

Bi-National Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Partnership

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A recent Gulf of Mexico Alliance successful collaborative effort is the project “Enhanced Public Awareness and Understanding of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance’s Priority Issues Through Exhibitory within Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELCs) in the Gulf.” This project has been developing interactive kiosk exhibits that educate users on the topics of water quality, nutrients, ecosystem valuation, habitat conservation and restoration, and coastal community resilience. These CELCs are in the five U.S. Gulf States and in the Mexican state of Veracruz and are specifically located at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, New Orleans, LA; Florida Aquarium, Tampa, FL; Texas State Aquarium, Corpus Christi, TX; Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Dauphin Island, AL; Gulf Coast Research Laboratory Marine Education Center, Ocean Springs, MS; and, Veracruz Aquarium in Veracruz, Mexico. The interactive modules in these Kiosks stimulate an interest in environmental preservation and promote a sense of personal protection of the Gulf of Mexico. The overarching intent of this initiative is to prepare youth for foreseeable challenges facing the Gulf and instill an urgent need for ecosystem remediation. Collectively, the CELCs reach over 3,000,000 people annually and their staff possesses expertise in the areas of marine and environmental science which complement hands-on engaging programs. Through the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program CELC designation, the Centers have established a partnership that brings technology and hard science concerning the Gulf of Mexico into the hands of families who can truly make a difference in the future of the Gulf: America’s Sea.

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