



Council / Working Group Meeting
Monday, December 4, 2017
10 AM – 3 PM ET / 11 AM – 4 PM AT

Briefing Book

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Conference Call and Webex Information for the Meeting
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Conference Call Access Information

Call In: 1 866-506-7697
Passcode: 9500660#

Webex Information

Webex Login Details: ----- Meeting Number: 744921075 Meeting Passcode: 4927573
Meeting Host: MS ADRIANNE R HARRISON Join Instructions for Instant Net Conference: 1. Join the meeting now:
<http://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?sigKey=mymeetings&i=744921075&p=4927573&t=c> 2. Enter the required fields. 3. Indicate that you have read the Privacy Policy. 4. Click on Proceed. Audio is through the conference line.

MEETING AGENDA

Joint Council / Working Group Teleconference Meeting Monday, December 4, 2017 • 10 AM – 3 PM ET / 11 AM – 4 PM AT		
CANADA ATLANTIC TIME 11:00 AM	US EASTERN TIME 10:00 AM	GOMC Meeting - Welcome, Introductions and Overview of Meeting Objectives <i>Perry Haines, Council Chair, NB Department of Environment and Local Government</i>
11:05 AM	10:05 AM	Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft June 2017 Council Meeting Record of Decisions, pp. 4-19 • Draft October 2017 Working Group Meeting Summary, pp. 20-23
		✓ For Decision <i>pp. 4-23</i>
11:15 AM	10:15 AM	Roundtable Forum Council / WG members highlight key issues or updates from jurisdiction and / or region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Please Note:</u> Updates regarding GOMC initiatives / committee work will be provided separately during 'GOMC Work Plan Updates' agenda item.
		✓ For Information
12:00 PM	11:00 AM	GOMA Transition Don Hudson will provide a brief update regarding GOMA transition planning efforts.
		✓ For Information <i>p. 24</i>
12:15 PM	11:15 AM	GOMC Work Plan Updates Working Group / Council members will provide brief updates regarding progress in implementing the 2017 – 2019 GOMC Work Plan. Updates may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) ➤ EcoSystem Indicators Partnership (ESIP) ➤ Climate Network ➤ GOMC Awards Program ➤ GOM GeoTour ➤ GOM Webinars ➤ GOM Symposium ➤ Other Work Plan initiatives in development (Gulfwatch / Marine Debris)
		✓ For Information ✓ Internal ✓ For Direction <i>p. 25</i>
1:15 PM	12:15 PM	Break for Lunch
2:15 PM	1:15 PM	Development of GOMC 5-Year Action Plan (2018 – 2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Update regarding status of Action Plan development ➤ Workshop / discussion to further develop Action Plan goals and outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To help inform the discussion, jurisdictions and partner agencies are asked to provide brief input about how they expect to contribute to the three Action Plan goals over the next five years. ➤ Next steps to finalize GOMC 2018 – 2022 Action Plan
		✓ For Direction <i>pp. 26-30</i>
3:45 PM	2:45 PM	GOMC Plans for 2018 Working Group Chair and Council Coordinator will provide brief update regarding GOMC meeting and coordination plans for 2018.
		✓ For Information <i>p. 31</i>
4:00 PM	3:00 PM	Closing Remarks / Adjourn

DRAFT Meeting Summary - Record of Decisions
Council / Working Group Meeting, Portland, Maine
June 7-8, 2016

GOMC Meeting Participants

Asha Ajmani, Passamaquoddy, Sipayik Environment Department at Pleasant Point; Bill Appleby, Environment and Climate Change Canada; Walter Barnhardt, US Department of Interior; Priscilla Brooks, Conservation Law Foundation; Jim Craddock, GOMC IT; Perry Haines, New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government; Glen Herbert, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Don Hudson, The Chewonki Foundation; Tanya Koropatnick, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Cindy Krum, GOMA Executive Director; Jim Latimer, US Environmental Protection Agency; Joan LeBlanc, GOMC Council Coordinator; Kathleen Leyden, Maine Coastal Program; Regina Lyons, US Environmental Protection Agency; Peter McLaughlin, New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government; Ellen Mecray, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Harvey Millar, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Ru Morrison, Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observation Systems; Rebecca Newhall, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Betsy Nicholson, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Kathryn Parlee, Environment and Climate Change Canada; Rene Pelletier, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; Ann Rodney, US Environmental Protection Agency; Jack Schwartz, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries; Marina Schauffler, GOMC Climate Network Coordinator; Lee Sochasky, New Brunswick; Theresa Torrent, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Jason Tuell, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Prasade Vella, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management; Brad Washburn, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management; Peter Wells, Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership; and Bill Whitman, Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Guest Speakers and Other Attendees: Rob Capozzi, New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government; Keith Cialino, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Steve Jones, University of New Hampshire; Julie LaBranche, Rockingham Planning Commission; Andrew Pershing, Gulf of Maine Research Institute; Cliff Sinnott, Rockingham County Planning Commission, and Aaron Strong, University of Maine.

Opening Remarks

GOMC Chair Perry Haines of the New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government welcomed Council and Working Group members to the meeting and outlined objectives.

Consent Agenda

The following consent agenda items were accepted:

- Draft December 2016 Council / Working Group Meeting Summary
- Draft March 2017 Working Group Meeting Summary
- GOMC / GOMA Finance / Budget Update

Roundtable Forum

Council and Working Group members provided updates regarding projects, initiatives or other jurisdictional, federal agency, or NGO news relevant to the Gulf of Maine. Key points are noted below:

- Bill Appleby noted that the Climate Network will provide an update regarding completion of its Intensity / Duration / Frequency of extreme rainfall website during a presentation later in the meeting. Other Climate Network activities will be highlighted during the Work Plan discussion.
- Harvey Millar provided the following updates on behalf of Fisheries and Oceans Canada:
 - DFO is working toward Marine Conservation Targets of protecting 5% of the marine environment by 2017 and 10% by 2020. DFO is developing a national network of Marine Protected Areas. A draft went out for public consultation this spring and a plan will be finalized in 2018.
 - DFO is investing \$1.5 billion for an Oceans Protection Plan focused on promoting safe and clean shipping, marine safety and environmental protection in partnership with indigenous and coastal communities. St. Johns Harbour and Bay of Fundy are priority areas of focus. The plan includes:
 - A \$7.5 million coastal restoration fund.
 - Developing a national model for improved response planning.
 - Expanded funding for science, including a State of the Atlantic report and new research on climate change.
- Don Hudson provided highlights from the successful Penobscot River Restoration project, a large-scale effort that required collaboration among federal, state, tribal, business and non-profit partners. Through dam removal and fish passage improvements, the project has improved access for Atlantic salmon, alewives, and other sea-run fish to almost 2,000 miles of historic river habitat. Numbers of alewives, shad, Atlantic salmon, herring and many other species are increasing in numbers in the watershed.
- Kathryn Parlee provided an update regarding Environment and Climate Change Canada's Gulf of Maine Initiative. The program focuses on increasing understanding of ecological resources to promote decision making that balances sustainability with economic growth. The Gulf of Maine Initiative is currently reviewing proposals for grant funding. Grants focus on ecosystem characterization and profiling estuaries. Efforts to promote a sustainable St. John watershed and Bay of Fundy estuary are a priority.
- Peter Wells reported that the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) hosted an informative biennial science workshop last June. The next **workshop will focus on "A Changing Fundy Environment: Emerging Issues, Challenges and Priorities"**. *The workshop will take place on 9-12 May 2018, Agricultural Campus, Dalhousie University, Truro, Nova Scotia.*
- Bill Whitman noted that Nova Scotia is in the midst of new government leadership transition following the recent election. Priority areas of interest include seafood development, health of the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine, increased scientific data to inform development planning, and accessible information about climate change to support planning and decision making.
- Jason Tuell noted that NOAA's 'blue book' or proposed FY18 Budget has just been released. A copy of the budget, which proposes significant reductions in funding, was circulated via email

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for informational purposes. Jason also reported that NOAA is now providing weather forecasts that focus on forecasting conditions for tidally influenced river systems. More information on the National Water Model will be provided later in the meeting.

- Ellen Mecray reported that NOAA's climate efforts include the Gulf of Maine Council's Climate Network which focuses efforts on all five jurisdictions. The Climate Network is also involved with the North American Climate Services Partnership, a trilateral collaboration of Canada, the US, and Mexico working together to meet increasing demands for climate services. The Climate Network will highlight its Intensity / Duration / Frequency (IDF) project and present its work plan during separate presentations. The Climate Network supports sector by sector engagement and is currently developing an EHealth forecast that links public health problems to environmental / weather conditions. NOAA and several partners will host an international conference focusing on the impacts of climate change on oceans and fisheries next June in Washington, DC. Session proposals are due by June 21.
- Betsy Nicholson reported that, since last year's GOMC meeting, the US approved the Northeast Ocean Plan (first one in the country). Ocean managers and decision makers are now utilizing both the plan and related data portal. Betsy will provide more detail during the Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Work Plan presentation later in the meeting.
- Becca Newhall reported that NOAA is taking the lead on Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS) habitat mapping. There may be opportunities for GOMC to promote understanding and use of the CMECS for habitat mapping in the Gulf of Maine.
- Jack Schwartz reported that the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries has been studying the status of cod stocks. According to an industry-based survey, cod stocks were down by about 80% compared to historic numbers. Other fishery problems include dropping numbers of Northern shrimp and saxitoxin and vibrio problems with shellfish. Massachusetts is also working with the FDA to revise shellfish ordinances.
- Rene Pelletier reported that New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services is focusing on climate change impacts and adaptation. NH recently completed a Stream Crossing Protocol for the 2017 field season for freshwater crossings. Municipalities, state agencies and non-profits will benefit from using the data. NH will begin implementing the protocol in the coming months. Many of New Hampshire's programs are contingent upon grant funding from NOAA and the Coastal Zone Management Program. Reductions in federal funding may lead to loss of staff focused on protecting the coastal zone. Other coastal priorities include addressing environmental problems related to nitrogen. Portsmouth is currently upgrading its wastewater treatment facility and several coastal communities are working to reduce stormwater pollution that is contributing to the problem. The US proposal for states to take over NPDES permitting efforts would cost NH approximately \$4 million. Rene also reported that many developers have been paying into NH's Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund instead of conducting on-site mitigation. As a result, over \$4 million in grants have been awarded.
- Regina Lyons reported that the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Estuary Program was level funded for FY2017. EPA currently has dive teams working in Casco Bay, Portland researching the impact of blue carbon on eel grass. The agency is also conducting

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research on coastal and ocean acidification in Casco Bay, Massachusetts Bay, and in New Hampshire waters in collaboration with the University of New Hampshire. In regards to ocean dumping, EPA is looking to expand dredge disposal sites by using dredge spoils to cover historic waste sites on the ocean floor.

- Brad Washburn reported that sand management is one of the priority areas of focus for Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management (CZM). The Northeast Regional Ocean Council is looking into hosting a workshop with stakeholders this fall or next spring to address sand management / beach restoration. Massachusetts' Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has sponsored several grant programs related to climate change preparedness and coastal resiliency. This spring, municipalities received approximately \$500,000 in grants for vulnerability preparedness. This summer, over \$2 million will be available through CZM's coastal resiliency program.
- Prassede Vella provided an update regarding Massachusetts ocean planning efforts. The last ocean plan was completed in 2015 and they are beginning to work on the next plan for 2020. Current efforts include taking a multi-agency look at siting and performance standards for aquaculture, and exploring potential for deep water aquaculture. The Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program established a citizen science monitoring network in September 2016. One of the goals of the network is to assist citizen science groups in refining their data collection and analyses protocols so that data may be used for research and decision making. MassBays will use the data collected by watershed groups for regular state of the bays reporting as required under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act. MassBays is focusing on mapping eelgrass beds to monitor changes in aerial extent in various embayments and start exploring possible causes of loss in certain locations. MassBays is also monitoring specific eelgrass beds to assess carbon storage potential of eelgrass beds across New England as part of a blue carbon study.
- Priscilla Brooks reported that Conservation Law Foundation's (CLF) ocean-related focus areas include habitat protection, ocean management, and fisheries protection. One of CLF's current priorities is working with a collaboration of stakeholders to uphold designation of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument. CLF is also helping to implement the Northeast Ocean Plan, developing a legal approach to promoting anadromous fish passage, and reviewing proposed off-shore wind projects.
- Lee Sochasky noted that, having been involved with GOMC for the past 25 years, she can see that the organization is currently in transition. She believes that GOMC will continue to provide a valuable bi-national forum for networking and collaboration on ocean and coastal protection even with a streamlined approach.
- Asha Ajmani indicated that the Passamaquoddy are focused on promoting alewife passage in the St. Croix River. They are evaluating numbers of fish passing at the dams and looking to expand their efforts further into the Gulf of Maine region.
- Ru Morrison reported that NERACOOS monitoring work will continue as their FY2018 budget has increased. NERACOOS is hosting their second series of webinars and is promoting collaboration between DFO and NOAA on cross-border collaboration to address ocean acidification.

Northeast Coastal Acidification Network's (NECAN) website is an excellent source of updated research and activities: <http://www.necan.org/>

- Walter Barnhardt noted that USGS will likely be undergoing budget reductions. He will continue to be a representative for Mike Tupper on the GOMC. Rob Thieler, who presented at last year's GOMC meeting, is focused on coastal change protocols. USGS is completing shoreline LIDAR for Massachusetts shoreline change metrics. USGS is also working with Harvey Millar and DFO on cruise monitoring and canyon mapping. Areas of focus include benthic habitat, methane seeps, and atmospheric chemistry. Recent surveys in Passamaquoddy Bay took video of a black smoker, indicating that depressions identified in several areas may have been periodically active. Information is relevant to decisions regarding potential Searsport dredging and disposal of dredge spoils in Belfast Harbor which also has pock marks.
- Kathleen Leyden reported that the Maine Coastal Program is implementing several NOAA projects of special merit, including:
 - Impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion on state parks
 - Casco Bay eroding bluffs project
 - Regional living shorelines initiative
 - Promoting working waterfronts in Penobscot Bay

Maine Coastal Program staff members are also looking to develop a policy regarding abandoned vessels. The agency will also release Shore and Harbor Planning grants to support waterfront planning efforts, and Coastal Communities grants to support local and regional water quality improvement, shoreline resiliency and other initiatives. The University of Maine's 2 to 6 megawatt turbine / pilot wind demonstration site is currently in permitting. In other news, Maine Coastal Program will likely be merging with the state's Department of Marine Resources.

Developing GOMC 5-Year Action Plan (2018 – 2022)

Peter McLaughlin and Joan LeBlanc provided an overview of the process for developing the Gulf of Maine Council's next 5-Year Action Plan which will cover the period from 2018 through 2022. For reference, the current GOMC 2012-2017 Action Plan is available online at:

<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/action-plan-homepage/>. While past GOMC Action Plans have included goals, outcomes and activities planned for the upcoming five year period, the next GOMC 5-Year Action Plan will be a more streamlined document that highlights accomplishments during the prior action plan period and sets out goals and outcomes for the upcoming five year period. The goals and outcomes in the new Action Plan will provide a framework for more detailed GOMC two-year Work Plans for GOMC initiatives and activities. The revised strategy for developing the next GOMC Action Plan is consistent with decisions made during the 2015 GOMC organizational assessment.

During the June meeting, Council and Working Group members discussed and approved the process and timeline for preparing the new Action Plan, reaffirmed the vision, and updated goals to be included.

Outcomes within the goals were discussed in broad terms but tabled for review and development during the fall of 2017. During discussion, the following key points were made:

- The Action Plan should highlight the GOMC's recognized areas of strength in bi-national networking and facilitation.

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- ‘Outcomes’ may not be the right term to include below goals. This is a placeholder for now and requires further discussion. Outcomes should not necessarily be driven by work plan activities but instead reflect what we would like to see happen.
- Goal 3 was updated to include the word ‘resilient’ as developing resiliency plans for coastal communities is becoming priority work.
- Discussion will take place at the Secretariat Team level to determine if additional goals are needed.
- Work of the GOMC should be thought about from a ‘system perspective’, i.e. think about how we are collectively working for the Gulf of Maine watershed.
- With streamlined organizational structure and limited budgets, the GOMC is circling back to its original format where activities are linked to members’ day jobs. GOMC will need to determine capacity for managing contracts.

Key Decisions / Action Items

- Council and Working Group approved the proposed timeline and process for developing the GOMC 2018-2022 Action Plan
 - Utilize Secretariat Team to coordinate Action Plan development process
 - GOMC initiative leads submit highlights of accomplishments during last five years (Council Coordinator will provide template)
 - Review progress during fall Working Group meeting
 - Review draft plan via email during fall 2017
 - Review final plan during December 2017 Council / WG meeting
 - Publish PDF version of Action Plan in early 2018 (printed copies only if new funding)
- Council and Working Group reaffirmed the Gulf of Maine Council’s vision statement: “We envision a healthy and resilient Gulf of Maine where people and aquatic life thrive.”
- Council and Working Group approved the following Action Plan goals:
 - Goal 1: Restored and Conserved Habitats
 - Goal 2: Environmental and Human Health
 - Goal 3: Sustainable and Resilient Communities
- Outcomes to be discussed at upcoming Secretariat Team meetings.

Potential GOMC Collaboration with New England Governors / Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG / ECP)

Considering that the NEG/ECP recently sought input on their regional climate plan and the GOMC is developing its next five-year Action Plan, Ellen Mecray and Bill Appleby proposed that the GOMC Climate Network reach out to the NEG/ECP’s Committee on the Environment to initiate dialogue and exchange of ideas. There may also be opportunities to meet with their natural resources working group or full membership during 2017. Points raised during discussion included the following:

- In terms of protocol, it may not be appropriate for GOMC to reach out to NEG / ECP because they already have members from the US states and Canadian provinces charged with representing jurisdictional interests.
- Canadian side of NEG / ECP is broader than GOMC as there are more jurisdictions involved.

- States and jurisdictions are already represented on the NEG / ECP. They are focused on engaging with non-governmental organizations.
- Any GOMC communications at this time should be focused solely at the staff level.
- If GOMC decides to move forward with outreach to NEG / ECP, it should be undertaken by GOMC, not limited to the Climate Network.

Key Decisions / Action Items

- Following discussion, GOMC Council and Working Group recommended tabling proposed outreach for the time being by limiting contact now to the working group level.
- GOMC should identify the jurisdictional representatives on the NEG / ECP as first step before reconsidering broader outreach in the future.

**Modeling Multiple Stressors and Environmental Pressures in the Bay of Fundy –
Sediment Contamination Update**

ESIP Coordinator Christine Tilburg and US ESIP Co-Chair Jim Latimer provided an update regarding a study of sediments in the Bay of Fundy. GOMC's ESIP program was critical to identifying the lack of data and need for research regarding eutrophication in the Bay of Fundy. With three year funding of \$155,028 from Environment and Climate Change Canada, ESIP implemented this sediment sampling program with collection locations co-located with Gulfwatch monitoring sites. The purpose of the project was to create data, models and methods to help Gulf of Maine stakeholders better understand the relationships between watershed characteristics, freshwater conditions, and down-stream estuarine health in the Bay of Fundy. Variables measured included legacy pesticides, PCBs, PAHs and heavy metals. While some analysis is still underway, results of sediment sampling indicate that pesticides were all below detection limits. Elevated PAHs were found at Tin Can Beach and in the St. Croix River. Elevated PCBs may be causing a problem to biota at Tin Can Beach. A copy of this presentation is available at: <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-meetings/>

Next Steps:

- Complete analysis and identify strategies for making the information available to the public.

Ocean and Coastal Acidification and Water Quality in the Gulf of Maine

Guest Presenter Aaron Strong of the University of Maine provided a presentation about the relationship between ocean and coastal acidification and water quality in the Gulf of Maine. A copy of the presentation is available at: <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-meetings/>. [As a follow up to the presentation, Council and Working Group will discuss GOMC's potential role in addressing ocean and coastal acidification as part of the Work Plan development discussion on Day 2 of the meeting.](#)

Extreme Precipitation in the Gulf of Maine: Challenges and Responses

Climate Network co-chairs Ellen Mecray and Bill Appleby provided an overview of the Climate Network's resources and tools developed to help communities access sound science to aid in decision-making related to extreme precipitation in the Gulf of Maine (*e.g.*, the new

[Canada website](#) and the [Climate Dashboard](#)). Guest presenters, Cliff Sinnott, Executive Director of the Rockingham County Planning Commission in New Hampshire, and Rob Capozzi, Adaptation Specialist with the New Brunswick Climate Change Secretariat, shared innovative approaches that their jurisdictions are taking to address this challenge. Presentation slides from this session are available at: <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-meetings/> A video of this session is available via this link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7CPs9YPgQtvRjNoVjNkcVFjNkU/view>.

GOMC Workshop – Developing GOMC 2-Year Work Plan for 2017 - 2019

The Gulf of Maine Council's 2-Year Work Plan is a compilation of active Gulf of Maine Council initiatives that are endorsed by Council and Working Group. During the June 2017 meeting, Working Group members highlighted recent accomplishments and discussed draft Work Plans, as well as potential GOMC initiatives still in the conceptual phase, for consideration and feedback. Copies of draft work plans submitted by Working Group members are included in the Briefing Book for the meeting available at: <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-meetings/>

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP)

Leads: Glen Herbert / Betsy Nicholson

Glen Herbert and Betsy Nicholson provided an update for the Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Committee. The mandate of the committee has been to track and exchange information and lessons learned regarding ocean planning on both sides of the border, and to investigate and make recommendations regarding collaborative activities for GOMC to pursue. Activities on the US side have included development of the Northeast Ocean Plan and creation of the Northeast Ocean Data Portal to support decision making. The portal provides valuable information to support decisions such as siting for offshore blue mussel aquaculture and identifying an appropriate location for a NERACOOS monitoring buoy in Cape Cod Bay. On the Canadian side, activities have included creation of Marine Conservation Targets to expand marine protected areas, and development of a \$1.5 billion National Oceans Protection Plan. Designation of St. Ann's Bank as a Marine Protected Area is expected soon. Saint John Harbour and the approaches to the Bay of Fundy are a priority for Canada's efforts to improve marine safety and protect the environment. CMSP hosted a well-attended WebEx teleconference in May 2017 to reinvigorate the committee and share information about Canadian and US ocean planning activities. Presentations from the webinar are available on the GOMC website at: <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/coastal-and-marine-spatial-planning/cmsp-committee/>. During the next two years, CMSP plans to update committee membership and terms of reference, host committee meetings and topical WebEx teleconferences, and refine priorities and issues for the committee to focus on. During discussion, Council and Working Group provided the following feedback:

- GOMC has interest in a webinar that focuses on demonstrating the Northeast Ocean Data Portal for the Canadians.
- Walter Barnhardt noted that geological research can provide a valuable historic record on the seafloor by identifying important paleo-cultural landscape on the shelf.
- Harvey Millar indicated that DFO recently signed a cooperative agreement with the Maliseet to support clean up and protection of fisheries in the Saint John River.

- Additional focus on planning related to economic development such as aquaculture / mussels would be helpful.

Status / Next Steps:

- A draft Work Plan for CMSP is included in the Briefing Book for the meeting.
- Work Plan approved.

EcoSystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP)

Leads: Kathryn Parlee / Jim Latimer

Kathryn Parlee and Jim Latimer provided an update regarding recent ESIP activities. Since inception, ESIP has developed an Indicator Reporting Tool that provides access to over 14,000 monitoring sites. ESIP identified gaps in environmental data and launched new monitoring programs to address those gaps. Primary focus during the past year has been on monitoring water quality in the Bay of Fundy and implementing a sediment sampling program at locations established by the Gulfwatch team. ESIP has also moved forward with the ICUC smartphone app to increase the number of sites for the photo brackets, and expand social media and other outreach. ESIP's work plan includes continued implementation of the water quality and sediment monitoring programs which are partially funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada through March 2018. ESIP is also interested in working with Peter Wells to pursue a potential EIUI project to evaluate how ESIP tools are being used. ESIP would also like to pursue the following activities, pending identification of new funding sources:

- Develop a business plan for the ICUC App
- Link ICUC and GOMC GeoTour
- ESIP 2.0 Implementation and Symposium
- Update ESIP's Indicator Reporting Tool

Funding for ESIP is an ongoing challenge. Without new funding, ESIP Coordinator Christine Tilburg will not be working for ESIP after September 2017.

Status / Next Steps:

- A draft Work Plan for ESIP is included in the Briefing Book for the meeting.
- Kathryn Parlee will update the Work Plan to include ideas suggested during a planning meeting that took place on June 7th.
- Work Plan approved (Some activities contingent upon identification of funding sources).
- Peter Wells will look for a student who has interest in studying the impact of ESIP tools.

Climate Network

Leads: Bill Appleby / Ellen Mecray

Bill Appleby and Ellen Mecray provided an update regarding recent Climate Network activities and plans for the next two years. The Climate Network has been fostering sharing of professional knowledge and resources to support climate resilience and adaptability in communities throughout the Gulf of Maine. Over the next two years, the Climate Network plans to expand distribution of the Gulf of Maine Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook, host and publicize webinars held in conjunction with the

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Outlook release, augment and conduct outreach for the new web-based tool that provides access to Intensity / Duration / Frequency (IDF) extreme rainfall data, and host a workshop to engage First Nations tribes in northern Maine and New Brunswick. The Climate Network draft Work Plan also highlights several initiatives that are contingent upon additional funding. These include coordination the Gulf of Maine King Tides initiative; launch a pilot program to overlay climate and health data; expand cross-border coordination for climate impacts in forestry and agriculture; and host a regional workshop in conjunction with ESIP on climate adaptation and development of heat health indicators. The following points were raised during discussion at the meeting:

- Regina Lyons noted that the US EPA hosted a powerful photo exhibit ‘Documenting Change’ that could serve as an example of the type of exhibit GOMC could coordinate at a future event to highlight climate impacts on the Gulf of Maine over time. This type of exhibit could pull information together from GOMC’s various programs.
- Theresa Torrent noted that Maine plans to continue with the King Tides program if possible.
- Ellen Mecray noted that the Climate Network remains interested in expanding its focus to encompass a broader watershed geography that includes upland areas.
- In regards to GOMA’s role in raising funds, several Council and Working Group members noted that GOMA has a valuable role as many committee co-chairs work for federal agencies and cannot participate in fundraising due to conflict of interest.
- Steve Jones noted that USDA has a Climate Hub Fund that could be a potential partner. Information about USDA’s Northeast Climate Hub is available at:
<https://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/northeast>

Status / Next Steps:

- A draft Work Plan for the Climate Network is included in the Briefing Book for the meeting.
- Work Plan approved (Some activities contingent upon identification of funding sources).

Gulfwatch

Leads: Peter Wells / Jack Schwartz / Steve Jones

Peter Wells and other committee members provided a status report regarding ongoing activities, and facilitated a discussion about potential next direction for the Gulfwatch contaminant monitoring program. Key points raised include:

- Gulfwatch monitoring results have demonstrated that some contaminants in the Gulf of Maine have decreased over time. At the same time, more information is needed about the impact of ‘emerging’ contaminants of concern such as those related to pharmaceuticals.
- Analysis of Gulfwatch data is very useful to agencies like NOAA that are aware of the program, but the challenge is how to make the information more available to decision makers.
- Additional funds are needed to support further analysis of samples already collected.
- Messaging is important. NOAA has interest in helping to make the case about why Gulfwatch monitoring is important for the region.
- Asha Ajmani indicated that students working through the Passamaquoddy partnership with MIT may be able to assist with Gulfwatch analysis and reporting.

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- Glen Herbert noted that Fisheries and Oceans Canada may have some potential sources of funding to support Gulfwatch. Their oceans protection plan has opportunities for marine monitoring associated with the themes of marine environmental quality and baseline data collection. Support could focus on monitoring and report writing.
- Steve Jones noted that monitoring is conducted by volunteers and additional volunteer support will be needed to continue into the future.
- Betsy Nicholson and Harvey Millar both recommended linking the program to ongoing efforts to support aquaculture, seafood and associated public health issues.

Status / Next Steps:

- Peter Wells will follow up on potential sources of funding and other support for Gulfwatch.
- Peter Wells and other Gulfwatch team members will prepare a revised work plan for Gulfwatch.

Environmental Information: Use and Influence (EIUI)

Peter Wells provided an informational update (there is no GOMC Work Plan for this initiative) about the following book recently published by Dalhousie University and the EIUI program: Science, Information, and Policy Interface for Effective Coastal and Ocean Management, Edited by Bertrum H. MacDonald, Suzette S. Soomai, Elizabeth M. DeSanto, and Peter G. Wells. The book focuses on the role of scientific information in the development of coastal and ocean policy and management of the oceans. Information about the book and EIUI's work is available at: www.eiui.ca.

Marine Debris

Leads: Theresa Torrent / Keith Cialino

Theresa Torrent and Keith Cialino provided an update regarding development of a Work Plan for GOMC to address the environmental problem of marine debris in the Gulf of Maine. The goal of the work plan will be development of a Marine Debris Action Plan for the Gulf of Maine region. The plan would not be binding, but rather set out an adaptable and voluntary set of activities / actions that would increase bi-national collaboration in addressing marine debris problems such as derelict fishing gear, plastics / microplastics, and consumer debris. Keith Cialino announced that NOAA will host a Gulf of Maine Marine Debris Planning Workshop in Portland, Maine on June 14 and June 15, 2017. Interested GOMC members are encouraged to attend. The workshop builds upon efforts from the last 2015 workshop. The goal of the meeting is to promote regional effectiveness by bringing the Gulf of Maine marine debris community together to develop a marine debris reduction plan for the region. Microplastics has been identified as one of the priority areas of focus. Priorities and actions identified during the planning meeting will provide the basis for the Gulf of Maine Council's work plan (to be developed). Depending upon interest, GOMC may also coordinate a larger regional meeting in collaboration with the Nova Scotia Clean Foundation and the Huntsman Marine Science Center in New Brunswick. In related efforts, NOAA and UN Environment are hosting an international marine debris conference in California during March 2018 – information is available at: <https://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/>. GOMC members raised the following points during discussion:

- Glen Herbert noted that the Oceans Protection Plan in Canada has a focus on derelict vessels.

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- Regina Lyons noted that the EPA permits 'sinking' of derelict vessels. The agency also has some regulatory and some non-regulatory programs. The EPA's 'trash free' waters program is looking comprehensively at prevention efforts.
- Harvey Millar noted that there is a lack of focus on the Canadian side since no Canadian government agency has marine debris as a mandate.
- Keith Cialino and Theresa Torrent noted that the marine debris program is not a regulatory effort but will move forward with a proactive, voluntary approach.
- Bill Whitman noted that the Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia is active on marine debris.
- Tanya Koropatnick reported that she participated in a marine debris strategy advisory committee in collaboration with the aquaculture and fishing association, First Nations, and University of New Brunswick. There is a great deal of focus on education, outreach and removal. She will be participating in the upcoming marine debris planning meeting.

Status / Next Steps:

- Theresa Torrent and Keith Cialino will prepare a two-year Work Plan for GOMC initiatives to address marine debris. The work plan will be responsive to priorities and activities identified during the planning meeting to take place later in June 2017.
- Keith Cialino will circulate information about the June 14-15 regional marine debris meeting.

GOMC Awards Program

Leads: Theresa Torrent / Joan LeBlanc

Joan LeBlanc and Theresa Torrent indicated that GOMC plans to host an awards program in 2018 with support from the Maine Coastal Program. Council Coordinator will issue call for nominations in early 2018. Awards will be presented at June 2018 awards ceremony and reception.

Status / Next Steps:

- A draft Work Plan for the GOMC Awards Program is included in the meeting Briefing Book.
- Work Plan approved (activities contingent upon continued funding from Maine Coastal Program or other source).

GOMC GeoTour

Lead: Kathryn Parlee

Kathryn Parlee provided an update regarding the GOMC's GeoTour (geocaching program) which was originally launched as part of the Council's 25th anniversary to encourage people to get out and experience the beauty and value of the Gulf of Maine. Ongoing activities are limited to monitoring existing geocache sites (located in all five jurisdictions), responding to inquiries, verifying completion of GeoTour passports, and awarding commemorative GOMC 25th Anniversary coins. Kathryn noted that she is looking for a co-chair for this effort. The program will continue until all coins are distributed. If additional funds are identified, future activities could include continuing with the 'GeoTour' geocaching.com trademark which requires annual registration at \$2,500 USD, linking the GeoTour sites

to the ICUC app, and creating an updated GeoTour and commemorative coin to celebrate the future GOMC 30th anniversary.

Status / Next Steps:

- A copy of the Work Plan is included in the meeting Briefing Book.
- Work Plan approved.

GOMC Library / Archives

Lead: Theresa Torrent

Theresa Torrent provided an update regarding plans to ensure that GOMC documents stored at the Maine Department of Marine Resources are not lost with closure of the library. Theresa is currently working with Adam Fisher at the Maine State Library who has offered to digitize all of the Gulf of Maine Council's documents. Peter Wells noted that the GOMC bibliography he prepared a couple years ago may be helpful for taking inventory. Council / Working Group recommended that once the documents are digitized, there should be a link from the Gulf of Maine Council's website to promote public access.

Status / Next Steps:

- Theresa Torrent will provide periodic updates and determine if a GOMC Work Plan is needed.
- GOMC members are asked to forward GOMC documents that may need digitizing to Theresa.

GOMC IT and Website Updates

Leads: Jim Cradock / Prassede Vella

GOMC IT Coordinator Jim Cradock provided an update regarding ongoing activities and progress regarding the Gulf of Maine Council's updated website. The gulfofmaine.org site is built on WordPress templates that provide updated and enhanced functionality. Jim is currently updating the website 'page-by-page' to shift over to the new templates. New templates will be fully online by August. Jim noted that the GOMC server was updated to a cloud based service this past year.

Status / Next Steps:

- Update provided.
- Jim Cradock or Prassede Vella will determine if a written Work Plan is needed.

Gulf of Maine Webinars

Leads: Peter McLaughlin / Joan LeBlanc

Peter McLaughlin and Joan LeBlanc proposed coordinating one or two informational webinars during the 2017 – 2018 Secretariat Year. To free up capacity, the webinars would likely be held in place of one or more Secretariat Team calls during the year. Ru Morrison noted that NERACOOS has 'Go to Webinar' software that GOMC can use for the webinars. Council and Working Group supported the proposal and suggested the following potential topics:

- NOAA's National Water Model
- Government Roles and Programs Related to Marine Debris, "An Overview"

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- Overview of New Hampshire's Culvert Crossing Protocol, Applicability to other jurisdictions
- Joint presentation - Penobscot River Restoration Project presenter from US Fish and Wildlife Service / Presentation by Theo Willis of the Passamaquoddy Tribe on connection of healthy river / fish and marine environment in native culture
- Coastal and marine habitat mapping tools and resources

Status / Next Steps:

- A draft Work Plan is included in the Briefing Book for the meeting.
- Work Plan approved.
- Joan will update Work Plan to incorporate feedback from Council and Working Group members.

NOAA's National Water Model

Jason Tuell provided an informational overview of the NOAA's new National Water Model. This high resolution (250m) National Water Model improves the ability to forecast the flow of rivers and streams throughout the United States. The new model expands forecasts to 2.7 million stream locations nationwide by providing high-resolution forecasts of soil moisture, surface runoff, snow water equivalent, and other parameters. Information about the National Water Model is available at: <http://water.noaa.gov/about/nwm> and a NOAA information sheet is available at: <http://water.noaa.gov/documents/wrn-national-water-model.pdf> If GOMC is interested, Jason can arrange a webinar on this topic.

Status / Next Steps

- Peter McLaughlin and Joan LeBlanc will follow up with Jason regarding a potential GOMC webinar on this topic during 2018.

Gulf of Maine Symposium

Leads: Rob Stephenson / Judy Pederson (others TBD)

While Rob Stephenson and Judy Peterson were not able to attend the June 2017 meeting, Rob sent written correspondence requesting that the GOMC revisit the potential for coordinating a Gulf of Maine Symposium (the initiative was tabled during the spring of 2017 due to lack of capacity and the timing of US agency leadership transitions). The following points were raised during the discussion:

- Theresa Torrent expressed support for the Symposium, noting that Maine is interested in coordinating the Gulf of Maine Symposium during their Secretariat Year. She also recommended that some lightning talks be included.
- Peter Wells provided an overview of past efforts including the 'Tides of Change' meeting that led to creation of ESIP and State of the Gulf theme papers, and the 2009 Summit Conference which was published in a fisheries journal.
- Ru Morrison indicated that NERACOOS would provide some funding to support a Gulf of Maine Symposium.
- Peter Wells noted the potential for partnering with Bay of Funding Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) on this effort.

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- Becca Newhall recommended that GOMC look at successful models such as the New Hampshire Climate Summit that focus on the links between science and management.
- Prassede Vella highlighted the importance of determining who the audience would be, i.e. science for decision makers, citizen science etc.
- Kathryn Parlee noted that the ECCC's Gulf of Maine Initiative may have interest in collaborating with GOMC on a Gulf of Maine Symposium. There may be some funding available, but only through 21 March 2019.

Status / Next Steps:

- Following discussion, GOMC decided to take this initiative off of hold and move forward with at least preliminary planning to scope out a Gulf of Maine Symposium that would likely take place in the 2019 / 2020 time frame.
- At minimum, a small working group will begin meeting to develop goals, audience, scale, scope, and funding options.
- Joan LeBlanc will reach out to potential initiative leads regarding preparation of a Work Plan and coordination of a planning call for this initiative.
- Follow up discussion will also take place at the next Secretariat Team meeting.

Coastal and Ocean Acidification

Lead: Theresa Torrent

Theresa Torrent led a discussion regarding GOMC's potential role in coastal and ocean acidification as a follow up to Aaron Strong's presentation on Day 1 of the GOMC meeting. GOMC does not have a Work Plan on this issue right now. The follow key points were raised during discussion:

- Council and Working Group agree that it is time to shift focus toward solutions vs. understanding the problem of coastal and ocean acidification.
- Ru Morrison noted that NECAN within NERACOOS has a cross-border footprint. The DFO / NOAA steering committee is looking to expand Canadian membership.
- Theresa indicated that an important next step would be to focus on enhancing NECAN membership. GOMC should consider whether they want to place a formal representative on NECAN (if possible Canadian).
- Coastal and ocean acidification was also identified as a potential topic for the GOM Symposium.

Status / Next Steps:

- Preliminary discussion took place during the June 2017 meeting.
- Theresa Torrent will continue to facilitate dialogue to determine next steps for GOMC in regards to coastal and ocean acidification.

Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative (GOMMI)

Walter Barnhardt reported that there will be no GOMC GOMMI Work Plan as the initiative is currently inactive. In regards to mapping, USGS and Canadian Geological Survey are seeking opportunities for large-scale studies -- investigation of seafloor methane seeps is one topic of interest. Though GOMMI is

now inactive, GOMC members are welcome to recommend broad-scale investigations for USGS and Canadian Geological Survey to consider, though resources are limited.

Gulf of Maine Habitat Mapping

Lead (s): TBD

Becca Newhall suggested that GOMC host a bi-national workshop on utilizing the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS) for habitat mapping. Glen Herbert indicated that Canada might be interested in a workshop on this topic. Bill Whitman suggested that CMSP could host a webinar on this topic and provide an introduction. He noted that participating in a webinar on habitat mapping tools would be more feasible than traveling for an in-person workshop.

Status / Next Steps:

- GOMC identified value in hosting a webinar for initial discussion regarding habitat mapping tools. This potential new initiative could be coordinated by either GOMC or CMSP.

Next Steps for Overall Preparation of 2017 – 2019 Work Plan

- Working Group members will prepare any outstanding Work Plans and update draft Work Plans if needed and then forward them to Joan for inclusion in the 2017 – 2019 Work Plan.
- Joan will follow up with Working Group members to request Work Plan updates and prepare a draft of the new 2-Year Work Plan for the next Secretariat Team meeting.

GOMC Plans for 2017 / 2018 Secretariat Year

Peter McLaughlin and Joan LeBlanc provided an update regarding plans for the upcoming Secretariat Year. 2017 / 2018 will be the second year of the New Brunswick Secretariat. The meeting schedule will continue in a similar format as the past year. Council and Working Group will meet via teleconference in December 2017 and in-person during June 2018 (tentatively in Nova Scotia). Working Group will also meet via teleconference in the fall and spring. Secretariat Team will usually meet via teleconference on the third Wednesday of each month unless otherwise indicated. Some Secretariat Team meeting slots may be replaced by Working Group meetings and / or GOMC webinars.

Key Decisions / Next Steps

- Joan LeBlanc will prepare and circulate a meeting schedule for the upcoming Secretariat Year.

How the Gulf of Maine Can Help Us Learn to Live in a Warmer World

Andrew Pershing, Gulf of Maine Institute provided a guest presentation about lessons learned from warming in the Gulf of Maine. The presentation is available at: <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-meetings/>.

Record of decisions prepared by Joan LeBlanc, GOMC Council Coordinator

The Briefing Book for this meeting is available at:

<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-meetings/>

DRAFT Record of Decisions

GOMC Working Group Conference Call Meeting

Wednesday, October 18, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET / 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM AT

Meeting Participants

Carolina Bastidas, MIT Sea Grant; Don Hudson, Chewonki Institute; Tanya Koropatnick, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Joan LeBlanc, GOMC Council Coordinator; Peter McLaughlin, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Kathryn Parlee, Environment and Climate Change Canada; Theresa Torrent, ME Department of Marine Resources; Prassede Vella, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Bill Whitman, NS Fisheries and Aquaculture

Networking / Roundtable Updates

Working Group members provided updates from their organizations regarding issues or news related to the Gulf of Maine. Key points included:

- Theresa Torrent reported that the Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine (RARGOM) hosted a very successful science meeting in Portland, Maine on October 12 on the topic, *Ocean and Coastal Acidification: Causes and Potential Consequences for Ecological and Sociological Systems in the Gulf of Maine*. Theresa is reviewing presentations to determine if any may be appropriate for a future GOMC meeting.
- Kathryn Parlee provided the following updates.
 - Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) Gulf of Maine Initiative will wrap up in March 2019. The Initiative focused on maintaining a healthy ecosystem that supports long-term sustainability and economic growth. They are exploring potential next steps and anticipate that several priorities will align with goals in GOMC's Action Plan.
 - The Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) will host a science meeting during the spring of 2018, topic TBD.
 - GOMC's EcoSystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP) will update their Work Plan with scaled back activities reflecting the fact that ESIP Coordinator Christine Tilburg is no longer with the program. The ESIP Steering Committee is evaluating options for moving forward. Anticipated next steps include: keeping commitments to ECCC's Gulf of Maine Initiative this year (next year funds will shift to Eastern Charlotte Waterways), scaling back ESIP meetings from monthly to quarterly, and working with Jim Cradock to maintain website and ESIP tools.
 - The GOMC's GeoTour remains active with participation from people throughout Canada and the US. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has provided funding for the *geocaching.com* registration through August 2018. The Auto Association has expressed interest in promoting the program.
- Tanya Koropatnick reported that DFO is on track to achieve expanded Marine Conservation Targets of 5% by 2018 and 20% by 2020. Recent additions include designation of St. Anns Bank Marine Protected Area, and the Western / Emerald Banks Conservation Area (restricted fisheries

zone). DFO is also developing a network of Marine Protected Areas and will be announcing additional new areas of interest soon. DFO is also working to increase collaboration with other governmental agencies on ocean issues – efforts include a workshop last week. Topics of particular interest that emerged from the workshop include Marine Planning, information and data sharing, and issues related to marine environmental quality. In terms of GOMC initiatives:

- DFO is looking into whether they can support Gulfwatch by processing samples,
 - Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) will host a webinar focused on the Northeast Oceans Portal, and
 - Kathryn Parlee will meet with Peter Wells to coordinate contractor support for updating the state of emerging issues in the Gulf of Maine.
- Bill Whitman reported that NS Fisheries and Aquaculture is collaborating with DFO on the Atlantic Fisheries Fund. The program aims to help Atlantic Canada's seafood sector transition to meet growing market demands for products that are high quality, value added and sustainably sourced. The federal government will provide 70% of the funding, and 30% will come from participating provinces. Future projects may focus on the impact of changing oceanographic conditions on fisheries.
- Carolina Bastidas reported that MIT Sea Grant is coordinating several research projects on ocean acidification. MIT has a small grant focused on workshops about adding ocean acidification to water quality monitoring and they anticipate upcoming guidance on this topic from the EPA.
- Peter McLaughlin reported that NB Department of Environment and Local Government is updating their Action Plan with a significant focus on promoting coastal resilience. NB is also working to support the Canadian initiative to expand Marine Protected Areas.
- Prasde Vella provided an update regarding the Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network, a joint effort of Northeastern Regional Association for Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) and Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), focused on gathering scientific data into one place. The Network is developing a science and implementation plan for adaptive sentinel monitoring to track and assess status and trends in the Northeast coastal region. More information on this effort will be coming soon.

GOMA Transition Update

Don Hudson provided an update regarding the GOMA transition. In the context of a smaller budget and the departure of GOMA Executive Director Cindy Krum, GOMA is considering the following plans:

- Don is working with Cindy to organize files - primarily financial information and 990 Forms.
- Cindy will conclude her work once GOMA wraps up its contract with ECCC in March or April of 2018. Cindy recommends that GOMC simplify financial management at that time. Options include having Joan or another contractor supervise GOMA's current bookkeeper, or merging with NERACOOS or another organization that would provide fiscal management.
- Cindy also recommends that Canadian funds be managed on the Canadian side. This scenario would require occasional transfer of funds across the border to pay for contractors.
- The potential direction is to scale GOMA back while maintaining minimal requirements needed to keep the non-profit organization going.

Key Decisions / Next Steps

- Don will set up a small ad-hoc committee to continue working on the GOMA transition. Theresa, Peter and Prassede expressed interest in participating. Calls will be open to any interested Council or Working Group member.
- If possible, a recommendation will be put forward for consideration at the GOMC Council / WG December 2017 meeting.

GOMC 2017 – 2019 Work Plan

Peter McLaughlin and Joan LeBlanc provided an update regarding the GOMC 2017–2019 Work Plan. The plan has been uploaded to the GOMC website. The current version includes updates following the June 2017 GOMC meeting. Working Group members were asked if they anticipate updating or adding any new GOMC initiatives to the Work Plan. Kathryn Parlee noted that ESIP will be submitting an updated Work Plan, and Theresa Torrent reported that she is working on a plan for Marine Debris.

Key Decisions / Next Steps

- Working Group members are asked to forward any new or updated plans to Joan for inclusion in the GOMC 2017 – 2019 Work Plan. If ready in time, new plans could be considered during the December 2017 Council / Working Group meeting.

Developing GOMC 2018 – 2022 Action Plan

Working Group members discussed development of the GOMC 2018 – 2022 Action Plan. Joan asked Working Group members to assist with writing up accomplishments during the past five years. The write-ups should be brief bullet points or paragraphs highlighting key accomplishments. Working Group members discussed the following tentative list of topics with suggested ‘leads’:

- Climate Network – Ellen Mecray / Bill Appleby
- Ecosystems Indicator Partnership – Kathryn Parlee / Jim Latimer
- Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning – Betsy Nicholson / Glen Herbert
- Gulfwatch – Peter Wells
- GOMC Awards Program – Joan LeBlanc / Theresa Torrent
- GOMC 25th Anniversary (‘Facing Change’, GeoTour etc.) – Joan LeBlanc with others
- State of the Gulf Report – Heather Breeze / Tanya Koropatnick
- Habitat Restoration – Joan LeBlanc / Slade Moore / Cindy Krum

Working Group members also discussed the potential level and type of detail associated with goals to include in the Action Plan. During the June 2017 meeting, Council and Working Group members decided that ‘outcomes’ are probably not appropriate for inclusion in the new GOMC Action Plan because the GOMC has shifted its framework toward an approach with a priority for sharing of tools / information and networking vs. long-term initiatives. Peter McLaughlin and Joan LeBlanc suggested that, for purposes of the new Action Plan, it may be appropriate to elaborate on the goals and highlight the key types of work and strategies to be undertaken by the GOMC. The types of work may include:

- information exchange / networking
- sharing and transfer of tools and resources
- cross-border collaboration
- forum for policy discussions
- increasing awareness and stewardship
- providing resources for decision makers

Key Decisions / Action Items

- Working Group members will submit highlights of GOMC accomplishments from the past five years to Joan for inclusion in the GOMC Action Plan. E-mail to Joan by November 8, 2017.
- Joan will schedule a call for a small group (Peter McLaughlin, Theresa Torrent and any other interested Working Group members) to continue working on development of the Action Plan.

December 2017 Council / Working Group Meeting

Peter McLaughlin and Joan LeBlanc provided an update regarding the December 2017 Council / Working Group meeting. The teleconference meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 4, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM ET / 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM AT. US attendees are encouraged to participate in the meeting at the office of NH Department of Environmental Services in Portsmouth, NH. A Canadian regional site may be set up depending upon interest. Working Group members reviewed the draft agenda for the December 2017 Council Working Group meeting.

Key Decisions / Next Steps

- Peter and Joan will continue to develop the agenda for the December 2017 GOMC meeting.

June 2018 Council / Working Group Meeting

Bill Whitman has circulated a proposal within his agency to host the GOMC meeting in Nova Scotia during June 2018. He anticipates having an answer by the December 2017 GOMC meeting.

GOMC Webinar

Peter McLaughlin and Joan LeBlanc requested feedback regarding proposed GOMC webinar - *New Hampshire's Tidal Crossing Assessment Protocol: Overview and Transferability to Jurisdictions in the Gulf of Maine*. A one-pager describing the proposed webinar was circulated.

Key Decisions / Action Items

- Working Group members supported proposed GOMC webinar topic.
- Joan will work with Steve Couture and NH DES to schedule and set up the webinar.

Record of decisions prepared by Joan LeBlanc, GOMC Council Coordinator

The Briefing Book for this meeting is available at:
<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-meetings/>

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note				
Title of Agenda Item: GOMA Transition Planning Update				
Submitted by: Cindy Krum and Don Hudson				
Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	For Direction	For Information (internal GOMC) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Information (External)
Background (required):				
<p>Within the context of a smaller budget and the planned departure of GOMA Executive Director Cindy Krum, GOMA is developing a transition plan for the future. Following contract end date of April 30, 2018, GOMA Executive Director deliverables will be carried out by another contractor or organization (or a combination of the two). The Gulf of Maine Association board is developing plans to determine who will carry out these tasks and deliverables. Ideally, the decision will be made by March 15, 2018 so that there will be an overlap with the current Executive Director.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GOMA has developed a list of management tasks and deliverables that will still need to be covered after April 2018. ➤ GOMA is exploring options for streamlining financial management after April 2018. Options include merging financial management tasks into Council Coordinator scope or another contractor, or merging with another organization such as NERACOOS that would provide fiscal management. Another option being considered is to manage Canadian funds on the Canadian side. ➤ The overall direction of the GOMA transition planning is to scale GOMA back while maintaining minimal requirements needed to keep the non-profit organization viable. 				
Possible Activities / Next Steps (optional):				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Don Hudson is coordinating a small group to further develop the transition plan. Any interested Council or Working Group members are welcome to participate. 				
Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested (optional):				
Supporting Documentation (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):				
<p>For informational purposes, materials from the November 29, 2017 GOMA Board of Directors Annual Meeting are available at: http://www.gulfofmaine.org/public/gulf-of-maine-association/meetings/</p> <p>The meeting materials include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ recently completed FY16-17 GOMA Audit, ➤ FY17-18 Budget and Finance reports, and ➤ additional detail regarding GOMA transition planning 				

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note				
Title of Agenda Item: GOMC 2017 – 2019 Work Plan Updates				
Submitted by: Peter McLaughlin, NB Department of Environment and Local Government, Joan LeBlanc, GOMC Council Coordinator				
Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	For Direction	x	For Information (internal GOMC)
			x	For Information (External)
Background (required):				
<p>Gulf of Maine Council approved a two year 2017 – 2019 Work Plan during the June 2017 GOMC meeting in Maine.</p> <p>During the December 2017 GOMC teleconference meeting, working group members will provide brief updates regarding the status of implementing existing GOMC Work Plan initiatives and developing additional work plans.</p> <p>The following initiatives are included in the Work Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) ➤ EcoSystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP) ➤ Climate Network ➤ GOMC Awards Program ➤ Gulf of Maine GeoTour ➤ Gulf of Maine Council Webinars ➤ Gulf of Maine Symposium <p>Work Plans for the following initiatives may be added in the future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gulfwatch ➤ Marine Debris 				
Possible Activities / Next Steps (optional):				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GOMC Council and Working Group members will hear updates regarding implementation of Work Plan initiatives and development of additional work plans. 				
Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested (optional):				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GOMC Council and Working Group members will provide feedback and or direction regarding Work Plan initiatives where appropriate. 				
Supporting Documentation (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):				
<p>For reference, a copy of the GOMC 2017-2019 Work Plan is available at: http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/GOMC-2017-2019-Work-Plan-1.pdf</p>				

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note				
Title of Agenda Item: Development of GOMC 2018-2022 Action Plan				
Submitted by: Peter McLaughlin and Joan LeBlanc				
Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	For Direction	X	For Information
				X
				For Information (Internal GOMC)
				For Information (External)
Background (required):				
<p>GOMC is currently developing a new 2018–2022 five-year Action Plan. The plan will include broad goals and outcomes as well as a summary of accomplishments from the previous five-year action plan period. The new action plan will not include detailed activities but will provide the foundation or framework for activities included within the GOMC’s 2017-2019 Work Plan which was approved at the June 2017 GOMC meeting. The 2018-2022 Action Plan will include a link to the two-year work plan.</p> <p>The following goals for the GOMC 2018-2022 Action Plan were approved during the June 2017 GOMC Meeting:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>Goal 1: Restored and Conserved Habitats</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>Goal 2: Environmental and Human Health</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>Goal 3: Sustainable and Resilient Communities</i></p> <p>Since the June 2017 meeting, Working Group and Secretariat Team members have been working together to develop the Action Plan as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Working Group members provided feedback regarding an outline for the Action Plan during the October 2017 Working Group meeting. The most recent outline for the Action Plan is included on page 28 of this Briefing Book. ➤ Working Group members and Council Coordinator have been preparing bullet points highlighting key accomplishments for GOMC initiatives from the past five years. Some have already been submitted while others are in the works. ➤ Secretariat Team members provided input regarding the goals and outcomes to be included in the Action Plan. A summary of the discussion from the November 2017 Secretariat Team meeting is included on pages 29 and 30 of this Briefing Book. ➤ Council Coordinator (in collaboration with Secretariat Team / Working Group) has begun drafting introductory sections of the Action Plan. <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Finish write-ups of GOMC five-year accomplishments (Working Group members and Council Coordinator). ➤ Finalize goals and outcomes to include in the Action Plan (Council / Working Group) ➤ Finish writing all sections of the Action Plan (Working Group members and Council Coordinator) ➤ Circulate draft plan for Council / Working Group review, feedback and approval in early 2018 ➤ Final design, layout and production in spring 2018 				

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

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Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested:

- Council / Working Group members are asked to provide feedback regarding the Action Plan outline during the December 4th meeting.
- Working Group members are asked to submit outstanding write-ups of 5-Year Accomplishments to jleblanc@gulfofmaine.org by the end of 2017.
- Council / Working Group members are asked to provide input regarding the goals and outcomes to include in the 2018 – 2022 Action Plan during the December 4th meeting.
 - To help inform development of the outcomes for each goal, jurisdictions and partner agencies are asked to provide input about how they expect to be working toward achieving the three goals over the next five years.

Supporting Documentation (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):

- Outline of 2018 – 2022 Action Plan, *p. 28*
- Summary of November 2017 Secretariat Team discussion regarding goals and outcomes to include in the Action Plan, *pp. 29-30*
- For reference, a copy of the previous GOMC 2012-2017 Action Plan is available at:
<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/action-plan-homepage/>

Gulf of Maine Council
Outline for 2018 – 2022 Action Plan

Preface / Letter from GOMC Chair Perry Haines

Introduction to the 2018 – 2022 Action Plan

About the Council

- History
- Purpose
- Sphere of influence
- Types of work

About the Gulf of Maine

- Map
- Key highlights

GOMC Vision

GOMC Goals / Outcomes

GOMC Work Plan / Initiatives

- Brief highlights of GOMC initiatives
- Link to latest Work Plan

Five Year Summary of Accomplishments: 2012 - 2017

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION REGARDING GOMC ACTION PLAN GOALS / OUTCOMES
NOVEMBER 15 SECRETARIAT TEAM MEETING**

Background

GOMC is in the process of developing the 2018 – 2022 Action Plan. This new Action Plan will highlight the GOMC Vision, Goals and Outcomes for the next five years. The Action Plan is intended to provide a broad framework for the GOMC's two-year Work Plans that outline GOMC's planned activities. GOMC Vision and Goals were affirmed during the June 2017 Council / Working Group meeting with one change to add 'resilient' to goal three. This summary highlights Secretariat Team suggestions regarding outcomes to include with each goal. Additional notes from the discussion are highlighted after the summary of goals and outcomes.

GOMC Vision

We envision a healthy and resilient Gulf of Maine where people and aquatic life thrive.

Goal 1 – Restored and Conserved Habitat:

Habitats in the ocean and along the coast, including the rivers that flow to the Gulf, are healthy, productive and resilient. They support rich aquatic life and a vibrant, sustainable ocean economy.

Outcomes

- Habitat restoration
- Habitat conservation
- Water quality protection
- Climate adaptation (cross-cutting)

Goal 2 – Environment and Human Health:

Environmental conditions in the Gulf of Maine support the health of people and the ecosystem.

Outcomes

- Increased awareness about links between environment and human health
- Identify and share knowledge about emerging issues / risks
- Environmental monitoring
- Environmental indicators and reporting
- Climate adaptation (cross-cutting)

Goal 3 – Sustainable and Resilient Communities:

People who live and work in the communities around the Gulf of Maine have the information, resources and tools needed to adapt to the changing environment.

Outcomes

- Climate adaptation (cross-cutting)
- Understanding how people use the Gulf of Maine
- Community stewardship (links to GOMC awards)

Other Notes from the Discussion

- Goals 1 and 2 have some overlap and may need to be revisited.
- Goals are very broad. Need to ensure outcomes focus on GOMC niche.
- GOMC goals are meant to be lofty. We need to update outcomes.
- Action Plan sets the framework. GOMC work / activities are in the details of the Work Plan.
- We need to think about how outcomes should be phrased in current climate.
- Include description of GOMC 'types of work' in the Action Plan as part of introduction (separate from the goals).
- Include a section about 'cross-cutting' outcomes that apply to all three of the goals – climate adaptation is one example.
- Take a look at outcomes for Goal 3 as they may need updating to ensure they match up with GOMC expected activities.
- GOMC jurisdictions should inform the discussion by providing input about how they are contributing to the three GOMC goals.

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note				
Title of Agenda Item: GOMC Plans for 2018				
Submitted by: Peter McLaughlin, NB Department of Environment and Local Government, and Joan LeBlanc, GOMC Coordinator				
Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	For Direction x	For Information X (internal GOMC)	For Information (External)
Background (required):				
<p><u>GOMC June 2018 Meeting</u> GOMC will host a two day in-person, Council / Working Group meeting during June 2018. The location and dates are still being determined. Bill Whitman has submitted a proposal to host the meeting in Nova Scotia and is waiting for feedback. If available, an update will be provided during the December 4th teleconference meeting.</p> <p><u>GOMC 2018 Awards Program</u> Thanks to generous in-kind and financial contributions from the Maine Coastal program, GOMC will again host an awards program during 2018. Theresa Torrent, Peter McLaughlin and Joan LeBlanc will facilitate the awards selection process and the ceremony which will take place in conjunction with the June 2018 GOMC meeting. A call for awards nominations will go out in early 2018.</p> <p><u>GOMC Action Plan and Work Plan</u> GOMC will finalize the 2018 – 2022 Action Plan during the spring of 2018. GOMC may update the 2017 – 2019 Work Plan to revise and / or add new plans if needed during 2018.</p> <p><u>GOMC Webinars</u> GOMC plans to host webinars on the following two topics during the first half of 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NH’s Tidal Crossing Assessment Protocol ➤ NOAA’s National Water Model <p><u>GOMC Secretariat Leadership</u> New Brunswick will continue leading GOMC through the June 2018 meeting. In accordance with the GOMC Terms of Reference, Maine will then take on the Secretariat leadership role for the next two years.</p>				
Possible Activities / Next Steps (optional):				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In early 2018, GOMC will finalize 2018 – 2022 Action Plan. • GOMC will update 2017 – 2019 Work Plan as needed throughout the year. • In early 2018, Secretariat Team in collaboration with the Council and Working Group will begin developing agenda and logistics for the June 2018 meeting. • Theresa Torrent, Peter McLaughlin and Joan LeBlanc will facilitate the awards selection process and ceremony for 2018. • GOMC will host two webinars during the first half of 2018. Additional webinars may be scheduled during the second half of the year depending upon interest and capacity. 				
Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested (optional):				
Council and Working Group members are asked to provide feedback regarding GOMC plans for 2018.				