



**Council / Working Group Meeting
June 7-8, 2017**

**University of Southern Maine
Abromson Center, Rooms 214-215
88 Bedford Street, Portland, Maine**

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.

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MEETING AGENDA – Day 1

All Times are ET

Joint Council / Working Group Meeting • Wednesday, June 7, 2017 University of Southern Maine, Abromson Center, 88 Bedford Street, Rooms 214-215, Portland, ME		
8:30 AM	GOMC Council Meeting - Welcome, Introductions and Overview of Meeting Objectives <i>Council Chair: Perry Haines, NB Department of Environment and Local Government</i>	
8:40 AM	Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft December 2016 Council / WG meeting summary, pp. 5-11 • Draft March 2017 Working Group meeting summary, pp. 12-15 • GOMC / GOMA Finance / Budget Update, p. 16 	✓ For Decision pp. 5-16
8:45 AM	Roundtable Forum Council / WG members discuss key issues facing jurisdiction and / or region.	✓ For Information
10:30 AM	Break	
10:45 AM	Developing GOMC 5-Year Action Plan (2018 – 2022) Council and Working Group members discuss goals and outcomes to be included and identify next steps for developing GOMC 5-Year Action Plan.	✓ For Decision ✓ For Direction pp. 17-18
11:45 AM	Potential GOMC Collaboration with New England Governors / Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG / ECP) Council and Working Group members will discuss opportunity and next steps for potential collaboration with NEG / ECP.	✓ For Information ✓ Internal ✓ For Direction p. 19
12:15 PM	Lunch (provided on-site)	
1:30 PM	Modeling Multiple Stressors and Environmental Pressures in the Bay of Fundy – Sediment Contamination Update <i>Jim Latimer, US Co-Chair, ESIP</i> ESIP will provide a summary of the progress to date in the collection and analysis of samples from the Bay of Fundy sediment study, as well as next steps of the project.	✓ For Information ✓ Internal
2:00 PM	Ocean and Coastal Acidification and Water Quality in the Gulf of Maine <i>Aaron Strong, Ph. D., University of Maine</i> Guest presentation followed by discussion about GOMC potential activities in regards to ocean and coastal acidification.	✓ For Information ✓ External ✓ For Direction
2:45 PM	Break	
3:00 PM	Extreme Precipitation in the Gulf of Maine: Challenges and Responses <i>Ellen Mecray, NOAA and Bill Appleby, ECCC</i> <i>Cliff Sinnott, Rockingham Planning Commission, NH</i> <i>Rob Capozzi, Dept. of Environment and Local Government, NB</i>	✓ For Information ✓ For Direction p. 20
4:00 PM	Adjourn for the Day	

Wednesday, June 7, 2017 • GOMC Awards Reception Gulf of Maine Research Institute, 350 Commercial Street, Portland, ME	
5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM	GOMC Awards Reception GOMC will host a special reception and ceremony to present GOMC 2017 Awards. Reception begins at 5:30 PM followed by award ceremony at approximately 6:00 PM.

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MEETING AGENDA – Day 2

All Times are ET

Joint Council / Working Group Meeting • Thursday, June 8, 2017 University of Southern Maine, Abromson Center, 88 Bedford Street, Rooms 214-215, Portland, ME		
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Gulf of Maine Association Meeting Gulf of Maine Association will hold a breakfast meeting in advance of the regular GOMC Council / Working Group Meeting. All GOMC Council / Working Group members are welcome to attend.	
8:45 AM	Gulf of Maine Council Meeting Begins / Overview of Objectives for Day 2 <i>Council Chair: Perry Haines, NB Department of Environment and Local Government</i>	
9:00 AM	GOMC Workshop – Developing GOMC 2-Year Work Plan Council and Working Group members will work together to develop GOMC work plan by discussing proposed two-year work plans for existing and new GOMC initiatives. See overview on page 21 for a list of potential GOMC initiatives to be discussed.	✓ For Decision ✓ For Direction <i>pp. 21-33</i>
10:30 AM	Break	
10:45 AM	GOMC Workshop – Developing GOMC 2-Year Work Plan (continued) Council and Working Group members will work together to develop GOMC work plan by discussing proposed two-year work plans for existing and new GOMC initiatives. See overview on page 21 for a list of potential GOMC initiatives to be discussed.	✓ For Decision ✓ For Direction <i>pp. 21-33</i>
12:30 PM	Lunch (provided on site)	
1:30 PM	GOMC Placeholder This portion of the meeting is being set aside for additional GOMC policy discussions, follow up from earlier agenda items, or other business.	
2:30 PM	GOMC Plans for 2017 / 2018 Secretariat Year New Brunswick Leadership – Year 2	✓ For Information ✓ Internal ✓ For Direction <i>p. 34</i>
2:45 PM	Break	
3:00 PM	“How the Gulf of Maine Can Help Us Learn to Live in a Warmer World” <i>Andy Pershing, Gulf of Maine Research Institute</i>	✓ For Information ✓ External
4:00 PM	Meeting Adjourns	
5:00 PM	Portland Waterfront Walking Tour Enjoy a leisurely and informative walk along Portland’s waterfront with Bill Needleman, Waterfront Coordinator for the City of Portland. <i>Following the walk, GOMC and friends will meet for dinner at a local restaurant (details TBD).</i>	

GOMC Council / Working Group Meeting – December 5, 2016

DRAFT Record of Decisions

GOMC Council and Working Group members participated in a conference call meeting on Monday, December 5th from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM ET / 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM AT. Participants attended the meeting from remote locations or in-person at the US regional site, NH Department of Environmental Services, Portsmouth, NH.

Meeting Participants

Asha Ajmani, Passamaquoddy, Sipayik Environment Department at Pleasant Point; Heather Breeze, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Priscilla Brooks, Conservation Law Foundation; Steve Couture, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; Arielle DeMerchant, New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government; Perry Haines, New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government; Joan LeBlanc, GOMC Council Coordinator; Matthew Liebman, US Environmental Protection Agency; 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; 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; Lee Sochasky, New Brunswick; Robert Stephenson, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Theresa Torrent, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Prassede Vella, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management; Peter Wells, Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership; Bill Whitman, Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture; and Jack Wiggin, Urban Harbors Institute.

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 June 2016 Council Meeting Record of Decisions
- Draft October 2016 Working Group Meeting Summary
- Draft Position Description for GOMC Council Member
- GOMA Finance / Budget Update

US Scientific Representative

Joan LeBlanc provided an update regarding efforts to select a US Scientific Representative to the GOMC. Since June 2016, the Council Coordinator, Working Group and Secretariat Team worked together to complete the following:

- Developed position description and circulated for Council / Working Group approval
- Developed process for selection and decision making
- Identified list of nominated candidates
- Developed brief bios for candidates
- Selected top candidates for the position during the October Working Group meeting
- Extended invitation to a potential candidate (response pending)

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:

- Harvey Millar provided the following updates on behalf of Fisheries and Oceans Canada:
 - DFO continues to work toward their 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 with a plan to be released in spring 2017 for consultation and finalized in 2018.
 - DFO recently committed to \$1.5 billion in investments for the Oceans Protection Plan. Details are still being developed but focus is expected to include collaborative marine safety systems, responsible shipping, safer navigation, tougher requirements for industry response to incidents, response systems for spills on water, new whale protections, and negotiating meaningful indigenous partnerships.
 - DFO is currently reviewing the Fisheries Act to see if new legislation is needed to restore lost protections and incorporate modern safeguards. In 2017, DFO will seek feedback on options for new legislation or regulations where appropriate.
 - DFO is improving its funding / capacity to participate in federal ocean science and monitoring programs to protect fish stocks, monitor pollution, and support sustainable aquaculture.
 - DFO is working with several US partners on population modeling to support fish restoration in the St. Croix River with emphasis on alewife.
 - In regards to the Mactaquac Dam project viewed by GOMC last June, NB Power has not yet selected a final option for extending the life of the dam but fish passage will be a priority for the project no matter what decision is made.
- Becca Newhall provided the following updates from NOAA agencies:
 - NOAA's North Atlantic Regional Team is working to expand their wave run model to forecast impacts of waves on top of storm surge. They will also conduct tribal engagement with the Penobscot and Maliseet tribal nations of Maine to promote NOAA products and services and increase support for tribal nations.
 - National Weather Service is implementing total water forecasts that will include both tidal and surge components to improve accuracy in forecasting coastal water levels. They are also experimenting with riverine water forecasts to create new water level predictions for tidally influenced sections of rivers.
 - The National Ocean Council has certified the Northeast Ocean Plan. The plan will take effect when the regional planning body signs off in the next couple of weeks.
 - NOAA will host several regional training sessions on Green Infrastructure for Coastal Resilience in 2017.
 - Guidance around living shorelines projects will be included in a report being prepared by the Nature Conservancy and the Woods Hole Group. The report with case studies will be in final draft this winter. Case studies for projects in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are still needed.
 - An announcement regarding the Regional Coastal Resiliency Grants program is expected in early 2017.
- Ellen Mecray provided an update regarding GOMC Climate Network activities. Detail is included under the Work Plan Updates section of this meeting summary.
- Ann Rodney welcomed Asha Ajmani as the new tribal representative to GOMC on the US side, and Regina Lyons as the new Council member for the Environmental Protection Agency.

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- Regina Lyons provided the following additional updates from EPA:
 - The National Estuaries Program bill was reauthorized in May 2016, including language for a grants program focused on addressing issues such as seagrass, recurring algal blooms, invasive exotics, jellyfish proliferation, flooding related to sea level rise, and low dissolved oxygen in estuarine waters. States, CZM agencies, non-governmental organizations, and others will be eligible for the grants. The bill will go into effect when a new budget is passed.
 - EPA Region 1 has expanded its focus on blue carbon to include eelgrass restoration and protection. The Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) of North America (including representatives from the US, Canada and Mexico) is also focused on blue carbon and other issues.
- Steve Couture of NH Department of Environmental Services reported that the NH Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission (CRHC) has completed its work including publication of a final report with 35 recommendations. The full report, individual sections, a two-page report brief, and response to public comment document can be downloaded at: <http://www.nhcrhc.org/final-report/>. A powerpoint presentation summarizing the Commission's work has been posted to the GOMC's website along with meeting materials at: <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-meetings/>
 - Legislation requires an update on climate science and planning guidance every five years – the first scheduled update will take place in 2019.
 - With funding from NOAA, NH is conducting agency audits of rules and regulations to determine if changes are needed to adapt to sea level rise, storm surge and other climate impacts. An interim report will be complete during November 2017 with a final report expected in 2018.

GOMC Work Plan Updates

Members of the Working Group provided brief updates regarding status of GOMC Work Plans.

Climate Network

Ellen Mecray provided the following updates regarding Climate Network activities:

- The Climate Network continues to distribute a Quarterly Gulf of Maine Region Climate Impacts and Outlook. The December issue will include impacts from regional drought conditions this fall.
- As a member of the North Atlantic Climate Services Partnership (NACSP), the Climate Network is working in partnership with US, Canada and Mexico to promote tools and data for coastal resiliency. The NACSP recently published a list of their accomplishments, available online at: <http://cpo.noaa.gov/AboutCPO/AllNews/TabId/315/ArtMID/668/ArticleID/668477/North-American-Climate-Services-Partnership-2016-Accomplishments-Report.aspx>
- Climate Network has been hosting a monthly webinar seminar on special issues of concern. A topic for the December webinar is still being developed.
- In March / April, officials from New York and Gulf of Maine states will meet to discuss a heat health index and potential public health warnings.

EcoSystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP)

Kathryn Parlee provided an update regarding ESIP activities.

- ESIP launched a new smartphone ICUC (I See You See) App in early 2016 to help support monitoring of important sites through uploaded images. A one-pager describing the ICUC App was distributed to Council and Working Group.
- ESIP released a final Fisheries fact sheet in September 2016.

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- Current funding for ESIP is only being provided by Environment and Climate Change Canada's Gulf of Maine Initiative. As a result, the ESIP program manager is now part-time and the position will end in May if new funding sources are not identified. ESIP is currently seeking new partners and funding sources including a potential proposal to Irving.
- Kathryn requested feedback from jurisdictions for development of new ICUC sites funded last June.
- Heather Breeze noted that DFO has concerns about approaching Irving for funding and recommended that GOMC establish guidelines around seeking private sources of funding for initiatives. Kathryn Parlee and other Council / Working Group members agreed with the need to establish guidelines.
- Peter Wells noted that the Environmental Information: Use and Influence (EIUI) program at Dalhousie University may consider assigning a student to evaluate ESIP.

Key Decisions / Action Items

- Council / Working Group members are asked to identify two new sites of interest for the ICUC App for each jurisdiction. Funding for these sites was provided by Susan Russell-Robinson in June 2016. Recommended locations should be submitted by January 31, 2016 as work needs to be completed during the spring of 2016.
- Establishing GOMC guidelines for seeking industry funding will be included as an agenda item for the next Secretariat Team meeting. GOMA Executive Director Cindy Krum will be asked to participate in the discussion.

Gulfwatch

Peter Wells provided an update regarding Gulfwatch's efforts to study contaminants of emerging concern in shellfish. This year's program was supported by NOAA funding and in-kind contributions from several Gulfwatch members in the jurisdictions. Samples were collected from 34 stations from sites in MA, NH, ME, and NS. No samples were collected from NB because blue mussels were not found at the NB sites. A survey of mussel distribution in NB may be needed to help identify potential new sampling locations. All samples were shipped to a NOAA contracted lab for processing and later analysis of contaminants. Some samples from prior years still need to be analyzed. Peter noted the need for funding to support a Gulfwatch planning meeting in 2017. The focus of the meeting would be to discuss strategic direction and identify funding opportunities for the Gulfwatch Program. Theresa Torrent noted that the Maine Coastal Program will help set up and host a Gulfwatch meeting if needed.

Key Decisions / Action Items

- Council and Working Group members are asked to help identify potential new sources of funding and new committee members for the Gulfwatch initiative.
- Gulfwatch will revisit program plans next year based upon funding, in-kind support, and needs for information and analysis of emerging contaminants.
- Glen Herbert will explore opportunities for Canadian support of Gulfwatch from Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Ecosystem Management Group which has a new focus on marine environmental quality.
- Gulfwatch committee will work with Theresa Torrent to coordinate a planning meeting in 2017.

State of the Gulf of Maine

Heather Breeze reported that activities for the State of the Gulf of Maine initiative are now complete with publication of the final theme paper on Watershed Status. State of the Gulf of Maine resources will

continue to be available via the GOMC website and Peter Wells will continue to track emerging issues in the Gulf of Maine.

Key Decisions / Next Steps

- With State of the Gulf of Maine initiative now inactive, status should be revisited during preparation of the next action plan to determine if the GOMC would like to reactivate this initiative in the future to update or create new theme papers focused on the Gulf of Maine.
- GOMC website should be updated to note inactive status of this initiative.
- Peter Wells will provide a presentation regarding emerging issues at a future GOMC Working Group meeting.

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

Glen Herbert reported that the CMSP initiative has been dormant but there is interest in revitalization during 2017. With recent passage of the ocean plan on the US side, there is interest in renewing focus on coastal and marine spatial planning. On the Canadian side, achieving marine conservation targets is a primary focus. There is also a shift toward more formal ocean management and a more comprehensive approach. DFO recently updated its Regional Oceans Plan for the maritimes. The plan is available online at: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/publications/oceans-plan/index-eng.html>.

Key Decisions / Action Items

- During 2017, CMSP will reinvigorate their work by checking in with members and convening a discussion regarding strategy. Glen will provide an update at the June 2017 meeting.

GOMC Plans for 2017

Peter McLaughlin and Joan LeBlanc provided an update regarding GOMC meeting and organizational plans for 2017. GOMC will host a two day in-person, joint Council / Working Group meeting during June 2017. Theresa Torrent and Prassede Vella indicated willingness to host the meeting in either Maine or Massachusetts. GOMC will host an awards program in 2017 thanks to in-kind and financial support from the Maine Coastal Program. 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 2017 GOMC meeting. Theresa noted that Maine will fund production of the awards but cannot provide funding for refreshments. Joan also noted that the streamlined process for developing GOMC two-year work plans and the new five-year action plan will begin in early 2017.

Key Decisions / Action Items

- GOMC Council and Working Group members are asked to hold June 6, 7 and 8 as potential dates for the two-day meeting in 2017. The meeting will be either Tuesday and Wednesday or Wednesday and Thursday.
- Joan LeBlanc will follow up with Theresa Torrent and Prassede Vella to determine which jurisdiction will host the 2017 GOMC meeting.
- Joan LeBlanc will check with Cindy Krum to determine available funding to support refreshments for the 2017 awards reception.
- Joan LeBlanc will prepare and distribute a 'call for nominations' for the GOMC 2017 Awards in early 2017.
- Working Group Chair, Council Coordinator and Secretariat Team will begin developing agenda and logistics for the June 2017 meeting at the next Secretariat Team meeting.
- Secretariat Team will begin facilitating development of the next GOMC Action Plan and Work Plans in early 2017.

Ocean Acidification / NECAN Update

Guest speaker Matthew Liebman of the US Environmental Protection Agency provided an update regarding the status of ocean acidification in the Gulf of Maine, as well as efforts being coordinated by the Northeast Coastal Acidification Network (NECAN). Matt's presentation is available online with the December 2016 meeting materials at: <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-meetings/>. Reports, educational videos, research, and other resources from NECAN are available at: <http://www.necan.org>.

Key points from GOMC discussion following the presentation are noted below:

- Theresa Torrent noted GOMC relevance for lining up research, funding and education. There are opportunities for regional synergy as GOMC education goals are similar to NECAN.
- Maine Coastal Program is heading up effort to collect shell as part of Island Institute's project to rebuild habitat by remediation / reintroduction of shell (potentially coupled with kelp).
- Prassede Vella noted that Massachusetts is deploying research this spring similar to the Casco Bay estuary project. EPA and MIT Sea Grant have been funding projects.
- Bill Whitman noted that NS is following the issue with a key question about how ocean acidification relates to industry concerns. Prassede and Theresa noted that Massachusetts and Maine have been begun making connections with fishing and lobster industry.
- Addressing the problem of ocean acidification must be linked to reducing air pollution as CO² is the key driver. On the US side, the Clean Power Plan will help by reducing pollutant loadings from power plants.
- Additional research is needed to evaluate links between hot spots for coastal acidification and nutrients.
- Adaptation to changes in coastal and ocean acidification is now a major focus.
- Steve Couture noted that NECAN recently hosted a webinar focused on managing coastal acidification presented by Aaron Strong from University of Maine. Resources from the webinar are available at: <http://www.necan.org/necan-webinar-series-recent-upcoming>
- Steve also noted that the NH Sea Grant Program has conducted four Ocean Acidification projects, details are available at: <https://seagrant.unh.edu/2016-2017-projects>

GOMC Potential New Initiatives

Council and Working Group members discussed the status and next steps associated with potential new initiatives identified during the June 2016 meeting:

Marine Debris

Theresa Torrent noted that a draft work plan to develop a new GOMC marine debris initiative was circulated this fall. Keith Cialino provided an update on the plan during the October Working Group meeting. Focus will be on addressing derelict gear and micro-plastics.

Next Steps

- Develop timeline for Work Plan
- Identify types of engagement to be pursued
- Identify a Canadian co-chair

Coastal Resiliency / Living Shorelines

Becca Newhall coordinated a call to discuss strategic direction for a potential new initiative focused on living shorelines. There is a great deal of interest in expanding efforts regarding living shorelines but it is important not to overlap or duplicate ongoing efforts of the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC).

Becca proposed that GOMC ask NROC to allow Canadian membership to their subcommittee which is already working on living shorelines. This approach would enable GOMC to work in partnership with NROC to build upon and expand the program on both the US and Canadian sides without duplicating NROC efforts. Canadian agencies noted interest in participating in a joint program.

Next Steps

- Canadians will get together to determine if it makes sense to ask NROC to extend membership to Canadians for their subcommittee focused on living shorelines. Peter McLaughlin will follow up with Becca and Canadian group.
- Becca and Peter will revisit GOMC Memorandum of Understanding with NROC to inform this effort.

Gulf of Maine Symposium

GOMC Council and Working Group members continued discussion about the potential for hosting a Gulf of Maine Symposium in collaboration with RARGOM. Rob Stephenson noted that the last symposium was held in 2009 and that RARGOM is also interested in a Gulf of Maine symposium. Rob also noted that hosting a Gulf of Maine Symposium would provide an opportunity to touch base on major goals for ecosystem protection, unify the scientific community around the Gulf of Maine, and promote collaboration between GOMC and RARGOM. GOMC could take a leadership role. Potential lead time for a symposium would be about 1 ½ years. Planning in early 2017 could lead to a fall 2018 event. Expected attendance would be approximately 200 people. Peter McLaughlin and Joan LeBlanc noted opportunities to coordinate with other GOMC meetings and / or the fall RARGOM science meeting. Potential sites in either Canada or the US could be considered.

Key Decisions / Next Steps

- Once a US scientific representative joins GOMC, Joan will schedule a preliminary planning meeting to explore feasibility of a Gulf of Maine symposium. Rob, Ellen, Bill W., Joan, and Theresa expressed interest in participating in the planning call.

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, March 15, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET / 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM AT

Meeting Participants

Bill Appleby, Environment Canada; Walter Barnhardt, U.S. Department of Interior; Heather Breeze, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Steve Couture, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; Arielle DeMerchant, New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government; Joan LeBlanc, GOMC Council Coordinator; Peter McLaughlin, New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government; Rebecca Newhall, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Ann Rodney, US Environmental Protection Agency; Lee Sochasky, New Brunswick; Theresa Torrent, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Prassede Vella, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management; Peter Wells, Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership.

Draft Policy for Industry Funding

Working Group members reviewed and provided feedback regarding a draft GOMC policy for GOMA and the Canadian Association to solicit and receive corporate or industry funds in support of GOMC initiative. Working Group members agreed with the need for the policy as GOMC needs to explore alternative sources of funding given agency budget limitations. Heather Breeze recommended replacing the first paragraph with the following language:

“The goal of this policy is to support the mission of the Gulf of Maine Council by encouraging corporate donations to the Gulf of Maine Association and the Association of Canadian Delegates to the Gulf of Maine Council (Canadian Association).”

Key Decisions

Following discussion, Working Group members agreed to the following changes:

- Replace first paragraph with language recommended by Heather.
- Broaden the policy statement to include other non-governmental sources of funding such as foundations or private donations.
- Remove the last sentence about recognizing donors at the GOMC Annual Awards Ceremony under the donor recognition section of the policy.

Action Items

- Joan will revise the policy statement to incorporate recommended changes.
- Secretariat Team will review and provided feedback on the revised draft during the April Secretariat Team meeting.
- Secretariat Team will recommend a revised draft policy for review and approval at the June 2017 GOMC meeting.

GOMC Awards Update

Joan LeBlanc provided an update regarding the GOMC awards program. Several nominations have been received with several more expected. Working Group members provided feedback regarding additional nominations in the works.

Key Decisions / Action Items

- Working Group members will continue to help facilitate GOMC award nominations by the March 31st deadline.

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- Secretariat Team will review nominations during the April Secretariat Team meeting. Working Group and Council members are welcome to participate in the call.
- The slate of recommended GOMC award winners will be circulated to Council and Working Group for review prior to final decisions.
- Visionary Awards will be determined by each jurisdiction, while gulf-wide awards will be determined by consensus among GOMC Council and Working Group.

Developing GOMC 2018 – 2022 Action Plan

Working Group members discussed plans for developing the GOMC 2018 – 2022 Action Plan. The new action plan will include goals and outcomes to provide the foundation for actions included in the more detailed GOMC two-year Work Plan. Working Group members recommended that the Action Plan include a summary of accomplishments.

Key Decisions / Action Items

- The new action plan will include a summary of accomplishments from the past five years and highlight goals and outcomes for the period 2018 to 2022.
- The Action Plan will be prepared as a PDF electronic document. Limited copies of the document will be printed if funding is available.
- During the April meeting, Secretariat Team will discuss process and outreach needed to prepare for discussion of goals and outcomes during the June 2017 meeting.
- The 2018 – 2022 Action Plan will be prepared according to the following timeline:
 - Finalize goals and outcomes during the June 2017 meeting.
 - Prepare summary of accomplishments from last Action Plan during the fall of 2017.
 - Complete 2018 – 2022 Action Plan by December 31, 2017.

Developing GOMC 2017 – 2019 Work Plan

Working Group members provided the following updates regarding progress and plans for developing two-year Work Plans for consideration at the June 2017 meeting.

- Climate Network: Bill Appleby indicated that he and Ellen Mecray will prepare a Work Plan for the June meeting.
- EcoSystem Indicator Partnership: ESIP will be preparing a scaled back plan for limited work during the next two years. Heather noted that Kathryn is also trying to link ESIP's ICUC sites with the GOMC's Geocaching program.
- Gulfwatch: Peter Wells reported that Gulfwatch plans are uncertain due to lack of funding. The group is considering shifting to a citizen's monitoring program that operates only when funding is available and focuses more on outreach vs. sampling. Peter McLaughlin noted that NB Environmental Trust has funding for citizen science if Gulfwatch decides to pursue that direction. Becca noted that it would be important to ensure that we are addressing a need and not duplicating other citizen science efforts in the region. Prassede attended a citizen science monitoring summit last November and will provide Peter with information from the event. Heather noted that DFO is still determining their role regarding monitoring and there may be funding in the future for Gulfwatch. MA and NH will continue collecting samples as needed. Peter Wells will coordinate a conference call by mid-April to discuss direction and next steps for Gulfwatch.
- Marine Debris: Theresa is working with Keith Cialino, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to develop a work plan for marine debris. Heather noted that DFO will be hiring new staff to focus on marine environmental quality and they may be able to get involved with GOMC's new marine debris initiative. Arielle noted that NB has a marine debris working group

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and is interested in collaborating with GOMC on this issue. Theresa and Keith expect to convene a regional conversation around marine debris this spring or summer.

- Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning: Heather reported that Betsy Nicholson and Glen Herbert are working together to prepare a Work Plan for CMSP. Betsy and Glen will coordinate a Webex meeting in May that will inform development of a two-year Work Plan.
- Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative: Walter Barnhardt will reach out to Vlad Kostylev of Geological Survey of Canada to follow up on the potential for developing a GOMC work plan for consideration at the June meeting.
- Coastal Resilience / Living Shorelines: Becca is waiting for additional feedback from Bill Whitman regarding potential Canadian involvement. This initiative may be on hold for the time being. Heather noted that DFO may have some funding for projects related to coastal restoration. She expects to have more information by the June meeting.
- Gulf of Maine Symposium: During the last Secretariat Team meeting, GOMC members decided to put planning for the Gulf of Maine Symposium on hold due to capacity issues. Feasibility for moving forward with this event may be revisited later in 2017.
- King Tides: Steve Couture indicated that NH is interested in reestablishing the King Tides program which was very successful during 2015. Bill Appleby reported that there is currently no funding available for the program. Steve noted that he has asked Joan to consider whether she could focus a limited amount of time within the scope of her contract toward a scaled back effort to revitalize the program in 2017. Joan, Steve, Bill A., Peter M., and Theresa expressed interest in participating in a call with Ellen Mecray to explore feasibility of reinvigorating the King Tides program.
- State of the Gulf of Maine Program: Peter Wells and Theresa Torrent expressed interest in updating the State of the Gulf of Maine reports on an ongoing basis to ensure that they stay relevant and valuable. Heather is not planning to prepare a Work Plan for this initiative as it is no longer within her work program. The DFO science branch has taken this over and may have interest in collaborating with GOMC at some point in the future. Theresa noted that this topic may be worth discussing during the June meeting. Prassede recommended that if GOMC does move forward with a GOM Symposium at some point, then it could be structured so that the proceedings provide information for an updated State of the Gulf report. Peter Wells noted that this initiative could also build into BoFEP.

GOMC Coordination with NROC

Steve Couture recommended that GOMC take a look at Northeast Regional Ocean Council's (NROC) work plans for Coastal Hazards Resilience and for Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health to consider opportunities to coordinate or collaborate between GOMC and NROC. This would be consistent with GOMC's Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate with NROC. Peter McLaughlin indicated he has interest in exploring this opportunity and will follow up with Steve.

Planning for June 2017 Council / Working Group Meeting

Peter McLaughlin, Joan LeBlanc and Theresa Torrent provided an update regarding plans for the GOMC June meeting scheduled for June 7 and June 8 in Portland, Maine. The meeting and awards ceremony have been scheduled as follows:

- GOMC Joint Council and Working Group Meeting
Wednesday, June 7 and Thursday, June 8, 2017
University of Southern Maine, Abromson Center, 88 Bedford Street, Portland, Maine

- GOMC Awards Reception and Ceremony
Wednesday, June 7, 2017, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Gulf of Maine Research Institute
350 Commercial Street, Portland, Maine
- Recommended Accommodations
Courtyard Marriott Portland Downtown / Waterfront
321 Commercial Street, Portland, Maine

Working Group members were reminded to book hotel reservations by the deadline of May 6, 2017 to receive discount rate of \$161. Peter McLaughlin and Joan LeBlanc circulated a placeholder agenda and noted that they plan to keep the agenda flexible until closer to the meeting date to allow for further development of the agenda. Theresa Torrent shared the following potential additions to the meeting schedule that she is currently exploring:

- Presentation regarding ocean acidification from a water quality perspective
- Field excursion in the Portland area such as a boat trip on Casco Bay to view Island Institute’s pilot project regarding sea weed / aquaculture
- Presentation by Andy Pershing of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute on the issue of utilizing the warming of the Gulf of Maine as an indicator tool for understanding ocean changes

Working Group members expressed interest and support for these potential additions to the June agenda. As discussed earlier in the meeting, the agenda may also include sessions regarding marine debris, opportunities to update the State of the Gulf report, and Gulfwatch monitoring opportunities.

Request for GOMC Letter of Support for NERACOOS Proposal

Steve Couture requested that GOMC consider preparing a letter of support for NERACOOS’ proposal to NOAA for their project: “Transitioning Ocean and Coastal Acidification Models into Outlooks, Forecasts, and Warnings for the Northeast”.

Key Decisions / Action Items

- Working Group members approved preparation of a letter of support.
- Joan will prepare a GOMC letter of support and circulate it to Council and Working Group for review and final approval before sending it to NERACOOS in advance of the March 24th proposal deadline.

Other Business / Networking

- GOMC Documents: Theresa reported that she will be going through 10 boxes of GOMC documents since the Maine’s Department of Marine Resources is closing their library. The Maine State Library will take the documents and has offered digitizing services. Peter Wells suggested that the GOMC bibliography he prepared may come in handy as a guide to organizing the materials.

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: Gulf of Maine Association (GOMA) Budget Overview and Future Planning				
Submitted by: Cynthia Krum, GOMA Executive Committee and Working Group Chair				
Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	For Direction	For Information (internal GOMC)	x For Information (External)
Background (required):				
<p>Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Proposed Operating Budget Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details on FY 2017-2018 Proposed Operating Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GOMC predicted direct expenses are \$70,119 ○ Fiscal Agent predicted direct expenses are \$9,800 ○ Total budget (including <u>partial</u> GOMA management and administration) is \$100,623. ○ Additional GOMA Management and Administration fees may be added into budget once decisions are made. • Unrestricted net asset balance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prediction for FY 2016-2017 year-end at June 30, 2017 is \$111,121. • Core Service Contracting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Secretariat Team advises that the Council Coordination contract be for 12 months and remain at same contract fee as 2016-2017 fiscal year. ○ The Secretariat Team advises that the Information Technology contract be for 6 months with a 20% cut from 2016-2017 fiscal year contract fee for 6-month time period. ○ Final decisions will be made by the GOMA Board. <p>Planning for the Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the decrease in budget, GOMA needs to plan for an additional reduction in services. However, GOMA is planning to do an audit in fall of 2017 and needs to close out current open grants by April, 2018 (one current grant will remain after that time). Additional unrestricted net asset funds will most likely be used to cover these services during FY 2017-2018. Plans are being made for the sustainability of the organization going forward. • The GOMA Executive Director reported to both the GOMA Executive Committee and the GOMC Secretariat Team that she intended to complete her contract at the end of August, 2017. • The Executive Committee has asked the current GOMA Executive Director to consider continuing her contract past August 31, 2017 to assist with audit, grant closeout and organizational transition. • More time is needed to make a decision on this request and next steps. The GOMA Executive Committee and Working Group Chair have recently met and are doing research. As soon as a recommendation is made it will be shared with the Secretariat, Working Group and Council. • GOMA Board of Directors will be meeting at 7:30 a.m. on June 8. Working Group and Council members not on the Board are invited to participate as nonvoting members. 				
Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested (optional): n/a				
Supporting Documentation (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):				
Detailed budget and financial information will be available in the Briefing Book for the June 8 th GOMA meeting 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: Developing GOMC 5-Year Action Plan (2018-2022)				
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 x	For Direction x	For Information (internal GOMC)	For Information (External)
Background (required):				
<p>Every five years the Gulf of Maine Council prepares and publishes a five-year action plan. The most recent GOMC 2012-2017 Action Plan is available online at: http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/action-plan-homepage/.</p> <p>Past GOMC Action Plans have includes goals, outcomes and activities planned for the upcoming five year period. The next GOMC 5-Year Action Plan for the period 2018 – 2022 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 the more detailed GOMC two-year Work Plans that will highlight 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.</p> <p>GOMC 2012-2017 Action Plan Goals and Outcomes</p> <p>The following goals and outcomes are included in the GOMC 2012-2017 Action Plan.</p> <p><i>Goal 1: Restored and Conserved Habitats</i></p> <p>Outcomes: 1.1 Water Quality Protection 1.2 Habitat Restoration Outcome 1.3 Habitat Conservation</p> <p><i>Goal 2: Environmental and Human Health</i></p> <p>Outcomes: 2.1 Environmental Monitoring 2.2 Environmental Indicators and Reporting 2.3 Climate Adaptation</p> <p><i>Goal 3: Sustainable Communities</i></p> <p>Outcomes: 3.1 Understanding How People Use the Gulf of Maine 3.2 Community Stewardship</p>				
Possible Activities / Next Steps (optional):				
<p>During the June 2017 GOMC meeting, Council and Working Group will review and discuss GOMC goals and outcomes to be included in the next 5-Year Action Plan. Council / Working Group will also discuss the next steps needed to prepare the 2018 – 2022 GOMC Action Plan which is expected to be finalized by the end of 2017.</p>				

Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested (optional):

During the June 2017 meeting, Council and Working Group members will be asked to provide feedback regarding the following questions:

- Does the Council / Working Group still support the previous GOMC goals and outcomes?
- Should there be any edits or additions to the GOMC goals and outcomes?
- Does the Council / Working Group have any specific direction in regards to preparation of the 2018-2022 GOMC Action Plan? Plan to include:
 - GOMC goals
 - GOMC outcomes
 - Highlights of accomplishments during 2012-2017 Action Plan period

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

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note				
Title of Agenda Item: Fostering Dialogue between the GOMC Climate Network and the New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers				
Submitted by: Ellen Mecray and Bill Appleby, Climate Network Co-Chairs				
Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	For Direction	x	For Information (internal GOMC) x
				For Information (External)
Background (required):				
<p>The Gulf of Maine Council (GOMC)'s Climate Network seeks to reconnect with New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) to learn more about the NEG/ECP's renewed work on ecological connectivity/climate and to brief its members on GOMC accomplishments and initiatives. While NEG/ECP has historically concentrated on transportation policy and energy systems, its recent Resolution 40-3 (http://coneg.org/Data/Sites/1/media/40-3-ecological-connectivity-en.pdf) commits to ecological connectivity, adaptation to climate change and biodiversity conservation (areas in which the GOMC has demonstrated leadership).</p> <p>The 2016 resolution directs the NEG/ECP's Committee on the Environment to form a working group to coordinate efforts and report back on planned activities. With this resolution, the NEG/ECP is now focused on themes that align with the activities and accomplishments of the GOMC Climate Network—making this an opportune time for the two entities to discuss accomplishments, shared goals and upcoming work plans.</p>				
Possible Activities / Next Steps (optional):				
<p>The NEG/ECP recently sought input on their regional climate plan and the GOMC is developing its next five-year Action Plan, making the coming months optimal for an exchange of ideas.</p> <p>The Climate Network will reach out to the NEG/ECP's Committee on the Environment to initiate this dialogue. There might be further opportunities to meet in coming months with their natural resources working group or full membership.</p>				
Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested (optional):				
Supporting Documentation (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):				

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note								
Title of Agenda Item: Extreme Precipitation in the Gulf of Maine Region: Challenges and Responses								
Submitted by: Ellen Mecray and Bill Appleby, Climate Network Co-Chairs								
Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	For Direction	X	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> For Information (internal GOMC) </td> <td style="width: 5%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">X</td> <td style="width: 45%; padding: 5px;"> For Information (External) </td> <td style="width: 5%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">X</td> </tr> </table>	For Information (internal GOMC)	X	For Information (External)	X
For Information (internal GOMC)	X	For Information (External)	X					
Background (required):								
<p>Extreme Precipitation in the Gulf of Maine</p> <p>The Gulf of Maine region is experiencing more extreme precipitation events, raising concerns about flooding, damage to infrastructure, increased discharges from combined sewer overflows, and greater stormwater runoff impacts (from eutrophication to waterborne diseases). In combination with warmer temperatures, extreme precipitation events can aggravate spread of diseases such as tick-borne illnesses.</p> <p>This hour-long session will provide a brief overview of the region’s extreme precipitation trends and challenges, along with an overview of resources that the Climate Network has developed to help regional communities get access to sound science to aid in decision-making (e.g., the new Extreme Precipitation in Atlantic Canada website, the Climate Dashboard and the Gulf of Maine Region Climate Impacts and Outlook quarterly).</p> <p>Two guest presenters, one from New Hampshire (Cliff Sinnott, Executive Director of the Rockingham County Planning Commission and winner of this year’s GOMC Susan Snow Cotter Award) and one from New Brunswick (Rob Capozzi, Adaptation Specialist with the New Brunswick Climate Change Secretariat and longtime Council participant), will share some innovative approaches that their jurisdictions are taking to address this challenge.</p> <p>The session will end with discussion about how regional collaboration (through the Council) could help Gulf of Maine communities better understand, anticipate and plan for the effects of extreme precipitation and other changing climate trends.</p>								
Possible Activities / Next Steps (optional):								
Follow-up by the Climate Network will be determined at, or following, the Extreme Precipitation session.								
Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested (optional):								
Recommendations for continued Climate Network outreach on this issue will be sought in the meeting session.								
Supporting Documentation (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):								

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note				
Title of Agenda Item: Developing GOMC 2017 – 2019 Work Plan (Overview)				
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	x	For Direction	x
			For Information (internal GOMC)	For Information (External)
Background (required):				
<p>Council and Working Group members will work together to develop the Gulf of Maine Council’s 2017 – 2019 Work Plan. The Two-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 will highlight recent accomplishments and present continuing and / or new draft Work Plans for consideration.</p> <p>The following potential GOMC Work Plan initiatives and updates will be discussed during the GOMC meeting on Thursday, June 8, from 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM.</p>				
GOMC Initiative		Lead (s)		Briefing Materials
Est. Time (minutes)				
Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning		Glen Herbert / Betsy Nicholson		pp. 22-23
EcoSystem Indicator Partnership		Kathryn Parlee / Jim Latimer		pp. 24-26
Climate Network		Bill Appleby / Ellen Mecray		pp. 27-28
Gulfwatch		Peter Wells / Jack Schwartz		n/a
Marine Debris		Theresa Torrent		n/a
GOMC Awards Program		Theresa Torrent / Joan LeBlanc		p. 29
GOMC GeoTour		Kathryn Parlee		p. 30-31
GOMC Library / Archives		Theresa Torrent		n/a
GOMC IT and Website Updates		Jim Craddock		p. 32
Gulf of Maine Webinars		Peter McLaughlin / Joan LeBlanc		p. 33
Coastal and Ocean Acidification / GOMC and RARGOM collaboration		Theresa Torrent		n/a
Other potential GOMC initiatives / updates?				
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 2015-2017 Work Plan is available at: http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/GOMC-2015-2017-Work-Plan.pdf</p> <p>Proposed work plans are included in the briefing book as noted in the table above.</p>				

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Proposed Two Year Work Plan – July 2017 through June 2019			
Name of GOMC Initiative: Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning			
GOMC Project Lead (s): Betsy Nicholson (NOAA) and Glen Herbert (DFO)			
Links to 2012-2017 Action Plan Goals and Outcomes			
<i>Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</i>			
Goal 1: Restored & Conserved Habitats	Goal 2: Environmental & Human Health	Goal 3: Sustainable Communities	
Outcomes: 1.1 Water Quality Protection 1.2 Habitat Restoration Outcome 1.3 Habitat Conservation	Outcomes: 2.1 Environmental Monitoring 2.2 Environmental Indicators and Reporting 2.3 Climate Adaptation	Outcomes: 3.1 Understanding How People Use the Gulf of Maine 3.2 Community Stewardship	 x x
<p>Description:</p> <p>Successful Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) requires the compilation of regional information, data and mapping of human uses and areas of ecological significance. Although political boundaries exist, the Gulf of Maine ecosystem is not confined by these political boundaries. Ecosystem impacts and implications span those borders, which is in part why the Gulf of Maine Council was formed. As both countries proceed with their marine planning processes, it will be important to share information, knowledge and data. This provides an opportunity for countries to learn from each other's experiences with CMSP, to share information and best practices, and to support collaborative projects to fill knowledge gaps.</p> <p>The mandate of the CMSP Committee is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To investigate and make recommendations on collaborative activities for the Council to pursue in CMSP. • To track and exchange information on CMSP policies, activities and lessons learned on both sides of the border. <p>The Committee will maintain an open dialogue on CMSP initiatives across the border. The Committee will seek out opportunities where it can learn from the experiences of other jurisdictions and agencies. It will share information and knowledge on best practices, tools and techniques, in addition to sharing information on human use patterns and ecological data. The Committee will report to the Council on progress and identify collaborative opportunities where the Council can contribute to advancing CMSP within the Gulf of Maine.</p> <p>Key Milestones YR1:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update Committee member list and confirm Terms of Reference 2. Convene two Committee meetings (teleconference/web-ex) and two topical sessions for broader audience (web-ex and/or in-person) 3. Confirm and refine priority list of topics/issues for Committee work, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transboundary issues, activities and uses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • marine transportation • hydrocarbons and renewable energy • conservation planning • pollution and debris • noise and acoustic impacts • environmental incident response • CMSP tools, methods and approaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mapping and characterization (habitats, ocean uses, soundscapes) • marine environmental quality and cumulative effects • socio-economic incentive-based management measures • performance measurement 			

- Effective engagement and partnerships
 - Indigenous partnerships
 - Public process and engagement

Key Milestones YR2:

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

Project Funding (Amount and Sources):

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

Project Partners:

See Committee membership list (pending updates)

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

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

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note				
Title of Agenda Item: EcoSystem Indicator Partnership Update				
Submitted by: Kathryn Parlee (ECCC), Jim Latimer (EPA), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC)				
Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	For Direction	For Information (internal GOMC) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Information (External)
<p>Background (required):</p> <p>The Ecosystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP) has had another busy year moving forward on several exciting fronts. ESIP's primary effort involves monitoring water quality locations in the Bay of Fundy. This work is funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada. Water quality measurements were taken at multiple sites within six embayments in the Bay of Fundy (Annapolis, Chignecto, Minas, Saint John, Musquash, and Passamaquoddy). 2016's samples marked the third time ESIP's co-PIs (Eastern Charlotte Waterways and Clean Annapolis River Project) worked with ESIP to collect samples for delivery to New Brunswick labs. Water samples were analyzed for dissolved oxygen, temperature, salinity, pH, Chlorophyll <i>a</i>, total phosphorus and total nitrogen. Secchi depth is also recorded for each site. In addition, sediment samples were collected at locations already established by the Gulfwatch team. There is a current group of ESIP individuals working through the sediment datasets. Some of that information will be presented on Day 1 of the GOMC meeting.</p> <p>One other project that continues to move forward for ESIP is the ICUC smartphone app. Currently discussions involve locating funding to expand the number of sites where photo brackets are available throughout the two provinces and three states. ESIP would also like to improve on the social media and communication aspects of the ICUC smartphone app and introduce new users to the project and information on the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy.</p>				
Possible Activities / Next Steps (optional):				
Supporting Documentation (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):				

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Proposed Two Year Work Plan – July 2017 through June 2019				
Name of GOMC Initiative: EcoSystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP)				
Co-Chaired by: Environment and Climate Change Canada and US Environmental Protection Agency Direction Provided by (Steering Committee): Environment and Climate Change Canada, Fisheries & Oceans Canada, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Department of Interior, US Geological Survey and US Environmental Protection Agency				
Links to 2012-2017 Action Plan Goals and Outcomes <i>Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</i>				
Goal 1: Restored & Conserved Habitats		Goal 2: Environmental & Human Health		Goal 3: Sustainable Communities
Outcomes: 1.1 Water Quality Protection	x	Outcomes: 2.1 Environmental Monitoring	x	Outcomes: 3.1 Understanding How People Use the Gulf of Maine
1.2 Habitat Restoration Outcome		2.2 Environmental Indicators and Reporting	x	x
1.3 Habitat Conservation		2.3 Climate Adaptation		x
Description: As a cross-cutting committee, ESIP supports all three goals of the current 2012-2017 GOMC Action Plan, although the primary focus is Goal 2, Outcome 2.2. ESIP works closely with other current GOMC Committees to integrate and share information.				
ESIP was established as a cross-cutting committee of the GOMC to address the regionally identified need for stronger collaboration and information sharing to improve understanding and inform researchers, managers, and citizens about the status and trends in ecosystem health in the Gulf of Maine through the use of indicators. In addition, ESIP supports more informed management decisions by addressing issues to maintain and improve ecosystem health. ESIP engages and draws on expertise from scientists, managers, academics, practitioners, interested organizations, and citizens from multiple sectors in both Canada and the U.S. ESIP works collaboratively to compile existing monitoring data and scientific information from a variety of sources, including government, citizen science groups, academics, and other non-profits. ESIP then integrates the information into a one-stop, on-line location or “environmental intelligence center” which provides a local to regional picture of on-going monitoring activities and status and trends in habitat, water quality, climate change, human use, and overall ecosystem health in the Gulf of Maine. It also identifies gaps in monitoring and data, and works in partnership with other existing organizations to fill these gaps.				
On-going Initiatives: <u>Water Quality and Sediment Monitoring (partially funded until March 31, 2018)</u> As a result of ESIP’s efforts to compile monitoring and indicator data from Canada and the U.S., monitoring and data gaps are often identified. During ESIP’s efforts to compile eutrophication and contaminant indicator, it was identified that information regarding water quality and sediment chemistry was needed for the Canadian portion of the Gulf of Maine. Through collaboration with ECCC’s Gulf of Maine Initiative (GMI) and in partnership with Canadian NGOs, a water quality and sediment quality monitoring project was developed and is being implemented to address the gaps.				
Proposed New initiatives (pending funding): <u>ICUC App Phase 3 (funding required):</u> Phase 3 of the ICUC App will involve development of a business plan to engage user groups to expand and support the use of app to many more photo capture locations by developing a sponsorship model. This				

will provide funding to make its continued use and development sustainable. This model includes adding a stronger linkage with social media, undertaking additional promotion of the App, and developing paying partners to expand the network of photo capture sites.

Link ICUC and GOMC GeoTour (funding required):

To broader ICUC App engagement and increase awareness of the GOM, ESIP will look at the opportunity and feasibility of linking the ICUC App and the GOMC GeoTour. The idea would be to add GeoTour sites which would include an ICUC photo monitoring bracket. Participants would visit a site, learn about it, answer a question toward earning a coin, but also help to monitor changes at that site over time by taking photographs from the ICUC photo bracket.

ESIP2.0 Implementation and Symposium (funding required):

Following the effort of ESIP's Directional Committee, a new structure will be developed to follow ESIP's normal work flow for the determination of appropriate ESIP 2.0 Indicators. ESIP originally began ESIP 1.0 with a symposium that brought many practitioners together as a brainstorming and effective launch of the original subcommittees and indicator products. ESIP's Steering Committee likewise believes that a symposium or virtual gathering of experts would prove an effective and powerful launch for the ESIP 2.0 effort.

Web Tool Updates (funding required):

ESIP's Indicator Reporting Tool is one of the primary vehicles for distributing information about the ESIP 1.0 indicators. The webtool was visited by over 5,000 times in 2014. However, users often state that the webtool could be enhanced with useful new features. GOMC's IT consultant has provided a document outlining how these changes might be implemented as funds become available.

Outreach and Evaluation Strategy (no funding required):

ESIP's Steering Committee has expressed interest in learning more about potential outreach and evaluation efforts already underway within GOMC. In particular, ESIP has stated that it would be very helpful to work in partnership with the Environmental Information impact study beginning in September 2017.

Key Milestones YR1:

Administration of ECCC GMI project

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

Key Milestones YR2: TBD (Pending funding)

Project Funding (Amount and Sources):

- ECCC Gulf of Maine Initiative: approx. \$41,000 USD until March 31, 2018 (\$9,000 USD for ESIP Program Manager, \$5,000 GOMA Indirect/Admin Fee, \$27,000 to Canadian NGO partners)
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada: approx. \$6,700 USD until September 30, 2018

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Proposed Two Year Work Plan – July 2017 through June 2019					
Name of GOMC Initiative: Climate Network					
GOMC Project Lead (s): Ellen Mecray and Bill Appleby, Co-Chairs					
Links to 2012-2017 Action Plan Goals and Outcomes					
Goal 1: Restored & Conserved Habitats		Goal 2: Environmental & Human Health		Goal 3: Sustainable Communities	
Outcomes:		Outcomes:		Outcomes:	
1.1 Water Quality Protection	x	2.1 Environmental Monitoring		3.1 Understanding How People Use the Gulf of Maine	
1.2 Habitat Restoration Outcome	x	2.2 Environmental Indicators and Reporting	x	3.2 Community Stewardship	x
1.3 Habitat Conservation	x	2.3 Climate Adaptation	x		
Description:					
<p><i>Mission:</i> In support of greater climate resilience and adaptability in communities throughout the Gulf of Maine watershed, the Climate Network fosters sharing of professional knowledge and resources and coordinated regional responses.</p> <p>The Gulf of Maine Council’s Climate Network plays a significant role in four primary ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compiling and promoting (across sectors and borders) accurate information about likely climate impacts within the region; 2. Identifying critical data gaps and convening regional experts to determine how to most efficiently gather and disseminate that information; 3. Engaging citizens in tracking the impacts of climate change and transmitting those data to the municipal and regional managers who can best use that information to strengthen community resilience; and 4. Catalyzing more coordinated and efficient approaches to adaptation by disseminating successful strategies and models. <p>Network projects are typically grant-funded and rely on an expert working group assembled for each initiative.</p> <p>Key Milestones Years 1 and 2:</p> <p>Funded Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand distribution of Gulf of Maine Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook and related media outreach; publicize webinars held in conjunction with the <i>Outlook</i> release each quarter • Augment and publicize a newly created web-based tool that offers improved access to Intensity/Duration/Frequency (IDF) extreme rainfall data, helping environmental managers and municipal planners in Atlantic Canada better prepare for climate impacts • Host an engagement workshop for the region’s First Nations tribes in northern Maine and New Brunswick <p>Proposed Initiatives Requiring Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support coordination of the Gulf of Maine King Tides Initiative and annual photo contest, which generates inundation images from extreme tides to use for planning and educational purposes (requires additional resources) • Lead regional pilot overlaying climate data and health data to enable better management of vulnerable populations in extreme heat and weather events. <i>(requires additional resources)</i> • Expand cross-border coordination on shared responses to climate impacts in forestry and agriculture, attending the USFS workshop and inserting CN as part of the climate response • Host a regional workshop in conjunction with ESIP on climate adaptation, including development of heat health indicators and feedback/next steps from the Network’s membership 					

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

June 7-8, 2017 • Council / Working Group Meeting • Briefing Book

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

Project Partners:

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

Supporting Documentation: None

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Two Year Work Plan – July 2017 through June 2019			
Name of GOMC Initiative: GOMC Awards Program			
GOMC Project Lead (s): Peter McLaughlin, Theresa Torrent, Joan LeBlanc			
Links to 2012-2017 Action Plan Goals and Outcomes			
<i>Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</i>			
Goal 1: Restored & Conserved Habitats	Goal 2: Environmental & Human Health	Goal 3: Sustainable Communities	
Outcomes: 1.1 Water Quality Protection 1.2 Habitat Restoration Outcome 1.3 Habitat Conservation	Outcomes: 2.1 Environmental Monitoring 2.2 Environmental Indicators and Reporting 2.3 Climate Adaptation	Outcomes: 3.1 Understanding How People Use the Gulf of Maine 3.2 Community Stewardship	x
<p>Description: The Gulf of Maine Council will continue to host an annual awards program to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of volunteers, environmental professionals, communities, non-government organizations, and industry in promoting a healthy Gulf of Maine ecosystem.</p> <p>Council Coordinator will issue call for nominations and facilitate awards selection process. Awards will be presented during a reception hosted in conjunction with the Gulf of Maine Council’s annual in-person meeting.</p> <p>Key Milestones YR1: Call for awards nominations January 2018. Host awards program in June 2018 in collaboration with GOMC meeting.</p> <p>Key Milestones YR2: TBD</p>			
<p>Project Funding (Amount and Sources): Pending approval, funding of \$2,000 for awards and associated in-kind staff time will be provided through the Maine Coastal Program. Project leads will ensure that appropriate support is available before moving forward with a call for nominations. Council Coordinator support is included in scope of work for Council Coordination services.</p>			
<p>Project Partners: GOMC Council and Working Group, Maine Coastal Program</p>			
<p>Supporting Documentation: <i>(If applicable, list additional documents included with this Work Plan)</i> n/a</p>			

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Two Year Work Plan – July 2017 through June 2019					
Name of GOMC Initiative: Gulf of Maine Council GeoTour					
GOMC Project Lead (s): Kathryn Parlee (ECCC) with support from GOMC Coordinator					
Co-Chaired by: Environment and Climate Change Canada					
Links to 2012-2017 Action Plan Goals and Outcomes <i>Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</i>					
Goal 1: Restored & Conserved Habitats		Goal 2: Environmental & Human Health		Goal 3: Sustainable Communities	
Outcomes:		Outcomes:		Outcomes:	
1.1 Water Quality Protection		2.1 Environmental Monitoring	X	3.1 Understanding How People Use the Gulf of Maine	X
1.2 Habitat Restoration Outcome	X	2.2 Environmental Indicators and Reporting		3.2 Community Stewardship	X
1.3 Habitat Conservation		2.3 Climate Adaptation			
<p>Description:</p> <p>The Gulf of Maine GeoTour was established as part of activities to celebrate the GOMC's 25th anniversary. It was created to encourage people to get out, learn about and experience the beauty and value of the Gulf of Maine for themselves.</p> <p>The GeoTour is like a scavenger hunt, but instead of visiting locations to collect objects, participants find answers to site specific questions and collect points. The treasure, a limited edition Gulf of Maine Council 25th Anniversary Geocoin, is available to participants who collect enough points and send in their GeoTour Passport.</p> <p>The Gulf of Maine Council has partnered with organizations and geocachers in each of the five provinces and states that border the Gulf of Maine to create the GeoTour. Sites were selected to highlight just some of the important natural, historic, cultural or economic features in the region. Where possible, links to GOMC activities, efforts or to GOMC award winners were identified. Five sites are located in each of the five provinces or states that border the Gulf of Maine – Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts – making twenty-five sites to celebrate twenty-five years of the Gulf of Maine Council. Two sites were also used to introduce and test the concept of the EcoSystem Indicator Partnership's (ESIP) ICUC App.</p> <p>The GeoTour was launched on the GOMC website in July 2014. In 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, sponsored by DFO and ECCC, the GeoTour has also been hosted and promoted on Geocaching.com. Geocaching.com is the one-stop online site that lists geocaches world-wide and provides tools and adventures to support the hobby of geocaching.</p> <p>To date, over 80 coins have been distributed for participation in the GeoTour. The majority of participants live within the Gulf of Maine watershed, but participants from as far away as New York, New Jersey, South Carolina, Idaho, Wisconsin and Texas have completed the tour while travelling in the Gulf of Maine region. Participant comments are positive and appreciative for the GOMC setting up an adventure and learning opportunity in the Gulf of Maine. The GeoTour was also covered in a Travel Blog at the NY Times.</p> <p>On-going Activities:</p> <p><u>Monitoring and Maintenance (no funding required)</u></p> <p>On-going activities are currently limited to answering inquiries from interested geocachers, monitoring status of geocaches included in the tour and following up with cache owners if maintenance is required, receiving and verifying completion of GOMC GeoTour passports, and distribution of the commemorative 25th anniversary coins. On-going activities will continue until all of the 25th anniversary geocoins are distributed.</p>					

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

Proposed New Initiatives (Pending Funding):

Continuation of GOMC GeoTour (funding required):

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

Link ICUC and GOMC GeoTour (funding required):

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

GOMC 30th Anniversary GeoTour (funding required):

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

Key Milestones YR1:

Pending Funding

Key Milestones YR2:

Pending Funding

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note					
Title of Agenda Item: GOMC IT and Web Site Updates					
Submitted by: James Cradock, GOMC IT					
Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	For Direction	For Information (internal GOMC)	X	For Information (External)
Background (required):					
<u>Website updates:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gulfofmaine.org site is built on WordPress • WordPress uses templates (like MS Office fax templates) to manage look-and-feel • WordPress' templates also provide updated and added functionality • Added functionality might include better search, information architecture, and mobile-friendliness • Content has to be copied, reviewed and tested from the old templates to the new templates • We are updating, page-by-page, program-by-program, gulfofmaine.org to new templates • We are taking this opportunity to review SEO (search) terms too 					
<u>Server updates:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gulfofmaine.org site, files and databases are hosted on a dedicated Linux server • We are always looking at updating and upgrading servers hosting the site • This past year we upgraded the server to use cloud services • Cloud services help mitigate high traffic, high memory usage, large database queries • Using cloud services for hosting is stable, and it is increasingly the norm for hosting • Our hybrid dedicated/cloud hosting, versus solely cloud-based or dedicated server-based, is more redundant 					
Possible Activities / Next Steps (optional):					
<u>Website updates:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will contact stakeholders / content managers for specific content (for example, ESIP's program manager for ESIP content) as we add more content to the new templates • We are contacting stakeholders to coordinate move to new templates • New templates will be fully online this summer (end of August) 					
<u>Server updates:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are in initial stages of planning for increasing disk space for the server hosting gulfofmaine.org • More info soon 					
Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested (optional):					
Supporting Documentation (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):					

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Two Year Work Plan – July 2017 through June 2019			
Name of GOMC Initiative: Gulf of Maine Webinars			
GOMC Project Lead (s): Peter McLaughlin, Joan LeBlanc			
Links to 2012-2017 Action Plan Goals and Outcomes			
<i>Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</i>			
Goal 1: Restored & Conserved Habitats	Goal 2: Environmental & Human Health	Goal 3: Sustainable Communities	
Outcomes: 1.1 Water Quality Protection 1.2 Habitat Restoration Outcome 1.3 Habitat Conservation	Outcomes: 2.1 Environmental Monitoring 2.2 Environmental Indicators and Reporting 2.3 Climate Adaptation	Outcomes: 3.1 Understanding How People Use the Gulf of Maine 3.2 Community Stewardship	x
<p><i>* Various GOMC goals and outcomes would be supported depending upon the webinar topics selected.</i></p> <p>Description: During the GOMC organizational assessment conducted during 2015, GOMC identified the following two priority types of work for GOMC to focus on in a streamlined budget and operational environment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Networking / Multi-jurisdictional Collaboration and Facilitation 2. Sharing Resources / Best Practices / Capacity Building (regional or jurisdictional) <p>In support of those priorities, GOMC Working Group Chair and Council Coordinator propose coordinating one or two informational webinars during the 2017-2018 Secretariat Year. In order to free-up capacity for the Council Coordinator to facilitate the webinars, they will likely be held in place of Secretariat Team conference call meetings during certain months (schedule to be determined). Implementation of this Work Plan will be subject to Council Coordinator capacity and will depend upon whether there are other competing priorities as identified by GOMC Working Group Chair and Council.</p> <p>Key Milestones YR1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicit feedback from Council and Working Group during June 2017 meeting regarding potential webinar topics. • Finalize one or more topics of interest for GOMC Webinars. • Facilitate speakers and logistics for webinars. • Conduct outreach to promote awareness and attendance on the webinars. • Host one or more webinars during the year. <p>Key Milestones YR2: TBD</p>			
Project Funding (Amount and Sources): None needed.			
Project Partners: GOMC Council and Working Group members. External guest speakers and participants.			
Supporting Documentation: <i>(If applicable, list additional documents included with this Work Plan)</i> n/a			

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note				
Title of Agenda Item: GOMC Plans for 2017 / 2018 Secretariat Year				
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 (internal GOMC)
				X For Information (External)
Background (required):				
<u>GOMC Meetings</u> GOMC Council / Working Group and Secretariat Team will meet as follows. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Council / Working Group Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ June 2018 – Two day, in-person Council / Working Group meeting in Canada (specific location / dates TBD) ○ December 2017 – Virtual Council / Working Group meeting • Working Group will meet via conference call up to two additional times during the year. • The GOMC Secretariat Team will meet on an as needed basis (usually on the third Wednesday of each month). 				
<u>GOMC 2018 Awards Program</u> During 2018, GOMC will again host an awards program. This program is made possible through in-kind and financial contributions from the Maine Coastal Program. 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.				
<u>GOMC 2018 – 2022 Action Plan</u> With feedback from the June 2017 meeting, GOMC will develop Action Plan to be finalized by the end of 2017. As agreed upon during the GOMC organizational assessment and revised framework, the new Action Plan will be a streamlined document that outlines broad goals and outcomes that provide a framework for the more detailed two-year work plans.				
<u>GOMC 2017-2019 Work Plan</u> With feedback from the June 2017 meeting, GOMC will finalize the 2017-2019 Work Plan. The Work Plan will be posted to the GOMC website and updated as needed going forward.				
Possible Activities / Next Steps (optional):				
Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested (optional): Council and Working Group members are asked to provide feedback regarding GOMC plans.				
Supporting Documentation (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):				