



Marine Industries & 

MIST

Science & Technology

Cluster

Northern Gulf of Mexico – Stennis Space Center



Blue Economy Panel

Oceans In Action Workshop, August 2016

So What is MIST?

Currently: A contract under the SBA's Regional Innovation Cluster (RIC) Program supporting small companies.

Goal of Contract: Create regional collaboration that is self-sustaining and includes various aspects of the region's marine-related industries, including:

Traditional "Ocean" Economy

- Construction
- Living Resources
- Minerals
- Ship and Boat Building
- Tourism and Recreation
- Transportation

As Well As These ("Blue" Economy)

- Exploration/Observation
- Technology Development
- Marine-based Research
- Nowcast/Forecast/
Decision Support
- Urban Concerns

MIST SBA-funded Cluster

Marine Industries Science & Technology

- Year 1 Impact:
 - 70 small companies assisted
 - \$27M in contract/grant revenues
 - \$600,000 in SBIR awards
 - 59 fulltime, 5 part-time employees added
- Year 2 Looking even better
 - Membership increase by 30%
 - More than \$1M in SBIR Awards
 - Multiple multi-million dollar contract wins
 - MIST presentation in DC to Joint Ocean Caucus

2014 USM Economic Forum

Marine Industry Economic Forum – What is the value of our Marine-based efforts?

First Look: Mississippi's Coastal Counties:

- 31,636 workers
- \$1,096,276,243 in wages
- \$1,996,942,000 GDP

(Ocean Data from National Ocean Economics Program website)

But this does not include many aspects of the Blue Economy and ancillary jobs created as a result!

MIST Efforts

What's Needed to support the Blue Economy?

- Understand what we have:
 - USM investments and assets in marine and hydrographic research/new programs
 - Industry base not well quantified – which companies do we count and how to we find them?
 - Federal agencies with marine-based programs/missions – the economics of these efforts count too!
- Enhance the collaboration – how can we work better together
- Work with Regional and National Leaders to help support companies in the Blue Economy



mistcluster.org

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