



**Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
2014 Awards Ceremony**

Award Winners Detail

SUSAN SNOW-COTTER LEADERSHIP AWARD

This special award is bestowed in memory of Susan Snow-Cotter, a long-time friend and supporter of the Council and Working Group. This award is given to an individual from one of the five states and provinces bordering the Gulf of Maine. The Susan Snow-Cotter Leadership Award honors a coastal management professional who exemplifies outstanding leadership or exceptional mentoring in the Gulf of Maine watershed. As former Director of the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, Susan was recognized as a leader who exhibited unwavering passion, enthusiasm, and insight to develop pragmatic approaches to coastal management challenges.

Steve Miller, Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, NH

Steve Miller has been working throughout the watersheds of seacoast New Hampshire to increase awareness of environmental problems and promote better management of our coastal resources. As the Coastal Training Program Coordinator for the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Steve has cultivated several critical areas in support of coastal management over the past ten years and several of these projects have blossomed into successful, regionally known programs.

For example, Steve is co-chair of the Coastal Adaptation Workgroup, lead developer of the Climate Summit Workshops, and community outreach specialist on several local Science Collaborative Projects for the New England Estuarine Research Society. Steve's spirit of collaboration and leadership has rallied planners, scientists and coastal managers to contribute meaningfully to these projects, which benefit citizens of the broader seacoast region, from southern Maine to Northern Massachusetts. Through Steve's work, our communities are becoming better prepared to protect our coastal resources and our own future in the face of development pressures and climate change.

Outside of work, Steve has made significant contributions to preserve and restore coastal ecosystems by leading the Advocates for North Mill Pond, the Hodgson Brook Restoration Plan, and the Portsmouth Conservation Commission. His personal vision for a healthy tidal ecosystem in North Mill Pond has led to several assessments of watershed and habitat health and restoration actions that range from rehabilitated shorelines to stormwater treatment retrofits. Steve is also a natural teacher and his skills for informal education are often used effectively at work to persuade people to rethink their relationship with nature. Steve directed the education department at the Seacoast Science Center for many years. He still teaches outdoor workshops and the Watershed Ecology Institute.

Steve has dedicated his life to preserving and restoring coastal ecosystems through improved watershed management.

LONGARD AWARD

The Longard Award is bestowed each year in memory of Art Longard, a founding member of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and long-time Working Group member. This Award is given to an individual from one of the five states and provinces bordering the Gulf of Maine to recognize volunteer commitment to environmental protection and sustainability within the Gulf of Maine.

Carol “Krill” Carson, New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance, MA As president and founder of the non-profit volunteer group - New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance – Carol or “Krill” works tirelessly to educate people about marine life in the Gulf of Maine.

Krill has spent the past 30 years researching, teaching, and volunteering in the marine biology and ornithology fields. She is currently serving as a naturalist and biologist aboard the Captain John Whale Watching Boats in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Here she coordinates whale-watching, floating classroom programs, and educational presentations for K-12th grade students and adults. Anyone who has joined Krill on a whale-watching excursion can attest to her tireless energy and commitment to making people aware of the marvelous world on and in the Gulf of Maine.

One of Krill’s most lasting accomplishments has been establishing the New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance where she now volunteers as the lead biologist and administrator for the organization. Through this organization, Krill involves members of the public in a sighting network for basking sharks and ocean sunfish. Krill and her group of volunteers have spent endless hours rescuing stranded ocean sunfish.

As part of her efforts to educate young people about the importance of protecting our marine environment, Krill established a 3 month internship program where high school and college students learn about marine wildlife identification techniques, public speaking, teaching, research, and data recording. By the time they finish working with Krill, they are well on their way to becoming trained naturalists.

When not volunteering for the Wildlife Alliance, Krill spends her time teaching at a local university and volunteering to assist students with studies and research. Krill’s enthusiasm, interest, and endless volunteer hours have inspired many others to volunteer their time and efforts as well.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AWARD

Each year, the Gulf of Maine Council presents a Sustainable Communities Award to recognize a community, or group within a community for exemplary work in achieving sustainable outcomes related to the environment and economy within the Gulf of Maine.

Town of Plymouth, Massachusetts

The Town of Plymouth has been exemplary in restoring fish passage and in-stream and wetland habitat throughout the community.

David Gould and his staff at the Department of Marine and Environmental Affairs have removed three out of the six dams along the 1.5 mile historic Town Brook, which was the stream that supported the first American settlers. A fourth dam is scheduled to be removed within the next few years and the other two have reliable fish passage structures.

One of the largest projects to date is the Eel River Headwaters Restoration, which has restored 1.5 miles of degraded stream channel and 40 acres of cranberry bogs to native wetland habitat. This important project also involved installing two new culverts and completing a full dam removal.

The Town of Plymouth is currently working to restore another large cranberry bog complex, known as Tidmarsh Farms, in order to restore 250 acres of former cranberry bog back into functioning wetlands. Plymouth has also completed several smaller projects on its many ponds and tributaries, including removing weirs for salter brook trout habitat on Wellingsley Brook and reducing stormwater and nutrient pollution throughout the town by implementing green infrastructure.

David and his staff are highly motivated on both a professional and personal level to improve the habitats of Plymouth and have been extremely successful in making their goals a reality.

INDUSTRY AWARD

The Gulf of Maine Industry Award recognizes an individual, company, or organization within the Gulf of Maine that has demonstrated innovation and leadership in efforts to improve the well-being of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem and the communities that call it home. Nominations are considered from sectors such as tourism, commercial or recreational fisheries, aquaculture, renewable energy generation, and maritime transportation.

Ellen and David Goethel, Nova Scotia

Both David and Ellen Goethel have dedicated their lives to protecting fisheries and other valuable marine resources in the Gulf of Maine.

David is a career commercial fisherman with a degree in biology who has worked tirelessly to promote and protect the fishing industry. He spent nine years as the NH Governor's nominee on the New England Fishery Management Council . As a scientist, he has participated in numerous fishing gear bycatch reduction experiments, fish tagging, and fish behavioral experiments.

David has also shared his knowledge, expertise and passion for the fishing industry at countless domestic and international forums and conferences in order to improve mutual understanding between industry, science and management of marine resources.

Ellen demands equal stature as an individual, fisherman's wife, and environmentalist. She also has a degree in biology and has dedicated her time to protecting coastal resources. As chairperson of the Hampton Conservation Commission she has produced many positive results and programs for the estuary and its surroundings. She is presently serving on the New England Fishery Management Council as the NH Governor's nominee.

Ellen is directly involved in a variety of initiatives and efforts to improve and sustain the Gulf of Maine and its marine resources. In her spare time, she can be found traveling throughout New England with a "hands-on" marine education program for elementary schools that captures the attention of young students. To expand that education program into the summer months, she opened a facility at Hampton Beach to educate families about marine life and the importance of environmental stewardship.

Visionary Awards

Each year, the Gulf of Maine Council presents Gulf of Maine Visionary Awards to individuals or organizations within each of the five Gulf of Maine jurisdictions of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. These Awards recognize innovation, creativity, and commitment to marine protection.

Massachusetts Visionary Awards (2)

North and South Rivers Watershed Association (MA)

The North and South Rivers Watershed Association has been a leader in protecting, enhancing, and restoring the ecological values of a watershed that stretches over 12 towns in eastern Massachusetts.

For over 40 years, this local watershed organization has been a voice for the rivers, leveraging the support of its members, community leaders, and regional experts to maintain clean water, healthy habitats, and sustainable recreation. The North and South Rivers Watershed Association relies on strong science to bolster their message supporting the values that watershed residents place on healthy streams and a vibrant estuary. That message is carried out through their education programs, comments on regulatory actions within the watershed, and outreach to local media.

As a leader in habitat restoration, staff members at the North and South Rivers Watershed Association have partnered with state and federal agencies, as well as national non-profit organizations to build a strong technical and scientific foundation for projects like dam removal and saltmarsh restoration in their watershed. With these partnerships, they have capitalized on their extensive ecological monitoring programs to design and implement proactive measures to forestall environmental degradation and protect environmental resources that the watershed communities cherish.

One project that they are currently working on is restoration of the Third Herring Brook, a major tributary to the North River. Through their role on this project and many others, the North and South Rivers Watershed Association is laying the foundation to make their next 40 years even more effective than the first.

Phil Colaruso, EPA, MA

Phil Colaruso of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been a leader in New England on the conservation of eelgrass. One of his major contributions has been as organizer of the annual eelgrass meeting, which celebrated its 20th year in 2013. At these meetings, scientists and managers come together to hear the latest research on eelgrass and other sea grasses, review the status of eelgrass in New England, and discuss conservation and management issues related to eelgrass. The meeting typically attracts 50+ people from state and federal agencies,

academia, and non-profit organizations. Phil always provides keen insights, great organization, unique and creative perspectives, and he does it all with an excellent sense of humor.

The respect Phil commands within the environmental field insures that key players in eelgrass conservation and management will always be present at his annual meetings. One of the positive outcomes of these meetings is to increase the awareness about the need for conservation action on eelgrass among management agencies that might not have been aware of this issue.

Phil is also being recognized for his tireless efforts to ensure that eelgrass beds are conserved and restored in the face of development threats, underwater cable projects, and impacts from marinas. He was a key management player in decisions that promoted eelgrass conservation at Sears Island, Maine when it was being considered for the development of an oil terminal, in Salem Sound when eelgrass was impacted by the Hubline Project, and in many smaller projects throughout New England. He has also been active in promoting and implementing efforts to restore eelgrass.

Phil's Ph.D. dissertation provided valuable insights into how eelgrass responds to light stress and provided him with the scientific skills to complement his management expertise. Although mostly known for his work on eelgrass, in his job at the EPA, Phil has contributed in important ways to positive conservation outcomes in other major New England coastal issues, such as the decision to require upgrading of the cooling system on Brayton Point Power Plant.

New Hampshire Visionary Awards (2)

The Gundalow Company, Portsmouth, NH

The nonprofit Gundalow Company is leading the effort to protect its region's maritime heritage and environment through education and action. For centuries, gundalows (small shallow-drafted sailing vessels) carried cargo from seacoast communities in the upper Piscataqua River to Portsmouth, the region's seaport and primary market town.

Gundalows moved bricks, hay, firewood and goods, crucial to the economy and everyday life. The Gundalow Company takes its inspiration from the vital role of those historic wooded vessels. From 2002 to 2011, the Gundalow Company provided *dockside* programs to more than 100,000 students and visitors on the *Captain Edward Adams*, a 30-year old gundalow replica. But by 2011, the *Adams* proved to be too authentic to comply with U.S. Coast Guard safety requirements. Recognizing the need to have students of all ages afloat to genuinely connect with their waterways, the Gundalow Company built a new gundalow, the *Piscataqua*. Looking and feeling authentic, it meets all U.S. Coast Guard requirements for passenger-carrying vessels. The *Piscataqua* was built on the grounds of Portsmouth's famed Strawberry Banke Museum by local shipwrights and volunteers using traditional methods and tools, all in view of

the public.

Today the Gundalow Company's mission is more urgent than ever. Their programs connect maritime history with contemporary coastal issues such as community awareness, water quality, habitat restoration, conservation, and stewardship. In its first two seasons of operating the *Piscataqua*, the Gundalow Company served over 3,000 school students and over 8,000 public passengers. These innovative programs weave together science, social studies, maritime skills and stewardship while introducing an appreciation for a *sense of place*. The programs increase awareness of the shared responsibility of becoming informed stewards of our rivers and bays. The Gundalow does this all with a small staff and over 100 volunteers!

**Isabella Hillman, student Rye Junior High School, NH
(Youngest person to receive a Visionary Award)**

At 12 years old, Isabella Hillman is a young person making waves in her coastal community of Rye, New Hampshire. This seventh grade student had the initiative and commitment to see her idea for smoke-free beaches through to a non-binding resolution passed at Town Meeting last March that makes all town beaches in Rye smoke-free zones.

Isabella's grassroots community and civic involvement helped to solve a local environmental problem. Instead of only noticing and complaining about the cigarette butt litter in the sand and the second hand smoke wafting towards her and her friends at the beach, she took matters into her own capable hands and worked to change the problems that she observed.

She successfully tackled the daunting task of getting a petitioned warrant article passed in her community, which required many steps along the way and careful navigation of town government processes and deadlines. As a non-binding resolution, it means that fines or penalties cannot be given to people that choose to smoke on the beach despite the smoke-free zone, but it is strongly encouraged not to smoke.

Notably, the community of York, Maine has seen a significant reduction in smoking on their beaches since their non-binding resolution was passed. Isabella is now working on signs that will be placed on the beaches this summer to inform people about the smoke-free town beaches. Isabella signed her letter to the editor that appeared in Seacoast Online, "Resolution Initiator," and she is a true initiator and young leader making positive changes in both the environment and human health of her community.

Maine Visionary Awards (2)

Mary Cerullo, Friends of Casco Bay

Over the past 40 years, Mary Cerullo has dedicated her life to inspiring a love of science and marine stewardship. She has been instrumental in creating several marine education

organizations and is the award-winning author of more than 20 children's books on the ocean, most of which feature Gulf of Maine issues and critters. Mary's accomplishments include:

- In 1973 Mary and a group of dedicated teachers organized the Massachusetts Marine Educators.
- In 1976, Mary helped create the National Marine Educators Association.
- In 1990 she developed a Gulf of Maine Aquarium's poster describing Maine's aquatic ecosystem— *Mt. Katahdin to the Sea*. 65,000 copies have been used in classrooms throughout Maine.
- Mary teamed up with Bill Curtsinger, an outstanding National Geographic underwater photographer to produce a book series *Sea Soup: Phytoplankton*, (1999) and *Sea Soup: Zooplankton* (2001). She has written books on lobsters, squid, and shipwrecks, which are used in classrooms all over New England. She will soon publish a four-volume set on sharks.
- More recently, Mary joined Friends of Casco Bay. Here she developed BayScaping, teaching residents to grow lawns that keep Casco Bay blue. BayScaping is the model for YardScaping, a statewide program on ecological lawn care. Mary also wrote the *Casco Bay Curriculum*, with 40 activities for 4th to 6th grades.

Mary has been very active in teaching people of all ages about marine life in the Gulf of Maine. Mary's colleagues say it best --

From Jeff Sandler/ Marine Educator/*Mr. Fish* - *"Mary likes to make learning fun"*

From Jeanne Meggison / National Marine Education Association - *"She is a rare find in this world. Her skills, knowledge, grace, dignity and compassion have blessed us all."*

And finally, a quote from Carol Steingart of the Gulf of Maine Marine Educators Association -- "Mary lights up a room and makes others smile. Her can-do attitude and nonchalant demeanor make her a powerhouse of a woman who gets the job done."

Stewart Fefer, US Fish and Wildlife Service

By building strong partnerships, retaining a talented and dedicated staff and developing a flexible, voluntary approach to conservation, Stewart Fefer of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

has translated an ambitious vision for coastal Maine into thousands of acres of restored and protected habitat for waterbirds, migratory fish and endangered species.

Stewart has worked tirelessly on behalf of nationally important fish and wildlife resources in coastal Maine. He has developed innovative partnerships with National Wildlife Refuges, state agencies, statewide conservation groups, land trusts and angling clubs to restore and permanently protect coastal nesting islands, coastal wetlands, and rivers harboring Atlantic salmon and other migratory fish. In total, Stewart has secured \$50.7 million in outside funding for habitat protection and restoration projects in coastal Gulf of Maine. This work has leveraged an additional \$125 million in funding.

It is my pleasure to present Stewart Fefer with this Visionary Award as a small token of thanks for the truly extraordinary extent of his contributions toward protecting and restoring critical habitat in the Gulf of Maine watershed.

New Brunswick Visionary Award (2)

Lee Swanson, New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government

Lee Swanson received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in 1990 and her Masters in Environmental Studies in 1994 from the University of Waterloo, Ontario. After graduate school, she moved to Fredericton, New Brunswick and joined the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources as the Wetland and Coastal Habitat Conservation Biologist responsible for supporting, developing, and implementing inventories, policies and regulations related to wetlands and coastal habitats. She was heavily involved in the development of both the New Brunswick Wetlands Conservation Policy and the New Brunswick Coastal Areas Protection Policy, as well as the creation of regulations to protect wetlands.

In 2004, Lee transferred to the New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government where she was the Provincial Wetland Specialist until 2013. Her work supported the Gulf of Maine Council's goals and included providing wetland science expertise, opinion, training and education to government staff, local planning authorities, wetland practitioners, and the public. Lee was also tasked with incorporating science into best management practices, and assessing projects that potentially affected wetlands and coastal areas. Lee was directly involved in development of the Global Programme of Action Coalition for the Gulf of Maine standardized tidal marsh evaluation protocol, and was also involved with the Gulf of Maine Council Habitat Restoration Sub-Committee as both a member and the Canadian Co-Chair for many years. She was also President of the Society of Wetland Scientists Canadian Chapter. Lee recently took the position of Project Manager for the Department's Environmental Impact Assessment Section. The provincial Environmental Impact Assessment

process supports the Gulf of Maine Council goals by ensuring projects are sustainable and have minimum impact on the environment.

Lee's graciousness and respect for people makes everyone at the table feel included and valued. These qualities allow her to involve stakeholders, present scientific evidence clearly, and make engaging arguments that educate decision makers on the value of natural ecosystems. Her tireless efforts to protect wetlands have shaped much of the public awareness that exists today on the ecological, social, educational, and cultural role wetlands play in New Brunswick.

Daniel Savard, New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government

Daniel is a senior planner with the Province of New Brunswick. He has a Master of Urban Planning degree from McGill University, a Master of Business Administration from the University of New Brunswick, and a Bachelor of Sciences from the University of Québec at Montreal. Daniel facilitates research and development in the planning section of the New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government. He coordinated implementation of the first Sustainable Community Design subdivision project in the Province.

Sustainable Community Design for subdivisions is a concept where the development of properties considers the constraints of floodplains and wetland areas of the property, identifies unsuitable lands for development, and highlights environmentally sensitive, historically and culturally significant, or scenic areas of the property, in order to preserve at least 50% of the land that would be built if it were built as a conventional subdivision. The concept also includes the incorporation of Smart Growth and New Urbanism principles which promote the use of compact and mixed land use development and affordable housing, all within a distance that does not require the use of automobiles.

Daniel's work in the field of conservation design for subdivisions is accomplished in partnership with Randall Arendt from the US, the Conservation Development Alliance of Toronto, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Association of Municipal Administrators of New Brunswick, and Efficiency New Brunswick.

Daniel will tell you that success in building sustainable communities is accomplished best through team work. The collaborative effort of 43 partnership groups and individuals was responsible for the first Sustainable Community Design subdivision at 'Le Village en Haut du Ruisseau'. This project received a Sustainable Communities Awards from the Gulf of Maine Council in 2013. Daniel has asked that we specifically recognize those groups and individuals that contributed to the success of the first project in New Brunswick: the Université de Moncton, students from the Dalhousie University School of Planning, the NB Community College Moncton, the City of Dieppe, and the developer Charles Poirier.

In particular Daniel would like to acknowledge the great contributions made by Francine Dimambro of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Danielle Charron of the Association of Municipal Administrators of New Brunswick, and Efficiency NB, who continue to work at promoting and facilitating the concept.

Daniel's keen desire to educate people on minimizing the impact of their activities on the natural environment compliments well the Gulf of Maine Council's goal of Sustainable Development.

What Daniel won't tell you about is all the legwork he has done over the years to promote the Sustainable Community Design concept and how his efforts have now resulted in several developers and communities implementing this approach at subdivisions in New Brunswick.

Nova Scotia Visionary Awards (2)

Dr. Nick Hill, Fern Hill Institute for Plant Conservation

Dr. Nick Hill of the Fern Hill Institute for Plant Conservation has been spearheading an effort to understand the degradation of Big Meadow Bog on Brier Island, and the impacts of this degradation on a globally rare plant -- the Eastern Mountain Avens. Nick has been conducting a range of field studies designed to guide restoration of the site. While Nick is part of a collaborative team working on this restoration effort, he has been the go-to person for virtually all aspects of the work, spending many hours doing field work and coordinating other researcher's efforts and keeping collaborators informed about results and needs.

This project is important for a number of reasons. Big meadow is a rare type of raised bog/fen complex that occurs over basalt bedrock – an unusual combination in Nova Scotia. At 100 hectares it is also our larger peatlands with deep peat soils that store a substantial amount of carbon. Efforts to drain the bog for agriculture began in the 1950s and the bog has been gradually drying out ever since. As the bog dries, the plant community has shifted to more upland species and has become attractive as gull breeding habitat. In fact, the largest colony of breeding herring gulls in the province now breeds in Big Meadow Bog. The combination of drying conditions and high nutrient loads from the Gull population now threaten the overall health of this large bog/fen complex and the focal point of one of the two primary populations of eastern mountain avens in the world.

Nick's efforts to identify key environmental stressors and the ecological conditions most important for sustaining eastern mountain avens have been critical for identifying ways to effectively restore this extremely valuable site.

Jillian Olsen, Clean Annapolis River Project

Jillian Olsen is being recognized for her extensive volunteer contributions as part of the Clean Annapolis River Project. Jillian has been an active and dedicated leader in her role on projects

related to species at risk in the Annapolis River Watershed. She played a major role in conducting field based activities as part of organization's Wood Turtle Research and Outreach, and Striped Bass Research Projects.

The Wood Turtle Research and Outreach Project involves collecting critical field data, required to improve understanding of the ecological needs and population dynamics of the wood turtle. Volunteers are crucial in the data collection process, and the project would not be able to achieve its objectives without their contributions. Jillian participated in land and water based visual surveys, radio-telemetry of tagged turtles, turtle nest checks, nest emergence surveys, and overwintering surveys. Data from this project is being shared with partner institutions, and incorporated into conservation efforts for the local wood turtle population.

The Striped Bass Research project that Jillian works on examines the Bay of Fundy Population of striped bass, which has been listed as endangered by the Committee on the Status of Wildlife in Canada. The Annapolis is one of the few river systems that still supports this species in the region. The Clean Annapolis River Project is gathering data to determine the structure and composition of the Bay of Fundy striped bass population, a critical step in developing appropriate and effective conservation efforts. Jillian assisted the Project Leader with field sampling, including the setting and checking of fyke nets, beach seining, and fish identification.

In order to perform all of her field duties Jillian has put in a tremendous amount of time and effort toward learning field methodologies and techniques, to ensure the consistent collection of high quality data.

Jillian is the Clean Annapolis River Project's youngest volunteer as well as being one of the most dedicated, placing her in an important role as a leader and mentor for other youth in the communities throughout the watershed. By using her passion for wildlife as a catalyst to become an active member of the conservation community in the Annapolis River Watershed, Jillian has been an excellent role model for her peers.

Distinguished Service Awards

As you all know, the accomplishments of the Gulf of Maine Council are made possible by the many individuals who serve as members of the Council, Working Group, and committees. Thanks to their collaborative efforts, we are able to make significant strides each year in our shared efforts to protect and restore natural resources in the Gulf of Maine. Tonight, I am pleased to honor two individuals who have provided exceptional service to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment over the past several years.

Distinguished Service Award - Susan Russell-Robinson, US Geological Survey

Susan Russell-Robinson of the U.S. Geological Survey is being recognized by her colleagues from the Gulf of Maine Council Working Group and the EcoSystem Indicator Partnership for her

passion, commitment, outstanding leadership and tremendous contributions to coastal management in the Gulf of Maine.

For the past decade, Susan's energy, vision, knowledge and leadership have been an integral part of the Gulf of Maine Council's Working Group. She has been a leader in many facets of the Council's work offering a U.S. federal perspective that can only come from her years of experience. Susan has a strategic outlook on the role of the Council and consistently provides solid advice and guidance on how the Council can improve and adapt to the ever-changing political and economic environment. Susan always keeps the ultimate goal of the Council in mind, which is the advancement of collaborative actions in support of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem.

Over the years, Susan has been able to leverage significant funding opportunities which have allowed the Council to expand its programs. Between 2006 and 2013, she served as the U.S. co-chair for the ESIP committee. Her dedication, innovation, creative ideas and tireless efforts, as well as her ability to implement program-level strategic ideas, led to the formation and development of ESIP. Susan has guided ESIP from its infancy to a flagship program within the Council, with its engaging and ever-improving web presence and its multi-faceted content.

Susan has been a strong mentor to many members of the Council's working group, past and present, guiding them in the ways of the council, and continuously highlighting its unique role and value as a bi-national partnership. She has been a regional leader in the northeast for decades, and has openly shared these roles and guided other participants to serve as leaders in these groups, including GOMC, NROC, NERACOOS, RARGOM and others. In all of these,

Her leadership and attention to the "larger picture" is obvious to anyone lucky enough to work beside her. She is a true champion of young leaders, the work of the Council, and the Gulf of Maine as a sanctuary for humans, wildlife, fish, and natural resources that we can work together to conserve.

Special Recognition Award - David Keeley, Maine, Founding member of GOMC

David Keeley of The Keeley Group is receiving a Special Recognition Award for his role as one of the founding members of the Gulf of Maine Council. It is largely through leadership from David and a few others that we are here this evening celebrating 25 years of action to promote a healthy and sustainable Gulf of Maine ecosystem.

Unfortunately David could not attend this evening. And although we will present this award to him in Maine later this summer, I would like to take a moment to highlight a few of his many contributions to the Gulf of Maine Council.

To begin with, David had the vision to realize the value of a Canadian / US partnership aimed at protecting the diverse marine life and unique habitat within the Gulf of Maine Council nearly 25 years ago. Over the years, he continued to be a critical player in establishing all the major

initiatives of the Council from the habitat restoration partnership to the EcoSystem Indicator Partnership.

David wore many hats and took on many challenges over the years. Whether as a member of the Working Group, a Councilor, or a Contractor – David's leadership and insight have been at the forefront of all of the Council's many successes. For several years, David managed the Council's core functions including IT, Council Coordination, the Gulf of Maine Times, and fund development services.

Since 1989, David has provided leadership, valuable insight, guidance and a diplomatic approach to solving the challenges associated with working effectively to bring US and Canadian decision and policy makers together to make a difference in this coastal treasure that we know as the Gulf of Maine.