

**Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment  
Meeting Briefing Note**

**Title of Agenda Item:**

**Tribal and First Nations interest in the GOM – Tribal and First Nations Collaboration**

**Submitted by:** Ann Rodney - March 2016

Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	X	For Direction	X	For Information (internal GOMC)	For Information (External)
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**Background** (required):

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> EPA Region I participated in the New England Tribal Leaders Fall Summit. The gathering included Tribes from New England, First Nations from Canada, EPA Senior leadership and Staff at the University of Maine Presque Isle. I participated remotely from Boston as part of a panel discussion title: “Opportunities for Strengthening International Watershed Restoration Efforts”

From this discussion the Maliseet First Nation requested information about how to participate in the Gulf Of Maine Council (GOMC). I talked with our tribal liaison, Mike Stover, for advice and direction. I call Patricia Saulis, charged with collaborating the Maliseet First Nations with other organizations and interested parties regarding the environment. I talked with her about the two “seats” on the Council , one for Canadian First Nations and the other is for Tribes in the US. She is the representative for 6 Maliseet bands along the St. John’s river.

Yesterday Mike Stover (EPA tribal liaison) approached me and said there is a representative from the Passamaquoddy tribe who is interested in being part of the Council. I believe, Patricia has withdrawn, and the Passamaquoddy tribe has been put forward as the representative. Mike will be sending me their name and contact information and I will follow-up.

The Maliseet First Nation would like to provide a State of the Watershed Report, with a management structure. They annually meet with the Provinces and Federal government, specifically Harvey Miller of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and **Catherine Collette** of the Providence Department of Natural Resources. This is just an FYI. I hope to also get a copy to the State of the Watershed Report.

**Possible Activities / Next Steps** (optional):

1. Working Group members talk with their Council members to accept this recommendation for a new tribal Council member.
2. Invite the Passamaquoddy tribe member to attend the June meeting.
3. Ann follow-up with a GOMC briefing for the Passamaquoddy tribal member.

**Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested** (optional):

1. Action item on the June agenda - The Council accept the Passamaquoddy tribal member as a Council member.