



## **Coastal Ecosystems and Federal Activities Technical Training Symposium**

# Preface

The Coastal Ecosystems and Federal Activities Technical Training Symposium was conducted August 20-22, 2001 at the Gulf Shores State Park, Gulf Shores, Alabama. The workshop was developed and sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region, Atlanta, Georgia. The purpose of the training symposium was to provide Service biologists (and their partners) with the current research and scientific information regarding the fish and wildlife resources, their life history stages, and the impacts of development and restoration activities within the coastal ecosystem.

The symposium was attended by 150 participants from universities, State and Federal agencies, private non-profit groups, and private companies from the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts. Sessions included presentations on coastal physical processes and habitat distribution, reefs and hardbottoms, coastal fisheries, seagrasses, aquatic and terrestrial trust resources, and resource management applications. Because of the high level of interest of the Ecological Services field staff in beach and near-shore environments, and the number of technical experts willing to participate, the symposium focused on beach and near-shore environments.

Thirty-eight presentations were given during the two and a half day symposium and are contained within this proceedings given authorization for use by the author. Several local evening and night time field trips were also conducted including Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge and sea-turtle nest monitoring and hatches at the State Park.

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