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# Gulf of Mexico Regional Workshops – May, 2013

## Cooperative Conservation for Marine Mammals in the Gulf of Mexico: Developing a Plan for Action

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# Workshop Purpose

- Enhance conservation of marine mammals through increased scientific knowledge, management and public understanding
- Foster regional collaboration
- Strengthen capacity

# Goals

- Exchange Information
- Identify strategies
- Stimulate regional collaboration
- Information sharing
- Potential support

# Process

- 77 participants
- Experienced facilitators
- Presentations
- Identify three priority gaps
- Breakout groups
  - Challenges
  - Strategies to overcome challenges
  - Who needs to be there
  - Best practices for data integration/sharing

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# Top Priorities

Priority	Louisiana	Mississippi/Alabama	Texas
1	Establish/maintain long term stock assessments	Conduct Stock Assessments	Need good stock assessments
2	Outreach and Education re human interactions	Address human interactions (outreach, enforcement)	Better communication/networking
3	Coordination of regional efforts	Enhance Collaboration	Outreach and Education re illegal feeding/harassment
4		Environmental parameters, biology, natural history, etc..	Health of bottlenose dolphins

# Enhance Stock Assessments

- Challenges:

- Large area, logistics, movement of species, infrastructure
- Funding
- Capacity for analyses
- Lack of standardized methods

- Strategies

- Action plan
- Funding opportunities
- Cooperative databases



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# Enhance Stock Assessments

- Who needs to be at the table?
  - NGOs
  - Managers
  - Academics
- Data sharing
  - Need umbrella framework
  - Need common data methods, protocols, training
  - Make funding agencies require data sharing



# Outreach and Education re Human Interactions

- **Challenges:**
  - Funding
  - Enforcement
  - Getting the word out
- **Strategies:**
  - Licensing
  - Increase Enforcement
  - Get youth involved
- **Who needs to be at table?**
  - NGOs, Govt. Agencies, Fishermen
- **Data sharing**





# Regional Coordination

- Challenges
  - Communication
  - Who's who
- Strategies
  - Who's who directory
  - Webinars, regular meetings
  - Get help from NGOs
- Who needs to be at table?
  - Everyone
- Data Sharing
  - Greater coordination of data and resources
  - Standardization
  - Training on methodologies

