



Developing Research Partnerships – Challenges with Multi-University Consortia

Michael Carron, Ph.D., Mississippi State University
Northern Gulf Institute Director

2010 ASEE Engineering Research Council (ERC) Annual Conference
Arlington, VA
March 14, 2010





Mechanics of NGI Multi-Institutional Regional Collaborations

- Sources of Northern Gulf Regional Collaborations
- NGI Project Development and Management Processes
- NGI Performance Metrics
- Summary



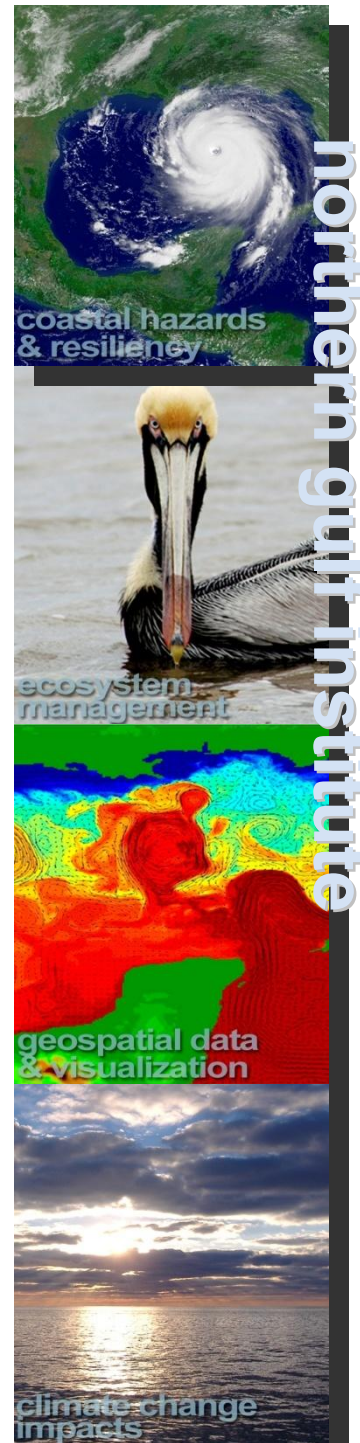


Sources of Regional Collaborations

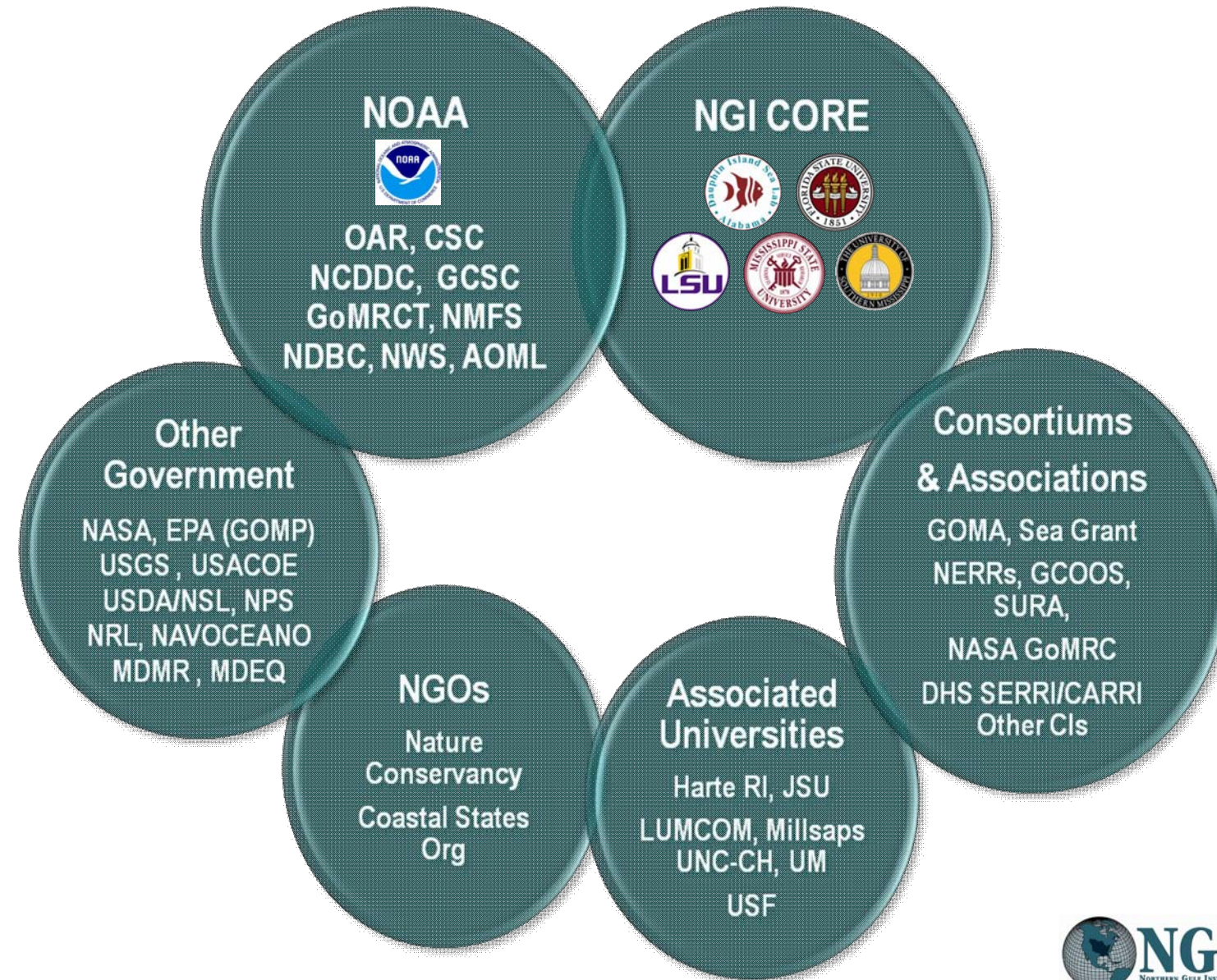
Northern Gulf Institute Advisory Council

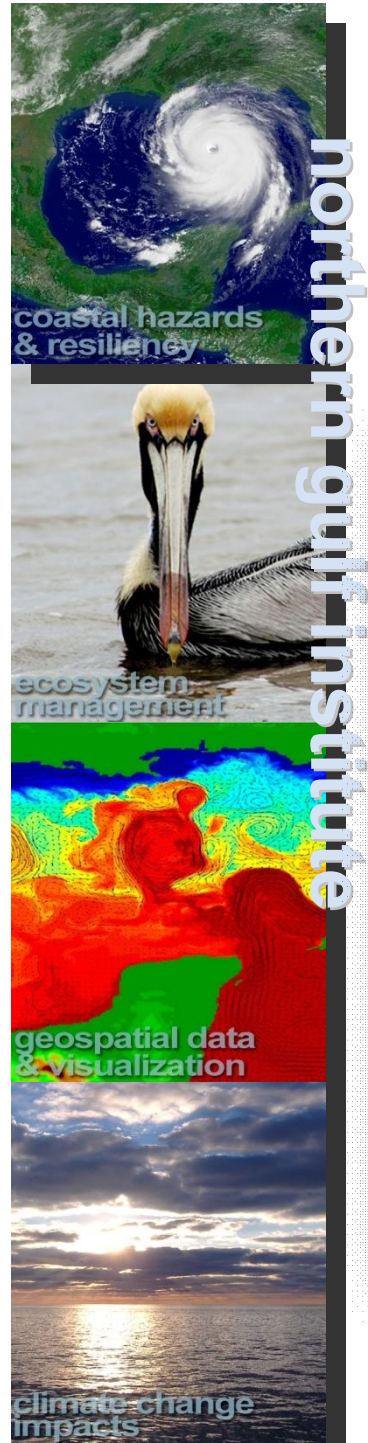
Russ Beard	NOAA National Coastal Data Dev Center
Miles Croom	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
Todd Davison	NOAA Gulf Coast Services Center
Kristen Fletcher	Coastal States Organization
Bryon Griffith	EPA Gulf of Mexico Program
Karl Havens	FL Sea Grant
Dawn Lavoie	USGS Gulf Coast
Mary Austill Lott	The Nature Conservancy
Larry McKinney	Harte Research Institute
Kathleen O'Neal	NOAA National Data Buoy Center
David Reed	NOAA National Weather Service LMRFC
Anne Peek	NASA Stennis Applied Sciences
Matt Romkens	USDA National Sedimentation Lab
David Ruple	Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Martha Segura	National Park Service Gulf Coast Network
Buck Sutter	NOAA GoM Regional Collaboration Team
LaDon Swann	MS/AL Sea Grant Consortium
Bill Walker	MS Department of Marine Resources
Jeff Waters	US Army Corps of Engineers
Chuck Wilson	LA Sea Grant





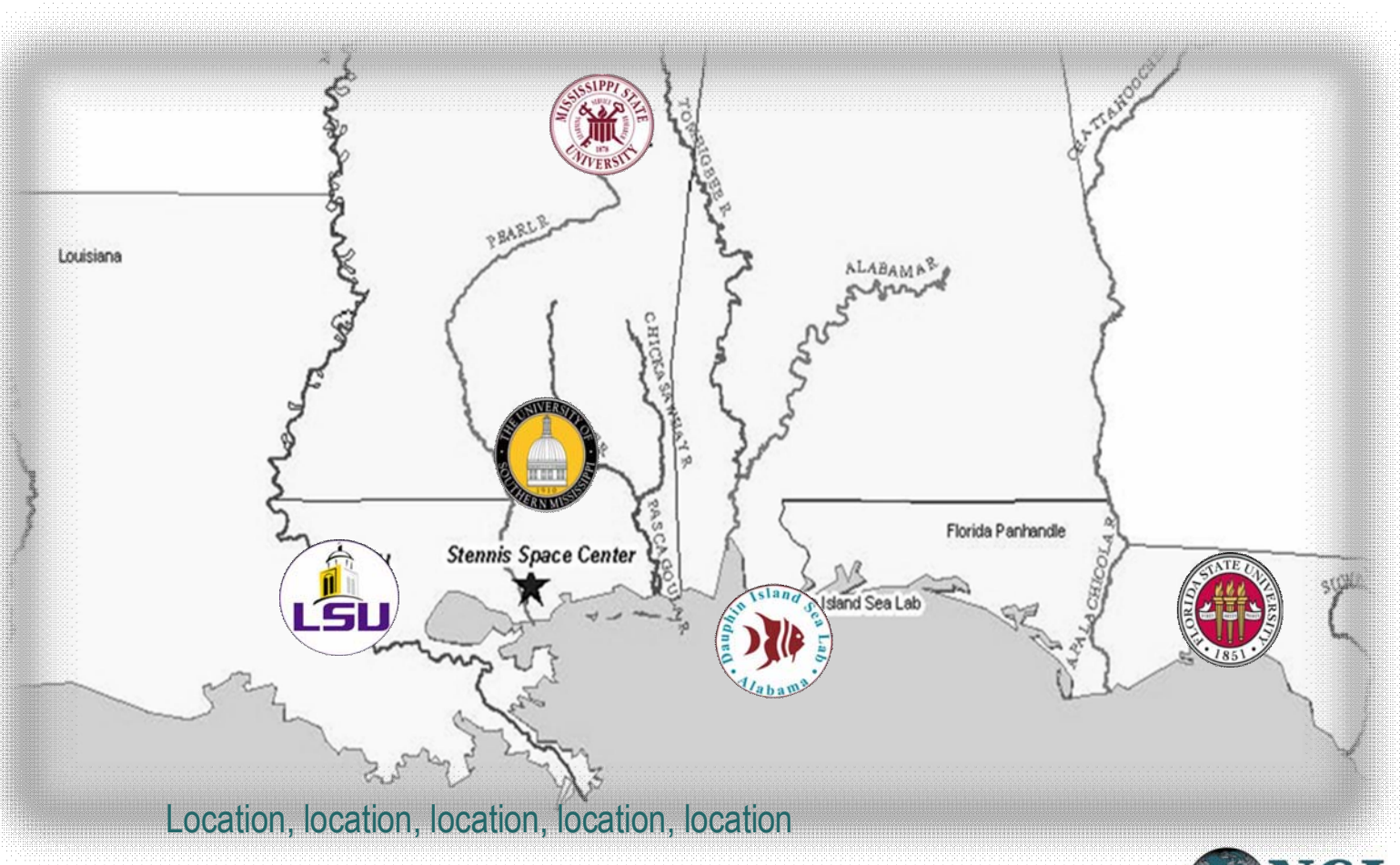
NGI Partners and Regional Collaborations

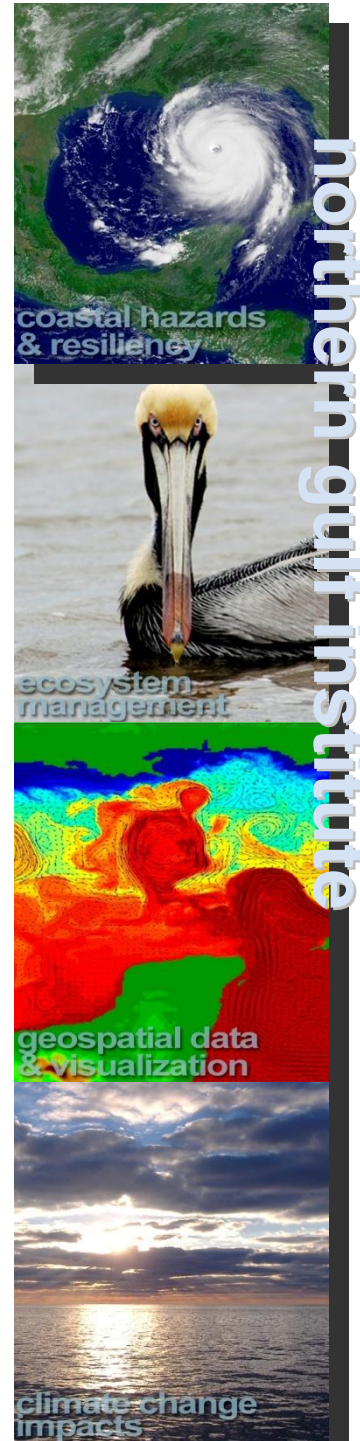




Sources of Regional Collaborations

Geographic Distribution of the 5 Partner Institutions





NGI Project Development and Management Processes

Year 1-3 Initiatives and Year 4 Work Plan

- Base funded annual work plan and proposal
- Individually funded grants
- Enhancing the partnerships with NOAA and between NGI academic member institutions





NGI Project Development and Management Processes

Approaches to Increase Regional Collaborations
Key to NOAA Missions in the Northern Gulf of Mexico

- Favored in project selection
- Opening communications channels
- Annual NGI conferences
- Hosting regional workshops
- NOAA OAR – NSF – USGS – EPA – DOD connections
- Executive and Advisory Councils' contributions



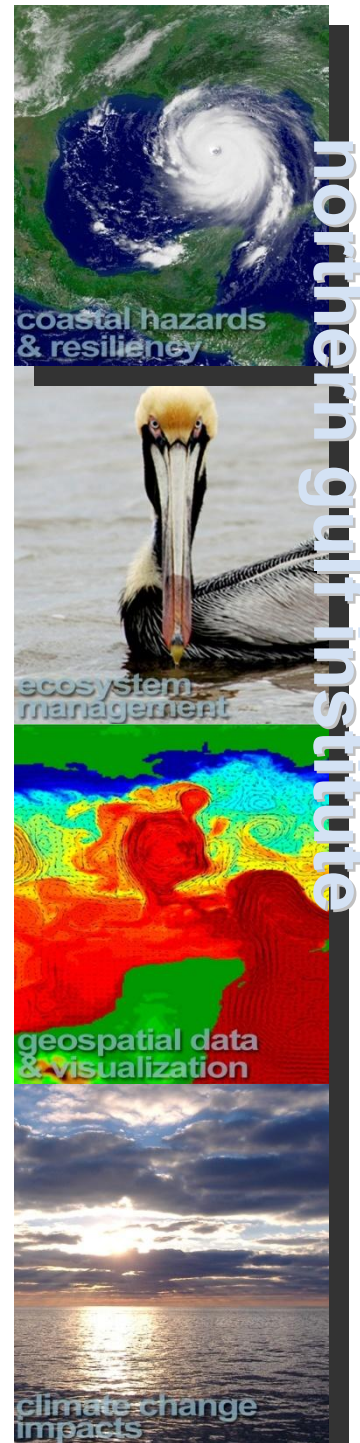


NGI Project Development and Management Processes

Multi-Institutional Collaboration Issues

- **Proposal Development**
 - Leadership
 - Writing and Reviewing
- **Funds management decisions**
 - Early involvement of NGI Program Office, VPs for research and Sponsored Programs Administrations
 - Overhead decisions
 - Memorandums of Agreement Facilitate Collaboration
 - Decision on mechanics of distribution of funds
 - Agreement on overhead issues
 - Involvement of NOAA scientists where appropriate
- **NGI Program Office involvement tracking and metrics**





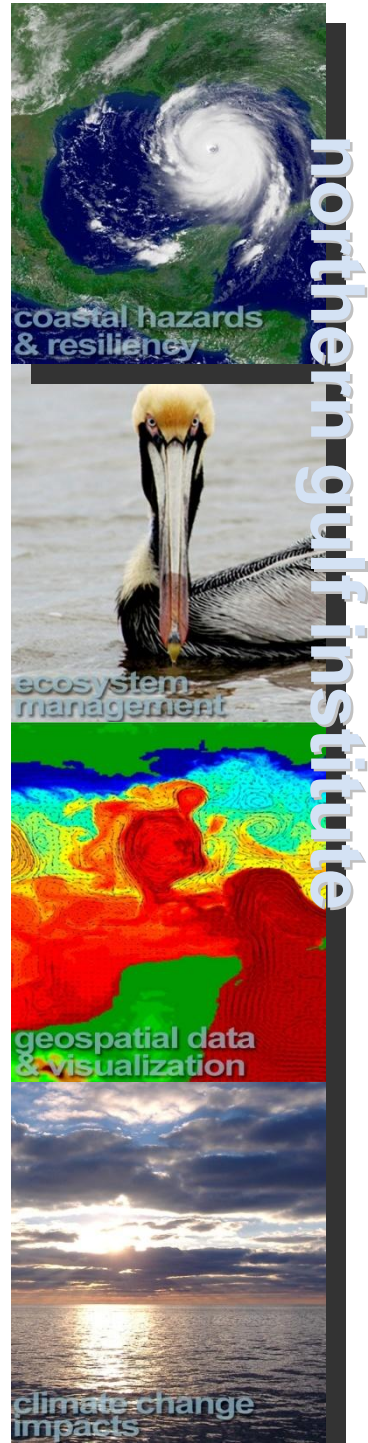
NGI Project Development Processes

Annual Base Funding



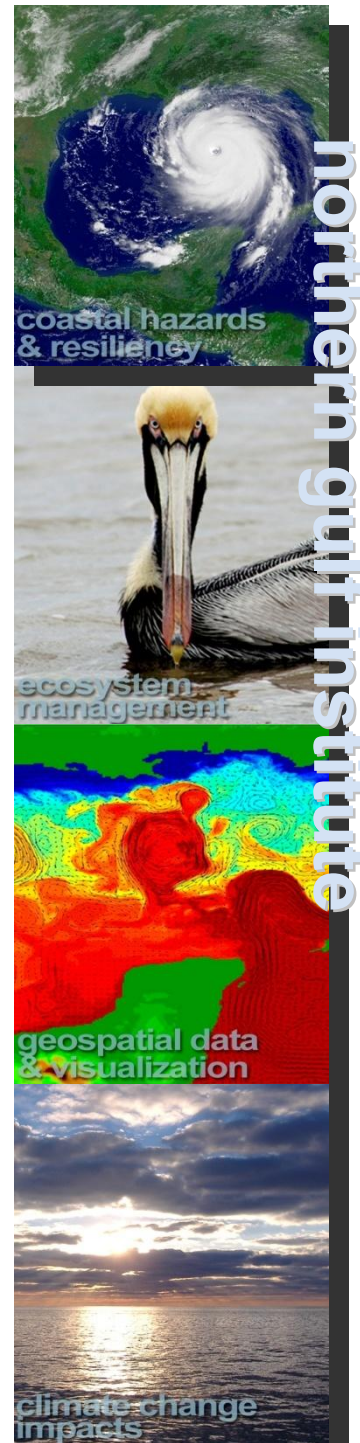
Individual Grants





NGI Year 4 Collaborations





NGI Individual Grant Collaborations

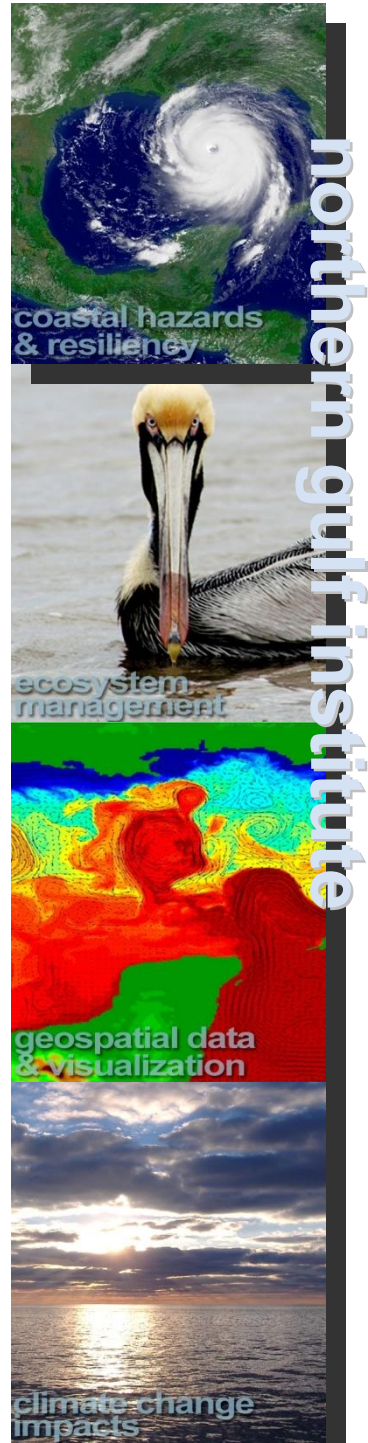


FY07

FY08

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





northern gulf institute

NGI Individual Grant Collaborations



FY09

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>				





NGI Performance Metrics

- Metrics established and tracked from NGI inception
- Tied to NOAA Goals and NGI themes, goals & strategies
- Project level and program level analysis
- Responsive to Executive Council and Advisory Council
- Integrated
- Evolving



NGI Performance Metrics



- Measurable by design
- Progress Report
- Benefits to NOAA
- Benefits to Region





NGI Performance Metrics

Northern Gulf Institute -- Goals and Strategies Matrix

9/15/2009

GOAL 2: Develop high-impact regional education and outreach programs within the four NGI themes.

Strategies & Objectives:

Adopt and implement funding criteria to emphasize student involvement in projects.

Involve students in the NOAA and Minority Fellowship programs.

All funded projects will involve students.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Percent of Projects involving students:	0.0%	61.8%	64.7%	0.0%	0.0%

Over the three to five year period,

150 students will be funded by NGI

20 NGI students hired into NOAA

25 NOAA Minority Fellowships awarded

25 NOAA Internships awarded

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
<i>150 students will be funded by NGI</i>	22	66	100	0	0	188
<i>20 NGI students hired into NOAA</i>	3	0	1	0	0	4
<i>25 NOAA Minority Fellowships awarded</i>	0	6	10	0	0	16
<i>25 NOAA Internships awarded</i>	0	6	14	0	0	20

Completed

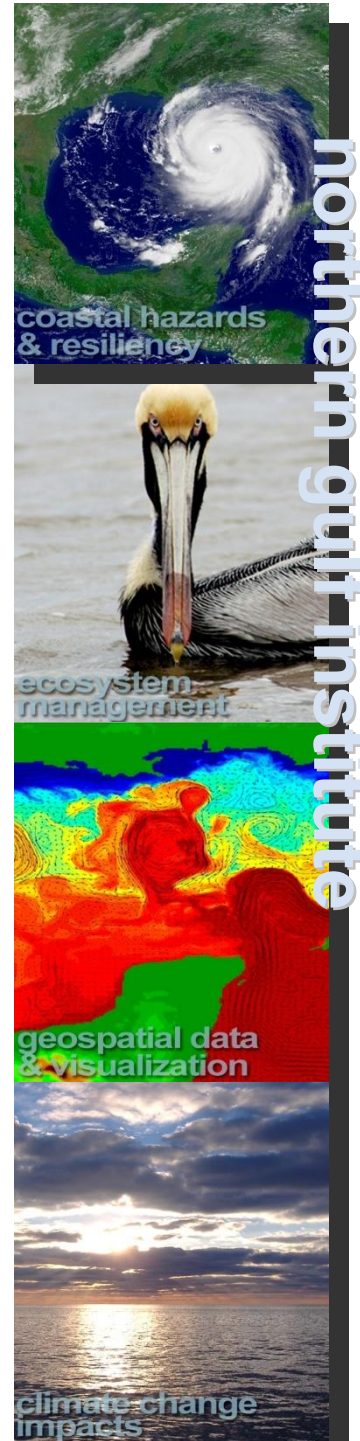
Develop funding criteria to emphasize outreach activities for each project.

All funded projects will include an outreach component or activity.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Percent of Projects including an outreach component/activity:	0.0%	67.6%	67.6%	0.0%	0.0%

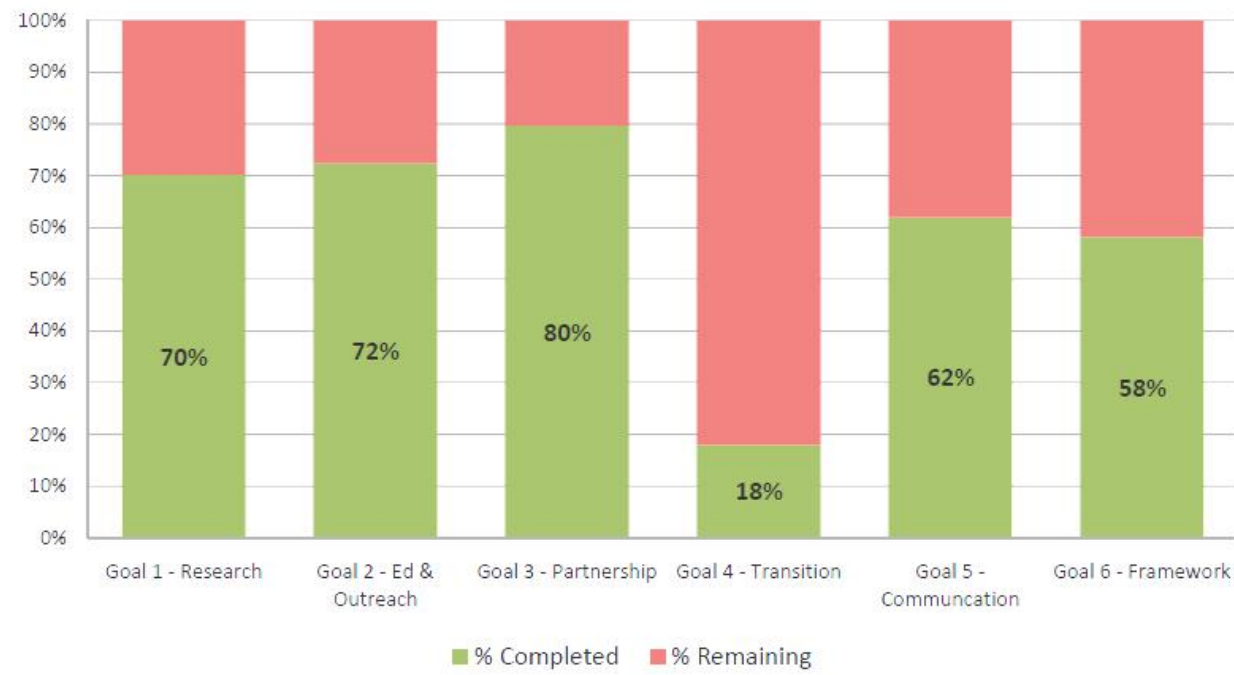
Goals Matrix: 3 of 10





NGI Performance Metrics

Northern Gulf Institute: Goals Progress Overview



Goals

1. Develop high-impact regional research programs within the four NGI themes.
2. Develop high-impact regional education and outreach programs within the four NGI themes.
3. Create strategic partnerships with other organizations to enhance northern Gulf regional research and educational efforts.
4. Transition research into new or enhanced products and operations.
5. Communicate NGI research, activities, and opportunities through traditional and non-traditional channels
6. Build and maintain a NGI framework and culture that fosters collaboration and maximizes human potential.



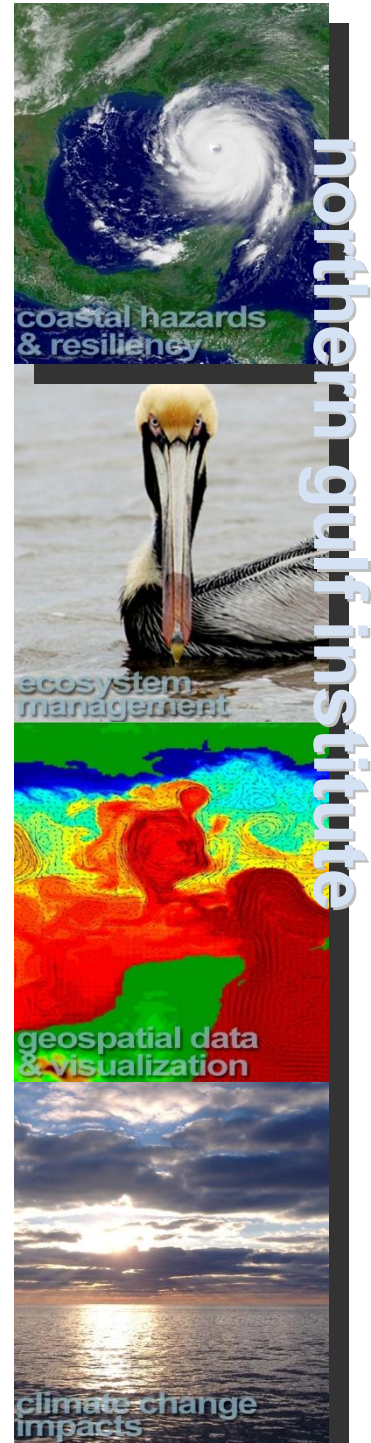


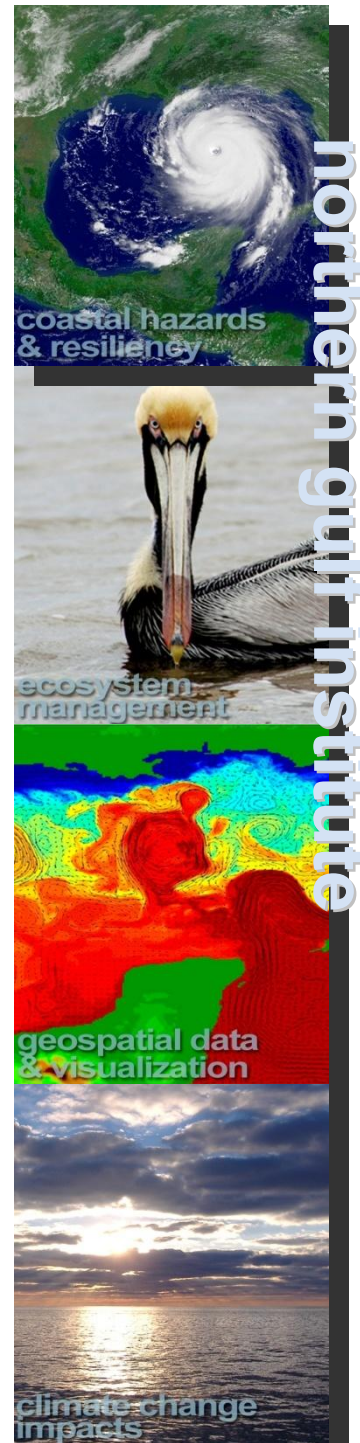
NGI Project Development and Management Processes

Multi-Institutional Collaboration Issues Summary

- Multi-Institutional Collaborations are in the best interest of our organizations
- Much more complex than single institution proposals
- Take more time (often when it is not available)
- Established relationships (formal or informal) help
 - Builds trust
 - Eases funding mechanism decisions
- There is a reason for “overhead”
- Need to strike a balance between necessary overhead and realistic expectations.







NGI Multi-institutional Regional Collaborations

NGI Performance Metrics

Northern Gulf Institute -- Goals and Strategies Matrix						9/15/2009
GOAL 1: Develop high-impact regional research programs within the four NGI themes.						
<i>Strategies & Objectives:</i>						
Develop high-impact regional research programs within the four NGI themes.						
<i>Over the three to five year period, produce a major research finding in each of four themes</i>						
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
Coastal Hazards & Resiliency	0	0	0	0	0	
Ecosystem Management	0	0	0	0	0	
Geospatial Data & Visualization	0	0	0	0	0	
Climate Change Impacts	0	0	0	0	0	
Develop Annual Science Plans that identify core regional issues framed by the four NGI themes that will guide allocation of research funding.						
<i>NGI Science Plan developed and adopted by Research Fellows and accepted by NOAA.</i>						
<i>NGI Science Plan reviewed/modified annually and adopted by Research Fellows and accepted by NOAA.</i>						
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
Science Plan Developed:		Dec-07				Completed
Science Plan Reviewed:		May-08	May-09	Sep-09		
Establish and implement funding criteria to emphasize multi-organizational collaboration of projects.						
<i>All funded projects will be multi-organizational collaborations.</i>						
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
Percent of Projects with Multi-Organizational Collaborations	0.0%	88.2%	94.1%	0.0%	0.0%	
Establish and implement funding criteria to emphasize regional impact of projects.						
<i>All projects will include an assessment of regional impacts, transferability, and potential to increase in scope.</i>						
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
Percent of Projects including full assessments:	0.0%	82.4%	97.1%	0.0%	0.0%	
Goals Matrix: 2 of 10						

