

# Blue Economy

Empowering America's Maritime Future

Mississippi's Blue Economy is a thriving hub of innovation and tradition situated along the Gulf Coast. Here, the convergence of traditional maritime industries and modern technology creates a dynamic economic landscape. With a steadfast commitment to sustainability and growth, our region has become a model of excellence in the blue economy sector.

## Key Indicators



\$9.7 billion of products generated from the blue sector alone



3rd highest concentration of blue economy jobs in the nation



Dozens of companies flourishing in our community

## Ocean Aero

As a manufacturer of ocean-going autonomous vehicles, Ocean Aero showcases Mississippi's appeal to technology companies. With a \$4.65 million investment, it moved operations from San Diego to Gulfport, underscoring the region's allure for advanced ventures.



## Competitive Advantages



Excellent transportation with three federal interstate highways, numerous four-lane roads, and access to four in-state commercial airports.

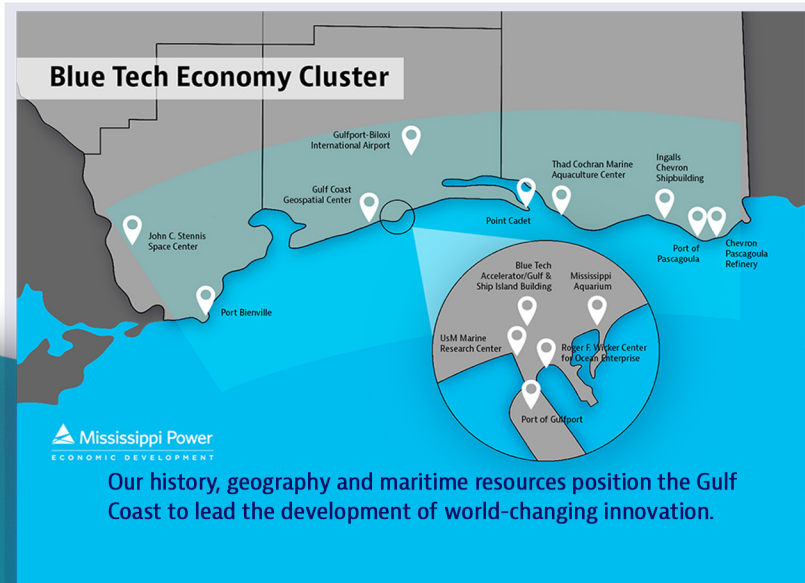


The region has access to three in-state Gulf Coast ports with connection to four class I rail lines.

# Federal Role in Blue Economy Innovation

The Gulf Coast hosts one of the nation's most diversified clusters of academic organizations, accelerator programs and government agencies, all collaborating to employ science and technology for blue economic growth and discovery. Stennis Space Center, home to 40+ organizations and 5,200+ technology workers, plays a pivotal role in driving innovation and technological advancement within the blue economy sector.

Stennis's state-of-the-art facilities attract talent and investment, while federal installations and labs further research and development like the Naval Oceanographic Office, National Data Buoy Center, and Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command.



## Academic and Research

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) serves as a catalyst for academic and research initiatives within Southeast Mississippi's blue economy. Through programs like the Gulf Blue Initiative, USM fosters innovation and new practices for blue economy commerce.

USM's Gulf Blue initiative pools the knowledge of research scientists, federal agencies, industry partners and entrepreneurs to further develop our region into a global leader in blue technology. The university offers a range of programs and initiatives focused on blue economy sectors.

The Blue Economy Innovation District in downtown Gulfport offers laboratory and fabrication space dedicated to incubating rising blue technology ventures and partnerships in six technology clusters: uncrewed maritime systems, precision aquaculture, sea-space systems, ocean-friendly plastics, smart ports and coastal data.

