Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
Annual Breakfast

December 17, 2014
Battle House, Mobile AL

The MBNEP Management Conference
THANK YOU

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The Big Picture

- Covers 2/3 of Alabama, & portions of Mississippi, Georgia, and Tennessee
- 6th largest in North America by area (43,000 square miles)
- 4th largest in North America by flow volume (62,000 cubic feet of water per second)
- Flushes 15-20% of nation’s fresh water through Mobile Bay
FLOODING

Increases in water pollution from runoff
Erosion

Decreased aesthetics and property values

Photo: Ben Raines
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<tr>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>Ecosystem Services Most Stressed</th>
<th>Top Stress Impacts</th>
<th>Values</th>
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<td>Freshwater Wetlands</td>
<td>Nesting for birds and turtles</td>
<td>Land Use Change</td>
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<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>Fragmentation</td>
<td>Fish</td>
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<td>Wildlife, Fisheries</td>
<td>Dredging and Filling</td>
<td>Heritage</td>
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<td>Intertidal Marshes and Flats</td>
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<td>Fisheries</td>
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<td>Streams and Rivers (Riparian Buffers)</td>
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<td>Freshwater discharge</td>
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Traditional Approach
Addressing the consequences of land development

Watershed Approach
Eliminating or reducing the source of the problem
CCMP Five Year Strategy
2013-2018

- Develop baselines and measure changes
- Create and implement comprehensive watershed plans for HUC 12 watersheds, with preference given to those that border marine waters (sound, bay, gulf, lagoon)
- Improve and restore degraded systems identified in plans
- Build the institutional and economic infrastructure necessary for long-term resource management and sustainability
- Engage community in long-term stewardship

Goals
- Establish indicators of ecosystem health
- Establish quantitative baselines for measuring progress in most and least stressed watersheds
- Develop monitoring program of indicators that synthesizes existing water quality data and identifies data gaps
- Periodically Report on Estuary Health
**Goals**

- **Improve trends in water quality** in priority watersheds with impairments that discharge into fishery nursery areas.
- **Improve ecosystem function and resilience** through protection, restoration, and conservation of first-line-of-defense habitats including beaches, bays, backwaters, and rivers.
- **Restore and expand human connections**

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**Goals**

- **Improve understanding of issues** that impact environmental health and land / water management.
- **Promote a fair and reasonable regulatory process** for private/public access.
- **Institutionalize policies** necessary to better manage our coastal waters and lands.
- **Improve local long-term maintenance capabilities** for restored resources.
**Goals**

1. **Increase awareness of coastal resources that support what people value most** about living in Coastal Alabama.
2. **Improve community ability to participate** in ecosystem-based management actions.
3. **Encourage citizens to support and be more engaged in restoration** and conservation of critical habitats.
4. **Build capacity** of grassroots groups.
5. **Build support for changes to Federal, State and Local Regulations** to improve management of coastal resources and promote enforcement of existing regulations.
Together, we will

Thank you.