The Umbrella Topics

We expect to: Organize challenges and opportunities under broad topics that will overlap and interconnect. Connectivity is, in fact, essential if we're to address complex issues that are by their nature multilayered and inter-dependent.

Here's a starter list of topics and sub-categories for discussion:

I. A Healthy Environment

    A. Environmental protection/enhancement (federal, state, regional agencies and non-profit organizations with environmental protection responsibilities or advocacy positions)
    B. Fisheries (recreational and commercial)
    C. Tourism (ECO-Tourism)
    D. Community planning (land use, storm water management, etc.)
    E. Education (to increase environmental awareness, safety, etc.)
    F. Governance (challenge-ready organizational structures and networking capacities across government, non-profit, and for-profit sectors)

Among issues to consider for potential recommendations:

- The federal Moratorium on Offshore Drilling
- Identification of environmental restoration projects, eligible for NRDA funding for immediate implementation
- Request for Department of the Interior / Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regulations and Enforcement (BOEMRE) rule revisions to provide for advance, stable revenue funding for the 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA)
- Engagement with other Gulf coastal states and federal agencies with oversight responsibilities to fashion and fund approaches that: expedite responses to environmental emergencies, reduce conflicts among uses, lessen environmental impacts of industrial and recreational activities, and enhance a broad range of economic, environmental, security, and social objectives
- A Seafood Safety Information Program to inspire consumer confidence in Gulf of Mexico seafood

II. A Healthy Economy

    A. Housing (real estate development, finance, and construction) (Sheila Hodges)
    B. Insurance (Walter Bell)
    C. Infrastructure (transportation, storm water management, water, sewer)
    D. Tourism
    E. Seafood (fishing, processing, distribution)
    F. Port Industry (Port, rail, manufacturing)

G. Education (emergency preparedness, workforce development, etc.)
H. Governance (challenge-ready organizational structures and networking capacities across government, non-profit, and for-profit sectors)

Among issues to consider for potential recommendations:

- Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) initiatives and how they might be defined, funded, implemented, and sustained
- Multi-perils insurance or other approaches that spread the financial risks of coastal hazards and enable responsible residential and commercial development
- Programs most likely to incentivize Alabama coastal recovery and redevelopment in line with environmental, economic, and social goals identified by this Commission
- Infrastructure development and redevelopment programs in line with environmental, economic, and social goals identified by this Commission.
- Educational initiatives most likely to enhance economic opportunities for coastal workers and businesses
- New partnerships across private, public, and non-private sectors to leverage goals identified by this Commission

III. A Healthy Society

A. Public Health (mental and physical)
B. Accessibility (physical and financial)
C. Safety (from natural hazards, crime, disease)
D. Education (emergency preparedness, research, job preparation)
E. Governance (challenge-ready organizational structures and networking capacities across government, non-profit, and for-profit sectors)
F. Community planning (recreational opportunities, safe drinking water, solid waste management, etc.)

Among issues to consider for potential recommendations:

- Additional initiatives, policies, or rule changes to promote and enhance the safety of Alabama coastal residents and workers in the event of natural and man-induced catastrophes
- Policies or rule changes that insure the safety of Gulf seafood
- Policies or rule changes that protect and enhance the safety of workers and recreational users of the Alabama coast
- Partnerships with agencies and non-profits to improve and protect community health (physical and mental) on the Alabama coast