

# Governors' South Atlantic Alliance Status and Update

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NOAA in the Carolinas  
Spring 2012 Meeting

Ft. Johnson, Charleston, SC  
March 16, 2012



# Presentation Outline

- Brief Background
- Organizational Evolution
- Priority Issue Areas
- Alliance Planning
- Progress to Date
- Challenges and Opportunities
- Discussion

# 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™

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

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 southeastern states' recommendations to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy

# Mission Statement

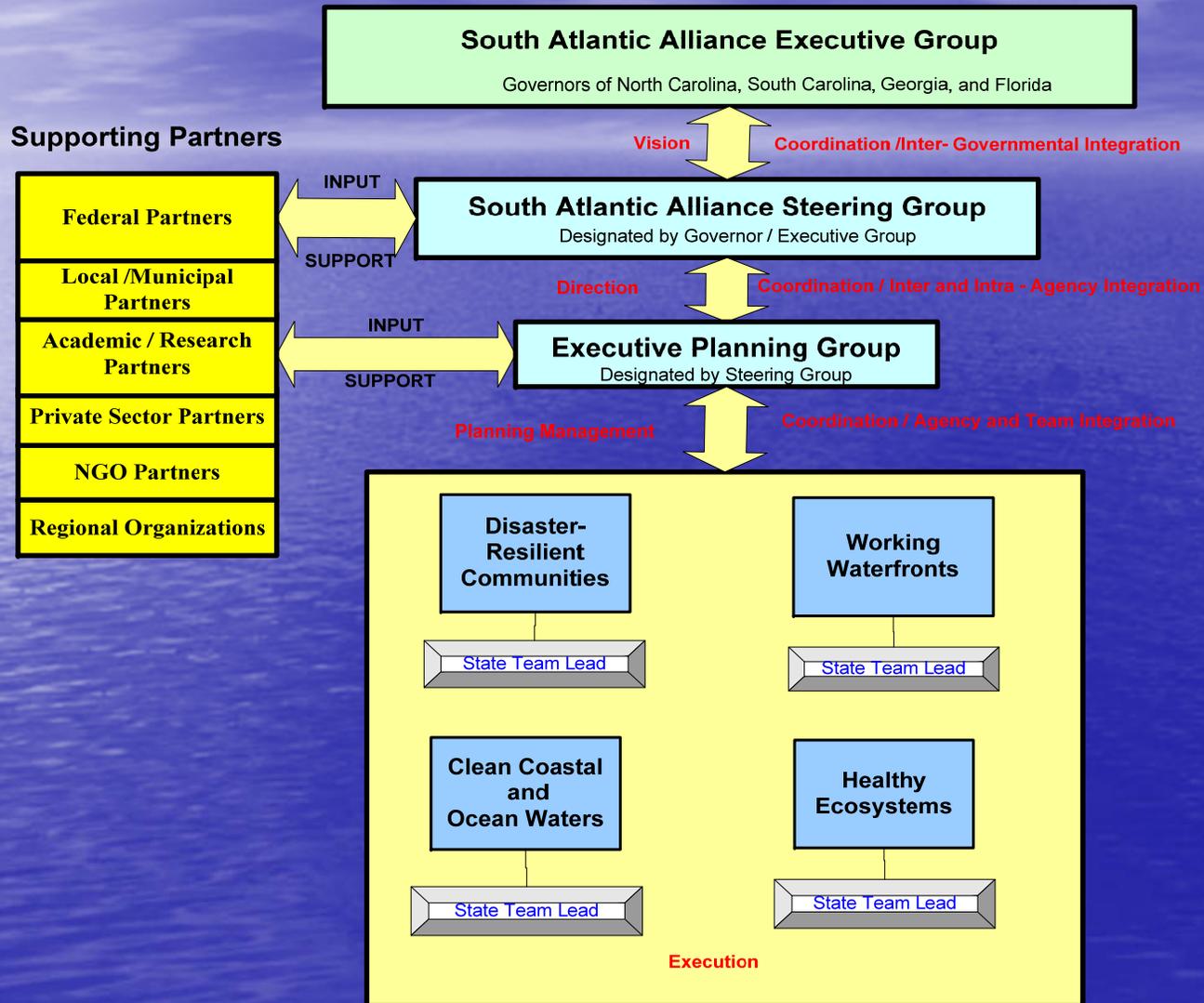
Increase regional collaboration among South Atlantic states, with federal agency partners and other stakeholders, and sustain and enhance the environmental (coastal/marine), natural resource, economic, public safety, social, and national defense missions of the respective states and the South Atlantic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

# 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 [Chair]  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- SC – Carolyn Boltin-Kelly\*, Deputy Commissioner  
Ocean & Coastal Resource Coastal Management  
Department of Health and Environmental Control  
John Frampton, Director  
Department of Natural Resources
- GA – Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Department of Natural Resources
- FL – Greg Munson, Deputy Secretary  
Water Policy and Ecosystem Restoration  
Department of Environmental Protection

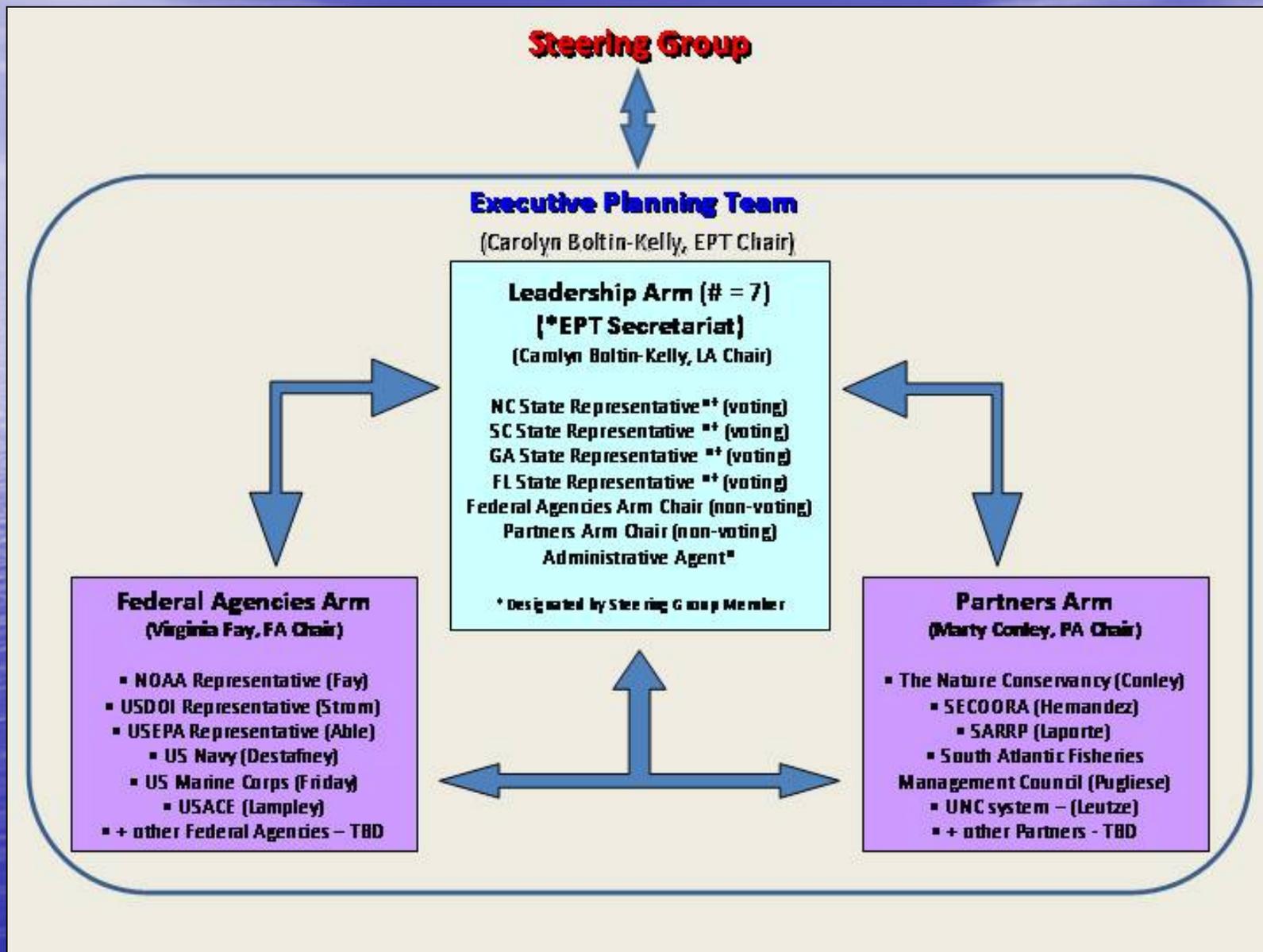
# Federal Agency Co-leads

- 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

<b>Carolyn Boltin-Kelly, <i>Chair</i></b>	Deputy Commissioner, <b>SC</b> DHEC Ocean & Coastal Resource Mgt
<b>Robert Boyles</b>	Director, <b>SC</b> DNR - Marine Resources Division
<b>Mary Conley</b>	Southeast Marine Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy
<b>Camille Destafney</b>	Regional Environmental Director, US Navy – Southeast
<b>Rick DeVoe</b>	Executive Director, <b>SC</b> Sea Grant Consortium
<b>Michelle Duval</b>	Exec. Asst. for Councils, <b>NC</b> DENR – Div. of Marine Fisheries
<b>Ginny Fay</b>	Assistant Regional Administrator, NOAA
<b>Paul Friday</b>	Director, Government and External Relations, US Marine Corps
<b>Brad Gane</b>	Assistant Division Director, <b>GA</b> DNR – CRD, Ecological Services
<b>Braxton Davis</b>	Director, <b>NC</b> DENR - Division of Coastal Management
<b>Debra Hernandez</b>	Exec. Dir., Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Assn.
<b>Vechere' Lampley</b>	Senior Regional Environment Specialist, South Atlantic Division, U.S. Corps of Engineers
<b>Christine Laporte</b>	Coordinator, SE Regional Research Plan – University of Georgia
<b>Gil McRae</b>	Director, <b>FL</b> Marine Research Institute
<b>Rebecca Prado</b>	Sr. Mgmt Analyst, <b>FL</b> DEP - Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas
<b>Roger Pugliese</b>	Sr. Fishery Biologist, S.A. Fishery Management Council
<b>Chris Russo</b>	Dir. Military Affairs & Strategic Planning, <b>NC</b> DENR
<b>Eric Strom</b>	Director, USGS South Carolina Water Center
<b>Tony Able</b>	Chief, Wetlands and Coastal Waters Protection Section, Water Protection Division, Region IV, U.S. EPA

# Configuration of Executive Planning Team



Program	Focus
South Atlantic Regional Research Planning (SARP)	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
South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (SAFMC)	Regional fisheries and habitat management
Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART)	Regional NOAA partnership efforts
Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS)	DoD-states management partnerships

## 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.

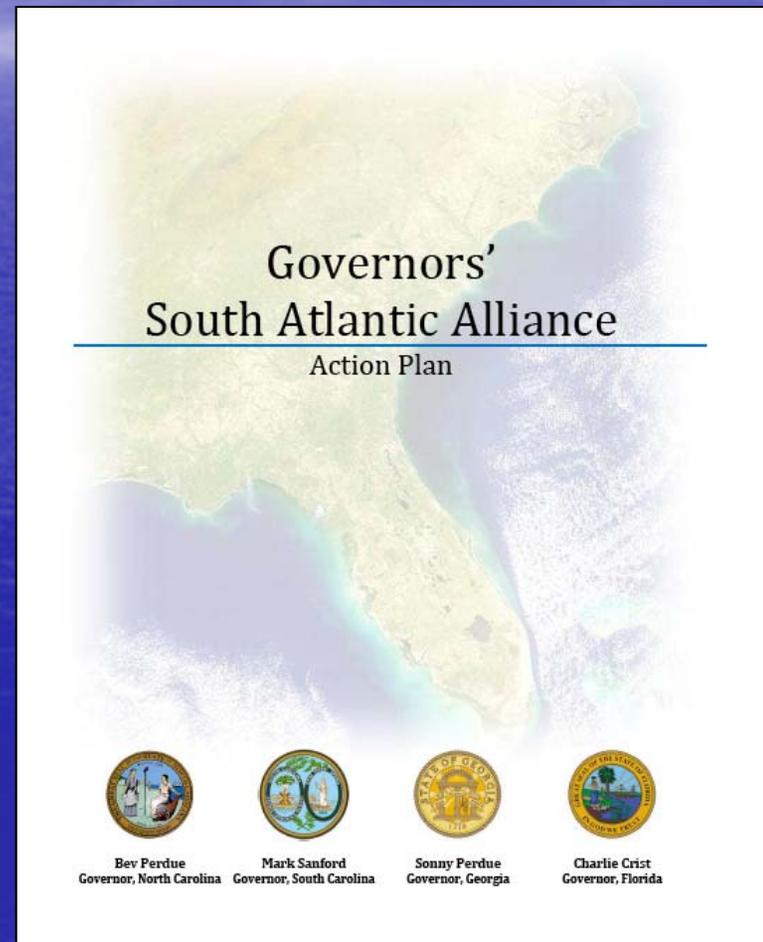
# Disaster-Resilient Communities

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 – Plans

- Action Plan Signed in December 2010
- Implementation Plan approved in concept by Steering Group on April 13, 2011
- Final Implementation Plan to approved by Steering Group June 30, 2011



# Governors' South Atlantic Alliance Progress...

- ✓ Draft Governors Action Plan (Summer 2010)
  - Out for Public Comment
  - Comments due November 8, 2010
  - [www.southatlanticalliance.org](http://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 Governors' Action Plan (December 2010)
  
- ✓ Implementation Plan (June 2011)
  
- ✓ Organize and Engage 4 Issue Area Technical Teams (September 2011-Present)

# First Annual Meeting September 7-8, 2011 Savannah, GA

- 80 participants from NC, SC, GA, and FL discussed Action and Implementation Plans for Steering Group approval
- Meeting held jointly with SECOORA for combined input
- 4 Issue Area Teams prioritized specific actions to be taken over next 12 months
- Steering Group voted for 2-year Chairperson terms and process for responding to Federal Funding Opportunities
- Steering Group chairperson Earl Hunter announced his retirement in FEB 2012 and Secretary Dee Freeman, NC Dept. of Natural Resources to take on leadership role with Mr. Hunter's departure

# Support for GSAA Activities

## 1. NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program

- FY2011 Funding Competition
- SAA 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)

## 2. State Supported Funding (in progress)

- Water Quality (\$75K)
- Marine Fisheries Habitat (\$75K)

# Prioritized Actions Next 12-18 Months

## Healthy Ecosystems

- Map known distributions of key estuarine/marine habitats/land use cover
- Marine spatial plan for location of key coastal/marine resources & activities for multi-use management decisions

## Working Waterfronts

- Protect military waterfronts; develop inventory/collect info
- Develop common definitions for commercially, recreationally, culturally important, and historic waterfronts for regional inventory

# Prioritized Actions Next 12-18 Months

## Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters

- Establish regional technical level work group for sharing watershed water quality improvement processes
- Develop recommendations on processes & protocols to transfer knowledge/implement BMPs for point & non-point source controls

## Disaster-Resilient Communities

- Evaluate nationwide Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning initiatives to improve redevelopment options
- Develop guidance to improve redevelopment considerations in hazard mitigation plans, & local comprehensive & growth management plans

# IATT Activities Underway

## Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters (CCOW)

- The CCOW Technical Team is in the process of forming a regional technical level workgroup for the purpose of sharing watershed water quality improvement processes as identified as a priority action step in the Implementation Plan.

## Disaster-Resilient Communities (DRC)

- The DRC Technical Team is busy planning a “Long-term Recovery Planning Summit” to be held July 10-11, 2012 in Jacksonville, FL (site to be determined)
  - Event will cover, state and local long-term recovery and planning efforts, the National Disaster Recovery Framework (FEMA) and how these can connect; economic redevelopment will also be discussed
  - Event is a state sponsored project done in conjunction with the Governors South Atlantic Alliance
- Note: President’s Budget for FY 2013 seeks to eliminate the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program

# Opportunities for Collaboration...

## ...Region-to-Region...Research-to-Implementation

- NinC Participation
  - Possible “membership” in the GSAA’s Partner Arm
  - Membership or advisors in Issue Area Technical Teams
  - Partner and participate in GSAA’s **Data Portal Workshop** (still being discussed)
- Coastal and Ocean 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

## Challenges Ahead...

- Engagement level of partner institutions & regional bodies
- Settling on scope of regional efforts
  - Degree of “governance”
    - Influence of Alliance efforts on feds and the states
  - Planning (coastal and ocean) 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”

# Challenges Ahead...

## ■ Political Support

- Maintaining financial investment beyond one year
- Interests of collective (Alliance) vs. interests of individual (states)
- Three of 4 governors are newly elected; other to be...
- Issue of top-down mandates, e.g.,
  - H. 4703 (S.C.) – “TO OPPOSE AND REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE OR ENFORCE THE COASTAL AND MARINE SPATIAL PLANS CREATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL...”



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[www.southatlanticalliance.org](http://www.southatlanticalliance.org)

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