Work Plan for:

Delivering Information and Tools for Increasing Resilience and Adaptation of Communities and Priority Coastal Resources across the Network of Coastal LCCs: Activity Area II- Atlantic and Gulf Coast LCC’s Coastal Resilience Research Associate

**General Project Goal/Purpose:**

Coordinate, synthesize and deliver coastal resilience information, ideas, activities and lessons learned across the coastal portion of the Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) network with an initial focus on synthesizing and delivering existing coastal ecological and community resilience and adaptation information to coastal decision makers and communities and, where feasible, prioritizing conservation actions to increase the resilience of both coastal communities and natural resources. The ultimate goal for LCCs is to have decision makers informed about the potential impacts, adaptation strategies and management approaches that incorporate both coastal ecosystems and human communities in their decisions as well as provide a range of ecosystem services through natural and nature-based approaches.

**Oversight and Guidance:**

An Atlantic/Gulf coast resilience team/working group drawing from LCCs and CSCs will be established to provide guidance to the Coastal Resilience Research Associate. Supervision will be provided by North Atlantic LCC and Gulf Coast Restoration staff.

**Geographic Scope:**

Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of LCCs from Atlantic Canada to Mexico with potential applications in Caribbean LCC area.

**Specific Objectives and Tasks:**

1. Establish a core Atlantic/Gulf coastal resilience team- maintain communication with quarterly (or more frequent as needed) progress/coordination calls, explore synergies with on-going or other coastal resilience efforts
   1. Potential core team members to guide project and research associate: Atlantic and Gulf coastal LCC (North Atlantic, South Atlantic, Peninsular Florida, Caribbean, Gulf Coast Plains and Ozarks, Gulf Coast Prairie) and CSC (Northeast, Southeast, South Central) staff, The Nature Conservancy, Gulf Restoration Program, NOAA, USGS.
   2. Also facilitate formation of a Coastal Resilience Advisory Team and provide regular communications regarding findings and needs. Membership may include: Regional Planning Body representatives and Ocean Councils, Gulf of Maine Council representative, Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Army Corps of Engineers staff plus others.
   3. Add a smaller ‘project/staff team’ of us and possibly John Tirpak to meet weekly?
2. Working with partners, partnerships and through published and unpublished literature compile, review, organize and summarize coastal ecological and community resilience information by LCCs, CSCs and other key partnerships across the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.
3. Identify science needs and information gaps
4. Communicate all findings
   1. Prepare reports and publications
   2. Publish/contribute to website content and data portals (e.g. Data Basin)
   3. Participate and possibly present in Gulf coast workshop organized under this national LCC funding effort

**Available or Expected Products & Tools:**

1. Compilation and synthesis of existing Gulf and Atlantic Coast coastal ecological and community resilience information including the following.
   1. Information and tools that relate existing projections of sea level rise and storms to system response, impacts to habitats and species populations of priority fish, wildlife and plant species across their range, and restoration and management alternatives.
   2. Thresholds of viability for priority fish, wildlife and plant species under different rates of sea level rise- based on literature review and expert opinion. E.g., rare dune plant and animal species, tidal marsh obligate nesting birds, tidal marsh vegetation.
      1. \*Potentially publish results of 1 & 2 (e.g. Reviews in Oceanography) with separate sections for various ecosystems
   3. Assessments of restoration and management alternatives completed, underway or planned for increasing persistence and resiliency of these habitats and species as well as evaluations of their effectiveness and metrics used to measure success. E.g., assessment of marsh restoration activities and their effects on tidal marsh obligate species.
   4. Actions that could delay or preclude listing of species that are sensitive to sea level rise, help sustain and recover listed species, and maintain economically important fish and wildlife populations.
   5. Existing and planned efforts to use natural and nature-based approaches to increase community resilience along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.
2. Assess opportunities to relate ecological and community resilience approaches.
   1. Assessment of whether approaches to increase persistence/resilience of priority coastal natural resources will also benefit community resilience.
   2. Assessment of whether natural and nature-based approaches to community resilience will benefit systems, habitats and species
      1. May need to focus on selected types of natural and nature-based approaches
3. Provide assistance/guidance to incorporate species and habitat information into community resilience planning.
   1. \*potentially publish this as one or more case studies (e.g. Ocean and Coastal Resource Management)
4. Summary of additional science needs and approaches to address information gaps (also published on website).
5. Final results compiled and made available in comprehensive report, website(s), data portal(s).

TIMELINE

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| **Task (Products)** | **Draft due** | **Incorporate reviewer comments** | **Responsible parties** |
| Establish core team | August 2015 | September 2015 | Emily, Megan, John, Andrew |
| Compile & summarize information (1a-SLR/storm impacts on species, system response) | October 2015 | December 2015 | Emily write (others review) |
| Compile & summarize information (1b- Identify thresholds for species) | November 2015 | February 2016 | Emily write (others review) |
| Compile & summarize information (1c- Evaluation of restoration/management alternatives for species) | February 2016 | April 2016 | Emily write (others review) |
| Compile & summarize information (1d- Actions to delay listing, recover listed, maintain economically important species) | March 2016 | April 2016 | Emily write (others review) |
| Compile & summarize information (1e- N/NNBF efforts) | April 2016 | May 2016 | Emily write (others review) |
| Compile & summarize information (2a- Effects of species mgmt. on comm. resilience) | May 2016 | June 2016 | Emily write (others review) |
| Compile & summarize information (2b-Comm. oriented N/NBF effects on species & habitats | June 2016 | July 2016 | Emily write (others review) |
| Guide comm. resilience planning w. species/habitat information | July 2016 | August 2016 | Emily demonstrate or write |
| Communicate findings - science needs & information gaps | August 2016 | September 2016 | Emily write (others review) |

**Completion Date (or anticipated completion date):** September 23, 2016 (one year plus one month leave)

**Primary Target Audience/User Groups: LCCs, CSCS and partners including** federal, state and local decision-makers (coastal communities) and conservationists

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