

Water Quality for Healthy Beaches and Shellfish Beds





Water Quality: Priorities for Healthy Beaches & Shellfish Beds

- **4 Focus Areas within Governors' Action Plan II: Pathogens, Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), Mercury in Seafood, and Monitoring**
 - Reduce risk of exposure to disease-causing pathogens
 - Minimize occurrence and effects of HABs
 - Identify sources of mercury in Gulf seafood
 - Improve monitoring of Gulf water resources
- **Pathogens: Improve understanding of waterborne, disease-causing microorganisms, including their sources and survival so that coastal managers can make informed decisions that benefit public health and coastal economies**



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- **HABs**: Reduce the effects of HABs by improving our ability to detect, track, forecast, and mitigate HAB movement and their effects along the Gulf Coast
- **Mercury in Seafood**: Identify sources of mercury in Gulf fishery resources, understand its presence in the Gulf food web, and develop the ability to reduce the human health risk of exposure
- **Monitoring**: Obtain and provide vital information about the conditions of Gulf waters to support better management decisions regarding coastal fisheries, recreation, tourism, public health, and infrastructure planning