

ACCESS: ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION

Team Leaders

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Habitats to Consider

Beaches and dunes; Intertidal marshes and flats; Long leaf pine, Maritime, and Pine savannah forests;
Streams and Rivers; Sub-tidal habitats

Issues to Consider

Habitat Protection, eco-tourism, water/waterfront public access, waterfront public facilities, passive recreation opportunities, working waterfronts

Stresses on Habitats that Support ACCESS to Water and Open Spaces

The below tables are the result of an exercise completed by 30 scientists/resource managers to evaluate the level of impact of thirteen stressors on the habitats that provide ecosystem services of value to our coastal community. Although the list of ecosystem services did not include cultural, intellectual, spiritual, or recreational experiences (including ecotourism), many of the habitats assessed do in fact, provide those services and would support ACCESS to water and open spaces. The rating scale was from 0-3 with 0 being no impact and 3 being severe impact. For the purposes of analysis the committee defined significant stress as any average value over 2.0. Those values are highlighted in the table below.

Habitat	Eco_Service	Chemical Contamination	Dredging/Filling	Fire Suppression	Fragmentation	Invasive Species	Land Use Change	Nutrient Enrichment	Pathogens	Sedimentation	Sea Level Rise	Climate Variability	Freshwater Discharge	Resource Extraction
Beaches and Dunes	Biodiversity	1.5	1.5	0.4	2.3	1.9	2.5	0.8	1	1.1	1.7	1.6	0.8	1
Beaches and Dunes	Carbon Sequestration	0.6	0.9	0.3	1.2	0.5	1.7	0.4	0.2	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.6
Beaches and Dunes	Fisheries habitat	0.5	0.6	0	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3
Beaches and Dunes	Flood control	0.3	1.4	0	1.4	0.4	1.8	0.5	0.4	1.1	1.3	0.9	0.5	0.5
Beaches and Dunes	Groundwater replenishment	0.8	0.5	0	0.9	0.4	1.2	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.7

Habitat	Eco_Service	Chemical Contamination	Dredging/Filling	Fire Suppression	Fragmentation	Invasive Species	Land Use Change	Nutrient Enrichment	Pathogens	Sedimentation	Sea Level Rise	Climate Variability	Freshwater Discharge	Resource Extraction
Beaches and Dunes	Nesting habitat for birds and turtles	1.2	1.9	0.3	2.1	1.3	2.4	0.6	0.7	1.2	1.7	1.7	0.6	1
Beaches and Dunes	Oyster production	0.4	0.4	0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.5
Beaches and Dunes	Primary production	0.9	0.9	0.2	1.1	0.8	1.6	0.5	0.3	0.6	1.1	1	0.3	0.6
Beaches and Dunes	Sediment and nutrient retention and export	0.4	1.4	0.1	1	0.7	1.8	0.7	0.1	1.5	1	0.7	0.4	0.7
Beaches and Dunes	Storm buffer/hazard protection	0.6	1.8	0.2	2	0.5	2.4	0.5	0.5	1.3	1.8	1.3	0.7	0.6
Beaches and Dunes	Water quality enhancement	1.1	1.4	0.1	1	0.5	1.6	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.6
Beaches and Dunes	Wildlife habitat	1.5	1.8	0.8	2.2	1.6	2.4	0.9	1	1.3	1.8	1.6	0.7	1.1
Intertidal Marsh and Flats	Biodiversity	1.7	2.4	0.7	2.2	1.8	2.3	1.6	1.1	2.3	2.3	1.5	1.8	1.2
Intertidal Marsh and Flats	Carbon Sequestration	1.1	1.8	0.6	1.7	1	2.3	1.5	0.7	1.9	1.9	1.4	1.1	0.7
Intertidal Marsh and Flats	Fisheries habitat	1.6	2.6	0.4	2	1.4	2.4	1.7	1.2	2.4	2.3	1.6	1.8	1.3
Intertidal Marsh and Flats	Flood control	0.9	1.9	0.6	1.7	0.9	2.4	0.8	0.5	1.7	1.9	1.4	1.6	0.9
Intertidal Marsh and Flats	Groundwater replenishment	0.8	1.1	0.1	1	0.6	1.5	0.9	0.6	1	1	1	1.2	0.8
Intertidal Marsh and Flats	Nesting habitat for birds and turtles	1.3	2.2	0.9	2	1.5	2.3	1.3	1	2	2.1	1.6	1.3	1.2
Intertidal Marsh and Flats	Oyster production	1.6	2.1	0.4	1.4	0.9	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.2	1.7	1.3
Intertidal Marsh	Primary production	1.2	2.1	0.7	1.6	1.1	2.2	1.7	0.8	2.3	2.1	1.6	1.6	1

Habitat	Eco_Service	Chemical Contamination	Dredging/Filling	Fire Suppression	Fragmentation	Invasive Species	Land Use Change	Nutrient Enrichment	Pathogens	Sedimentation	Sea Level Rise	Climate Variability	Freshwater Discharge	Resource Extraction
and Flats														
Intertidal Marsh and Flats	Sediment and nutrient retention and export	0.8	2.1	0.5	1.8	0.9	2.3	1.6	0.5	2.4	2.1	1.4	1.6	1
Intertidal Marsh and Flats	Storm buffer/hazard protection	0.7	2.1	0.5	1.9	0.9	2.3	0.7	0.6	2	2.2	1.4	1.4	1.1
Intertidal Marsh and Flats	Water quality enhancement	1.8	2.2	0.6	1.7	0.9	2.2	1.9	1.5	2.1	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.1
Intertidal Marsh and Flats	Wildlife habitat	1.4	2.4	0.8	2.1	1.5	2.2	1.6	1.2	2	2.2	1.6	1.6	1.1
Longleaf Pine Habitat	Biodiversity	1.1	0.9	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.4	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.9	1.4	0.8	2.1
Longleaf Pine Habitat	Carbon sequestration	0.6	0.9	2.1	1.7	1.9	2.5	1	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.4	0.7	2
Longleaf Pine Habitat	Fisheries habitat	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
Longleaf Pine Habitat	Flood control	0	0.9	1.2	2	0.6	2.3	0.2	0	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.6
Longleaf Pine Habitat	Groundwater replenishment	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.9	1	2.3	1.4	0.9	1.1	0.7	1.2	1.4	1.9
Longleaf Pine Habitat	Nesting habitat for birds and turtles	1.1	1.1	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.4	1.2	1	1.2	1.1	1.5	1.2	2
Longleaf Pine Habitat	Oyster production	0	0	0	0.3	0	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Longleaf Pine Habitat	Primary production	0.8	1	2	2.3	1.4	2.3	1	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.3	1	2
Longleaf Pine Habitat	Sediment and nutrient retention and export	0.4	1.1	1.6	2.1	1.2	2.3	1.2	0.5	1.3	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.6

Habitat	Eco_Service	Chemical Contamination	Dredging/Filling	Fire Suppression	Fragmentation	Invasive Species	Land Use Change	Nutrient Enrichment	Pathogens	Sedimentation	Sea Level Rise	Climate Variability	Freshwater Discharge	Resource Extraction
Longleaf Pine Habitat	Storm buffer/hazard protection	0.4	1.3	1.3	1.7	0.9	2	0.5	0.3	1	0.8	1	1.1	1.4
Longleaf Pine Habitat	Water quality enhancement	1.1	1.1	1.1	2	0.9	2.1	1.5	0.8	1.6	0.7	1	1.5	1.6
Longleaf Pine Habitat	Wildlife habitat	1.4	0.9	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	1.3	1.1	1	1.1	1.8	1.2	2.5
Maritime Forest	Biodiversity	0.8	1.2	1.2	2.3	1.9	2.2	1	0.9	0.8	1.2	1.6	0.6	1.5
Maritime Forest	Carbon sequestration	0.5	0.8	0.9	1.7	0.7	2.1	0.5	0.3	0.7	1	1.4	0.3	1.4
Maritime Forest	Fisheries habitat	0.1	0.5	0	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.7
Maritime Forest	Flood control	0.2	1	0.5	2	0.2	1.9	0	0	1	0.7	1	0.7	1.1
Maritime Forest	Groundwater replenishment	1.1	1.2	0.8	1.6	0.8	2	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.5
Maritime Forest	Nesting habitat for birds and turtles	1.4	1.3	1.5	2.3	2.7	2.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.8	0.9	1.4
Maritime Forest	Oyster production	0.3	0.3	0	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6
Maritime Forest	Primary production	0.6	1	1.1	1.6	1.1	2.1	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.4	0.8	1.1
Maritime Forest	Sediment and nutrient retention and export	0.4	1.2	1.1	1.6	1.1	2.4	1.3	0.6	1.1	1	1.4	0.8	1.2
Maritime Forest	Storm buffer/hazard protection	0.4	1.1	0.9	2.1	0.8	2	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.2	1.6	0.6	1.2
Maritime Forest	Water quality enhancement	1	1.2	0.6	1.5	0.9	2	1.3	1	1.3	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.2
Maritime Forest	Wildlife habitat	1.1	1.3	1.6	2.3	2.2	2.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.8	1	1.6
Pine Savanna Forest	Biodiversity	1.3	1.6	2.6	2.2	2.4	2.5	1.2	1.1	1.1	1	1.5	1.1	1.8
Pine Savanna Forest	Carbon sequestration	0.5	1	1.7	1.7	0.8	1.8	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.7	1.2	0.6	1.8

Habitat	Eco_Service	Chemical Contamination	Dredging/Filling	Fire Suppression	Fragmentation	Invasive Species	Land Use Change	Nutrient Enrichment	Pathogens	Sedimentation	Sea Level Rise	Climate Variability	Freshwater Discharge	Resource Extraction
Pine Savanna Forest	Fisheries habitat	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0	0.1
Pine Savanna Forest	Flood control	0.5	1.4	1	1.7	1	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.9
Pine Savanna Forest	Groundwater replenishment	1.4	1.3	0.9	1.6	0.5	2	1	0.8	1	0.7	1.1	1.2	1.5
Pine Savanna Forest	Nesting habitat for birds and turtles	1.5	1.5	2.1	2.2	2	2.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.6
Pine Savanna Forest	Oyster production	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Pine Savanna Forest	Primary production	1	1	1.3	1.7	1.1	2.1	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.2	0.7	1.5
Pine Savanna Forest	Sediment and nutrient retention and export	0.7	1.4	1.3	2	1.1	2.1	1.2	0.5	1.1	0.8	1.3	1.4	1.6
Pine Savanna Forest	Storm buffer/hazard protection	0.3	1	0.9	1.7	0.5	1.8	0.2	0.2	1	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.1
Pine Savanna Forest	Water quality enhancement	1.5	1.2	1	2	0.9	1.9	1.4	1.3	1.6	0.7	1.3	1.7	1.6
Pine Savanna Forest	Wildlife habitat	1.4	1.6	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.6	1.5	2.1
Streams and Rivers	Biodiversity	1.9	2	0.7	1.9	2.2	2	1.7	1.4	2.2	1.2	1.4	2.1	1.6
Streams and Rivers	Carbon Sequestration	0.9	1.1	0.5	0.9	0.9	1.5	1.2	0.5	1.4	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.2
Streams and Rivers	Fisheries habitat	2	2.2	0.4	1.8	2.1	2.2	1.8	1.5	2.3	1.1	1.3	2.2	1.7
Streams and Rivers	Flood control	0.6	1.7	0.4	1.5	0.9	2.1	0.7	0.5	1.6	1.2	1.3	2.1	1.1

Habitat	Eco_Service	Chemical Contamination	Dredging/Filling	Fire Suppression	Fragmentation	Invasive Species	Land Use Change	Nutrient Enrichment	Pathogens	Sedimentation	Sea Level Rise	Climate Variability	Freshwater Discharge	Resource Extraction
Streams and Rivers	Groundwater replenishment	1.1	1.5	0.4	1.2	1	1.6	1.1	0.6	1.3	0.9	1.1	1.9	1.5
Streams and Rivers	Nesting habitat for birds and turtles	1	1.4	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.4	1	1	1.4	1	1.1	1.2	1.1
Streams and Rivers	Oyster production	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.5
Streams and Rivers	Primary production	1.4	1.5	0.6	1.1	1.5	1.7	1.9	0.8	1.8	0.8	1.1	1.9	1.1
Streams and Rivers	Sediment and nutrient retention and export	0.8	2.1	0.5	1.5	1.1	2.2	1.6	0.5	2.2	1	1.1	2.2	1.5
Streams and Rivers	Storm buffer/hazard protection	0.8	1.6	0.6	1.3	1	1.7	0.7	0.5	1.7	1.2	1.2	1.8	1.1
Streams and Rivers	Water quality enhancement	1.9	1.7	0.6	1.4	1.1	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.9	0.9	1.2	1.9	1.2
Streams and Rivers	Wildlife habitat	1.5	1.7	0.8	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.1	1.7	1	1.3	1.6	1.4
Subtidal habitats	Biodiversity	1.6	2.4	0.3	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.2	2.3	1.2	1.2	2	1.9
Subtidal habitats	Carbon Sequestration	0.6	1.4	0	0.5	0.6	1	1.7	0.4	1.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	1
Subtidal habitats	Fisheries habitat	1.4	2.1	0.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.9	1.3	2.2	1	1.3	1.5	1.7
Subtidal habitats	Flood control	0	0.1	0	0.2	0	0.2	0	0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Subtidal habitats	Groundwater replenishment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0.1	0
Subtidal habitats	Nesting habitat for birds and turtles	0.1	0.2	0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2
Subtidal habitats	Oyster production	1.1	1.5	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.6	0.8	1	1.3	1.3
Subtidal habitats	Primary production	0.6	1.8	0.2	1	0.7	1.2	1.9	0.6	1.8	1	1.3	1.5	1.2
Subtidal habitats	Sediment and nutrient retention and	0.4	1	0.1	0.7	0.3	1	1.4	0.4	1.6	0.6	0.8	1.2	0.7

Habitat	Eco_Service	Chemical Contamination	Dredging/Filling	Fire Suppression	Fragmentation	Invasive Species	Land Use Change	Nutrient Enrichment	Pathogens	Sedimentation	Sea Level Rise	Climate Variability	Freshwater Discharge	Resource Extraction
	export													
Subtidal habitats	Storm buffer/hazard protection	0.1	0.5	0	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.2	0	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2
Subtidal habitats	Water quality enhancement	1.2	1.6	0.1	1	0.6	1.2	1.7	1	1.7	0.9	0.9	1.4	1.1
Subtidal	Wildlife habitat	0.9	1.5	0.5	1.1	0.9	1	1.1	0.8	1.6	1.1	1.1	1.1	1

Strengths

What is in place currently that supports the health/sustainability of this value?

Research, Monitoring, Management Plans

1. **Bon Secour NWR CCMP** - The purpose of this management plan is to improve water quality in the Bon Secour River Watershed in order to meet or exceed present use classifications and meet the goals decided upon by the citizens of the Bon Secour River Watershed.
<http://www.mobilebaynep.com/images/uploads/library/Bon-Secour-WMP.pdf>
2. **Alabama's Coastal Connection Corridor Management Plan** - The mission of this project is to identify, promote and enhance the assets of Alabama's Coastal Connection through the development and implementation of a Corridor Management Plan and through obtaining both state and national designation as a Scenic Byway. <http://www.gulfshores.com/stats/Scenic%20Byway%20CMP.pdf>
3. **Weeks Bay System Wide Monitoring Plan** - Develop quantitative measurements of short-term variability and long-term changes in the meteorological, water quality, biological systems, and land-use / land -cover characteristics of estuaries and estuarine ecosystems for the purposes of informing effective coastal zone management.
<http://www.nerrs.noaa.gov/Doc/PDF/Research/2011SWMPPlan.pdf>
4. **ACAMP Program Planning Document and Strategic Plan** – Helps to regulate various activities on coastal lands and waters seaward of the continuous 10-foot contour in Baldwin and Mobile Counties.
<http://adem.alabama.gov/programs/coastal/default.cnt>
5. **Fort Morgan** – The fort is most famous for its role in the Civil War Battle of Mobile Bay.
<http://preserveala.org/fortmorgan.aspx>.
6. **Fort Morgan Natural Resource Assessment** - Baldwin County Parks, Public Access and Conservation Lands Initiative: Staff coordinated expenditures for enhancements on Marlow Ferry Road and Fish Trap water access to improve these public properties.
http://www.co.baldwin.al.us/PageView.asp?edit_id=395
7. **Dauphin Island Comprehensive Plan** –A map for the wise ecological growth of the barrier island.
http://eeeeee.net/dauphin_island/di_interim_report4-07.pdf
8. Islands of Perdido Foundation planning process
9. **ACAMP/ NEP Coastal Marine Spatial Planning** -The purpose of the ACAMP is to promote, improve, and safeguard the lands and waters located in the coastal area through a comprehensive and cooperative program.
http://www.gulfcoastnewstoday.com/area_news/article_9b7dbffe-2e7a-11e2-b755-0019bb2963f4.html
10. **DISL/ NEP Real Time Monitoring Program** - Instrumentation located throughout Mobile Bay (Meaher Park, Middle Bay Light, Weeks Bay and DISL) to take continuous measurements of air and water temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, barometric pressure, precipitation, quantum radiation, water depth, salinity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and total DO. The data produced by this monitoring station is used by fishermen to inform about conditions for fishing.
www.mymobilebay.com

Ecosystem Restoration, Protection, Conservation

1. **Beach re-nourishment projects** - Alabama has a coastal management program encouragement policy for beach nourishment using sand and sediment for Dauphin Island, Gulf Shores and Orange Beach.

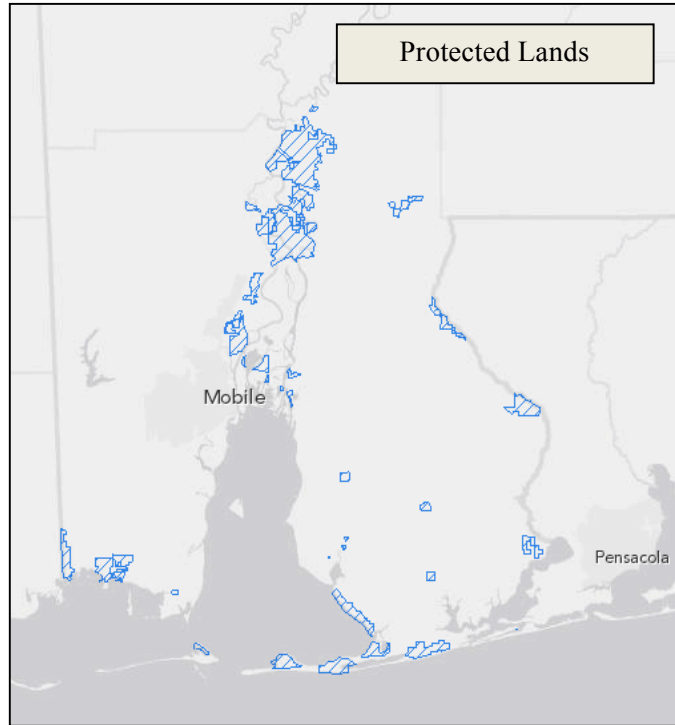
http://www.beachapedia.org/State_of_the_Beach/State_Reports/AL/Beach_Fill

2. **Currently protected areas**- Gulf State Park, Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, Weeks Bay NERR, Robinson Island, Orange Beach Canoe/Kayak Trail & Waterfront Park; Five Rivers; municipal waterfront parks.

3. **NOAA Habitat Restoration Grant program** – A community-based Restoration Program (CRP) to bring together interested groups, public, private, tribal and non-profit organizations to implement habitat restoration projects to benefit coastal and marine species and their habitats.

<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/restoration/programs/crp.html>

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/habitats/oceanscoasts/howwework/habitatrestoration.xml>



4. **Conservation Easements** - A voluntary agreement that willing landowners make with a conservation agency to permanently restrict the type and amount of development that may take place on their property in the future. <http://www.mobilebaynep.com/images/uploads/library/Coastal-Habitat-Atlas1.pdf> p.4
5. **Forever Wild** –A statewide program to purchase, at appraised price, public land for Wildlife Management Areas, Recreation Areas, Nature Preserves, and State Parks. The cost of managing these lands is endowed by Forever Wild at the time they are purchased. <http://www.outdooralabama.com/public-lands/stateLands/foreverWild/ForeverWildReport.pdf>

Federal, State, Local Regulations and Policies, Technical Training

1. **GSOBT/MASGC Nature Tourism Initiative** - Offers charter boat operators information about their industry and the environment. The program includes classroom training about catch limits, artificial reefs, fisheries research, marine laws and more.

<http://www.masgc.org/sbonline/spring11/charter.htm>

2. **MASGC Working Waterfront Coalition** – To promote and provide leadership in maintaining a sustainable working waterfront. http://masgc.org/pdf/workwater/Southwest_AL_WWF_Inventory.pdf

3. **Municipal Working Waterfront districts** - Commercial facilities that require direct access to or location on, over, or adjacent to Alabama's coastal public trust waters; submerged lands; and inland streams, rivers, and lakes. The term includes water-dependent facilities that may be open to the public, offer access by vessels to State waters and lands, or support facilities for recreational, commercial, research, or government vessels. <http://www.masgc.org/pdf/workwater/WASC-SJR43.pdf>

4. **ACAMP Division 8 Coastal Regulations** – Coastal permitting and beach monitoring <http://adem.alabama.gov/programs/coastal/default.cnt>

Volunteer Programs, Outreach, Education

1. **Ocean Camp** - Provides marine education camps and programs for adults and children. Field trips are scheduled Spring, Fall & Winter. <http://www.gulfshores.com/details/ocean-amp/18316/default.aspx>
2. **Grasses In Classes** - Coordinates and sustains a network of teachers, students, restoration specialists, and other community members to plan and implement restoration of coastal environments in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama. <http://www.outdooralabama.com/publiclands/stateLands/WeeksBay/Weeks%20Bay/Grasses%20In%20Classes/>
3. **Weeks Bay Foundation** – A non-profit organization to support the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve through donations of land and educational exhibits, public awareness and education programs, water quality monitoring efforts, and volunteer programs. <http://www.weeksbay.org/>
4. **Coastal Clean Up** – A part of the International Coastal Cleanup designed to not only remove but document every piece of litter (marine debris) found on a shoreline. <http://www.alcoastalcleanup.com/>
5. **Alabama Coastal Counties Environmental Handbook** – A directory of federal, state and local agencies focusing on natural resource conservation and management.
6. <http://co.baldwin.al.us/uploads/Coastal%20Counties%20Environmental%20Handbook.pdf>

Weaknesses/Threats

What stresses are currently putting negative pressure on the long-term viability of this value?

1. Lack of funding and political will – At a time of deep financial strains nationwide, environmental projects are vying for any funding possibilities. <http://www.masgc.org/gmrp/documents/GSRFRG-Recommendations.pdf>
2. Development pressure/land values – It is estimated that that by 2050, 75% of the nation’s population will live in the coastal zone. <http://www.mobilebaynep.com/images/uploads/library/State-of-Mobile-Bay-Final.pdf>
3. National Marine Fisheries recreational fishing regulations- <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>
4. Lack of funding for maintenance of public access facilities/areas
5. Lack of funding for acquisition of open spaces
6. Lack of technical staff for training
7. Lack of adequate boat launch/water access facilities - <http://www.outdooralabama.com/oaonline/boatingaccess12.cfm>
8. Increased demand from a variety of user groups – As population increases in coastal regions so will the need to increase access to shorelines. http://www.data.gov/communities/node/237/data_tools/41761

Opportunities

Are there any opportunities that you know of to support the long term sustainability of this value?

1. Weeks Bay NERR
2. Mobile Bay NEP CCMP
3. ACAMP
4. **Three Mile Creek** - Restore and improve its use category.
http://www.mobilebaynep.com/what_we_do/current_initiatives/
5. Marine Protected Areas
6. Marine Sanctuaries
7. Forever Wild - <http://alabamaforeverwild.com/>
8. Marine Mammal Protection Act - <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/laws/mmpa/>
9. C-Fish
10. **Dolphin Smart** – A voluntary recognition and education program for businesses that seek to responsibly view dolphins in the wild, thereby, promoting their conservation while educating their guests about responsible viewing and its importance. http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/dolphinmart/pdfs/pr_091708al.pdf
11. **Restore Act** – A congressional act that guarantees that 80 percent of Clean Water Act violation fines and penalties paid by BP and other responsible parties in the Deepwater Horizon oil spill will be directed to Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida and Texas.
<http://www.mobilebaynep.com/images/uploads/library/the%20restore%20act.pdf>