



Gulf of Maine Council 2017 Award Winners

Susan Snow-Cotter Leadership Award

The Susan Snow-Cotter Leadership Award honors a coastal management professional who exemplifies outstanding leadership or exceptional mentoring in the Gulf of Maine watershed. This special award is bestowed in memory of Susan Snow-Cotter, a long-time friend and supporter of the Gulf of Maine Council. This award is given to an individual from one of the five states and provinces bordering the Gulf of Maine.

Cliff Sinnott, New Hampshire

Cliff Sinnott is being honored with the Susan Snow-Cotter Leadership Award in recognition of his leadership in promoting sustainability throughout New Hampshire's coastal communities. Cliff has been a planner at the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) since 1981 and has served as its Executive Director since 1988. Throughout his planning career, Cliff served on numerous statewide committees, task forces, and commissions and has deservedly received numerous accolades for his distinguished service, including the Rotary International - 2016 Paul Harris Fellow award and the NH Planners Association – 2015 Professional Planner of the Year award.

Over the last decade, Cliff has prioritized acquisition of grant funds and oriented RPC's programming to support regional efforts to raise awareness and develop technical tools and guidance about coastal flooding issues in NH. Under Cliff's leadership, RPC developed the first eye-opening maps identifying areas at risk of future sea-level rise and recommended [adaptation strategies](#) for the Town of Seabrook, NH in 2009. Since then, RPC has continued to participate as a founding member of the NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup and has completed several additional municipal and regional scale [vulnerability assessments](#) of sea-level rise and storm-related flooding impacts to NH's coastal communities.

Perhaps Cliff's capstone career achievement was his most recent work with the [NH Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission](#). His direction as Chair of the Commission exemplifies his commitment to bringing forward the best available climate science for NH to guide critical decisions about how coastal municipalities might adapt to future flood risks. A true collaborative leader, Cliff led the Commission's 37 bi-partisan members to reach consensus and unanimously adopt its forward looking [final report](#) in November 2016.

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 or group of individuals 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.

Mike and Terry Stockdale, New Hampshire

Mike and Terry Stockdale are being recognized with a Longard Award for their contributions as ‘super volunteers’ who have consistently contributed their time and talents toward protecting and restoring natural resources in the Gulf of Maine.

Mike and Terry have been members of NH Sea Grant / UNH Cooperative Extension’s Coastal Research Volunteer program since its inception. They volunteer across many projects, including eel monitoring, oyster restoration, horseshoe crab surveys, sand dune restoration and beach profiling. From the heat of the summer through the depths of winter, Mike and Terry can always be relied upon to collect valuable data in the field. With their extensive experience in coastal citizen science, Mike and Terry have also helped develop several new environmental monitoring project ideas and methods.

Volunteer managers who work with Mike and Terry appreciate their many contributions toward protecting the environment. “The Stockdales help us feed fish weekly. Mike does the work and Terry often uses her time to educate herself about the animals in-house. They are some of our most valuable volunteers and the Seacoast Science Center is lucky to have them in our family,” said Laura Bahl, Volunteer Coordinator for the Seacoast Science Center.

According to the Seacoast Science Center’s Marine Mammal Rescue Team Manager Ashley Stokes, “Mike and Terry Stockdale have been unbelievably valuable as volunteer field responders. It takes a specific personality to be on the beach for many hours with a live seal to perform health assessments while answering questions from the public. The level of professionalism, timeliness, and ease of engaging the public is something that does not come along often. Mike and Terry both encompass these qualities and their exceptional volunteerism does not go unnoticed!”

Sustainable Communities Award

The Gulf of Maine Council’s Sustainable Communities Award recognizes 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 Exeter, New Hampshire

The Town of Exeter, New Hampshire, is being recognized with a Sustainable Communities Award for outstanding efforts to improve water quality in Great Bay, an estuary of national significance and important nursery for marine life in the Gulf of Maine.

The Town of Exeter has taken a leadership role in addressing the environmental problem of excessive nutrients in Great Bay. With its location along the Exeter / Squamscott River, Exeter is working to reduce sources of nitrogen to the estuary by constructing a new sewage treatment plant and by reducing non-point pollution from fertilizer use throughout the town.

With funding from the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership, Exeter launched an innovative new program, *Healthy Lawns, Clean Water*, to promote town-wide reductions in nitrogen. With leadership from Kristen Murphy, Exeter's Natural Resource Planner, and an enthusiastic group of motivated local residents, Exeter's *Healthy Lawns, Clean Water* program has worked diligently to reduce fertilizer use through both education and regulation.

In 2016, the group developed and successfully passed a new local ordinance to establish set-backs of up to 300 feet adjacent to certain streams. *Healthy Lawns, Clean Water* then educated members of the public about sustainable lawn care practices that would reduce nutrient impacts on receiving waters. They coordinated regional forums to bring in expert presenters, developed educational materials, and hosted several educational "how to" clinics.

Exeter's *Healthy Lawns, Clean Water* initiative has successfully engaged local residents, school children, garden clubs, businesses, and large turf managers, such as the local golf course, to work in partnership toward improving water quality in the Great Bay estuary by changing lawn care practices throughout the town. Special thanks to the Town of Exeter and the following individuals for making *Healthy Lawns, Clean Water* such a great success: Renay Allen, Don Clement, Kathy Corson, Eileen Cusick, Gwen English, Jennifer Mates, Kristen Murphy, Joanna Pellerin, Sue Ratnoff, Ginny Raub, Pete Richardson, James Tanis, and Kris Vaughn.

Sustainable Industry Awards

The Gulf of Maine Council Sustainable Industry Awards recognize an individual, company, or organization within the Gulf of Maine region for demonstrating innovation and leadership in efforts to improve the well-being of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem and the communities that call it home.

Inn by the Sea, Maine

With a unique approach to hospitality inspired by its natural coastal surroundings, the Inn by the Sea located along the coast of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, is a true leader in sustainability and green initiatives for the hospitality industry. Inn by the Sea has both LEED Silver and Maine Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Leader certifications, and was selected for a Sustainability award from the Preferred Hotel Group.

Inn by the Sea blends hospitality with environmental preservation, minimizing the impact of hotel operations with eco-friendly initiatives and appreciation for locally sourced products, foods and crafts. On site sustainability efforts include natural amenities, recycled materials, recycled flooring, solar panels, bamboo towels, and much more. Indigenous gardens on the property provide food and habitat for wildlife, while rooms are cleaned with non-toxic Green Seal products. The Inn's award-winning

restaurant utilizes regionally sourced menus and has partnered with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute's culinary program to promote use of responsibly harvested seafood from the Gulf of Maine.

In addition to incorporating sustainable approaches, products and design into its buildings, operations and landscaping, the Inn by the Sea has taken a proactive approach to protecting the environment by restoring endangered New England cotton tail rabbit habitat at Crescent Beach State Park. Working in partnership with Maine conservation agencies, Inn by the Sea took responsibility for removing invasive, non-indigenous plants from two acres of state park and private property near Crescent Beach. Once invasives were removed, Inn by the Sea planted native raspberry, blackberry, dogwood, and other shrubs to provide high quality, safe habitat for rabbits. A variety of herbs and grasses were also planted to provide additional food sources.

One of the Inn's managers recently stated, "restoring habitat and preserving the state's pristine environment for future generations is not only the right thing to do, it also makes good business sense. Maine's natural environment is the magnet that attracts tourism to the state". With its recent accolade as one of 100 Best Hotels in the World in 2016 by Travel & Leisure, the Inn by the Sea is an excellent model for successful industry efforts to protect coastal resources as an integral part of their mission.

New Hampshire Community Seafood

New Hampshire Community Seafood is a multi-stakeholder cooperative that includes both fisherman and seafood consumers. Through this cooperative program established in 2013, 15 fishermen and 215 consumers work together to harvest, process and deliver locally caught seafood to nearby communities. Last year alone, the program provided over 40,000 pounds of fish through weekly delivery to 1,000 members at 20 drop-off locations and provided fish to 21 restaurants throughout the state.

The benefits of this program, and others like it, are ecological, economic and emotional. Fish are purchased at the docks for higher prices than are realized through traditional markets allowing local buying power to stay local. Ecological benefits are realized by providing higher value for all fish, allowing fishermen to receive higher profits for less fish, and for lesser known species, like pollock, Acadian redfish and spiny dogfish. These underutilized species are locally abundant but usually command low prices through traditional markets.

Through this innovative approach, New Hampshire Community Seafood is making strides toward a system that supports both fisherman and fish. Some of the greatest benefits of the program are from the connections made between fishermen and seafood consumers. Reestablishing this important connection, which has been lost over time, is restorative for all involved. The fishermen love to meet and talk with people who eat their fish, and consumers love meeting and learning from the people who catch their fish. By making these connections, New Hampshire Community Seafood is improving awareness and understanding of fishing practices and their impacts, and of the science, management and markets that shape our fishing culture.

Visionary Awards

Gulf of Maine Council Visionary Awards are presented 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 promoting a healthy Gulf of Maine.

Visionary Awards – Massachusetts

Linda Cabot, Massachusetts

In 2011, Linda Cabot embarked on a sailing trip with her daughters to create a documentary about issues impacting the Gulf of Maine. The film, *From the Bow Seat*, is the culmination of this journey. The film explores challenges faced by three of the Gulf's treasured inhabitants: cod, puffins and lobsters. It has appeared on Maine public television and is a resource available to educators throughout the Gulf of Maine.

Creating the film engaged Linda and her daughters in a way that textbooks could not, and led to the creation of Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Programs, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit, founded to empower the next generation of ocean caretakers through art, science and advocacy. Through an annual Ocean Awareness Contest, Bow Seat challenges students to explore ocean pollution through visual art, film, poetry and prose. More than 4,000 students from 67 countries have participated since the contest was launched in 2012, and more than \$100,000 in scholarships have been awarded. Many participants in the Ocean Awareness Contest are learning about the ocean for the first time. As one teen remarked, "I could no longer ignore what was going on in my community. This new knowledge and increased awareness changed how I see the way that I live, work and interact with the environment."

Bow Seat Ocean Awareness has promoted marine protection by exhibiting student work; participating in conferences and local and global initiatives; providing classroom resources; and partnering with organizations such as the Gulf of Maine Marine Education Association, Hurricane Island Foundation, and Seacoast Science Center.

Save the Harbor / Save the Bay, Massachusetts

Save the Harbor Save the Bay has been advocating for cleaner water and better access to Boston area beaches and Islands since 1986. Among its many accomplishments over the years, Save the Harbor / Save the Bay helped to establish the Boston Harbor Islands National Park, and since 2002, has connected over 100,000 Boston-area youths to Boston Harbor and its islands through fishing expeditions, harbor tours and other innovative programs.

Save the Harbor / Save the Bay has also worked tirelessly to advocate for improved water quality conditions in the region. As an active Public Interest Advisory Committee member, Save the Harbor / Save the Bay has advised the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the US

Environmental Protection Agency, and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority on public concerns associated with monitoring the MWRA's ocean outfall.

Save the Harbor / Save the Bay also leads the Metropolitan Beaches Commission, where they make recommendations to improve public beaches in Lynn, Nahant, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy and Hull. After launching a Science Advisory Council to investigate the causes of excessive bacterial pollution on South Boston Beaches, Save the Harbor / Save the Bay successfully advocated for the MWRA to create the North Dorchester Bay storage tunnel: a 17-foot, 2.5 mile long tunnel that intercepts stormwater laden with bacteria, sending it to the Reserved Channel where it is now treated and prevented from reaching South Boston's Beaches.

Thanks to Save the Harbor / Save the Bay's environmental advocacy and innovative scientific research and monitoring programs, the waters of Boston Harbor and Massachusetts Bay are cleaner and more inviting for people and marine life.

Visionary Awards – Maine

Alex Abbott and Josh Royte, Maine

Alex Abbott of US Fish and Wildlife Service and Josh Royte of The Nature Conservancy have worked together to lead public and private partnerships that have dramatically increased aquatic habitat connectivity in Maine. They have successfully conducted statewide barrier inventories, built capacity through professional workshops, conducted outreach to public and private landowners, and developed online tools. They have also provided crossing assessment, design, and project management for numerous replacement projects. Thanks to their tireless efforts, Maine is now recognized as a leader in restoring habitat connectivity.

A key component of their work has been to conduct comprehensive inventories of stream barriers. By developing standardized protocols and coordinating stream crews, Alex and Josh have created a database of over 18,000 crossings since 2007. Maine now has a greater percentage of barriers surveyed than any other state in the nation. Completing this work required building goodwill and strong relationships with private landowners and agency staff. Data for public crossings and stream habitats are shared through individualized outreach programs as well as through an online tool (<http://mapserver.maine.gov/streamviewer/streamdocHome.html>). Using these data, Alex and Josh helped prioritize dozens of restoration projects and laid the foundation for hundreds more. They have helped lead workshops that have educated over 800 contractors and road managers on stream crossing design principles. Their work has increased private and public funding for aquatic organism passage for crossing upgrades including a recent \$6 million grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

It is rare to have multiple federal, state and local government agencies and both commercial and other non-governmental partners all working toward a common goal. By building strong partnerships and developing a flexible, voluntary approach to conservation, Alex and Josh have dramatically increased the

pace, scale and scope of aquatic habitat connectivity activities in Maine. This award recognizes Alex and Josh's visionary approach to restoring aquatic connectivity within the Gulf of Maine.

Betsy Smith, Maine

On Maine's southern coast, Betsy Smith lives a life of action on behalf of the coastal environment. A resident of Kennebunk, Betsy's volunteer work casts a wide net, positively impacting rivers, beaches and wetlands. Her volunteer activities include water quality sampling for the Mousam and Kennebunk Rivers Alliance and Maine Healthy Beaches. Betsy is a volunteer beach profiler who has served on both the Steering and Program Committees for a major beaches conference held every two years to present findings from Maine and New Hampshire's beach monitoring programs.

Betsy has also served as Chairperson of the town of Kennebunk's Conservation and Open Spaces Planning Commission, where she lead initiatives to address pollution in the Kennebunk River, increase setback requirements along area streams and rivers, and protect local wetlands from development. She has also chaired Kennebunk's Lower Village Committee, helping to guide commercial planning and development along Kennebunk's waterfront. At the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, Betsy volunteers as a ranger to monitor trail conditions, greet guests at the Reserve's Visitor Center, and serve as Board Treasurer of the Reserve's partner organization, the Laudholm Trust.

Tough, humble and hard-working, Betsy is an exemplary volunteer whose actions directly support the Gulf of Maine watershed - its rivers, beaches and coastal waters.

Visionary Awards – New Hampshire

Wendy Lull, New Hampshire

Wendy Lull began her career in marine science as a college student, conducting research at New Hampshire's Isles of Shoals. In 2002, she led the merger of four separate organizations into Seacoast Science Center Inc., an independent non-profit entity. Since that time, Wendy has transformed what was a seasonal visitor center into a \$1.5 million year-round science center that draws more than 80,000 people a year, including 25,000 school children. During her 25-year tenure as President, the Center has raised more than \$3.2 million for capital improvements including the \$1.1 million Gregg Interactive Learning Studio.

In 2009, the center opened its signature exhibition on humpback whale ecology, launching a new direction for its permanent exhibitions from interpretive displays to multi-disciplinary, critical thinking-based stations. It now showcases the largest collection of marine mammal skeletons on public display in northern New England.

Wendy also led the effort to establish a marine mammal rescue response program at the Center in 2014. This was the first time a New Hampshire based organization was responsible for responding to federally protected marine mammals. While the Marine Mammal Rescue Team typically responds to 100+ seal

strandings per year, they also played a key role in responding to the carcass of Snowplow, a 40-ton humpback whale that washed up on a beach in Rye last summer.

Throughout her career, Wendy has advocated tirelessly for ocean conservation at national, regional and local levels. She has written case studies, spoken at conferences, met with political leaders and recently helped develop the Northeast Regional Ocean Plan, a first-in-the-nation effort to create a spatial plan for all users of the ocean and its resources. As a female leader in the ocean science field, Wendy has served as a powerful inspiration and mentor for many.

Sally Soule, New Hampshire

Sally Soule, Coastal Watershed Supervisor at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, has shown remarkable vision over the past three years on restoring New Hampshire's Great Bay Estuary. In response to the politically and technically vexing problem of excess nitrogen in Great Bay, with its deleterious environmental impact, aggressive EPA permitting, and a region awash in different approaches to identify and track pollution sources, Sally devised an ambitious plan for a solution.

Understanding that multiple approaches to managing coastal nonpoint source pollution would be confusing, expensive, and hard to coordinate, Sally partnered with James Houle from the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center to form a coalition and a unified approach to solving the problem. Great Bay estuary municipalities, consultants, state and federal agencies, regional planning commissions, watershed planning groups, regulators, and others answered the call. Sally secured funding and co-facilitated meetings to develop a shared agreement and understanding of technical components, resource needs, and next steps for regional pollutant tracking and accounting. This is now known as the Pollution Tracking and Accounting Pilot Project (PTAPP). The alignment of subject matter experts and funding to get them in the same room to discuss commonalities would be enough, but Sally's vision, meeting facilitation, task mastering, problem solving and humor took things to a new level.

Sally provides the vision and leadership needed to bring a multifaceted pollutant tracking and accounting process to coastal New Hampshire that benefits the Gulf of Maine. She continues to coordinate the PTAPP effort ensuring the environmental legacy work she initiated will be recognized for generations to come. Sally exemplifies innovation, creativity, and commitment to marine protection that makes her a most worthy recipient of a 2017 Gulf of Maine Council on the Environment Visionary Award.

Visionary Awards – New Brunswick

Dr. Myriam Barbeau, New Brunswick

Dr. Myriam Barbeau is a Professor of Biology at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick. She earned a BSc from McGill University, Montreal, and a PhD from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. As a biology professor and marine biologist, her work embraces a combination of research, teaching, graduate student mentorship and community service.

Myriam's primary research covers the fields of population and community ecology, predator-prey interactions, the ecology of marine invertebrates, and aquaculture, with a focus on the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine. Her underlying research theme is to understand the many links between individual organisms, their populations, and their communities in coastal marine ecosystems. Myriam has over 40 primary publications and has presented at many conferences and workshops on the community dynamics of mudflats and salt marshes of the upper Bay of Fundy, with an emphasis on understanding the interactions of amphipods, snails and shorebirds, as well as on the ecology of mollusks (sea scallops, periwinkles, soft-shell clams) and echinoderms (sea urchins). Her work on migratory shorebirds, collaborating with colleagues from other universities, has been critical to their protection and conservation.

As part of the Mudflat Strategic Project, Myriam recently contributed to a study of the Petitcodiac River estuary to better understand the recovery of a previously dammed river system in the Gulf of Maine watershed. This scientific research has been proven invaluable to understanding the coastal ecology and promoting conservation of the Bay of Fundy, Gulf of Maine, and Northwest Atlantic.

Myriam is also an outstanding University teacher, mentor to her students, and active supporter of regional protection efforts such as the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership where she co-chaired working groups and hosted numerous workshops to share scientific research with the broader Gulf of Maine community.

Distinguished Service Award

The accomplishments of the Gulf of Maine Council are made possible by many individuals who serve as members of the Council and Working Group. Thanks to their collaborative efforts, the Gulf of Maine Council makes significant strides each year toward protecting and restoring natural resources in the Gulf of Maine. Distinguished Service Awards are presented for exceptional service and contributions to the Gulf of Maine Council over the past several years.

Cynthia Krum, Gulf of Maine Association

For nearly 15 years, Cindy Krum has worked as Executive Director for the Gulf of Maine Association, the not-profit operating partner of the Gulf of Maine Council. Cindy has successfully guided the administration of Council initiatives, beginning with a grants program aimed at Gulf-wide coastal and riverine habit restoration, through the inception and establishment of the Council's EcoSystem Indictor Partnership (ESIP), to more recent efforts to enhance ESIP by developing regional indicators of climate change. Cindy has managed through calm and rough water, and has kept a steady hand on the tiller and eyes on the horizon.

The job of Executive Director of the Gulf of Maine Association has changed greatly during the past decade as the Council's programs, resources and priorities have shifted. Throughout her tenure with the Association, Cindy has worked tirelessly to promote effective and efficient administration of the Association. When the Canadian and U.S. Associations merged their organizations to create the Gulf of Maine Association several years ago, Cindy worked carefully to insure that all voices were heard in the process of planning for and delivering Council programs and initiatives. As the Council looks forward to a fourth decade of creative collaboration to foster environmental health and community well-being throughout the Gulf watershed, Cindy will help guide a further organizational streamlining effort. The Gulf of Maine Council sincerely appreciates Cindy's long-standing contributions and personal dedication toward advancing its mission of a healthy Gulf of Maine watershed.