



Council / Working Group Meeting June 5-6, 2018

**NOAA Marine Fisheries
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
55 Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA**

Briefing Book

Call in and WebEx information, p. 2

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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.

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
June 5-6, 2018 • Council / Working Group Meeting • Briefing Book

MEETING AGENDA – Day 1

All Times are ET

Joint Council / Working Group Meeting • Tuesday, June 5, 2018 NOAA Marine Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA		
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> <i>Additional welcome remarks from meeting site host: Kimberly Damon-Randall, Deputy Regional Administrator (Acting), NOAA Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office</i>	
8:45 AM	Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft December 2017 Council / WG meeting summary, pp. 5-12 • Draft April 2018 Working Group meeting summary, pp. 13-17 	✓ For Decision pp. 5-17
8:50 AM	Roundtable Forum Council / WG members discuss key issues facing jurisdiction and / or region.	✓ For Information
10:45 AM	Break	
11:00 AM	GOMC 2018-2022 Framework for Action Council / WG members provide final review / approval of the Gulf of Maine Council 2018 – 2022 Framework for Action.	✓ For Direction ✓ For Decision pp. 18
11:15 AM	GOMC 2017 – 2019 Work Plan Updates Working Group members will provide updates and request feedback as needed regarding GOMC Work Plan initiatives.	✓ For Information ✓ For Direction pp. 19-25
12:30 PM	Lunch (provided on-site)	
1:30 PM	Marine Debris in the Gulf of Maine <i>Theresa Torrent, Maine Coastal Program</i> <i>Demi Fox, NOAA Marine Debris Coordinator</i> Session will include overview of current marine debris program, highlights from Sixth International Marine Debris Conference, and discussion about proposed GOMC Work Plan to address marine debris in the Gulf of Maine.	✓ For Direction ✓ For Decision pp. 26-27
2:30 PM	Update from Bay of Fundy Science Workshop, May 2018 <i>Peter Wells, Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) and GOMC</i>	✓ For Information p. 28
2:45 PM	Break	
3:00 PM	Marine Protected Areas in the Gulf of Maine <i>Glen Herbert, Fisheries and Oceans Canada</i> Presentation and discussion regarding Canadian efforts to identify and protect valuable marine habitat in the Gulf of Maine.	✓ For Information
4:00 PM	Adjourn for the Day	

Tuesday, June 5, 2018 • GOMC Awards Reception The Gloucester House, 63 Rogers Street, Gloucester, MA	
5:30 PM	GOMC 2018 Awards Reception Reception begins at 5:30 PM with Awards Ceremony beginning at approximately 6:00 PM.

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MEETING AGENDA – Day 2

All Times are ET

Joint Council / Working Group Meeting • Wednesday, June 6, 2018 NOAA Marine Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA		
8:30 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>	
8:45 AM	Regional Climate Trends and NOAA’s National Water Model <i>Guest Presenter - David Vallee, Hydrologist in Charge</i> <i>NOAA’s Northeast River Forecast Center</i> David will present climate trends in the Gulf of Maine region and discuss the value of NOAA’s National Water Model. Presentation will be followed by discussion with Council and Working Group.	✓ For Information ✓ External
10:15 AM	Break	
10:30 AM	Extreme Coastal Storms and Flooding in the Gulf of Maine <i>Christie Ward, NB Dept. of Environment and Local Government</i> <i>Julia Knisel, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management</i> GOMC networking discussion about management issues and needs in the context of damaging Nor’easters and other coastal storms in the US and Canada during the past year. As a lead into the discussion, Christie Ward will provide images and update regarding flooding in New Brunswick, and Julia Knisel will provide a quick summary of impacts on the US side from multiple Nor’easters this past winter.	✓ For Direction
11:15 AM	Gulf of Maine 2050 Working Group members will provide updates and request feedback regarding ongoing efforts of the Gulf of Maine Council and several partner organizations (GMRI, NERACOOS, RARGOM, Huntsman Marine) to plan a multi-day Gulf of Maine symposium for the Fall of 2019. Council / Working Group will be asked to provide input regarding key management issues to be addressed during the symposium.	✓ For Information ✓ Internal ✓ For Direction <i>pp. 29-30</i>
12:15 PM	Lunch (provided on site) Gulf of Maine Association luncheon meeting from 12:30 PM – 1:15 PM. Any interested Council or Working Group members are welcome to attend.	
1:30 PM	Right Whales in the Gulf of Maine <i>Michael J. Asaro, Ph.D., Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Branch Chief</i> <i>Greater Atlantic Region NOAA Fisheries</i> Guest presentation followed by discussion regarding the status of Right Whales in the Gulf of Maine.	✓ For Information ✓ External
2:30 PM	GOMC Leadership Transition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Brunswick Secretariat passes GOMC leadership to Maine for the next two-year period. • Maine outlines plans for the 2018-2019 Secretariat Year. 	✓ For Information ✓ Internal ✓ For Direction <i>p. 31</i>
3:00 PM	Meeting Adjourns	

DRAFT Record of Decisions

GOMC Council and Working Group members participated in a conference call meeting on Monday, December 4th 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; Carolina Bastidas, MIT Sea Grant; Priscilla Brooks, Conservation Law Foundation; Steve Couture, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; Annette Daley, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Don Hudson, Chewonki Foundation; Joan LeBlanc, GOMC Council Coordinator; Kathleen Leyden, Maine Department of Marine Resources; Regina Lyons, US Environmental Protection Agency; Melanie MacLean, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Peter McLaughlin, New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government; Ellen Mecray, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Ru Morrison, Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observation Systems; Rebecca Newhall, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant; Rene Pelletier, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; Ann Rodney, US Environmental Protection Agency; Lee Sochasky, New Brunswick; Ashley Sprague, Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture; Robert Stephenson, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Theresa Torrent, Maine Department of Marine Resources; Jason Tuell, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Prassede Vella, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management; and Jack Wiggin, Urban Harbors Institute.

Opening Remarks

Peter McLaughlin 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 2017 Council and Working Group Meeting Record of Decisions
- Draft October 2017 Working Group Meeting Summary

Roundtable Forum

Council and Working Group members provided the following updates regarding projects, initiatives or other jurisdictional, federal agency, or NGO news relevant to the Gulf of Maine.

- Peter McLaughlin provided the following updates on behalf of New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government:
 - New Brunswick is working in support of the Canadian goals to expand Marine Protected Areas (see DFO update).
 - New Brunswick Environmental Trust has recently funded several projects in the Bay of Fundy, including a University of New Brunswick project focused on cord grass / salt marsh restoration, restoration efforts associated with the St. John's reclamation project,

fisheries and climate change in the Bay of Fundy, anadromous fish passage, and support for coastal communities.

- New Brunswick is working to implement the plan: [Transitioning to a Low-Carbon Economy: Climate Change Action Plan](#). The plan includes 118 actions aimed at addressing and responding to climate change. Actions related to the Gulf of Maine include:
 - Continuing to engage actively with neighboring jurisdictions through the New England Governors and (NEG-ECP) and Gulf of Maine Council
 - Expanding and preserving green buffers and urban forests
 - Integrating ecosystem services and sustainability into land-use planning
 - Acquiring LIDAR data to plan for changes in climate conditions, especially flood risk mapping and coastal erosion
 - Partnering with communities to conduct assessments, identify vulnerabilities and promote resiliency with a priority focus on ensuring resilient drinking water and sewage treatment infrastructure
 - Recognizing, protecting and restoring natural resources such as salt marshes to promote climate resiliency
- Peter also noted the following 2018 events to be hosted in Newfoundland:
 - [Coastal Zone Canada Conference](#), Seeking Practical Solutions to Real Issues: Communities Adapting to a Changing World, St. John's Newfoundland, July 15 – 19, 2018.
 - [Canadian Network for Ocean Education](#), National Symposium: Navigating Canadian Ocean Literacy, July 13-15, 2018, St. John's, Newfoundland.
 - [Atlantic Canada Coastal and Estuarine Science Society \(ACCESS\) 2018 Conference](#), May 24 – 26, 2018, Memorial University, St. John's Newfoundland.
- Annette Daley 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. The 5% target was reached in August 2017 and additional conservation areas are being added during December.
 - DFO's Ocean Protection Plan identifies the Bay of Fundy as a priority. Focus areas include mapping sensitive areas, working in partnership with First Nations, and addressing threats to marine mammals such as the North Atlantic Right Whale and the St. Lawrence Beluga Whale.
 - DFO is conducting a Fisheries Act Renewal to assess and renew protections and safeguards that were lost during changes made in 2012 / 2013. Any new changes are on hold while the agency looks back at opportunities to protect fish habitat.
 - Reconciling with First Nations is an overarching priority for Fisheries and Oceans Canada. This effort includes reviewing nation to nation relationships, as well as promoting recognition, rights and respect for indigenous people.
- Regina Lyons reported that Alexandra Dunn was appointed as EPA Regional Administrator for Region 1 on November 16th. Dunn has experience in environmental law, policy and regulatory

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affairs. She has been serving as Executive Director and General Counsel for the Environmental Council of States. EPA will learn about priorities sometime after Dunn begins at EPA on January 8, 2018.

- Theresa Torrent reported that the Maine Coastal Program has officially moved to the Maine Department of Marine Resources. Maine Coastal Program also recently completed their Maine Coastal Mapping Initiative to provide valuable data about the seafloor and ocean environment. The project will aid coastal managers, marine industry, fishermen and others with information about water column, sediment, fauna, and seafloor depth.
- Don Hudson highlighted a new aquaculture initiative in Maine. He led a delegation to Japan in October 2017 which led to technology transfer between the two countries. Maine fisherman explored new ways to harvest scallops in the context of the lobster industry's shift to the North.
- Steve Couture of NH Department of Environmental Services provided the following updates:
 - On December 1st, the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) and the Northeast Coastal Acidification Network (NECAN) hosted a workshop to identify gaps in research and data associated with coastal and ocean acidification. The meeting was well attended with 40 participants from various government and research sectors. Key takeaways from the meeting included the need for more data, more frequent monitoring, and more monitoring locations. Information should be suitable to inform multiple management decisions beyond just coastal and ocean acidification. Findings and next steps from the workshop will be shared with GOMC.
 - During its first year, the New Hampshire Coastal Marine Natural Resources and Environment Commission (a standing group) focused on coastal and ocean acidification. Findings highlighted in their interim report mirror the findings of last week's workshop. Additional monitoring and data is needed to assess the impact of coastal and ocean acidification on oyster and lobster populations. A better understanding of the extent of the problem and its impacts is needed before focus can shift to mitigation.
- Prassede Vella reported that Massachusetts will begin planning for their next update of the Massachusetts Oceans Plan in early 2018 – the updated plan is expected to be complete by 2021. In terms of ocean planning, Massachusetts' current priorities include ocean and coastal acidification, mitigating the impact of sea level rise, and management of offshore sands.
- Jason Tuell reported that Barry Myers, President of AccuWeather, has been nominated to head up NOAA. During the hearings, Myers agreed with recent climate reports highlighting human impacts on climate change, and highlighted aquaculture, coastal resilience, the need to reduce costs of fisheries monitoring, and support for the Coastal Management Act. NOAA is also in the process of filling the position of marine debris coordinator.
- Ellen Mecray noted that Mark Pease will be the new NOAA lead for the ECCC / NOAA Memorandum of Understanding. Depending upon the schedule, an MOU meeting in Halifax, NS during 2018 may coincide with GOMC's June meeting. Updates regarding the Climate Network are included in the Work Plan Updates section of this meeting summary.
- Ru Morrison provided the following updates on behalf of NERACOOS:

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- NERACOOS is working with NOAA and NCAS to host an algal bloom workshop on January 23 and 24th at the Wells National Estuarine Reserve. Anyone interested in participating in the workshop should get in touch with Ru.
- NERACOOS will hold their annual meeting on Thursday, December 6th. Andy Pershing of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute will be the keynote speaker.
- Judy Pederson and Carolina Bastidas provided the following updates on behalf of the MIT Sea Grant Program:
 - Last week, the Sea Grant Program hosted an Ocean Acidification Seminar where MIT scientists reported on several research projects related to ocean acidification. Information from the forum will be circulated to GOMC.
 - MIT Sea Grant is working with Phil Colarusso and several partners to conduct a study to quantify the carbon storage capacity of eelgrass beds in Massachusetts. Information from the study supports the case for protecting and restoring eel grass beds.
 - MIT Sea Grant hosted a forum on November 30 to discuss opportunities for technology and engineering to support aquaculture and offshore fisheries.
- Priscilla Brooks of Conservation Law Foundation noted that President Trump was expected to roll back the geographic extent of national monuments in Utah. This decision could lead to similar roll backs for marine monuments including those in New England.
- Rob Stephenson of DFO emphasized the strategic importance of linking science capacities of various disciplines. Rob noted that we should provide advice not just on science but also on economic, social, governance and other related disciplines. Linking these capacities should be fundamental to GOMC goals and initiatives.

GOMA Transition Update

Don Hudson provided an update regarding plans for GOMA transition. The overall goal is to scale back GOMA while maintaining requirements needed to keep the non-profit organization viable. GOMA is exploring options for streamlining financial management after GOMA Executive Director Cindy Krum completes her contract at the end of April 2018. Options include merging financial management tasks into Council Coordinator scope, hiring another contractor, or merging with another organization that would provide fiscal management. If GOMC moves to an outside fiscal agent, a selection process would be needed to identify the partner. Another option being considered is to manage Canadian funds on the Canadian side. Cindy and Don are developing a list of GOMA responsibilities that would need coverage.

Key Decisions / Next Steps

- Don will coordinate a meeting in December or January to further develop recommendations.
- Ideally, decisions will be made by March 2018 so that there will be overlap before Cindy leaves.
- If Council Coordinator is asked to take on GOMA responsibilities, a contract amendment for the period April through June 2018 would be needed.

GOMC Work Plan Updates

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

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

Melanie MacLean reported (for Glen Herbert) that CMSP will host a Webinar, '*Northeast Region Ocean Data Portal: A Case Study on Data and Mapping in Support of Marine Planning*' on December 18th, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM ET / 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM AT. The committee is inviting members of GOMC, CMSP, and members of academia and other non-governmental organizations. GOMC will receive an email reminder about the webinar. This will be the first in a series of webinars regarding the portal.

Climate Network

Ellen Mecray provided the following updates regarding Climate Network activities:

- The Climate Network does not have a coordinator any more as Marina Schaufler completed her contract in October 2017.
- The Climate Network will continue to distribute a Quarterly Gulf of Maine Region Climate Impacts and Outlook.
- As a member of the North Atlantic Climate Services Partnership (NACSP), the Climate Network continues to work in partnership with US, Canada and Mexico to promote tools and data for coastal resiliency. NACSP is supportive of the Outlook.

GOMC Awards Program

Theresa Torrent reported that the Maine Coastal Program will again sponsor the GOMC's 2018 Awards Program. A call for nominations will go out in early 2018 and the awards program will take place in conjunction with the GOMC's June 2018 two-day Council / Working Group meeting.

GOM GeoTour

Joan LeBlanc reported that the GeoTour is still quite active with participants from all over the country completing the tour and submitting passports throughout the fall of 2017.

Gulf of Maine Webinars

Following discussions and recommendations during GOMC Secretariat Team and Working Group meetings, GOMC plans to host webinars on the following two topics during 2018:

- NH Tidal Crossing Assessment Protocol
- NOAA's National Water Model

Key Decisions / Next Steps

- Joan LeBlanc will coordinate with partner agencies to schedule webinars.
- NERACOOS will provide technical support for webinars.
- Per Steve Couture's recommendation, GOMC will also partner with NROC when hosting the NH webinar.

Gulf of Maine Symposium

Theresa Torrent and Joan LeBlanc provided an update regarding GOMC's interest in hosting a GOM Symposium. GOMC has scheduled a planning call with potential partner agencies (NERACOOS, GMRI, Huntsman Marine, RARGOM) for December 6 to discuss opportunities for collaboration. Theresa and Joan requested feedback from GOMC to inform this effort.

Key takeaways from the discussion include:

- GOMC continues to support moving forward with plans for a GOM symposium
- The event should take place over multiple days
- Target date – 2019
- Focus on combination of science and management / policy
- Ensure bi-national focus
- Overarching theme and topics need to be developed, potential options include:
 - coastal and ocean acidification
 - regional resilience / adaptation
 - integration of social and environmental impacts of climate change
- Partner organizations include NERACOOS, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Huntsman Marine, and RARGOM. NERACOOS may have some seed \$ to help move effort forward.
- Look at previous events / past framework for examples
- During multi-day event, set aside unstructured time for related networking and collaborative meetings
- One of the first steps should be developing a Steering Committee
 - Volunteers for steering committee: Ru Morrison, Judy Pederson, Theresa Torrent, Peter McLaughlin, Joan LeBlanc

Key Decisions / Next Steps

- Determine interest among potential partner organizations
- Convene steering committee
- Develop theme and topic areas
- Identify capacity
- Develop proposal / framework

Marine Debris

Theresa Torrent noted that most of the work outlined in the previous work plan submitted for marine debris has already been accomplished. She is now developing a 'next steps' plan that highlights activities on both the US and Canadian sides.

Developing GOMC 5-Year Action Plan

Council and Working Group members continued efforts to develop a new 2018–2022 five-year Action Plan. The plan will include broad goals and outcomes as well as a summary of accomplishments from the previous five-year action plan period. The new action plan will not include detailed activities but will provide the foundation or framework for activities included within the GOMC's 2017-2019 Work Plan

which was approved at the June 2017 GOMC meeting. The 2018-2022 Action Plan will include a link to the two-year work plan.

During the December meeting, Council and Working Group members reviewed a draft outline for the Action Plan and provided feedback about sections to include in the plan as well as goals and outcomes. The Action Plan will include the following:

- Introduction
- About the Council
 - History
 - Purpose
 - Sphere of influence
 - Types of work (*this aspect of the plan should be emphasized*)
- About the Gulf of Maine
 - Map and Key highlights
- GOMC Vision
- GOMC Goals / Outcomes
- GOMC Work Plan / Initiatives
- Five Year Summary of Accomplishments: 2012 - 2017

The following vision, goals, and outcomes for the GOMC 2018-2022 Action Plan were approved during the December 2017 GOMC Meeting:

GOMC Vision

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

Goal 1 – Restored and Conserved Habitat

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

Outcomes

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

Goal 2 – Environment and Human Health

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

Outcomes

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

Goal 3 – Sustainable and Resilient Communities

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

Outcomes

- Climate adaptation and mitigation (cross-cutting)
- Understanding how people use the Gulf of Maine (*this outcome needs reworking*)
- Community stewardship (links to GOMC awards)

Key Decisions / Next Steps

- Peter McLaughlin, Theresa Torrent and Joan LeBlanc will continue working together to draft the Action Plan with input from Council, Working Group and Secretariat Team. This effort will include developing additional information associated with each outcome.
- A draft Action Plan will be circulated to Council / Working Group for review in 2018.
- Final design, layout and production in spring 2018

GOMC Plans for 2017

Peter McLaughlin and Joan LeBlanc shared the following plans for GOMC meetings and activities planned for the first half of 2018.

- GOMC June 2018 Meeting. GOMC will host a two day in-person, Council / Working Group meeting during June 2018. The location and dates are still being determined. Bill Whitman has submitted a proposal to host the meeting in Nova Scotia and is waiting for a decision.
- GOMC 2018 Awards Program. Thanks to generous in-kind and financial contributions from the Maine Coastal program, GOMC will again host an awards program during 2018. Theresa Torrent, Peter McLaughlin and Joan LeBlanc will facilitate the awards selection process and the ceremony which will take place in conjunction with the June 2018 GOMC meeting. A call for awards nominations will go out in early 2018.
- GOMC Action Plan and Work Plan. GOMC will finalize the 2018 – 2022 Action Plan during the spring of 2018 and may update the 2017 – 2019 Work Plan to revise and / or add new plans on an as-needed basis.
- GOMC Webinars. GOMC will host webinars on NH's Tidal Crossing Assessment Protocol, and NOAA's National Water Model during 2018.
- GOMC Secretariat Leadership. New Brunswick will continue leading GOMC through the June 2018 meeting. In accordance with the GOMC Terms of Reference, Maine will then take on the Secretariat leadership role for the next two years.

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

Meeting Participants

Steve Couture, NH Department of Environmental Services; Darryl Eisan, NS Department of Intergovernmental Affairs; Glen Herbert, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Don Hudson, Chewonki Institute; Cindy Krum, GOMA Executive Director; Jim Latimer, US Environmental Protection Agency (ESIP); Joan LeBlanc, GOMC Council Coordinator; Becca Newhall, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Ann Rodney, US Environmental Protection Agency; Jack Schwartz, MA Division of Marine Fisheries; Theresa Torrent, ME Department of Marine Resources; Christie Ward, NB Department of Environment and Local Government

GOMA Updates and Financial Reports

GOMA Transition

GOMA Executive Director Cindy Krum will be concluding her work on May 15, 2018. Following recommendations from a GOMA ad-hoc group coordinated by GOMA President Don Hudson, GOMA entered into a contract with Joan LeBlanc to take care of the remaining limited GOMA responsibilities through June 2019. GOMA will also continue to retain an independent bookkeeper. Cindy and Joan are currently working together to ensure a smooth transition. Cindy noted that historic GOMA documents are being digitized. Ann Rodney reminded Cindy and Joan that GOMA should keep financial documents and audits from at least the past seven years. Working Group members thanked Cindy for all her work as GOMA Executive Director over the years.

GOMA Financial Reports

Cindy provided an overview of the Draft Budget for FY18 and FY19 for informational purposes. The proposed GOMA budget assumes grants are closing out. Given significant changes in funding, GOMA will have to see if the very limited budget for the upcoming year is sufficient to cover necessary work. The GOMA budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2019 assumes \$75,823 in income and \$76,633 in expenses resulting in a net shortage of \$809. GOMA budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020 assumes \$72,035 in income and \$75,146 in expenses resulting in a net shortage of \$3,111. The anticipated shortages for both years would be funded through unrestricted net assets – the resulting balance of unrestricted net assets at June 30, 2020 would be \$89,331. Cindy noted that management and administrative fees are no longer being used to fund GOMA operations which will be funded directly from dues going forward. Cindy provided an overview of individual budgets for membership dues and agreements, RARGOM, Information Technology, Council Coordination, ESIP, and GOMA. Individual budgets were approved by contract managers with the exception of RARGOM which is a draft based upon last year's budget.

GOMA Scopes of Work

Cindy provided an overview of the Scopes of Work for GOMC and GOMA Contractors for Fiscal Year

July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The document includes scopes of work for GOMC IT Coordinator, GOMC Council Coordination, GOMA Bookkeeping, and GOMA Coordination services for the upcoming year.

GOMC 2018 – 2022 ‘Framework for Action’

Joan LeBlanc provided an update and circulated the most recent draft of the GOMC 2018 – 2022 Framework for Action (former called Action Plan). Joan reminded Working Group members that the document is significantly different than previous five-year Action Plans because it does not include detailed GOMC actions as those activities are now outlined separately in two-year Work Plans (GOMC is currently implementing the 2017 – 2019 Work Plan). This revised structure for GOMC’s Action Plan and Work Plan was set forth as part of GOMC’s organizational assessment and framework approved in 2015.

Joan proposed changing the name of the ‘Action Plan’ to ‘Framework for Action’ since the current GOMC organizational framework calls for planned ‘actions’ to be outlined and regularly updated in the two-year work plans instead of in the ‘Action Plan’. This proposed change would help to clarify the relationship between the Framework for Action and the two-year Work Plans. Working Group members also discussed the audience for the GOMC 2018-2022 Framework for Action as supporting both internal planning efforts and providing a general overview for external parties interested in understanding the Council’s work.

Key Decisions / Action Items

- Working Group members supported the proposed draft with new concept and title.
- Joan will coordinate with Working Group members to ensure that the 2017-2019 Work Plan is up to date when the Action Plan is finalized.
- Joan and Theresa will move forward with editing, layout and graphic design for the document.

Gulf of Maine Symposium

Theresa Torrent provided an update regarding GOMC’s ongoing efforts to work with partners toward a multi-day Gulf of Maine Symposium in 2019. On April 12, a small planning group (including representatives from GOMC, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, NERACOOS, and Hunstman Marine) met to further develop plans. Some of the key directions developed during the session were:

- The Gulf of Maine Symposium will take place in Portland, Maine over four or four and a half days during the fall of 2019. Potential timeframe is late October or early November.
- Symposium will focus on management and science in the Gulf of Maine.
- Topics will include:
 - Day 1: Plenary talks focused on global impacts / drivers of change in the Gulf of Maine.
 - Day 2: Warming Temperatures
 - Day 3: Sea Level Rise
 - Day 4: Ocean Acidification
- Symposium will be interactive with break-out discussion sessions, networking cafes etc.
- Goal for the end of the week: Identify funding, projects, and / or collaborations for action.

- A one-day pre-symposium session will be held at Huntsman Marine Science Centre in St. Andrews, New Brunswick during the spring of 2019.

Theresa noted that Joan's Scope of Work for the coming fiscal year includes a limited amount of time to help facilitate planning efforts for the Symposium. Working Group members provided the following key points of feedback:

- Ensure that the symposium is relevant to the needs of the Gulf of Maine Council
- Include a panel or sessions on management issues and needs
- Develop a statement of goals and objectives for the event

Key Decisions / Action Items

- During the June GOMC meeting, Council and Working Group will be asked to provide input regarding general planning for the Symposium as well as key management issues related to the Gulf of Maine.
- Theresa Torrent and Joan LeBlanc will continue working with partner agencies to develop plans for the Symposium via bi-weekly calls throughout the year.

Planning for June 2018 Council / Working Group Meeting in Gloucester, MA

Joan LeBlanc provided an update regarding plans for the June 2018 Council and Working Group meeting. The meeting and awards ceremony have been scheduled as follows:

GOMC Council / Working Group Meeting

- Tuesday, June 5 and Wednesday, June 6
- Estimated time 8:30 AM ET – 4:00 or 4:30 PM ET
- NOAA Marine Fisheries Service, GARFO, 55 Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA

GOMC Awards Ceremony and Reception

- Tuesday, June 5
- Estimated time 6:00 PM
- The Gloucester House, 63 Rogers Street, Gloucester, MA 01930
<http://thegloucesterhouse.com/>

Recommended Accommodations

The Gulf of Maine Council has arranged for a group discount at the Ocean House Hotel at Bass Rocks in Gloucester, MA. The discount room rate is \$119 per night. The deadline for reserving rooms at the discounted rate is Friday, May 4, 2018. To be eligible for the discount rate, guests must call 1-888-802-7666 and ask for the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment when making reservations.

<https://www.oceanhousegloucester.com/>

Meeting Agenda

Working Group members reviewed and provided feedback regarding the draft agenda for the June 2018 GOMC meeting. Topics on the agenda include a roundtable forum, GOMC 2018-2022 Framework for Action, GOMC 2017 – 2019 Work Plan Updates, Gulf of Maine Symposium, Marine Protected Areas in the Gulf of Maine, Regional Climate Trends / NOAA's National Water Model, and Marine Debris in the Gulf of Maine. Specific feedback included:

- Keep roundtable discussion as it is a useful component of the meeting.
- Consider earlier meeting end time on day-two to facilitate travel for flights to Canada.
- Explore potential for incorporating Schooner trip before the awards ceremony.
- Add a new agenda item - discussion regarding Right Whales with update from NOAA Marine Fisheries Service.

Key Decisions / Action Items

- Joan will continue working with GOMC Working Group and Secretariat Team to incorporate feedback and further develop the agenda for the June 2018 meeting.

GOMC 2018 Awards Program

Working Group members reviewed nominations and recommended the following slate of award winners for the GOMC's 2018 Awards Program.

Gulfwide Awards

- Susan Snow Cotter Leadership Award: Cynthia Copeland, Strafford Regional Planning Commission, NH
- Sustainable Community Award: Town of Dover, NH
- Industry Award: Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company, ME
- Longard Award: Eric Schroeder, NH
- Special Recognition Award: Jed Wright, US Fish and Wildlife Service, ME (posthumously)

GOMC Distinguished Service Awards

- Peter McLaughlin, NB Dept. of Environment and Local Government
- Marina Schauffler, Climate Network
- Christine Tilburg, ESIP
- Bill Whitman, NS Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Jack Wiggin, Urban Harbors Institute

Visionary Awards

- East Coast Aquatics, NS
- Dr. Anna Redden, Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research NS
- Alex Hancock, 11th Grade Student, NS
- SOS – Support Our Science, NB
- Marie Recchia, Fundy North Fishermen's Association, NB

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- Alyson Eberhardt, NH Sea Grant / UNH Extension, NH
- Molly Bolster, The Gundalow Company, NH
- Lynda Ada Doughty, Marine Mammals of Maine, ME
- Dr. Steven Katona, College of the Atlantic, ME
- Bob Zimmerman, Charles River Watershed Association, MA
- Maritime Gloucester, MA

Key Decisions / Action Items

- List of recommended award winners will be circulated for final GOMC review and approval.
- Joan will prepare and send award notification letters and place phone calls to award winners.
- Joan will follow up with those who nominated Susan Adamowicz and Dr. James Houle to encourage them to submit nominations for next year as recommended by jurisdictions.
- Joan and Theresa will work together to coordinate logistics for the awards ceremony.
- GOMC will consider potential addition of a research category for future awards programs.

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: GOMC Framework for Action 2018-2022				
Submitted by: Christie Ward, 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)
<p>Background (required):</p> <p>Throughout the past year, GOMC Council and Working Group members have been working together to prepare the GOMC 2018-2022 Framework for Action. This document sets out the vision, mission, goals and outcomes that GOMC plans to pursue over the next five years. The goals and outcomes in this document provide a framework for the GOMC two-year Work Plans which include GOMC initiatives and actions. GOMC is currently implementing the 2017-2019 Work Plan.</p> <p>This Draft document reflects direction and specific feedback received from Council, Working Group and Secretariat Team throughout the year.</p>				
<p>Possible Activities / Next Steps (optional):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the June meeting, Council and Working Group members will have an opportunity to either approve the DRAFT GOMC 2018-2022 Framework for Action or recommend any additional changes to the document. • Following the meeting, Council Coordinator will make any final changes to text or layout. • A final version of the document will be circulated via email as a check-in with Council and Working Group members. • Once finalized, the plan will be posted to the GOMC website and a limited number of copies will be printed. 				
<p>Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested (optional):</p> <p>During the June meeting, Council and Working Group members are asked to either approve the DRAFT GOMC 2018-2022 Framework for Action or recommend any additional changes to the document.</p>				
<p>Supporting Documentation (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the DRAFT GOMC Framework for Action 2018 – 2022 has been posted for review on the Gulf of Maine Council’s website with meeting materials at: http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-meetings/ • Mock-up copies of the document will also be distributed during the meeting. 				

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note			
Title of Agenda Item: GOMC 2017 – 2019 Work Plan Updates			
Submitted by: Christie Ward, NB Department of Environment and Local Government, Joan LeBlanc, GOMC Council Coordinator			
Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	For Direction x	For Information x <small>(internal GOMC)</small>
For Information <small>(External)</small>			
Background (required): Council and Working Group members provide quick updates and request feedback as needed regarding GOMC Work Plan Initiatives. The following potential GOMC Work Plan initiatives and updates will be discussed during the GOMC meeting on Tuesday, June 5, from 11:15 AM – 12:30 PM.			
GOMC Initiative	Lead (s)	Briefing Materials	Est. Time (minutes)
Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning	Glen Herbert / Betsy Nicholson	pp. 20	10
Gulfwatch	Peter Wells / Christian Krahforst	pp. 21-23	10
Climate Network	Bill Appleby / Ellen Mecray	n/a	10
GOMC IT and Website Updates	Jim Cradock / Prassede Vella	p. 24	10
EcoSystem Indicator Partnership	Kathryn Parlee / Jim Latimer	p. 25	10
Other updates?			
<u>Please note:</u> Updates and discussion about GOMC plans for marine debris and for the Gulf of Maine Symposium will be discussed as separate agenda items during the June 2018 meeting.			
Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested (optional): 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): For reference, a copy of the GOMC 2017-2019 Work Plan is available at: http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/GOMC-2017-2019-Work-Plan.pdf			

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note						
Title of Agenda Item: Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) Committee						
Submitted by: Glen Herbert (CAN – DFO) and Betsy Nicholson (US – NOAA)						
Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	For Direction	For Information <small>(internal GOMC)</small>	X	For Information <small>(External)</small>	X
Background: The Gulf of Maine Council’s Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) Committee serves as a bi-national forum seeking opportunities to share information and knowledge about best practices, tools and techniques; learn from experiences in other jurisdictions; share information about human use patterns and ecological data; and support collaborative projects aimed at filling knowledge gaps. During the 2012 to 2017 period, the CMSP Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Met regularly and hosted learning opportunities to share updates regarding ocean planning activities on the US and Canadian side. Participants from both countries learned from each other and discussed opportunities to benefit from collaboration and shared planning tools. ➤ Enhanced CMSP website and communications materials. ➤ Expanded membership and engagement in CMSP dialogue on both sides of the border. ➤ Hosted a workshop in Portsmouth, New Hampshire during 2013. ➤ Hosted a webinar during spring of 2017 to share knowledge about activities in the Gulf of Maine region and identify opportunities for Canadian / US Collaboration. Identified the following priority themes for future collaboration and learning opportunities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transboundary issues, activities and uses; 2. CMSP tools, methods and approaches; and 3. Effective engagement and partnerships. ➤ Hosted second webinar in December 2017 to share information on the Northeast Region Ocean Plan Portal and related data, mapping and information applications. 						
Possible Activities / Next Steps: In support of the 2018-22 Action Plan, the CMSP Committee will advance activities under the three priority themes (see background above), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hold 2-3 webinars on relevant policy, technical and engagement topics; ➤ Explore options for a cross-border CMSP workshop in the first half of the Action Plan period ➤ Update committee membership and materials, as required 						
Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested: N/A						
Supporting Documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOAA’s Marine Cadastre webpage: https://marinecadastre.gov/ • Northeast Ocean Data Portal: https://www.northeastoceandata.org/ 						

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note				
Title of Agenda Item: Status of the Gulfwatch Monitoring Program and Gulfwatch Team				
Submitted by: Peter Wells (Canadian Co-Chair, Gulfwatch); Jack Schwartz (MA-US Member, Gulfwatch); Steve Jones (NH-US Member, Gulfwatch, and past US Co-Chair)				
Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	For Direction x	For Information x (internal GOMC)	For Information (External)
<p>Background (required): This brief report describes the current status of the Gulfwatch Monitoring Program and activities of team members.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">1) Status of funding We have had some in-kind fiscal support from NOAA for CEC measurements in mussel tissues (item 2), and ECCC contractual support some time ago for the ongoing ESIP-Gulfwatch sediment study (see item 3), as well as much valued, in-kind personnel support from various individual agencies and institutes.</p> <p>However, there is currently no further tangible support (money) for the Gulfwatch program. We are unlikely to get any monies from Canadian sources, according to DFO-BIO (Dartmouth, NS) where Canada’s Ocean Protection Plan monitoring monies reside. The lack of on-going tangible support is very disappointing; it means that the routine sampling, archiving, and analysis program (the core of Gulfwatch from 1991 to 2012) has likely come to an end.</p> <p>We will now concentrate on special projects such as in Items #2 and 3, and paper writing and talks as in Item #4. Note that all data up to 2012 resides in the ESIP and GOMC websites, openly accessible.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">2) NOAA/Gulfwatch joint project Our most recent accomplishment acquiring new data is with NOAA/Gulfwatch. Lately, activities have been put on hold, given the budget.</p> <p>NOAA has provided the jurisdictions with their analytical results for contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) in blue mussels collected at the Gulfwatch and NOAA stations. Steve Jones (UNH-Jackson Lab) “has been combing through the NOAA-Gulfwatch data for the 2015-16 samples that NOAA sent to us to make some sense out of it. It's complex with so many analytes, so he has constructed some summary tables for which chemicals were detected and where, the ranges of concentrations and ordering sites according to concentration, and other general summary compilations. He is focusing on New Hampshire waters but trying to arrange spreadsheets to allow for assessing each jurisdiction separately. Dennis (surname?) at NOAA is starting to go through the data as well as of a few weeks ago (April 2018)” (Jones, pers.comm.).</p> <p>Steve Jones and associates may present an overview of general results to the June 2018 GOMC meeting. As well, Christian Krahfors (current US Co-Chair) is preparing a report on the NOAA work (but this needs to be confirmed).</p>				

3) ESIP-Gulfwatch Sediment study

An initiative of members of both groups, ESIP and Gulfwatch, started some time ago to determine if there was a correlation between the information obtained on mussel tissue contaminant presence and levels, and sediment contaminant presence and levels, in the same locations (as approximately as possible) in the Gulf of Maine, including the Bay of Fundy. According to Gareth Harding, “Environment Canada, now ECCC, funded the contract to fill in the void on sediment contaminants in the Gulf of Maine on the Canadian side at Gulfwatch sites”, and these data have been incorporated into this study. A working group, led by Jim Latimer (US EPA) and Adria Elskus (USGS), has been meeting regularly by conference call to assemble the data sets and evaluate them. This work is in its early phase. However, a talk was recently prepared by the group, led by Adria, for the 12th BoFEP Bay of Fundy Science Workshop (Truro, NS, May 9-12th 2018), entitled: “Mussels and sediment as monitoring tools for contaminants: which to use when?”. The talk was presented by Wells at the Workshop and the abstract will be noted in the upcoming Workshop Proceedings. This project is continuing and will result in a full progress report sometime in the next few months.

4) Members of Gulfwatch

Darrell Taylor (NSE) is retiring at end of May, 2018, after long service with the team. Bruce Thorpe (NBFA) sadly passed away last year, after many years of excellent dedicated service to the GOMC; this leaves us without a NB member.

Many other members are retired from formal jobs and are volunteers to the program. If the program were to receive revival funding, especially to monitor CECs in mussel tissues (along with possible biomarker work and additional sediment analyses), we would need new younger members from the participating agencies and institutes to run the program.

5) Papers, reports, talks

Our objective for several years has been to write some more core papers, based on the existing Gulfwatch data base and project objectives (see GOMC website for all available data reports, as well as the ESIP website). Two papers and one report have recently been completed, and one talk was recently given (also see section 3 above):

- a) Chamberlain, S.D., P.G. Wells, and B.H. MacDonald. 2018. The Gulfwatch contaminants monitoring program in the Gulf of Maine: Are its data being used for ocean protection, with special reference to Nova Scotia, Canada? *Mar. Pollut. Bull.*, Oct. 3, 2017, DOI:10.1016/j.marpolbul.2017.09.050. *Mar. Pollut. Bull.* 127:781-787. Feb.2018.
- b) Harding, G., Dalziel, J. and Vass P. (submitted 2017). Bioaccumulation of methyl mercury within the marine food web of the outer Bay of Fundy, Gulf of Maine. *PLoS ONE*. In press 2018.
- c) Chamberlain, S. and P.G. Wells. 2016. Gulfwatch Publications Bibliography. (on the GOMC website).
- d) Elskus, A.A., L.A. LeBlanc, J.S. Latimer, D. Page, G. Harding, P.G.Wells, D. Killorn, and M. Liebman. 2018. Mussels and sediment as monitoring tools for contaminants: which to use when? Presented at the 12th BoFEP Bay of Fundy Science Workshop, Truro, NS, May 9-12, 2018. (Abstract to be part of the Proceedings).

6) Final Comments

Gulfwatch continues but it is currently unfunded and it also is run largely by volunteers. Hence, it probably should not continue as part of the new GOMC action plan.

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As well, it appears that no one in the environmental and resource agencies, federal or provincial, on the Canadian side of the border seems remotely interested in knowing what the chemical contaminants burdens are in molluscan shellfish, despite their economic importance, their use as marine environmental quality indicators, and the importance of having baseline data for compounds such as PAHs in the event of shipping or drilling accidents. This serious oversight should be addressed.

Possible Activities / Next Steps (optional):

- 1) The Gulfwatch team will continue to prepare papers and give talks where appropriate, to maximize the value of the data collected to date.
- 2) A member of the Gulfwatch team should pursue NOAA staff to facilitate the continued measurement of CECs in new mussel tissue samples and/or archival samples (the Gulfwatch tissue archives are kept at BIO-DFO, Dartmouth, NS).

Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested (optional):

- 1) The GOMC should decide whether or not to keep Gulfwatch, as a key monitoring program, in its action plan.
- 2) Advice is requested regarding potential sources of funding.

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: GOMC Web Site and IT Changes				
Submitted by: <i>James Cradock, Yellaoose</i>				
Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	For Direction	For Information (internal GOMC)	x
For Information (External)				
Background (required): This is a quick update on updates to the gulfomaine.org web site over the last 12 months, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to SSL security; • Updates to web site templates; • Updates to online tools; • Plans for migration of the entire site to a new server. 				
Possible Activities / Next Steps (optional):				
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: ESIP Status and Future					
Submitted by: <i>Jim Latimer (USEPA) and Kathryn Parlee (ECCC)</i>					
Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	For Direction	For Information <small>(internal GOMC)</small>	For Information	X
<p>Background (required):</p> <p>ESIP has been an active project of the GOMC since 2006. During its history ESIP has accomplished many successes including the development of ecosystem indicators from six important areas: coastal development, contaminants and pathogens, eutrophication, aquatic habitat, fisheries and aquaculture, and climate change and integrating regional data on these indicators using a web based indicator reporting tool. It has also facilitated projects to fill in data gaps discovered during indicator development (e.g. mapping of impervious surface coverage, eutrophication monitoring). In addition, ESIP has developed a smartphone app (ICUC) and many photo-sites throughout the region, for use by citizen scientists to document, using digital photos, change in the Gulf of Maine. Lastly, ESIP has applied a framework (developed at EPA) for developing ecosystem service based indicators for future monitoring and assessment in the Gulf of Maine. ESIP has produced many fact sheets and presentations at regional, national, and international meetings showcasing its many accomplishments. ESIP was also frequently asked to provide advice and expertise to other local or regional initiatives looking at ecosystem indicators.</p> <p>Since loss of funding to support a program manager for ESIP, the ESIP co-chairs and Steering Committee continues to complete projects that had started. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Completing an ECCC Gulf of Maine Initiative (GMI) project (ending in 2019) looking at eutrophication and contaminants in portions of the Bay of Fundy, including writing a paper on contaminants in mussels and sediments in the Gulf of Maine ➤ Supporting potential GMI projects in the future ➤ Working with the St. John River Society to set up additional ICUC sites throughout the Saint John/Wolastoq River ➤ Continuing to monitor and support ESIP’s Indicator Reporting Tool in coordination with and IT contractor for GOMC <p>The efforts by the Chairs and the Steering Committee are at a very low level since only small amounts of in-kind support are available.</p>					
Possible Activities / Next Steps (optional):					
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: Marine Debris							
Submitted by: Theresa Torrent, Maine Coastal Program							
Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	x	For Direction	x	For Information (internal GOMC)	For Information (External)	x
Background (required):							
GOMC Working Group member Theresa Torrent of the Maine Coastal Program and NOAA Marine Debris Coordinator Demi Fox will provide an overview of current marine debris initiatives and highlights from the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference held in San Diego, California during March 2018. Theresa and Demi will also present a proposed GOMC Work Plan to address marine debris in the Gulf of Maine.							
Possible Activities / Next Steps (optional):							
Pending support and input from Council and Working Group, Theresa and Demi will move forward with the proposed GOMC Marine Debris work plan.							
Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested (optional):							
Council and Working Group members are asked to approve addition of the proposed Marine Debris Work Plan to the GOMC 2017-2109 Work Plan.							
Supporting Documentation (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed marine debris work plan, p. 27 							

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Proposed Two Year Work Plan – July 2017 through June 2019			
Name of GOMC Initiative: Marine Debris – Reduction of Single-Use Plastic Pollution			
GOMC Project Lead (s): Theresa Torrent, Maine Coastal Program			
Links to 2012-2017 Action Plan Goals and Outcomes Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative			
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: Our goal is a significant reduction of single-use plastics distributed in Gulf of Maine restaurants. In collaboration with NOAA’s Gulf of Maine Consumer Debris Working Group we have identified the reduction of single-use plastic being available in area restaurants, cafes and other food distribution points as a priority activity. The goal is to make items such as plastic straws and plastic eating utensils a “demand-only” item or replaced completely with re-useable options. As identified at the 6th International Marine Debris Conference (March 2018) there are established programs which engage both the restaurant industry and their customers in changing their habits and have proven effective in reducing the amount of single-use plastic items they use and throw out. The regional focus will be on implementing the <i>Trash Shouldn’t Splash toolbox</i> created by the Sea Education Association (WoodsHole) in various pilot communities in the Gulf of Maine.</p> <p>In addition to promoting reduction of single-use plastic in restaurants we will also continue to actively support and encourage plastic shopping bag and polystyrene cup and food container bans which are very effective in reducing plastic pollution on the coast and beaches of communities where they have been initiated.</p> <p>Key Milestones YR1: n/a – initiative to begin in YR2, July 2018</p> <p>Key Milestones YR2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementation of the Trash Shouldn’t Splash toolbox in a community in each of the Gulf of Maine jurisdictions. ✓ Encourage the ban of plastic shopping bags throughout the Gulf of Maine. 			
<p>Project Funding (Amount and Sources): Maine Coastal Program will provide promotional items to encourage the use of re-useable straws and other single-use plastic food and beverage items.</p>			
<p>Project Partners: NOAA New England Marine Debris Program Office</p>			

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note				
Title of Agenda Item: The 12 th BoFEP Bay of Fundy Science Workshop, May 9 th -12 th 2018, Truro, NS. – Summary and Highlights				
Submitted by: Peter Wells, WG Member and BoFEP member/liaison to the GOMC				
Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	For Direction	For Information (internal GOMC)	For Information (External)
<p>Background (required):</p> <p>BoFEP (the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership), formed in 1997 from the Fundy Marine Ecosystem Science Project of Environment Canada, held its 12th BoFEP Bay of Fundy Science Workshop in Truro NS, in May, 2018. The theme of the Workshop was “A Changing Fundy Environment: Emerging issues, Challenges and Priorities”. Primary sponsors of the workshop were Fisheries and Oceans Canada (a major supporter), the Fundy Ocean Research Center for Energy, and Mountain Equipment Coop. The workshop was attended by just over 100 people (the count is still coming in), almost 30 of whom were students giving both talks and posters.</p> <p>Keynote talks were given by Dr. Kimberley Davies, Dalhousie University (An Uncertain Future: The Right Whale’s Fight Against Environment, Biology and Ocean Urbanization); Dr. Graham Daborn, Acadia University (Reflections on the Bay of Fundy and its Future); and Dr. Tony Walker, Dalhousie University (Drowning in Debris: Solutions for a Global Pervasive Marine Pollution Problem). A talk was also given on Emerging Issues.</p> <p>Sessions of talks were held on Fisheries Ecology and Management; Integrated Coastal Management; Tidal and Renewable Energy; Dykelands and Tidal Wetland Restoration; Monitoring and Contaminants; and Ocean Protection Plan and Marine Protected Areas.</p> <p>Panels were held on Ocean Literacy and Awareness; Information Use at the Science-Policy Interface in Decision Making in the Bay of Fundy Region; and Future Research in the Bay of Fundy and BoFEP’s Role. A very active poster session was held throughout the meeting.</p> <p>Abstracts are all on the BoFEP website (www.bofep.org). The full Proceedings will be available shortly, joining the full complement of past Proceedings (e.g. the 11th Workshop, held in Fredericton in June 2016) and various reports on the website. Discussions are already underway as to the location of the next BoFEP workshop, in New Brunswick in 2020.</p>				
<p>Possible Activities / Next Steps (optional):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an information item, highlighting some of the issues of interest in the Bay of Fundy, the NE section of the GOM. • BoFEP members are willing and able to help with the proposed 2019 Gulf of Maine Symposium, representing the interests and concerns of citizens and coastal communities of the Fundy region. 				
<p>Supporting Documentation (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):</p> <p>Please see the BoFEP website (www.bofep.org) for the detailed program, book of abstracts, and participants.</p>				

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note					
Title of Agenda Item: 2019 Gulf of Maine Symposium: <i>Gulf of Maine 2050</i>					
Submitted by: Theresa Torrent, Maine Coastal Program					
Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	For Direction	X	For Information (internal GOMC)	X
For Information (External)					
<p>Background (required):</p> <p>In October of 2009 RARGOM initiated and co-convened the <i>Gulf of Maine Symposium – Advancing Ecosystem Research for the Future of the Gulf</i> with the objectives, 1) to examine what progress had been made over the past decade in implementing and ecosystem approach, 2) to evaluate how well positioned we are to implement an ecosystem approach in the GoM and 3) to propose research priorities. This symposium involved over 200 participants from approximately 75 institutions and had over 100 presentations. The outcome of the Symposium was the writing and publication of <i>Advancing an Ecosystem Approach in the Gulf of Maine</i>.</p> <p>It has been identified that another regional symposium would be beneficial and timely. The Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) initiated discussion with Huntsman Marine Science Centre and followed with a meeting that included the Gulf of Maine Council as a co-convener. An initial Goal statement was crafted and representatives from the three organizations formed a core planning group which met in person at GMRI in Portland on April 12, 2018. Knowing that, “climate projections suggest that this region (<i>Gulf of Maine</i>) will remain among the fastest warming ocean ecosystems into the next century, and that “warming, together with ocean acidification and rising sea level, will transform the ecosystem and the coastline of the Gulf of Maine,” the 2019 Symposium - <i>Gulf of Maine 2050</i> will be addressing climate related impacts, acidification, warming and sea level rise, which will drive changes in the GoM in the next 30 years.</p> <p>The goal of a Gulf of Maine 2050 symposium will be to “integrate environmental, economic, social, and institutional perspectives on emerging climate challenges <u>and opportunities</u>. It will bring together multiple science disciplines, natural resource managers, municipal planners, representatives from key industries, a diverse mix of community leaders, NGO’s, and the donor community to understand of how the Gulf of Maine is expected to change in the next 30 years. It will build a shared vision of regional resilience, identify steps necessary to achieve that vision, and activate new collaborations against specific prioritized initial work plans. “– <i>Gulf of Maine 2050: A Symposium and Workshop about the future of the Gulf of Maine</i>.</p> <p>The Symposium will address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will the GoM look like in 2050? (i.e. what change do we expect?) • What are the challenges arising from those changes? (ecological, economic, social and governance...and across industries, government, and others?) • What are we prepared for and what not? (Gap analysis regarding climate change response preparedness) • What are the most important management action items and research priorities? 					

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As part of the planning and preparation for the Symposium there will be a meeting in March 2019 with approximately 50 participants at the Huntsman Centre in NB. In addition, the Core Planning Committee is holding Zoom video meetings twice monthly.

Gulf of Maine 2050 will be held in Portland Maine the week of November 4th, 2019 at the Westin Portland Harborside. It will be a five-day symposium with an opening day of plenary sessions on global drivers that will impact GoM and then three days looking at the three drivers of change – acidification, sea level rise and warming – and will close on day five with a morning presentation on the “next step” actions that we have identified as a collaborative and which will receive priority funding for moving forward. Each day will be opened with a morning plenary session, then move to organized breakout sessions which will be focused on identifying needed next actions and methods to achieve them. Each meeting will close with an hour or more dedicated to posters, “café” discussions and meeting of the Conference Actions Team. The Actions Team will be working on identifying priority actions from the breakout discussions that will be brought to the larger audience each morning. We are planning on evening activities that will focus on the many attractions of Portland including an Opening Reception on the first day and an optional dinner on the fourth day.

Currently the Gulf of Maine Council is represented on the Co-Convener Team by Judy Pederson, Rob Stephenson, Ru Morrison and Theresa Torrent. In addition, a component of Joan’s contract time is being used to assist in planning and administrative support.

Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested (optional):

An important component of *GoM 2050* being an effective and outcome driven activity for coastal resource and community management will be identifying the key questions that members of the Gulf of Maine Council and their coastal communities will need to answer regarding a changing GoM.

To help us in planning the Symposium content we will be asking the Council and Working Group to review the questions that will be covered in the Symposium and to help us identify challenges and to share what they know to be current gaps in our information, research and tool needs.

- What will the GoM look like in 2050? (i.e. what change do we expect?)
- What are the challenges arising from those changes? (ecological, economic, social and governance...and across industries, government, and others?)
- What are we prepared for and what not? (Gap analysis regarding climate change response preparedness)
- What are the most important management action items and research priorities?

We will also share our “brainstorm” list of stakeholders and ask for your help in prioritizing the list.

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: GOMC Plans for 2018 / 2019 Secretariat Year				
Submitted by: Theresa Torrent, Maine Coastal Program 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"> ○ December 2018 – Virtual Council / Working Group meeting ○ June 2019 – Two day, in-person Council / Working Group meeting (location / dates TBD – meeting will take place in Canada if feasible) • 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 2019 Awards Program</u> During 2019, 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 and Joan LeBlanc will facilitate the awards selection process and the ceremony which will take place in conjunction with the June 2019 GOMC meeting. <u>GOMC 2018 – 2022 Framework for Action</u> With feedback from the June 2018 meeting, GOMC will finalize the Framework for Action and post it to the GOMC website. Pending in-kind support, a limited number of copies will be printed. <u>GOMC Work Plan</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following final approval of the Framework for Action, GOMC will update the 2017 – 2019 Work Plan to highlight how ongoing Work Plan initiatives line up with GOMC’s revised goals and outcomes. • During the Spring of 2019, GOMC will begin developing the 2019 – 2021 Work Plan for review and approval at the June 2019 meeting. 				
Possible Activities / Next Steps (optional): n/a				
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): n/a				