

Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan (ACCP) Commercial and Recreational Fishermen Meeting, 27 May 2015

1. Welcome. The subject meeting was held from 10 am to 12 pm on Wednesday, 27 May, 2015 at the Five Rivers Delta Center, Spanish Fort, Al. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District, welcomed everyone and facilitated the meeting.
2. Introductions and Purpose. Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) outlined the ACCP's intent and need. The vision of the ACCP is to provide a framework for healthy and resilient communities. ADCNR indicated the comprehensive plan will not identify specific projects but will be a broad based plan that will help guide us into the future. ADCNR referenced other states comprehensive plans, such as the Louisiana comprehensive plans and Mississippi Coastal Improvements Plan (MsCIP). The ACCP development is funded by Governor Bentley and the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant, and supported by the State. It was stated the ACCP is neither a multi-year implementation plan nor a state expenditure plan.
3. USACE stated the intent is to provide a resilient plan not only for today but into the future. Highlighted were similarities as well as difference of the ACCP with other USACE planning efforts, such as the MsCIP. The intent of the ACCP is to have a constituent input process with a shared vision of ownership. USACE explained that ACCP is a forward-thinking roadmap building off existing planning efforts to develop a shared vision and ownership for coastal Alabama.
4. Commercial and Recreational Fishermen Vision. USACE asked the team what their vision for coastal Alabama is for today, in 10 years, 25 years, and the next 50 years and captured those Commercial and Recreational Fishermen participants' ideas. Representatives from the Ocean Conservancy expressed the need for sustainable commercial fisheries and improved water quality. Individuals from the ADCNR stated maintaining and improving public access (increase geographic coverage and quality) as well as the protecting and restoring habitat (submerged aquatic vegetation, marsh, etc.). Others expressed the need for healthily recreational fisheries, the need to better measure the health of commercial and recreational fisheries and expressed concern over the lack of available personnel for classification of waters. Members of Southern Shrimp Alliance indicated the need for commercial access and working waterfronts. The Organized Seafood Association of Alabama expressed the need to increase fishing bottoms and public access as well as ensuring access is available for commercial and recreational use. There were also expressed concerns from the continued loss of bay bottoms from pipeline discharge.
5. Table Top Exercise. USACE requested participants identify needs/problems, solutions, opportunities and then place those items on the Baldwin or Mobile County coastal maps distributed throughout the room.

6. Next Steps. Participants will receive meeting minutes for review and comment. Information gathered today will be entered into a database and utilized for additional meetings with more specific focus groups to leverage and/or expand upon these ideas. A website is being developed that will include updates as well as maps of gathered information. The website should be available within 1 month. Individuals can send additional comments and ideas including names of recommended participants that may have been missed to accp@usace.army.mil. The next meeting will follow in a month.
7. Action Items.
 - a. USACE will prepare meeting minutes and send out presentations.