



Gulf of Maine Council Work Plan

July 2017 - June 2019

Updated July 2018

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** Work Plans may be updated throughout the 2017-2019 planning period.*

Introduction

This Work Plan highlights Gulf of Maine Council initiatives with planned activities for the period July 2017 through June 2019. Gulf of Maine Council initiatives are intended to support the goals and outcomes outlined in the GOMC 2018 – 2022 Framework for Action as well as the priority ‘types of work’ identified by Council and Working Group members.

Proposed work plans for existing and new Gulf of Maine Council initiatives were developed by GOMC Council and Working Group members in advance of the June 2017 Council / Working Group meeting in Portland, Maine. Each proposed work plan was presented for consideration and feedback during a workshop at the June 2017 meeting. This GOMC work plan is revised throughout the two-year period to reflect work plan changes and / or to incorporate new initiatives as they are approved by GOMC.

GOMC 2018-2022 Framework for Action - Goals and Outcomes

The following goals and outcomes included in the GOMC 2018-2022 Framework for Action provide the foundation for this more detailed two-year work plan.

Goal 1: Restored and Conserved Habitats

- Outcomes:
- 1.1 Habitat restoration
 - 1.2 Habitat conservation
 - 1.3 Water quality protection
 - 1.4 Climate adaptation

Goal 2: Environment and Human Health

- Outcomes:
- 2.1 Increased awareness about links between environment and human health
 - 2.2 Identification and sharing of knowledge about emerging issues / risks
 - 2.3 Environmental monitoring, indicators and reporting
 - 2.4 Climate adaptation

Goal 3: Sustainable and Resilient Communities

- Outcomes:
- 3.1 Climate adaptation
 - 3.2 Understanding how people use the Gulf of Maine
 - 3.3 Community stewardship

A copy of the GOMC 2018-2022 Framework for Action is available at:

<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/action-plan-homepage/>

GOMC Priority Types of Work

Gulf of Maine Council initiatives included in the Work Plan are intended to support the following two priority types of work identified by the Council.

1. Networking / Multi-jurisdictional Collaboration and Facilitation
2. Sharing Resources / Best Practices / Capacity Building (regional or jurisdictional)

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- socio-economic incentive-based management measures
- performance measurement
- Effective engagement and partnerships
 - Indigenous partnerships
 - Public process and engagement

Key Milestones YR2:

1. Convene two Committee meetings (teleconference/web-ex) and two topical sessions for broader audience (web-ex and/or in-person)

Project Funding (Amount and Sources):

Committee activities will be funded/enabled by member organizations, as required.

Project Partners:

See Committee membership list (pending updates)

Supporting Documentation: *(If applicable, list additional documents included with this 1 page Work Plan proposal, or provide links to external supporting information)*

<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/coastal-and-marine-spatial-planning/>

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

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Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Proposed Two Year Work Plan – July 2017 through June 2019					
Name of GOMC Initiative: EcoSystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP)					
Co-Chaired by: Environment and Climate Change Canada and US Environmental Protection Agency Direction Provided by (Steering Committee): Environment and Climate Change Canada, Fisheries & Oceans Canada, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Department of Interior, US Geological Survey and US Environmental Protection Agency					
Links to 2018-2022 Framework for Action Goals and Outcomes <i>Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</i>					
Goal 1: Restored and Conserved Habitats		Goal 2: Environmental and Human Health		Goal 3: Sustainable and Resilient Communities	
Outcomes: 1.1 Habitat restoration 1.2 Habitat conservation 1.3 Water quality protection 1.4 Climate adaptation	x	Outcomes: 2.1 Increased awareness about links between environment and human health 2.2 Identification and sharing of knowledge about emerging issues / risks 2.3 Environmental monitoring, indicators and reporting 2.4 Climate adaptation	x	Outcomes: 3.1 Climate adaptation 3.2 Understanding how people use the Gulf of Maine 3.3 Community stewardship	X x
Description: As a cross-cutting committee, ESIP supports all three goals of the current 2012-2017 GOMC Action Plan, although the primary focus is Goal 2, Outcome 2.2. ESIP works closely with other current GOMC Committees to integrate and share information. ESIP was established as a cross-cutting committee of the GOMC to address the regionally identified need for stronger collaboration and information sharing to improve understanding and inform researchers, managers, and citizens about the status and trends in ecosystem health in the Gulf of Maine through the use of indicators. In addition, ESIP supports more informed management decisions by addressing issues to maintain and improve ecosystem health. ESIP engages and draws on expertise from scientists, managers, academics, practitioners, interested organizations, and citizens from multiple sectors in both Canada and the U.S. ESIP works collaboratively to compile existing monitoring data and scientific information from a variety of sources, including government, citizen science groups, academics, and other non-profits. ESIP then integrates the information into a one-stop, on-line location or “environmental intelligence center” which provides a local to regional picture of on-going monitoring activities and status and trends in habitat, water quality, climate change, human use, and overall ecosystem health in the Gulf of Maine. It also identifies gaps in monitoring and data, and works in partnership with other existing organizations to fill these gaps.					
On-going Initiatives: <u>Water Quality and Sediment Monitoring (partially funded)</u> As a result of ESIP’s efforts to compile monitoring and indicator data from Canada and the U.S., monitoring and data gaps are often identified. During ESIP’s efforts to compile eutrophication and contaminant indicator, it was identified that information regarding water quality and sediment chemistry was needed for the Canadian portion of the Gulf of Maine. Through collaboration with ECCC’s Gulf of Maine Initiative (GMI) and in partnership with Canadian NGOs, Eastern Charlotte Waterways, a water quality and sediment quality monitoring project was developed and is being implemented to address the gaps.					

Current FY funding to support ESIP's portion of this project has been expended; for April 1-March 31, 2019 ~\$12,500CND remains in the project budget for ESIP to oversee the project and produce a fact sheet. ESIP no longer has a Program Manager and does not have the capacity to oversee the project. ESIP Co-chairs are recommending that current remaining deliverables for the current year, mainly reporting and production of a journal article, will be handled by the co-chairs. For the final year of the project, ESIP Co-chairs will only maintain an oversight and reporting role. Remaining activities, deliverables and project monies will be transferred to the project partner.

Proposed New initiatives:

No new initiatives are proposed.

ESIP Co-chairs have met with the ESIP Steering Committee. Collectively, the group has decided to remain intact but activities will be significantly reduced and meetings will be less frequent (quarterly vs monthly). For the near term, meetings will focus on updates of the remaining project and reviewing ESIP activities and products to set priorities for what continues/discontinues. Steering Committee members will continue to promote ESIP at relevant meetings and workshops (e.g. RARGOM) and continue to look for funding opportunities to support activities deemed as priorities. ESIP will be seeking support from Jim Craddock to maintaining the ESIP website, ESIP tools, and ensure archiving of all ESIP materials as part of his core contract with the GOMC.

Key Milestones YR1:

Administration of ECCC GMI project

- Oversee and coordinate project partner activities
- Add datasets to the Indicator Reporting Tool
- Report on findings for water quality and sediment chemistry
- Report on project results to ECCC GMI
- Journal article on sediment sampling results

Key Milestones YR2: Not Applicable

Project Funding (Amount and Sources):

- ECCC Gulf of Maine Initiative: approx. \$56,000CND for April 1, 2017-March 31, 2018 (approx. \$12,000CND to GOMC/ESIP and \$44,000 to Canadian NGO partner); approx. \$24,500CND for April 1, 2018-March 31, 2019 (approx. \$7,500CND for ESIP Program Manager, \$5,000CND for project fact sheet, and \$12,000CND to Canadian NGO partner)*
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada: approx. \$6,700 USD until September 30, 2018

*under proposed approach for April 1, 2018-March 31, 2019, the \$12,500 allotted for the ESIP Program Manager and project fact sheet will be transfer to the Canadian NGO partner, along with the necessary tasks to deliver on these aspects of the project.

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<p align="center">Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Proposed Two Year Work Plan – July 2017 through June 2019</p>					
Name of GOMC Initiative: Climate Network					
GOMC Project Lead (s): Ellen Mecray and Bill Appleby, Co-Chairs					
<p align="center">Links to 2018-2022 Framework for Action Goals and Outcomes Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</p>					
<p align="center">Goal 1: Restored and Conserved Habitats</p>		<p align="center">Goal 2: Environmental and Human Health</p>		<p align="center">Goal 3: Sustainable and Resilient Communities</p>	
Outcomes:		Outcomes:		Outcomes:	
1.1 Habitat restoration	x	2.1 Increased awareness about links between environment and human health	x	3.1 Climate adaptation	x
1.2 Habitat conservation	x	2.2 Identification and sharing of knowledge about emerging issues / risks	x	3.2 Understanding how people use the Gulf of Maine	
1.3 Water quality protection	x	2.3 Environmental monitoring, indicators and reporting		3.3 Community stewardship	
1.4 Climate adaptation	x	2.4 Climate adaptation	x		
<p>Description: <i>Mission:</i> In support of greater climate resilience and adaptability in communities throughout the Gulf of Maine watershed, the Climate Network fosters sharing of professional knowledge and resources and coordinated regional responses. The Gulf of Maine Council’s Climate Network plays a significant role in four primary ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compiling and promoting (across sectors and borders) accurate information about likely climate impacts within the region; 2. Identifying critical data gaps and convening regional experts to determine how to most efficiently gather and disseminate that information; 3. Engaging citizens in tracking the impacts of climate change and transmitting those data to the municipal and regional managers who can best use that information to strengthen community resilience; and 4. Catalyzing more coordinated and efficient approaches to adaptation by disseminating successful strategies and models. <p>Network projects are typically grant-funded and rely on an expert working group assembled for each initiative.</p>					
<p>Key Milestones Years 1 and 2:</p>					
<p>Funded Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand distribution of Gulf of Maine Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook and related media outreach; publicize webinars held in conjunction with the <i>Outlook</i> release each quarter • Augment and publicize a newly created web-based tool that offers improved access to Intensity/Duration/Frequency (IDF) extreme rainfall data, helping environmental managers and municipal planners in Atlantic Canada better prepare for climate impacts • Host an engagement workshop for the region’s First Nations tribes in northern Maine and New Brunswick 					
<p>Proposed Initiatives Requiring Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support coordination of the Gulf of Maine King Tides Initiative and annual photo contest, which generates inundation images from extreme tides to use for planning and educational purposes (requires additional resources) • Lead regional pilot overlaying climate data and health data to enable better management of vulnerable populations in extreme heat and weather events. <i>(requires additional resources)</i> • Expand cross-border coordination on shared responses to climate impacts in forestry and agriculture, attending the USFS workshop and inserting CN as part of the climate response • Host a regional workshop in conjunction with ESIP on climate adaptation, including development of heat health indicators and feedback/next steps from the Network’s membership 					

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Project Funding (Amount and Sources): Balance of existing funds for 2017
Environment and Climate Change Canada: \$6,303

Project Partners:
GOMC members, Northeast Regional Climate Center, IC Net, North American Land Conservation Collaborative, NROC, GOM King Tides Partners, King Tides Network, funders

Supporting Documentation: None

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

GOMC Work Plan • July 2017 – June 2019

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Two Year Work Plan – July 2017 through June 2019					
Name of GOMC Initiative: Gulf of Maine Symposium – GOM 2050					
GOMC Project Lead (s): Rob Stephenson, Judy Pederson, Theresa Torrent, Jason Tuell, Ellen Mecray, Ru Morrison, Joan LeBlanc (others may be added)					
Links to 2018-2022 Framework for Action Goals and Outcomes* Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative					
Goal 1: Restored and Conserved Habitats		Goal 2: Environmental and Human Health		Goal 3: Sustainable and Resilient Communities	
Outcomes: 1.1 Habitat restoration 1.2 Habitat conservation 1.3 Water quality protection 1.4 Climate adaptation	x x x x	Outcomes: 2.1 Increased awareness about links between environment and human health 2.2 Identification and sharing of knowledge about emerging issues / risks 2.3 Environmental monitoring, indicators and reporting 2.4 Climate adaptation	x x x x	Outcomes: 3.1 Climate adaptation 3.2 Understanding how people use the Gulf of Maine 3.3 Community stewardship	x x x
<p><i>* GOMC goals and outcomes supported will vary based upon goals and themes determined for the Symposium.</i></p> <p>Description: Gulf of Maine Council members first discussed interest in coordinating a Gulf of Maine Symposium at the June 2016 GOMC meeting in Fredericton, New Brunswick. While some preliminary discussions took place during the 2016 / 2017 Secretariat Year, planning was tabled due capacity issues. During the June 2017 GOMC meeting in Portland, Maine, GOMC Council and Working Group recommended putting this initiative back on the table and restarting planning efforts. The Gulf of Maine Symposium would follow up on past efforts including the 'Tides of Change' meeting and the 2009 Gulf of Maine Summit conference.</p> <p>GOMC will convene a small working group to conduct preliminary planning for a Gulf of Maine Symposium that would likely take place during 2019 or 2020. Maine is interested in coordinating the Gulf of Maine Symposium during their Secretariat period which will take place from July 2018 through June 2020. First steps will include identifying the scope, audience, goals, theme, timeline, and potential funding sources for the Symposium.</p> <p>Some financial support for a Gulf of Maine Symposium may be available from NERACOOS and from ECCC's Gulf of Maine Initiative. GOMC will explore potential partnerships with GOMC member organizations and agencies as well as RARGOM, Bay of Funding Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP), and other organizations.</p> <p>Key Milestones YR1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Convene small working group to coordinate preliminary planning ➤ Develop scope, goals, theme, and content areas for the Symposium ➤ Identify audience for the Symposium ➤ Identify potential partner organizations and roles ➤ Develop timeline for planning purposes ➤ Develop preliminary budget estimates and potential funding sources 					

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Key Milestones YR2 and YR3:

- Continue planning for the Symposium
- Host bi-national Gulf of Maine Symposium in November 2019

Project Funding (Amount and Sources):

- None needed for initial planning.
- Funding sources for the Gulf of Maine Symposium include in-kind contributions from supporting partners, event sponsorships, and registration fees.

Project Partners:

Potential partners include GOMC Council and Working Group member jurisdictions and agencies, GMRI, NERACOOS, Huntsman Marine, RARGOM, BoFEP and others.

Supporting Documentation: *(If applicable, list additional documents included with this Work Plan)*

n/a

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<p align="center">Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Two Year Work Plan – July 2017 through June 2019</p>					
<p>Name of GOMC Initiative: Marine Debris – Reduction of Single-Use Plastic Pollution</p>					
<p>GOMC Project Lead (s): Theresa Torrent, Maine Coastal Program in collaboration with Demi Fox, NOAA</p>					
<p align="center">Links to 2018-2022 Framework for Action Goals and Outcomes* Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</p>					
<p align="center">Goal 1: Restored and Conserved Habitats</p>		<p align="center">Goal 2: Environmental and Human Health</p>		<p align="center">Goal 3: Sustainable and Resilient Communities</p>	
<p>Outcomes: 1.1 Habitat restoration 1.2 Habitat conservation 1.3 Water quality protection 1.4 Climate adaptation</p>	<p>x</p>	<p>Outcomes: 2.1 Increased awareness about links between environment and human health 2.2 Identification and sharing of knowledge about emerging issues / risks 2.3 Environmental monitoring, indicators and reporting 2.4 Climate adaptation</p>		<p>Outcomes: 3.1 Climate adaptation 3.2 Understanding how people use the Gulf of Maine 3.3 Community stewardship</p>	
<p>Description: Our goal is a significant reduction of single-use plastics distributed in Gulf of Maine restaurants. In collaboration with NOAA’s Gulf of Maine Consumer Debris Working Group we have identified the reduction of single-use plastic being available in area restaurants, cafes and other food distribution points as a priority activity. The goal is to make items such as plastic straws and plastic eating utensils a “demand-only” item or replaced completely with re-useable options. As identified at the 6th International Marine Debris Conference (March 2018) there are established programs which engage both the restaurant industry and their customers in changing their habits and have proven effective in reducing the amount of single-use plastic items they use and throw out. The regional focus will be on implementing the <i>Trash Shouldn’t Splash toolbox</i> created by the Sea Education Association (WoodsHole) in various pilot communities in the Gulf of Maine.</p> <p>In addition to promoting reduction of single-use plastic in restaurants we will also continue to actively support and encourage plastic shopping bag and polystyrene cup and food container bans which are very effective in reducing plastic pollution on the coast and beaches of communities where they have been initiated.</p> <p>Key Milestones YR1: n/a – initiative to begin in YR2, July 2018 Key Milestones YR2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementation of the Trash Shouldn’t Splash toolbox in a community in each of the Gulf of Maine jurisdictions. ✓ Encourage the ban of plastic shopping bags throughout the Gulf of Maine. 					
<p>Project Funding (Amount and Sources): Maine Coastal Program will provide promotional items to encourage the use of re-useable straws and other single-use plastic food and beverage items.</p>					
<p>Project Partners: NOAA New England Marine Debris Program Office</p>					

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GOMC Work Plan • July 2017 – June 2019

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Two Year Work Plan – July 2017 through June 2019					
Name of GOMC Initiative: Gulfwatch Contaminants Monitoring					
GOMC Project Lead (s): Peter Wells, Christian Krahforst, Jack Schwartz, Jim Latimer and others					
Links to 2018-2022 Framework for Action Goals and Outcomes* Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative					
Goal 1: Restored and Conserved Habitats		Goal 2: Environmental and Human Health		Goal 3: Sustainable and Resilient Communities	
Outcomes: 1.1 Habitat restoration 1.2 Habitat conservation 1.3 Water quality protection 1.4 Climate adaptation	x	Outcomes: 2.1 Increased awareness about links between environment and human health 2.2 Identification and sharing of knowledge about emerging issues / risks 2.3 Environmental monitoring, indicators and reporting 2.4 Climate adaptation	x x	Outcomes: 3.1 Climate adaptation 3.2 Understanding how people use the Gulf of Maine 3.3 Community stewardship	
Description: Launched in 1993, the Gulfwatch program measures contaminants such as PCBs, PAHs, metals and chlorinated pesticides in blue mussels to assess the types and concentration of contaminants in coastal waters of the Gulf of Maine. From 2012 to 2017, GOMC conducted limited monitoring activities and continued analyzing data and publishing reports and journal articles from sampling of contaminants in mussels throughout the Gulf of Maine. Gulfwatch continues to assess trends in chemical contaminants throughout the Gulf of Maine, while adapting to meet the evolving needs of resource managers and surrounding communities, and also being responsive to changes in technology and assessments of the environmental integrity of the Gulf of Maine.					
Key Priorities for 2017 - 2019: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue to collect and analyze environmental samples (e.g., blue mussels), interpret the data, and report on chemical levels and trends (spatial and temporal) of traditional and emerging contaminants of environmental concern in the coastal waters of the Gulf of Maine. ➤ Look to secure funds to assemble preliminary information to aid the program to develop information to provide guidance for future monitoring. ➤ Continue to foster collaboratives with NOAA and other agencies for synthesis products and continued monitoring. 					
Project Funding (Amount and Sources): Program efforts are supported by in-kind support.					
Project Partners: Potential partners include GOM jurisdictions, NOAA					

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Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Two Year Work Plan – July 2017 through June 2019			
Name of GOMC Initiative: GOMC Awards Program			
GOMC Project Lead (s): Theresa Torrent and Joan LeBlanc			
Links to 2018-2022 Framework for Action Goals and Outcomes <i>Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</i>			
Goal 1: Restored and Conserved Habitats	Goal 2: Environmental and Human Health	Goal 3: Sustainable and Resilient Communities	
Outcomes: 1.1 Habitat restoration 1.2 Habitat conservation 1.3 Water quality protection 1.4 Climate adaptation	Outcomes: 2.1 Increased awareness about links between environment and human health 2.2 Identification and sharing of knowledge about emerging issues / risks 2.3 Environmental monitoring, indicators and reporting 2.4 Climate adaptation	Outcomes: 3.1 Climate adaptation 3.2 Understanding how people use the Gulf of Maine 3.3 Community stewardship	x
<p>Description: The Gulf of Maine Council will continue to host an annual awards program to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of volunteers, environmental professionals, communities, non-government organizations, and industry in promoting a healthy Gulf of Maine ecosystem.</p> <p>Council Coordinator will issue call for nominations and facilitate awards selection process. Awards will be presented during a reception hosted in conjunction with the Gulf of Maine Council’s annual in-person meeting.</p> <p>Key Milestones YR1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Call for awards nominations January 2018. ➤ Host awards program in June 2018 in collaboration with GOMC meeting. <p>Key Milestones YR2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Call for awards nominations January 2019. ➤ Host awards program in June 2019 in collaboration with GOMC meeting. 			
<p>Project Funding (Amount and Sources): Pending approval, funding of approximately \$2,000 for awards and associated in-kind staff time will be provided through the Maine Coastal Program. Project leads will ensure that appropriate support is available before moving forward with a call for nominations. Council Coordinator support is included in scope of work for Council Coordination services.</p>			
<p>Project Partners: GOMC Council and Working Group, Maine Coastal Program</p>			
<p>Supporting Documentation: <i>(If applicable, list additional documents included with this Work Plan)</i> n/a</p>			

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

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Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Two Year Work Plan – July 2017 through June 2019					
Name of GOMC Initiative: Gulf of Maine Council GeoTour					
GOMC Project Lead (s): Kathryn Parlee (ECCC) with support from GOMC Coordinator Co-Chaired by: Environment and Climate Change Canada					
Links to 2018-2022 Framework for Action Goals and Outcomes <i>Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</i>					
Goal 1: Restored and Conserved Habitats		Goal 2: Environmental and Human Health		Goal 3: Sustainable and Resilient Communities	
Outcomes: 1.1 Habitat restoration 1.2 Habitat conservation 1.3 Water quality protection 1.4 Climate adaptation	x	Outcomes: 2.1 Increased awareness about links between environment and human health 2.2 Identification and sharing of knowledge about emerging issues / risks 2.3 Environmental monitoring, indicators and reporting 2.4 Climate adaptation	x	Outcomes: 3.1 Climate adaptation 3.2 Understanding how people use the Gulf of Maine 3.3 Community stewardship	x x
<p>Description:</p> <p>The Gulf of Maine GeoTour was established as part of activities to celebrate the GOMC's 25th anniversary. It was created to encourage people to get out, learn about and experience the beauty and value of the Gulf of Maine for themselves.</p> <p>The GeoTour is like a scavenger hunt, but instead of visiting locations to collect objects, participants find answers to site specific questions and collect points. The treasure, a limited edition Gulf of Maine Council 25th Anniversary Geocoin, is available to participants who collect enough points and send in their GeoTour Passport.</p> <p>The Gulf of Maine Council has partnered with organizations and geocachers in each of the five provinces and states that border the Gulf of Maine to create the GeoTour. Sites were selected to highlight just some of the important natural, historic, cultural or economic features in the region. Where possible, links to GOMC activities, efforts or to GOMC award winners were identified. Five sites are located in each of the five provinces or states that border the Gulf of Maine – Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts – making twenty-five sites to celebrate twenty-five years of the Gulf of Maine Council. Two sites were also used to introduce and test the concept of the EcoSystem Indicator Partnership's (ESIP) ICUC App.</p> <p>The GeoTour was launched on the GOMC website in July 2014. In 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, sponsored by DFO and ECCC, the GeoTour has also been hosted and promoted on Geocaching.com. Geocaching.com is the one-stop online site that lists geocaches world-wide and provides tools and adventures to support the hobby of geocaching.</p> <p>To date, over 80 coins have been distributed for participation in the GeoTour. The majority of participants live within the Gulf of Maine watershed, but participants from as far away as New York, New Jersey, South Carolina, Idaho, Wisconsin and Texas have completed the tour while travelling in the Gulf of Maine region. Participant comments are positive and appreciative for the GOMC setting up an adventure and learning opportunity in the Gulf of Maine. The GeoTour was also covered in a Travel Blog at the NY Times.</p>					

On-going Activities:

Monitoring and Maintenance (no funding required)

On-going activities are currently limited to answering inquiries from interested geocachers, monitoring status of geocaches included in the tour and following up with cache owners if maintenance is required, receiving and verifying completion of GOMC GeoTour passports, and distribution of the commemorative 25th anniversary coins. On-going activities will continue until all of the 25th anniversary geocoins are distributed.

Funding for on-going activities is provided by in-kind support from Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Proposed New Initiatives (Pending Funding):

Continuation of GOMC GeoTour (funding required):

Current registration of the GOMC GeoTour on Geocaching.com ends in August 2017. In order to continue to use the term geotour, which is a Geocaching.com trademark, and to have the geotour hosted and promoted on Geocaching.com, the annual registration fee (\$2500 USD) will need to be paid in August.

Link ICUC and GOMC GeoTour (funding required):

To further increase awareness of the GOM and to broaden ESIP's ICUC App engagement, the opportunity and feasibility of linking the ICUC App and the GOMC GeoTour will be considered. The idea would be to add GeoTour sites which would include an ICUC photo monitoring bracket. Participants would visit a site, learn about it, answer a question toward earning a coin, but also help to monitor changes at that site over time by taking photographs from the ICUC photo bracket. There may also be an opportunity to link with the Climate Network and to raise awareness about climate change impacts and adaption, as well as help to monitor related changes within the watershed. Funding would be required to link on-line presence, add new sites and promote the initiative via social media.

GOMC 30th Anniversary GeoTour (funding required):

Update the GeoTour with new/additional sites and a new commemorative geocoin or other prize for the GOMC's 30th anniversary.

Key Milestones YR1:

Pending Funding

Key Milestones YR2:

Pending Funding

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Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Two Year Work Plan – July 2017 through June 2019					
Name of GOMC Initiative: Gulf of Maine Learning Opportunities					
GOMC Project Lead (s): Theresa Torrent, Joan LeBlanc					
Links to 2018-2022 Framework for Action Goals and Outcomes* Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative					
Goal 1: Restored and Conserved Habitats		Goal 2: Environmental and Human Health		Goal 3: Sustainable and Resilient Communities	
Outcomes: 1.1 Habitat restoration 1.2 Habitat conservation 1.3 Water quality protection 1.4 Climate adaptation		Outcomes: 2.1 Increased awareness about links between environment and human health 2.2 Identification and sharing of knowledge about emerging issues / risks 2.3 Environmental monitoring, indicators and reporting 2.4 Climate adaptation		Outcomes: 3.1 Climate adaptation 3.2 Understanding how people use the Gulf of Maine 3.3 Community stewardship	
	x		x		x
	x		x		x
	x		x		x
	x		x		x
			x		
			x		
* Learning opportunities will support various GOMC goals and outcomes depending upon topics selected.					
Description: During the GOMC organizational assessment conducted during 2015, GOMC identified the following two priority types of work for GOMC to focus on in a streamlined budget and operational environment.					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Networking / Multi-jurisdictional Collaboration and Facilitation 2. Sharing Resources / Best Practices / Capacity Building (regional or jurisdictional) 					
In support of those priorities, GOMC Working Group Chair and Council Coordinator will coordinate learning opportunities focused on priority topics of interested identified by Council and Working Group members. Informational presentations, webinars and policy discussions will be coordinated as part of GOMC Council and Working Group meetings or as stand-alone webinars or other learning opportunities.					
Potential topics of interest include:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NOAA’s National Water Model ➤ Government Roles and Programs Related to Marine Debris ➤ Coastal and Marine Habitat Mapping Tools and Resources ➤ Ocean and Coastal Acidification and Water Quality in the Gulf of Maine ➤ Climate impacts on the Gulf of Maine ➤ Coastal Resilience Planning and Tools ➤ Understanding and Responding to Extreme Weather Events in the Gulf of Maine 					
Key Milestones YR1:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with Council / Working Group to identify topics of interest. ➤ Facilitate speakers and logistics for learning opportunities. ➤ Host learning opportunities throughout the year. 					

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

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Key Milestones YR2:

- Work with Council / Working Group to identify topics of interest.
- Facilitate speakers and logistics for learning opportunities.
- Host learning opportunities throughout the year.

Project Funding (Amount and Sources):

None needed.

Project Partners:

GOMC Council and Working Group members. External guest speakers and participants. NERACOOS to provide webinar support if needed.

Supporting Documentation: *(If applicable, list additional documents included with this Work Plan)*

n/a