Ecosystem/Environmental Balance

Healthy Ecosystems & Living Resources

Long-Term Environmental Variability

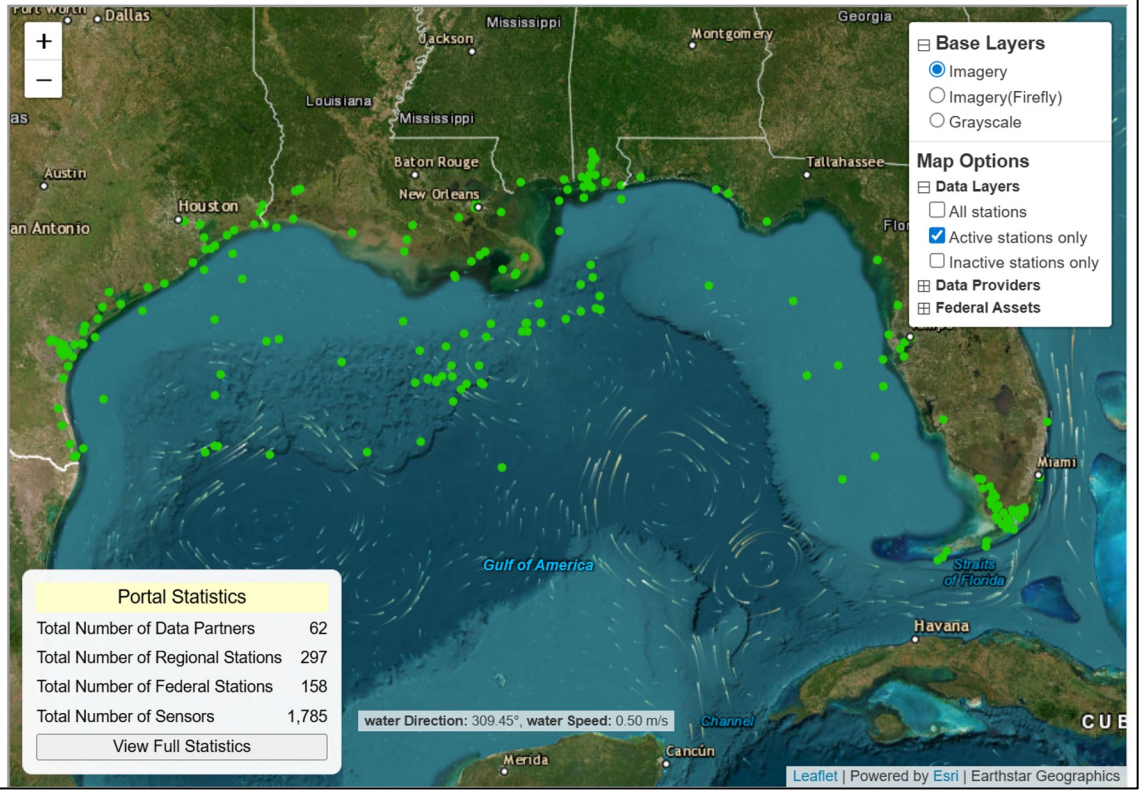
Human Health & Safety

Coastal Hazards

Marine Operations

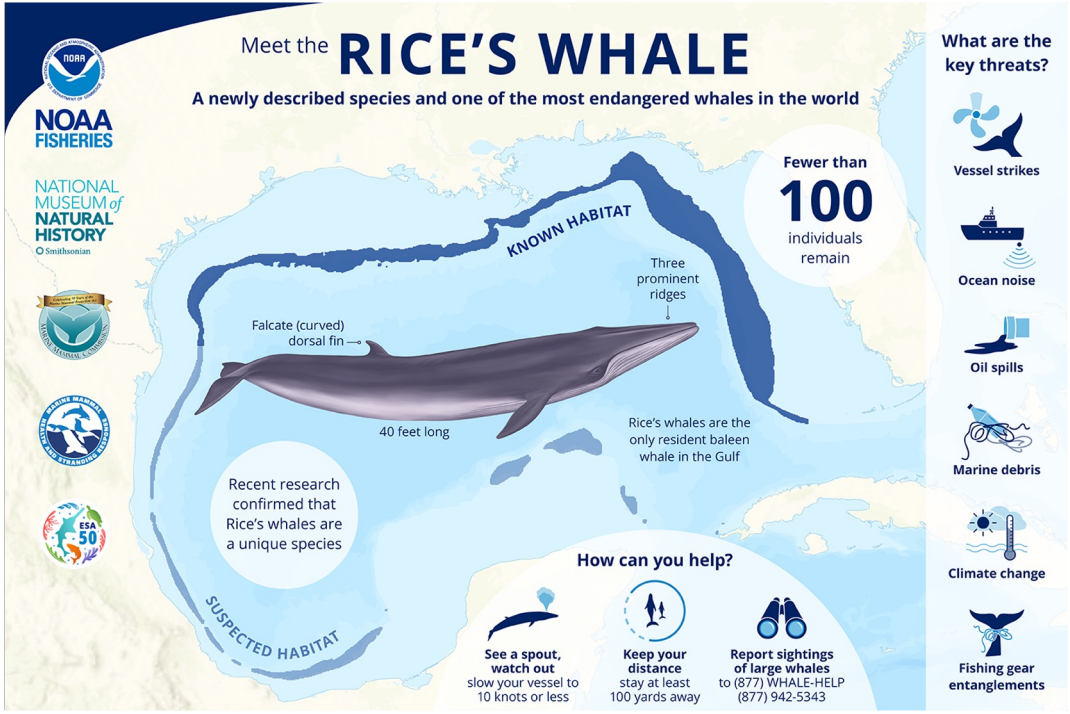
GCOOS Regional Assets

This Data Portal provides timely information about the environment of the United States portion of the Gulf of America and its estuaries for use by decis
educators, emergency responders, and the general public. Observing stations in the region are monitored constantly.



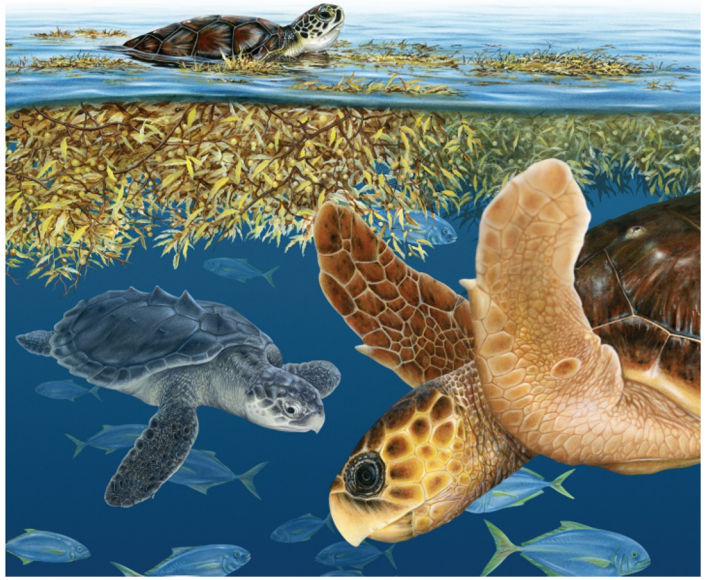
GCOOS GULF OF AMERICA COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM 20 YEARS

IOOS Integrated Ocean Observing System



Sea Turtles in Texas

The Texas coast provides important nesting beaches, bays, estuaries, and offshore habitats for five sea turtle species. All are threatened with extinction, but thanks to long-term conservation programs, our state's sea turtles are on the rise!



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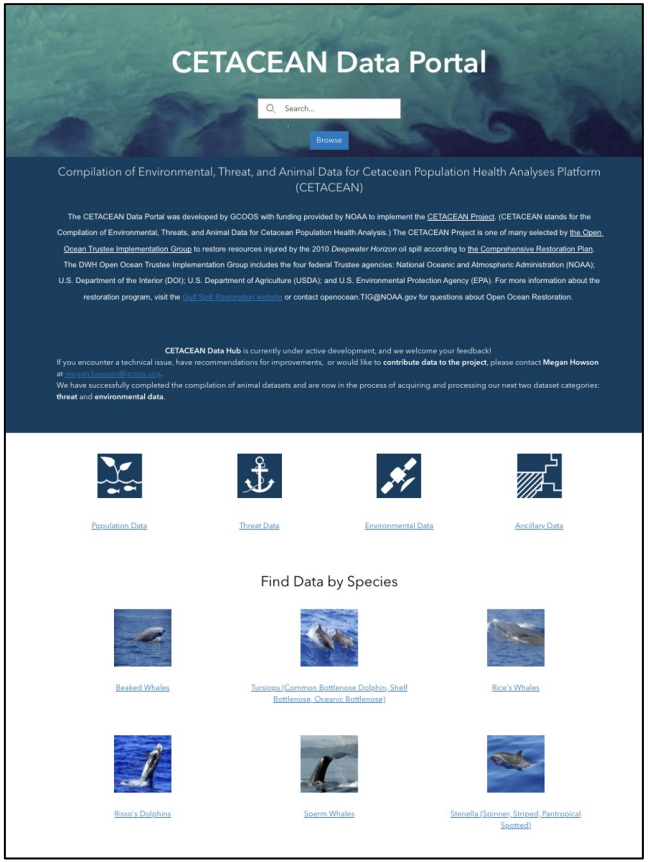
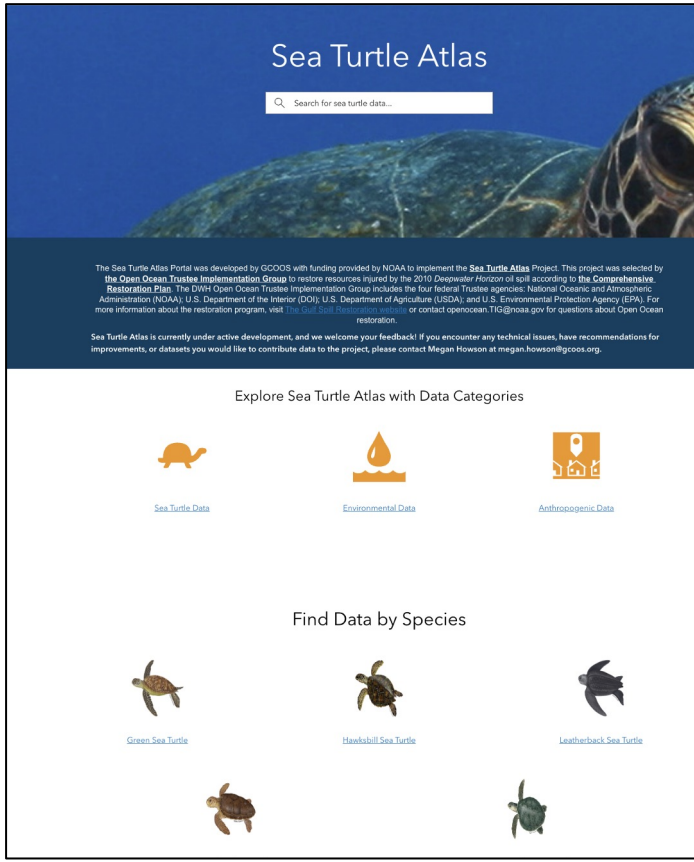
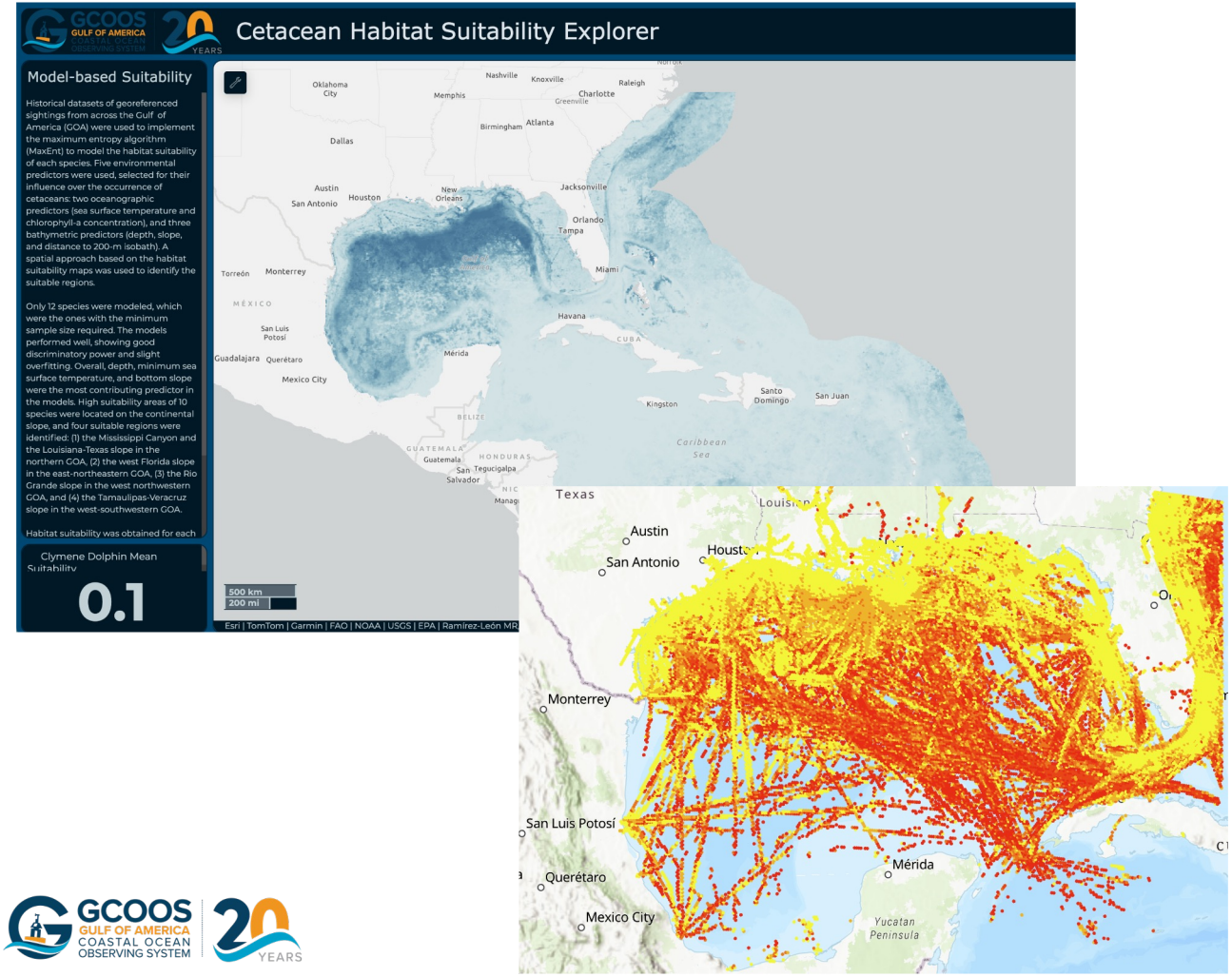


- **COLLECT** population, anthropogenic, & environmental data for Cetacean & Sea Turtle species in the Gulf
- **CURATE** environmental & anthropogenic variables that impact populations and direct users to those datasets
- **CONSOLIDATE** all data into one platform, allowing for immediate analysis



GCOOS GULF OF AMERICA COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM 20 YEARS

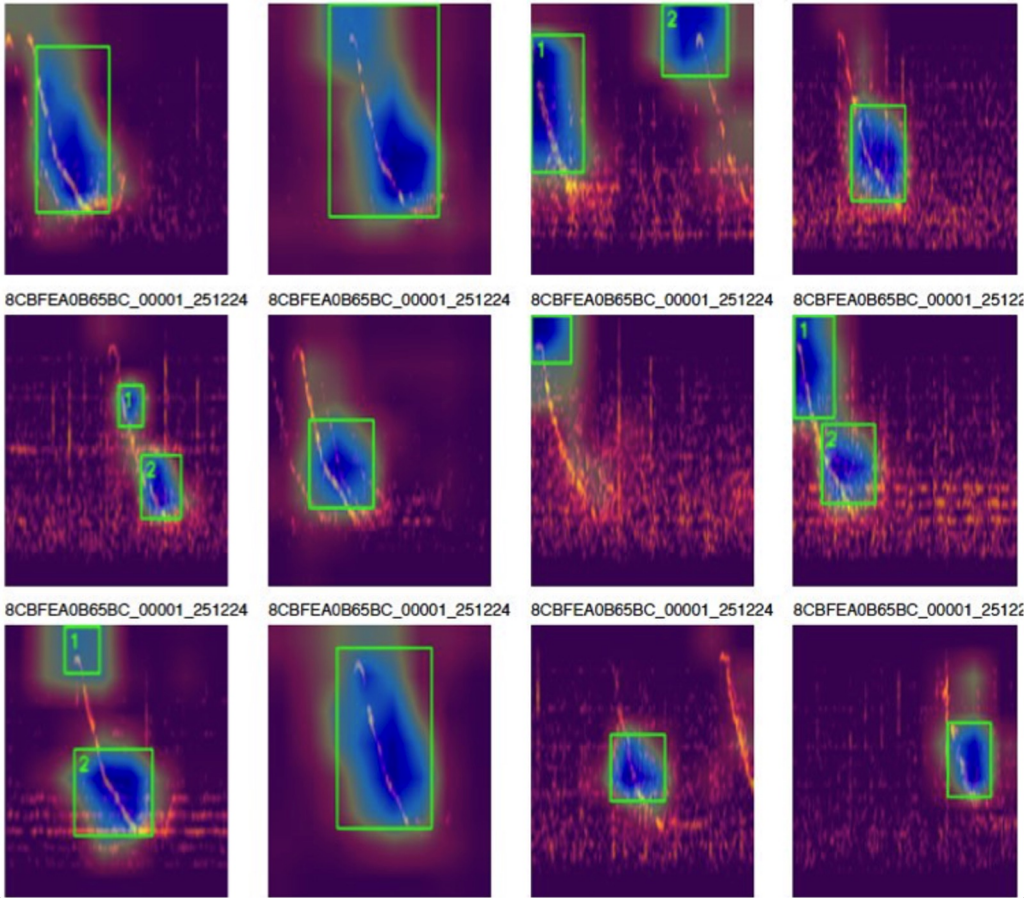
IOOS Integrated Ocean Observing System



- **PROVIDE** access to GCOOS models
- **INCREASE** usability of partner datasets through dashboards and tool development
- **DEVELOP** Education and curriculum materials

GCOOS GULF OF AMERICA COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM 20 YEARS

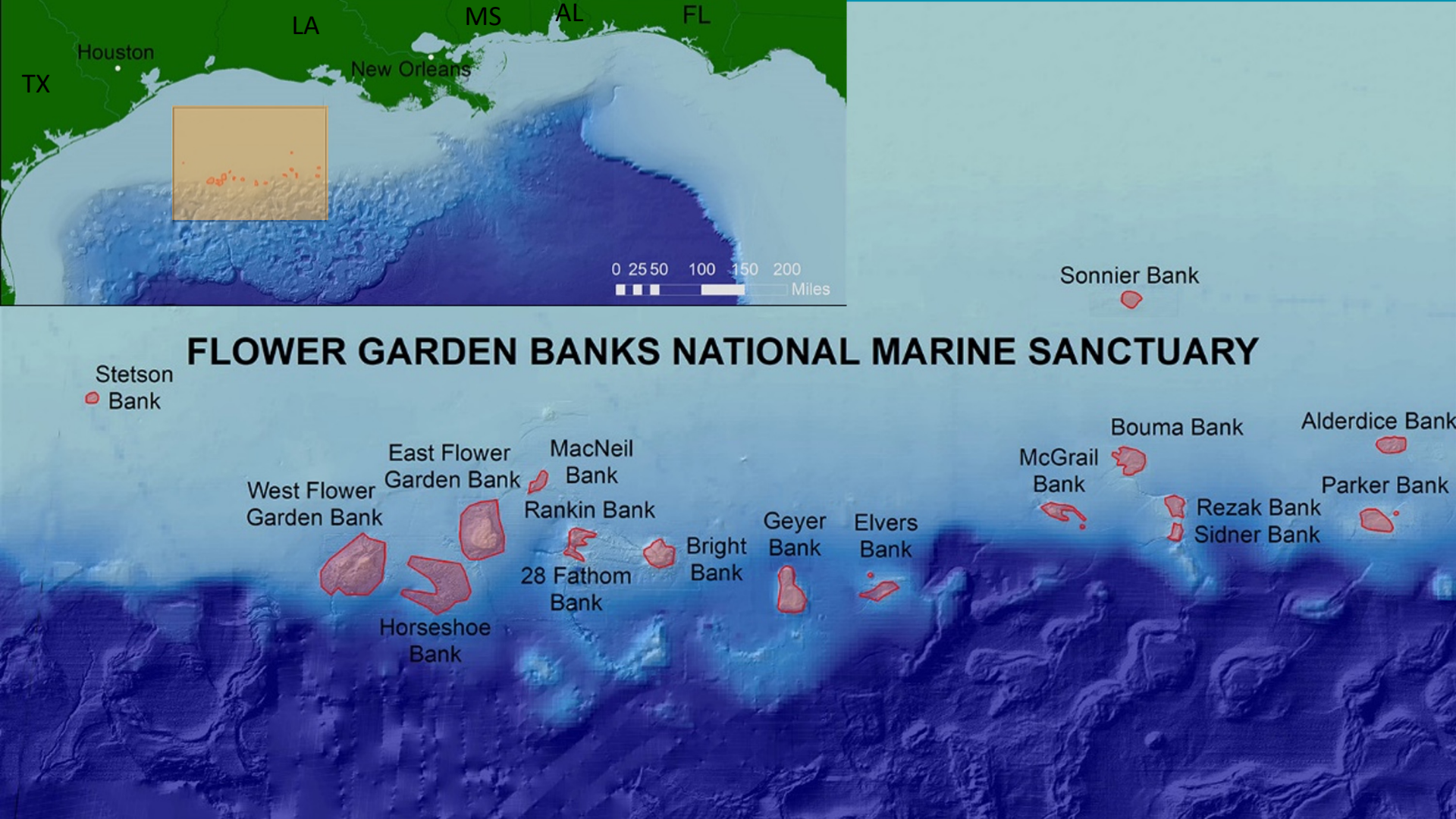
IOOS Integrated Ocean Observing System



- GUARDIAN allows for acoustic data to be rapidly processed
- Trained on Rice's whale with **classifiers for sperm whales and Black grouper under development*
- Utilize glider fleet without requiring acoustic expertise

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES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FLOWER GARDEN BANKS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Stetson Bank
East Flower Garden Bank
MacNeil Bank
West Flower Garden Bank
Rankin Bank
Bright Bank
Geyer Bank
Elvers Bank
28 Fathom Bank
Horseshoe Bank
Bouma Bank
McGrail Bank
Alderdice Bank
Parker Bank
Rezak Bank
Sidner Bank

Public Engagement Opportunities

Management Plan Request for Information

April 6 - May 21, 2026

Publication of a request for information in the Federal Register announces the start of the public phase of the management plan review process and invites the public to comment on the scope of the management plan review. NOAA will hold three public meetings to provide information on the review process and to gather oral comments:

- **April 20, 2026, 6 - 8 P.M. CT**
  Location: Virtual - https://meet.goto.com/309423709 (Registration is not required)
- **May 19, 2026, 2 - 4 P.M. CT**
  Location: Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, 4700 Avenue U, Building 216, Galveston, Texas 77551
- **May 19, 2026, 6 - 8 P.M. CT**
  Location: Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, 4700 Avenue U, Building 216, Galveston, Texas 77551

https://flowergarden.noaa.gov/management/mpr.html

Public Engagement Opportunities - TAKE ACTION

Sanctuary Advisory Council Recruitment

April 30 - May 31, 2026

NOAA’s Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants to serve on its volunteer advisory council. The council provides NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries with advice and recommendations on the management of the sanctuary.

The sanctuary will be accepting applications for the following 7 seats (each for a three-year term):

- Commercial Fishing (2)
- Conservation
- Education (2)
- Recreational Fishing
- Research

https://flowergarden.noaa.gov/advisorycouncil/recruitment.html