.
Christine Laporte	Coordinator, SE Regional Research Plan – University of Georgia

Recognition of Ongoing Regional Efforts

Program

Focus

South Atlantic Regional Research Planning
(SARRP)

Coastal/ocean research priorities

Southeast Center for Ocean Sciences Education
Excellence (COSEE-Southeast)

Coastal and ocean education

Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional
Association (SECOORA)

(Near) Real-time ocean observations

MARMAP and SEAMAP

Regional fisheries assessments

The Nature Conservancy

Ecoregional assessments; CMSP

South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council
(SAFMC)

Regional fisheries and habitat mgmt

Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team
(SECART)

Regional NOAA partnership effort

Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning
and Sustainability (SERPPAS)

DoD-states mgmt partnership

Initial Priority Issue Areas

- The four states have identified an initial set of priority issue areas
- These have been agreed to by the Governors
- Priorities may be added or changed (in the future)

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

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; and
- 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; and
- Ensure public access.

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; and
- Utilize regional observation and monitoring in decision-making.

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; and
- Improve prediction, observation and forecasting capabilities.

South Atlantic Alliance...

...Next Steps

- **Draft Governors Action Plan (Summer 2010)**
 - Out for Public Comment
 - Comments due November 8, 2010
 - www.southatlanticalliance.org

- **Hold Public Comment Sessions (Fall 2010)**
 - October 13, 2010 – Charleston, South Carolina
 - October 25, 2010 – Richmond Hill, Georgia
 - October 26, 2010 – New Bern, North Carolina
 - October 27, 2010 – Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
 - November 4, 2010 – Jupiter, Florida

- **Finalize Action Plan and Develop Implementation Plan (December 2010)**

- **Implementation Plans Initiated (Winter 2010)**

Opportunities for Collaboration...

...States-to-Region...Research-to-Implementation

- NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program
 - FY2011 Funding Competition
 - Requires Alliance endorsement

Project Evaluation Criteria

- Applicability of proposed project to regional program goals (25%)
- Degree of collaboration, partnership, and engagement (25%)
- Relevance and expected benefits from project results (20%)
- Technical, organizational, and scientific merit (15%)
- Overall qualifications of the funding applicants (10%)
- Project costs and metrics (5%)

Opportunities for Collaboration...

...Region-to-Region...Observing-to-Implementation

- Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning framework
 - Offshore energy facility siting (natural gas, wind, currents)
 - Sand mining (e.g., for beach nourishment projects)
 - Military exercises/training grounds
 - Navigation/marine transportation
 - Marine protected areas
 - Essential fisheries habitat
 - Offshore aquaculture siting

Opportunities for Collaboration...

...Region-to-Region...Observing-to-Implementation

- Offshore-onshore Connections
 - Energy facilities/electrical grid
 - Coastal infrastructure needs
 - Coastal community engagement
- Coastal and Ocean Water Quality
 - Hypoxia
 - Eutrophication
 - Harmful Algal Blooms
 - Stormwater run-off

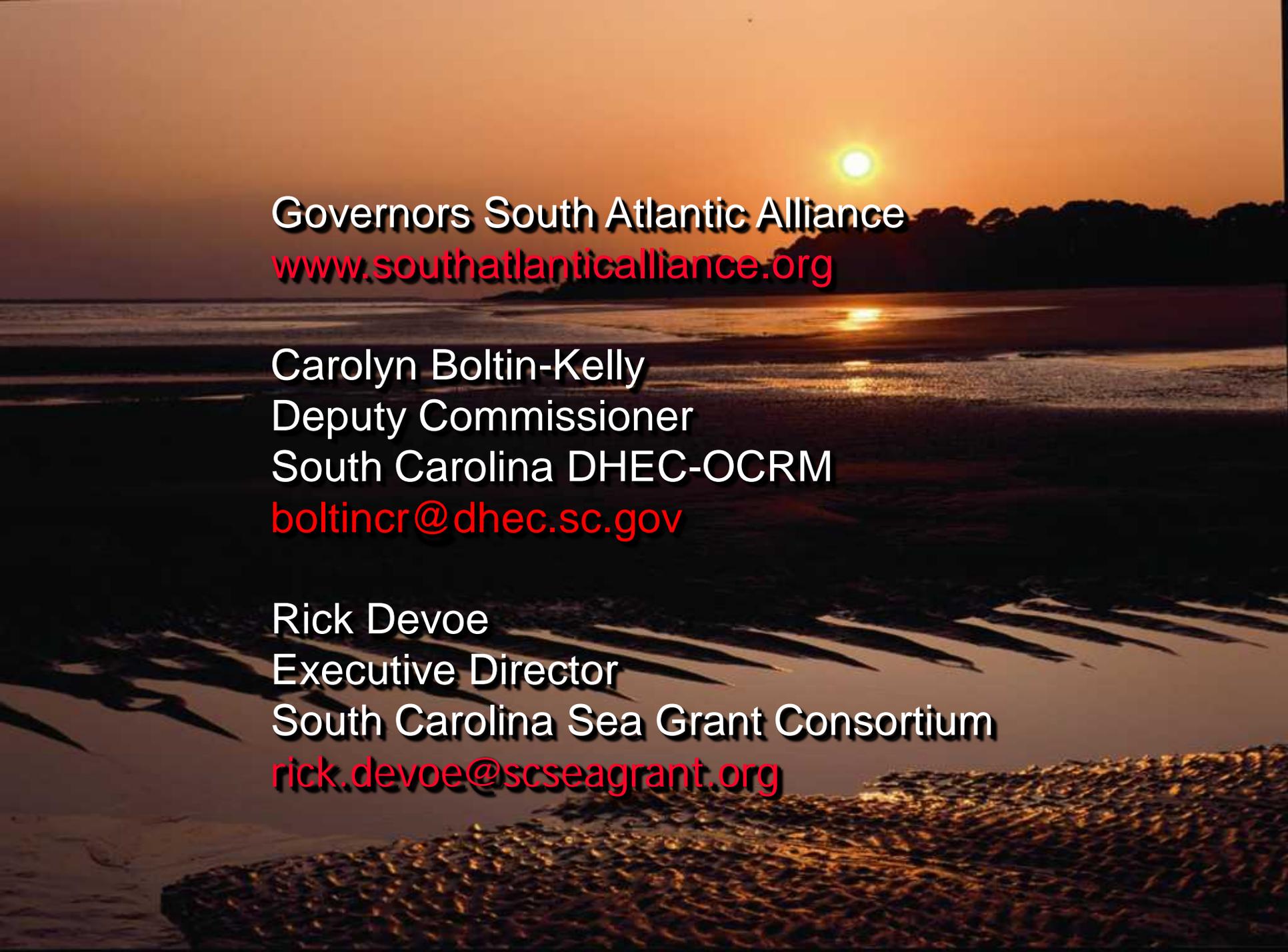
Opportunities for Collaboration...

...Region-to-Region...Observing-to-Implementation

- Episodic and Chronic Hazards
 - Hurricanes and coastal storms
 - Flooding and inundation
 - Shoreline change
 - Land subsidence
 - Sea level rise
 - Temperature shifts
- Healthy Ecosystems
 - Habitats
 - Species diversity and shifts
 - Invasive species

Challenges Ahead...

- Level of engagement of partner institutions & regional bodies
- Settling on scope of regional efforts
 - Degree of "governance"
 - Influence of Alliance efforts on feds and the states
 - Planning (i.e., CMSP) at regional scale
 - Scale of policy implementation –
 - Applications at local, state, and regional levels
 - Lack of authority at regional scale
- Finding the appropriate niche
 - Effects of the National Ocean Policy on the Alliance
 - Relationship of Alliance to "Regional Planning Bodies"
- Support
 - Three of 4 governors are term-limited out
 - No financial investment made to date
 - Interests of collective (Alliance) vs. interests of individual (states)

A photograph of a sunset over a beach. The sun is a bright yellow circle in the upper right, casting a long, shimmering reflection on the water. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow. The beach is in the foreground, with some rocks visible in the lower right. The water is dark with some white foam from waves.

Governors South Atlantic Alliance
www.southatlanticalliance.org

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