

A BLUE ECONOMY INITIATIVE

Catalyzing economic growth on the Mississippi Gulf

The Blue Economy Initiative is leveraging coastal resources and expertise within a Blue Economy Cluster spanning approximately 120 miles across the Gulf Coast. At the heart of the cluster is an emerging Blue Economy Innovation District serving as the nexus for business expansion and a business-friendly environment.



The ocean never rests. Currents are continuous movements of seawater, driven by gravity, wind, and water density. They are the engines of the ocean and have inspired humankind for millennia; works of art, feats of engineering, and even math and science have been influenced by the

movement of the seas.

This perpetual wandering within the ocean provides an ecosystem rich with gifts for humanity. Food, commerce, and science are all presents from the ever-moving, ever-evolving sea. As a Blue Economy Initiative, our goal is to learn, adapt, and develop new opportunities from the ocean. Companies will come to the Gulf to leverage resources and personnel to cultivate opportunities of scientific, fiscal, and socioeconomic change. We'll be working with top-tier organizations and scientists dedicated to producing a return on investment.

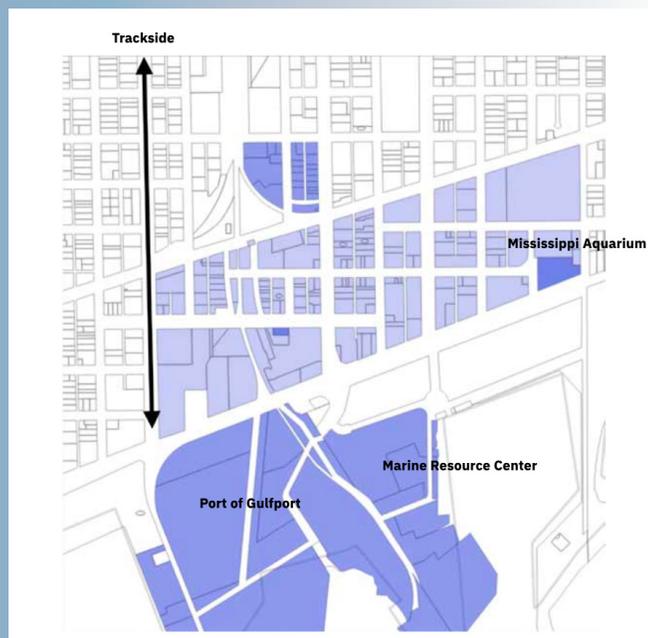
Opening in 2021, a Blue-Tech Accelerator Program and co-working space will serve as a catalyst for startup activity and a magnet for new enterprise.

Blue Tech Accelerator Program

Launching in early 2021, the Blue Tech Accelerator Program will provide access to mentoring, program management, seed funding, and critical maritime infrastructure.

THE ACCELERATOR SUPPORTS

- Uncrewed maritime systems prototyping and waterborne testing in the Gulf of Mexico
- Aquaculture facilities and resources, including finfish, shellfish, live feed, and algae testing, and demonstration through the USM Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center in Ocean Springs
- Access to potential customers in the region
- Providing access to critical infrastructure, services, and USM's research and development capabilities
- Co-working space and short-term office space located within the Gulf and Ship Island Building in Gulfport



BEID is centrally located in the Blue Tech Cluster with direct access to the Mississippi Gulf.



Gulf and Ship Island Building will serve as the central innovation node.

Targeted expertise

In-Water Prototyping Required

- Uncrewed systems and autonomy
- Smart maritime/port
- Seawater sensors and sensor platforms
- Marine renewables hardware
- Marine acoustics
- Underwater communication and mapping
- Clean water/seawater intersection
- Coastal resilience technology
- Seawater-biodegradable polymers and ocean cleanup
- Ocean plastics

Aquaculture Innovation

- Innovation in finfish and shellfish farming
- Alternative feed
- Data analytics
- Algae
- Recirculating systems
- Smart fisheries (e.g., IOT, satellite tracking)

Providing access infrastructure, services, and capabilities

- Providing access to classrooms, technology laboratories, prototyping, and testing
- Facilitating aquaculture's economic and job growth by providing a stable supply of safe, healthy, and local seafood
- Expanding Gulf Coast Geospatial Center operation to ensure sustainability
- Growing the maritime technical workforce
- Harnessing the innovation power of federal-industry-academic agencies in physical presence to develop dual-purpose technologies and operating concepts



GULF AND SHIP ISLAND BUILDING



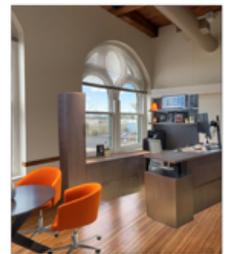
SMALL CONFERENCE ROOMS



SEATING



CAFÉ

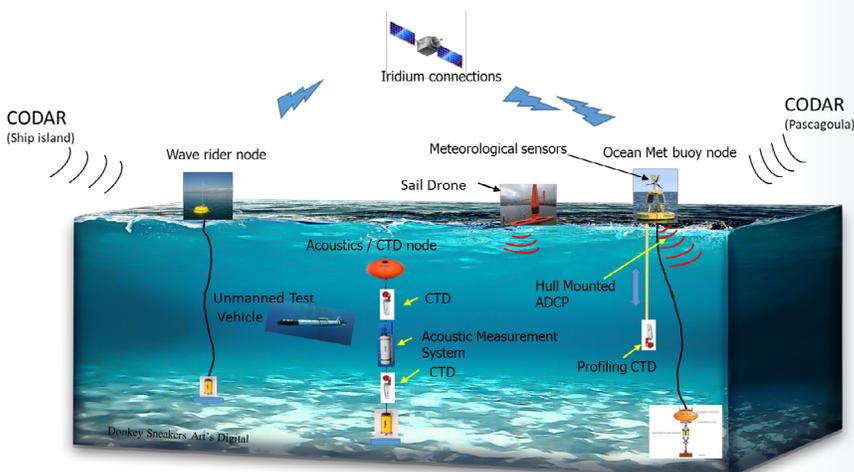


OFFICE

MARINE RESEARCH CENTER



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