



Gulf of Maine Council 2018 Awards Winners

Susan Snow-Cotter Leadership Award

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

Cynthia Copeland, New Hampshire

Cynthia Copeland is being honored with the Susan Snow-Cotter Leadership Award in recognition of her leadership in promoting sustainability throughout New Hampshire's coastal communities. Cynthia has served as Executive Director of the Strafford Regional Planning Commission since 1999 and helped form the Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization in 2007. Cynthia has also served on the New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions and the boards of directors for both COAST and the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program.

Under Cynthia's leadership, the Strafford Regional Planning Commission provided support and technical assistance throughout the region and the Gulf of Maine watershed. Numerous projects benefited from Cynthia's strong belief in natural resource protection as a way to improve quality of life. These include completion of the Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds, designation and state protection of four major river systems, and ongoing climate resiliency and adaptation planning. The Planning Commission continues to participate in the New Hampshire Coastal Adaptation Workgroup and recently completed the first Climate Adaptation Master Plan chapter in New Hampshire, for the City of Dover.

One of the most notable projects Strafford Regional Planning Commission undertook during Cynthia's tenure was the statewide Granite State Future project. This three-year, multimillion dollar planning project enabled all nine regional planning commissions in the state to update their regional master plans. The effort won the 2015 Plan of the Year award from the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association. Cynthia is a committed environmental professional whose leadership and dedication have made a significant difference in the Gulf of Maine.

Longard Award

The Longard Award is bestowed each year in memory of Art Longard, a founding member of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and long-time Working Group member. This Award is given to an individual or group of individuals from one of the five states and provinces bordering the Gulf of Maine to recognize volunteer commitment to environmental protection and sustainability within the Gulf of Maine.

Eric Schroeder, New Hampshire

The Gulf of Maine Council recognizes Eric Schroeder with the 2018 Longard award for his outstanding work as a volunteer phytoplankton monitor for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. Eric began this work in 2013 and joined the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services as an official program volunteer in 2017. The timing could not have been better. As changing conditions and the introduction of new algal species in the Gulf of Maine required significant changes to monitoring programs, Eric played a critical role in New Hampshire's efforts to respond to these emerging public health threats.

Eric conducts weekly sampling from February through November at four locations in coastal New Hampshire. He collects and processes samples, examines them under a microscope to identify harmful algal species, records his findings, and then communicates results to regulators and researchers who need access to real-time information. Eric also conducts other specialized sample processing tasks such as screening for the presence of biotoxins.

Eric's efforts require great care, expertise and precision. Using a gridded microscope slide, Eric examines the phytoplankton in 200 individual grids and counts the number of cells of one harmful algal bloom type in each of the 200 cells. That process is repeated for seven other algal species of concern - and that is just for one of the four samples he examines each week. Each year, Eric's volunteer efforts involve over 2,600 miles of driving and more than 300 hours of volunteer service.

Eric's work directly supports New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services' mission to protect public health. He positively impacts the region's sustainable commercial aquaculture industry, as well as recreational harvesting.

Sustainable Communities Award

The Gulf of Maine Council's Sustainable Communities Award recognizes a community, or group within a community for exemplary work in achieving sustainable outcomes related to the environment and economy within the Gulf of Maine.

City of Dover, New Hampshire

Dover, New Hampshire is a leader in promoting sustainable growth and development, addressing energy challenges, and exploring ways to mitigate climate impacts. The city is guided by its Sustainability Plan and committed to land protection, the best route to the greatest water quality benefits. Dover has protected over 2,600 acres, restricted toxic pesticide and synthetic fertilizer use, and mandated low-impact development techniques. The city uses gravel wetlands, roadside tree filters, and other green approaches to reduce runoff into the Gulf of Maine.

Dover has reduced its energy use and CO2 emissions through conservation, energy efficiency, energy generation, and zoning. With several LEED certified buildings, the city will complete a nitrogen and carbon footprint calculation project this year. Dover has encouraged LED light conversion in city facilities

and streetlights, promoted offshore wind power in the Gulf of Maine, and endorsed the Paris climate accord.

In 2012, Dover joined with MIT in testing innovative ways to increase public awareness of climate change risks and adaptation opportunities. More than 100 residents engaged in a mock exercise to address rising stormwater flooding risks.

Dover's 2017 assessment for Climate Risk in the Seacoast identified key assets and natural resources vulnerable to flooding under sea level rise or coastal storm surge scenarios. This year, Dover integrated climate change into its updated FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan and added a climate adaptation chapter to its master plan. The chapter addresses water availability and quality, health and safety, food, energy, infrastructure, and natural resources. The first of its kind in the state, it sets a new bar for climate resiliency planning.

Sustainable Industry Award

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

Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company, Maine

In recognition of their contributions toward sustainable industry and protection of natural resources in the Gulf of Maine, the Gulf of Maine Council recognizes the Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company with the 2018 Sustainable Industry Award. Since 1989, the Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company has been a leader in ecotourism and educating the public about the wildlife, fisheries, oceanography, and conservation in the Gulf of Maine. As Maine's largest boat tour company, they have introduced millions of people and children to the beauty and wonder of Gulf of Maine. Their continued financial generosity supports several non-profit conservation organizations in Maine.

In addition to being an ecotourism leader, Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company collaborates with many research and conservation organizations. During its 30 years, the company partnered with Allied Whale and College of the Atlantic to conduct research on marine mammals through a marine science research internship for college students. The Company financially supports and conducts benefit tours for its Gulf of Maine conservation partners including Allied Whale, Friends of Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Friends of Acadia, the Schoodic Institute, the Mount Desert Island Historical Society, the Abbe Museum, and others.

Other conservation efforts include 15 years of lobbying in support of regional and national forage fisheries such as herring, mackerel, and menhaden. Recognizing the importance of these keystone species to the health of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem, Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company helped advocate to create a seasonal closure for mid and pair trawling herring fishing vessels out to 50 miles

along the coast of New England. In 2012, they became the first Maine company certified through the Whale SENSE program, adopting the NOAA whale watching guidelines and educating the public about responsible marine wildlife viewing practices. Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company is also an active member of the Large Whale East Coast Entanglement Network and has reported and stood by dozens of whale entanglements – many of which have led to successful disentanglement.

All of the company's on-board naturalists train under Zack Klyver who not only strives to provide accurate, up-to-date information to the people on board, but he does it in an attention-holding, personable way.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Gulf of Maine Council is presenting a special Lifetime Achievement Award in memory of Jed Wright, former Project Leader of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal Program. This award recognizes Jed for his outstanding leadership and contributions toward protecting and restoring natural resources within the Gulf of Maine watershed.

Jed served as a geographer and biologist in the Gulf of Maine Coastal Program for over 22 years, assuming his last position as Project Leader in 2014. He was known well across Maine and the nation for his energetic work on behalf of species like Atlantic Salmon, watersheds like the Penobscot, and ecosystems large and small dependent on free-flowing streams.

Jed was always full of ideas to improve efforts to protect and restore precious resources. He was constantly studying and learning and imagining new and practical ways to reach his lofty but achievable goals. He was a people person, adept at building and maintaining partnerships with positive energy and enthusiasm. He was a master of geomorphology, GIS modeling and analysis, using the latest approaches to solve technical problems. He was a caring and supportive mentor, colleague and supervisor. Jed worked with too many partners to list here, but they spanned the full range of non-governmental organizations, state and federal agencies, academic institutions and companies managing Maine's forests.

Jed worked on projects across Maine, usually helping to make each project a model for learning about new approaches: innovative fish passage solutions on Sedgeunkedunk Stream in Orrington and Blackman Stream in Bradley, bank stabilization on the Sandy River in Farmington, rapid barrier assessments on Penobscot tributaries, Stream Simulation Design trainings for Maine road professionals, improving coordination by helping create the Maine Stream Connectivity Work Group, and streamlined permits to speed and simplify restoration projects.

All of that intense work was only part of Jed. He was also a devoted husband and father and son, a dynamic and wide-ranging cook, and a citizen devoted to diverse and sustainable communities. Jed will

be missed for who he was, for what he accomplished, and for how he provided leadership to all those around him.

Visionary Awards

Gulf of Maine Council Visionary Awards are presented to individuals or organizations within each of the five Gulf of Maine jurisdictions of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. These Awards recognize innovation, creativity, and commitment to promoting a healthy Gulf of Maine.

Lynda Ada Doughty, Maine

Lynda Ada Doughty is being recognized with a Visionary Award for her longstanding contributions to marine mammal response and rescue and her vision and leadership as Executive Director of Marine Mammals of Maine. Marine Mammals of Maine was created by Lynda as a triage center for critically ill and injured seals. This emergency care center for marine mammals was created to fill a need when Maine's Department of Marine Resources could no longer provide the service. In the spring of 2016, the center received federal authorization to temporarily care for seals, making it the first and only marine mammal triage facility on the East coast.

Most marine mammals brought to the center require a minimum of three months of intensive care, and the majority are not stable enough to be immediately transported off of Maine's beaches. Marine Mammals of Maine's triage center can stabilize them first, for up to 96 hours, before transporting them to the closest facilities located 200 to 250 miles away. Not only does this facility provide needed care for animals, but it also serves as a platform for collecting valuable data. The triage center's data collection and research program sheds light on greater marine mammal populations. As an important indicator species, seals that strand on Maine's beaches carry invaluable information about environmental stressors that could impact people, food sources, and industries.

Thanks to Lynda's personal commitment and professional guidance, Marine Mammals of Maine has become a vibrant and effective non-profit organization providing crucial marine mammal and sea turtle response, rescue, research and education along the coast of Maine. By providing marine mammal response care for thousands of animals over the years, Lynda has made a tremendous contribution to protecting marine life in the Gulf of Maine watershed.

Dr. Steven Katona, Maine

Dr. Steven Katona has been a leader for research, education and conservation of Gulf of Maine marine mammals and global marine ecosystems for 50 years. Dr. Katona received his B.A. and Ph.D. in Biology from Harvard in 1971 and a Fulbright Scholarship to study marine biology at Southampton University from 1967 to 1968.

Steven was a founding faculty member at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine, where he taught courses in biology, marine biology, invertebrate zoology, evolution and human ecology from 1972 to

1993. His laboratory, *Allied Whale*, pioneered collaborative studies on individual photo-identification of humpback and finback whales to study their distribution, abundance and population stock sub-structure. Through his leadership he pioneered a spirit of partnership among whale research groups that stands as a global model of collaboration in science today.

During his tenure in education he inspired hundreds of students in ocean studies many who have gone on to lead major efforts in the conservation of oceans and marine wildlife. As President of College of the Atlantic from 1993 to 2006, Steven strengthened the college's international and sustainability programs.

Since 2008, he has worked for Conservation International's Global Marine Division to bring together more than 65 scientists and ocean experts to develop the Ocean Health Index. This ambitious project created a set of indicators to assess the status and trends of major pressures affecting the world's oceans, responses of marine species and habitats, and the impact on human well-being. The Ocean Health Index, with its clear presentation of complex data, offers a compelling measure of ocean quality and an important report card for the oceans and Gulf of Maine.

Nancy Aiken, New Brunswick

In 2012, Nancy Aiken, former Mayor of St. Andrews, New Brunswick, formed a citizen's group called SOS also known as Save Ocean Science and Support Ocean Science. The group was formed in response to the massive federal government-led cutbacks being suffered by the public service in Canada, especially in departments responsible for fisheries management and the environment. The St. Andrews Biological Station, part of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, was especially vulnerable to these reductions, with its irreplaceable and historic Marine Sciences Library being closed and staff being laid off or retired early.

The SOS group rallied support from the community to protest cutbacks and offer alternatives to the proposed reductions. An active website was set up and rallies were held to discuss the issue and engage local politicians at all levels in helping to make a difference. The group successfully communicated the need for continued marine science in the region and contributed to the profile of marine science in general in the New Brunswick and beyond.

After the 2015 federal election, support was regained for the Biological Station and the library archival materials were saved from being moved from the region. The SOS group is now largely disbanded but its website lives on as one source of reliable marine information for the community. Under Nancy's leadership, SOS group showed commitment, vision and tenacity in support of marine science, providing an example for every community in the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy region.

Maria Recchia, New Brunswick

Maria Recchia has devoted much of her personal and professional life to ensuring the health of the Gulf of Maine and its communities, across international borders. Maria has worked with fishermen in the Bay of Fundy since 1996 and is best known for her role as Executive Director of the Fundy North Fishermen's Association since 2003.

Under Maria's leadership, this small association has led many successful regional initiatives including – recovery of lost fishing gear linked to whale entanglement, marine safety and business training for small-scale commercial fishing operations, a Fish for the Hungry program that raises funds for local food banks, and a 'buy local' fish product initiative. The association has also worked in partnership with government agencies, researchers, and other fishing groups on lobster research, oil spill preparedness, sustainable management of regional fish stocks, and integrated marine planning where competing uses such as ship traffic are reducing access to traditional fishing grounds.

In other roles, as Executive Director of the Coastal Livelihoods Trust and Bay of Fundy Program Coordinator for the St. Francis Xavier University Extension Program, Maria developed and led innovative programs to identify Bay of Fundy coastal community needs and build capacities to address them. She also served on the board of the Cobscook Bay Resource Center in Eastport, Maine, which acts on community-based approaches for sustainable fisheries and local coastal economies on the Maine side of the Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine.

With a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology and Masters Degree in Environmental Studies, Maria has a longstanding involvement in marine research and has authored or co-authored 11 papers on scientific, social and management issues related to the Bay of Fundy fisheries.

Maria also has a strong social commitment to coastal communities, which extends across the international border. She has led environmental education projects with the children of fishermen in Gloucester, Massachusetts, and with Passamaquoddy and other local school students in Eastport, Maine, and regularly speaks to groups throughout the Bay of Fundy region on coastal fisheries, environmental and community sustainability issues.

East Coast Aquatics, Nova Scotia

Mike Parker and Andy Sharpe of East Coast Aquatics have been an integral part of the restoration of Big Meadow Bog, on Brier Island, Nova Scotia. This 60-hectare peatland is one of the last remaining places on earth where the Eastern Mountain Avens continues to sustain itself despite poor condition of the bog complex. Mike and Andy helped design and carry out the engineering for this innovative restoration plan to return historic water level dynamics to the bog complex for the Eastern Mountain Avens Recovery Team.

This was a long and complicated process that involved installing 100s of ditch-blocks to raise groundwater levels, re-profiling 3,700 meters of steep ditch edges to return some of the historic micro-topography across the site and reestablishing more than 6,400 square meters of pond habitat in places the community used for hunting and gathering in the past.

Despite all the complexities and difficult working conditions associated with the project, Mike and Andy never wavered in their commitment to achieving the goals of the plan and always maintained a "can-do"

attitude. The restoration completed by East Coast Aquatics will lead to raising of the water table and reestablishing water level dynamics that are similar to what were present at the site pre-1958 when it was ditched for agriculture and the decline of the health of the bog complex began.

Thanks to East Coast Aquatics' efforts, the project partners expect to achieve their vision of restoring the Big Meadow Bog wetland ecosystem, leading to the recovery of sustainable populations of Eastern Mountain Avens and associated historic and rare plant communities.

Dr. Anna Redden, Nova Scotia

Dr. Anna Redden is recognized nationally and internationally for her environmental research on the Bay of Fundy. Her focus is fish and marine mammal use of high-flow tidal energy sites and turbine–marine life interactions. Her research looks at comprehensive, collaborative approaches to assessment of environmental changes in the Bay, particularly those associated with tidal power extraction.

Anna is a Professor of Biology and Director of the Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research at Acadia. She is a co-founder and Director of the Acadia Tidal Energy Institute, and co-founder of the Fundy Energy Research Network. She is a past-Director on the Board of the Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy and has been Canada's representative on the Ocean Energy Agency's Ocean Energy Systems Initiative working on the environmental effects of marine renewable energy. In 2017, Anna was appointed Acadia's Dean of Research and Graduate Studies.

Anna has received over \$2.7 million in research funding over the past 10 years and has led numerous collaborative projects. Her research has led to discovery of a winter resident population of striped bass, helped improve acoustic telemetry equipment, monitored harbour porpoise activity patterns, and assessed the risk to turbines posed by sediment-laden ice. She is also helping to develop software to enhance detection, identification, and tracking of marine life at tidal energy sites. Over the years, she has mentored countless students, and published 55 articles, two book chapters, 18 journal papers, 13 conference papers, and 17 technical reports. Dr. Redden is a tireless advocate for high quality, collaborative environmental research on the Bay of Fundy and the Gulf of Maine.

Alex Hancock, Nova Scotia

Alex Hancock is an 11th grade student from the Annapolis Royal area in Nova Scotia. Alex became involved with the Clean Annapolis River Project when she joined the group's Youth Leading Environmental Change program in 2016. Over the past two years Alex has supported a vast array of local conservation, research and monitoring projects, such as instream fish habitat restoration to benefit anadromous fish, and aquatic habitat suitability index assessments.

This past year Alex demonstrated motivation, leadership and creativity to engage community members in environmental initiatives. Alex's passion for the marine environment has become evident through her actions. In the summer of 2017 she was part of a youth team who used the Annapolis Royal Natal Day Parade as an opportunity to raise awareness about the negative impacts of plastics on our estuary and marine environments. Decorated using materials collected during beach clean ups, their float garnered

major attention. Continuing this theme, Alex volunteered for a local event: *Storm Warnings: A Cautionary Tale of Climate Change*, a collaboration between the Centre for Local Prosperity, King's Theatre and Satso Art Gallery.

During the Fall of 2017, Alex was part of a small team who worked together to create a presentation to the Annapolis County Municipal Council based on their observations through the Youth Leading Environmental Change program. Their message included a call to action to address marine plastics and illegal dumping, and the degradation, fragmentation and loss of wildlife habitat.

As a member of her school Social Issues Club, Alex approached Clean Annapolis River Project proposing a partnership to organize a series of community beach clean-ups during the summer of 2017. Alex took the lead on this initiative, which engaged local students and residents. After a successful pilot season, Alex is working to coordinate an even more extensive series of clean-up events for 2018.

Alyson Eberhardt, New Hampshire

Alyson Eberhardt is being recognized with a Visionary Award for her innovative and successful efforts to promote and implement sand dune restoration projects along the southern coast of New Hampshire. Through her position as Coastal Ecosystems Specialist at the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Program, Alyson has developed an effective community-based method for restoring and managing coastal sand dune systems.

Alyson's work is noteworthy because she has made progress in an area of restoration science that for years seemed impossible. Natural sand dune systems help protect coastal communities by acting as a barrier to storm surge and flooding. With rising sea levels and increasingly intense coastal storms, restoring sand dunes along the Seacoast is more important than ever to improve coastal resilience.

Alyson has led the way in promoting innovative approaches to restoring dunes by planting vegetation and strategic placement of sand fencing. In addition to her technical expertise, Alyson's success was due in large part to her hard work and thoughtful approach. To achieve community-based solutions, she listened to the needs of surrounding communities and ensured that their concerns were addressed and incorporated into project plans. Along the way, Alyson also developed a set of best practices for engaging citizen scientists in ecological research.

Molly Bolster, New Hampshire

In 2002, Molly Bolster was a key member of the board that formed the Gundalow Company to take on care and maintenance of the replica gundalow *Captain Edward H. Adams*. As Executive Director, Molly expanded programs on the *ADAMS* while also making plans to build a new sailing vessel that could be more than a dockside attraction. Over the next decade, she helped raise \$1.2 million to build a new gundalow, the *PISCATAQUA* in 2011. This effort involved setting up a temporary shipyard on the grounds of Strawberry Banke, hiring a professional boatbuilder, crew, coordinating volunteers and supporters, and using the entire process as a celebration of maritime heritage and the marine environment.

Today the Gundalow Company's mission, to protect the Piscataqua Region's maritime heritage and environment through education and action, is more urgent than ever. Gundalow programs weave together science, social studies, and maritime skills. They connect maritime history with contemporary coastal issues such as water quality, habitat restoration, conservation, and stewardship. In six seasons operating the *Piscataqua*, the Gundalow Company has served over 12,000 elementary school students and over 25,000 public passengers.

During the summer of 2016, Molly and the Gundalow Company established a summer camp program called *River Rats* that provides even more youth with the opportunity to experience their local marine environment.

Molly is leaving the Gundalow Company after more than 15 years of dedicated work toward increasing public awareness of the maritime heritage and environment in the Piscataqua River watershed. She has made a tremendous contribution to creating and making the Gundalow Company a fiscally strong, effective non-profit organization that plays a vital role in environmental education in the region.

Bob Zimmerman, Massachusetts

For almost three decades, Bob Zimmerman has invested his considerable energy, strategic thinking, and persistence to improving the Charles River, setting the bar for river advocacy not only within Massachusetts and the Gulf of Maine, but across the country.

Upon his arrival in Massachusetts in 1990 to lead the Charles River Watershed Association, Bob began to help the organization expand its focus to include scientific research and analysis, ecosystem and land-use planning studies, land and water regulation reform, and restorative technologies, while winning major battles to restore and protect the Charles River and its parklands.

Under Bob's leadership, the Charles River Watershed Association has been successful in restoring shad populations and increasing sustainable water resource management among the 35 cities and towns in the watershed. Thanks to Bob's tireless efforts to monitor and advocate for water quality improvements, conditions in the Charles River have improved dramatically from receiving a US Environmental Protection Agency grade of D in 1995 to an A- in 2013.

In addition to his work with the Charles River Watershed Association, Bob has been a long-time member of the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Fees and Programs Advisory Committee. He serves on the Board of the River Network and is a past Board Chair of EarthShare New England and former Board member of EarthShare of America. Bob has also served two terms as an elected member of the Town of Littleton Board of Health. He lectures widely and teaches on water sustainability and transforming traditional water infrastructure to restorative and sustainable systems.

Maritime Gloucester

In 1999, Geoffrey Richon of Gloucester organized nearly 300 Cape Ann community members to create a nonprofit organization and invest in the purchase of a neglected industrial property overlooking Gloucester Harbor. Several of the buildings needed repair along with a marine railway that is the oldest continuously operating marine railway in the United States. The result was formation of Maritime Gloucester: a non-profit educational institution.

The mission of Maritime Gloucester is to inspire students and visitors alike to value marine science, maritime heritage, and environmental stewardship through hands-on education and experiential learning that emphasize four core values – inspiring discovery, exploring science, embracing history, and living stewardship.

Over the years, Maritime Gloucester continued developing facilities to serve school-age children and visitors alike. Several adjoining buildings were connected and completely remodeled to accommodate an aquarium for local species, classroom space, museum, and a boathouse. Students and visitors can now engage and learn with staff in classroom-based experiences, coastal estuarine field studies, learn about navigation aboard a wooden schooner, and study techniques used for wooden boat building.

What began in 1999 from one person's visionary idea and a group of dedicated Cape Ann community members to create Maritime Gloucester has revitalized an important harbor side facility that preserves Gloucester's maritime heritage. Maritime Gloucester has established a vibrant community center for learning and exploration in the marine and environmental sciences that provides services to 70 schools and school groups, and annually attracts more than 4,500 students in class rooms, workshops, and drop-in programs. Maritime Gloucester remains dedicated to their mission to inspire students and visitors to value marine environmental science, our maritime heritage, and living stewardship through hands-on education and experiential learning.

Distinguished Service Awards

Distinguished Service Awards are presented to individuals who have made outstanding contributions toward protecting and conserving natural resources in the Gulf of Maine through exceptional service to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment.

Asha Ajmani, Maine

Asha Ajmani joined the Gulf of Maine Council as a tribal member, representing the Passamaquoddy at Sipayik located at Pleasant Point in Maine. As an experienced environmental scientist who focuses on protecting and restoring fisheries within tribal and adjacent waterways, Asha has brought insights, knowledge and expertise to Gulf of Maine Council during discussions about understanding and protecting natural resources in the Gulf of Maine watershed. Most recently, Asha has been working with a small group to help plan a multi-day Gulf of Maine symposium to promote understanding about the 'state of science' in the Gulf of Maine and key management and policy issues for the future. She plans to pursue a PhD in environmental health at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Peter McLaughlin, New Brunswick

Peter McLaughlin from the New Brunswick Department of Environmental and Local Government provided leadership as former Working Group Chair during much of the past two years. Peter was instrumental in working with the Gulf of Maine Council to facilitate binational efforts to share tools and resources that would benefit US and Canadian efforts to understand and respond to challenges associated with climate change and sea level rise. During his tenure, Peter provided thoughtful leadership for the Gulf of Maine Council's Working Group and Secretariat Team.

Marina Schauffler, Maine

Marina Schauffler served as Coordinator for the Gulf of Maine Council's Climate Network. During her tenure, Marina helped coordinate a King Tides Program to raise awareness about the potential impacts of sea level rise on coastal resources and helped to publish a weather-related Quarterly Outlook for the Gulf of Maine as a planning tool for coastal managers. Marina was also the primary writer for the Gulf of Maine Council's publication, *Facing Change: Sustaining the Vitality of the Gulf of Maine Region*.

Christine Tilburg, Maine

Christine Tilburg served as long-time Program Manager for the Gulf of Maine Council's EcoSystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP). With Christine's help, the ESIP program developed a set of indicators and web-based reporting tools that serve as a resource for coastal decision makers throughout the Gulf of Maine watershed. As Program Manager, Christine also coordinated publication of regular Journal entries and Fact Sheets highlighting the latest scientific knowledge and news related to key Gulf of Maine watershed issues such as fisheries, coastal development, and eutrophication.

Bill Whitman, Nova Scotia

Bill Whitman from Nova Scotia's Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture served as Nova Scotia's Working Group representative on the Gulf of Maine Council for several years. During his tenure, Bill helped to raise the profile for community, environment and industry-based issues related to coastal and marine aquaculture in the Gulf of Maine. Through his participation on the Working Group and as a member of the Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Committee, Bill contributed his knowledge and energy to promote binational understanding about the environmental, social and economic issues associated with sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Gulf of Maine watershed.

Jack Wiggin, Massachusetts

Jack Wiggin has served as a non-governmental representative on both the Gulf of Maine Council and on the Board of Directors for the Gulf of Maine Association for many years. As Executive Director of the Urban Harbors Institute at the University of Massachusetts in Boston, Jack has focused on complex, interdisciplinary issues associated with urban waterfronts and coastal environments. For the past 30 years, he provided policy, planning and management assistance to governments and non-profit organizations in the US and abroad. He has contributed his expertise and advice to the Council's Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Committee and many other programs and initiatives over the years.