



**Gulf of Maine  
Council on the  
Marine Environment**

**Working Group  
Meeting Briefing Book • V.2**  
Boston, MA • December 11-12, 2012



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## Working Group December 2012 meeting agenda

Tuesday, December 11, 2012 – EPA Region 1, Boston, MA

8:30 AM	<p><b>Welcome, introductions, and overview of objectives for the meeting</b> <i>Prassede Vella, Working Group Chair, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management</i></p>
<p>8:40 AM Pg 2 Information to the right</p> <p>Pg 15 Emailed Website posts Pg 17 Pg 18 Pg 21 Pg 22</p>	<p><b>Consent agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ October WG meeting summary acceptance</li> <li>▪ Committee/subcommittee co-chair and leadership updates : new Habitat Restoration Subcommittee Canadian co-chair is Lee Swanson and the new Climate Change Committee Canadian co-chair is Bill Appleby (and now Working Group members) (see "Gulf of Maine Association Meeting Agenda and Documents" for information)</li> <li>▪ EcoSystem Indicator Partnership update</li> <li>▪ Revised GOMC Scopes of Services for all Contractor and GOMC Grant Lists</li> <li>▪ Fund Development Project Status Report 11.2012</li> <li>▪ Gulf of Maine Council competitive grants and solicitations received: 2006 to 2012</li> <li>▪ RARGOM/GOMC memorandum of agreement final revision and execution for December 2012</li> <li>▪ MA Secretariat 2012-2013 meeting schedule updates</li> <li>▪ Gulf of Maine Council awards announcement and reminder</li> </ul>
<p>9:00 AM Website posts</p>	<p><b>Economic Study</b> <i>Rob Capozzi, NB Department of Environment and Local Government</i> <i>Steven Couture, NH Department of Environmental Services</i></p> <p><b>Background:</b> The working group requested an economic studies inventory, jurisdictional summaries of economic sectoral data, and a summary of the habitat restoration and Gulfwatch economic case studies. With CA DFO funding, GOMA contracted to provide that information as well as a GOMA financial summary fact sheet.</p> <p><b>Outcome/desired action:</b> Awareness of the contractor products and approval of presenting the information to the Council.</p>
9:45 AM	<p><b>Participant roundtable</b> <i>Fast-paced updates from Working Group members</i></p>
10:15 AM	<p><b>Break</b></p>
<p>10:30 AM Pg 23</p>	<p><b>Management and Finance, Secretariat Team, and committee terms of reference for Council adoption</b> <i>Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications, and committee co-chairs</i></p> <p><b>Background:</b> During the last Secretariat year in Massachusetts, the Council changed the roles for the Secretariat Team and Management and Finance relative to day-to-day organizational management and Action Plan tracking. The new structure as outlined in the revised terms of reference have not been closely followed due to dwindling resources and what some felt did not work in practice. In the meantime, Management and Finance membership was updated to provide for additional Councillor participation to coordinate with Gulf of Maine Association fiscal oversight with Management and Finance and management, while preserving the original intent of the Secretariat Team.</p> <p>The State of the Gulf of Maine Reporting Committee terms of reference acceptance will codify the Council's intent to make this group an official committee.</p> <p><b>Outcome/desired action:</b> The Working Group is asked to recommend that the Council accept the new terms of reference for Management and Finance and the Secretariat Team to reflect the previous mode of operations and that maintains the GOMA. The Working is asked to recommend that the Council accept the State of the Gulf of Maine Reporting Committee terms of reference.</p>



<p>11:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Fine-scale movements of Atlantic cod on a spawning ground</b> <i>Micah Dean, MA Division of Marine Fisheries</i> <b>Background:</b> The spawning behavior of Atlantic cod has previously been described through tank studies, hydroacoustics, and survey demographics. Much insight into the complex mating system of the species has been gained from this body of work, yet our understanding has been limited by extrapolation and inference. Significant discrepancies exist between the descriptions of spawning behavior made from laboratory experiments and from field studies. The objective of this project was to describe the natural spawning behavior of individual Atlantic cod using an acoustic telemetry positioning system. We implanted acoustic transmitters in spawning cod and tracked their movements on the spawning ground for two consecutive seasons. The resulting dataset was examined for annual, diel, and gender patterns in movement and space use. This project has significantly expanded our understanding of cod reproductive behavior and has already helped guide management actions designed to protect spawning aggregations and prevent fishery-induced disruption</p>
<p>12:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Lunch on your own</b></p>
<p>1:15 PM Pg 12 and emailed</p>	<p><b>Final FY 13 budget and administrative rate</b> <i>Cindy Krum, Gulf of Maine Association</i> <b>Background:</b> The Council and the Gulf of Maine Association has conducted its financial review and drafted a budget. <b>Outcome/desired action:</b> The Gulf of Maine Association and the GOMC review and approve revised FY 13 budget and indirect cost rate to go into effect December 14, 2012.</p>
<p>1:30 PM Website posts</p>	<p><b>Fund Development</b> <i>David Keeley, The Keeley Group</i> <b>Background:</b> Between June and December 2012 important progress by Council member agencies was made to secure funding to implement Action Plan activities – most notably by Environment Canada, USGS, DFO, and Maine Coastal Program. Also during this period work by the fund development coordinator and the Ad-hoc Fund Development Group (Hudson, Lamb, Morrison, Sochasky, Wiggin), which met at least monthly, focused on four priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Proposal development – \$300K climate change proposal to NOAA; \$212K restoration strategic communications proposal to EPA;</li> <li>▪ Growing the “restoration pie” -- worked with HRSC on proposal concepts &amp; fall LOI solicitation; began discussions with industry about collaborative approaches for restoration funding; created strategy to update restoration portal; networked with RBC on \$500K Blue Water Project resubmission;</li> <li>▪ Cultivation of foundation staff – reinforcing and making new friends of the Council – organized &amp; convened exploratory conference call of seven Canadian foundations including Canadian Environmental Grant-makers Network; developed plans for November GOM funders forum with sponsorship by two Canadian foundations, worked with foundation staff on agenda, arranged speakers and keynote, – chose to postpone event;</li> <li>▪ Loose-ends/messing around – AP 2.1.3 - formed ad-hoc Sentinel Monitoring Work Group to prepare proposal concepts; cultivated existing and new GOMT subscribers; continued to support pilot NE/Maritimes Indicators Community of Practice;</li> </ul> <p><b>Outcome/desired actions:</b> The WG is aware of the fund development needs and discussed strategies to secure those funds. (see matrix in briefing book).</p>
<p>3:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Information Technology update</b> <i>Jim Cradock, Yellahoose</i> <b>Background:</b> James Cradock will review the past six months of web and information technologies work, including: a redevelopment of TAPAS (Tracking Action Plan Activities System), updates to the ESIP reporting tool, updates to the habitat restoration letter of intent upload, updates to the <i>Gulf of Maine Times</i>, and day-to-day support for the Council and its contractors. <b>Outcome/desired action:</b> Recognition that web and information technologies activities are constant and ongoing; and beginning of a discussion for updating the Council website in a minor way to bring content up-to-date.</p>



<p>3:30 PM Pg 27</p>	<p><b>GOM Library goes digital and viral</b> <i>David Keeley and Jim Cradock</i></p> <p><b>Background:</b> The Council's hard copy library was managed by the MSPO for over 20-years. The library contains 400 +/- coastal and ocean publications that were produced by the Council, its member agencies and others. In 2012 space constraints required the Maine Coastal Program to migrate key holdings into a digital format (searchable PDF) and to transfer all hard copies to the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in Boothbay Maine. (Bigelow saw the merits of collection and will make the holding available to the public pro-bono.) The Council's "publications page" on the website was reconstructed, a search feature was added to the Council's Knowledgebase, and 125 PDFs were uploaded with an abstract. In addition there are key "grey literature" resources that we intend to identify that are not in the library such as those produced by the Gulf of Maine Marine Research Board Program, the USF&amp;WS Gulf of Maine Program Office, the Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine, etc.</p> <p><b>Outcomes/Desired Actions:</b> The Working Group receives a tutorial on how to access and use the library. It is aware of what the Council's library contains and understands what holdings are relevant to the 2012-17 Action Plan tasks. The committees know what is in the library and how some holdings can inform their current work. The Working Group offers advice on how to communicate the availability and uses of the library to target audiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GOMC member agencies;</li> <li>▪ Action Plan partners (e.g., nonprofits, Northeast Regional Ocean Committee, Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership, Regional Association on Research in the Gulf of Maine etc.); and</li> </ul> <p>Others interested in the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy (universities/students, etc.)</p>
<p>4:00 PM Pg 31</p>	<p><b>Recording and reporting on Council accomplishments</b> <i>Prassede Vella</i></p> <p><b>Background:</b> Every five years, as one component of the Action Plan revision process, the Council produces a 5-year accomplishment summary. The content is gathered by reviewing meeting minutes, requesting input from committees and "significant head-scratching about what is it we did over the past few years." The Working Group needs a more thoughtful and predictable method to record and report on accomplishments. Routine reporting on our web site could inform external audiences about Council (and its committees) activities, assist WG members make the case for continued jurisdictional participation and help Councilors feel their time is well spent. The structure for this ongoing process should be the goals and activities of the Action Plan.</p> <p><b>Outcome/desired actions:</b> The Working Group discusses the merits of recording and reporting Council accomplishments and creates some achievable path forward (e.g., what will be done, by whom, in what format and level of detail, how the information will be disseminated, etc.)</p>
<p>4:15 PM</p>	<p><b>Items removed from consent agenda</b></p>
<p>4:30 PM</p>	<p><b>Recess for the day</b></p>
<p>6:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Event TBA</b></p>



**Wednesday, December 12, 2012 – EPA Region 1, Boston, MA**

<p>9:00 AM Pg 28</p>	<p><b>Action Plan implementation Part I: Plan structure to organizational structure - Committee Organization Ad Hoc Group report to Council</b> <i>Prassede Vella</i> <b>Background:</b> In June 2012 Councilors asked the Working Group to take a close look at the current committee structure through the lens of the new Action Plan priorities. Councilors also offered their support to the committees in addressing their needs for implementing the Action Plan goals. A Committee Organization Ad Hoc Group was established and through a series of intensive discussions that involved committee co-chairs and council champions assessed the current status of the various committees, strove to address gaps, and developed a set of recommendations of where and how committees need support from the Councilors. <b>Outcome/desired action:</b> The Working Group will review the current committee organization structure vis-à-vis the Action Plan goals, and the review/discuss the recommendations to Council based on detailed evaluation of the status of the committees.</p>
<p>9:30 AM</p>	<p><b>Committee Spotlight: Habitat Restoration</b> <i>Slade Moore, Bioconservation</i></p>
<p>10:15 AM</p>	<p><b>Break</b></p>
<p>10:30 AM No brief</p>	<p><b>Visualizing Impacts of Sea-Level Rise on Coastal Marshes: Management Decisions, Model Considerations, and Regional Coordination</b> <i>Adrienne Harrison, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</i> <b>Background:</b> This presentation will discuss the management concerns that are driving the interest in building a better understanding of the impacts of sea level rise to coastal marshes. A review of model considerations, including data needs, and an effort to coordinate marsh migration modeling across the New England region will also be discussed.</p>
<p>11:30 AM Pg 32</p>	<p><b>Update on implementation of Council's decision on maritime collaboration: Coastal Zone Canada event-Working Group June 2014 meeting coordination</b> <i>Tim Hall, Fisheries and Oceans Canada</i> <b>Background:</b> In response to one of the Working Group's recommendations to enhance maritime collaboration in the Gulf of Maine by hosting a regular summit-type event, the GOMC is exploring the possibility of linking with CZC 2014 and take advantage of this opportunity to enhance its role in the advancement of science and to promote the 2012-2017 Action Plan. <b>Outcome/desired action:</b> The Working Group will brainstorm possible linkages with CZC 2014 and make a recommendation to Council. This may include the formation of an ad-hoc working group and identification of any resources required.</p>
<p>12:15 AM</p>	<p><b>Lunch on your own</b></p>
<p>1:30 PM Pg 33</p>	<p><b>Core services contracts update</b> <i>Prassede Vella</i> <b>Background:</b> With the advent of a new Action Plan as well as evolving roles and needs of the Council, it was decided that the core services contracts need to be revised. A Request for qualifications for Council Coordination was announced in October and applications are currently being reviewed with the goal of a contract starting January 1. Currently the Fund Development contract is being discussed with various options being considered (see briefing note). <b>Outcome/desired action:</b> The Working Group discusses recommendations made by the Management and Finance Committee on how to proceed with specific aspects of these contracts in order to answer to the needs of the Council and establish a strong support system. The Working Group will approve these recommendations so they will be presented to Council for approval.</p>



<p>2:15 PM No brief</p>	<p><b>Gulf of Maine Times: recommendations</b> <i>Theresa Torrent Ellis, Maine Coastal Program</i> <b>Background:</b> In 2008 the Council prepared a business plan for the GOM Times. It addresses the purpose and content; production and logistics; publication options; financing; and recommendations. Particularly noteworthy is that the appendices contain a qualitative and quantitative analysis of who our readers are and what they want from the Times. (It is based on a survey of readers – 318 of whom participated in the survey.) We need to continue to implement the recommendations of the Plan. <b>Outcome/desired actions:</b> The Working Group will develop recommendations to the Council that address: the purpose of the Times; ongoing methods to collect reader feedback on their satisfaction with the product and value of the Times to them; GOMC member agency commitment to actively e-distribute the GOMT with the intent of significantly increasing the readership; and making an annual commitment of the resources needed to publish 3-4 editions/year plus periodic/interim updates.</p>
<p>2:45 PM Pg 34</p>	<p><b>Committee Highlight: Outreach committee</b> <i>Theresa Torrent-Ellis</i> <b>Background:</b> The Outreach Committee has historically been responsible for “public education and participation.” They have been responsible for providing assistance to various Committee projects, the development of the Times and various outreach projects spearheaded by various members as part of their contributions to GOMC such as the <i>Sea Beside A Sea</i> brochure and the <i>Undersea Landscapes</i> poster. In the past few years there have been limited resources available for large outreach projects and products. The Committee has had primarily an advisory role. During the development of the new revised five year Action Plan the need for more internal and external communications related activities was identified. The goal was to have the new CA Co-Chair build the new communications plan and for the US Chair to focus on building an outreach plan for the new committee activities. This unfortunately was only partially completed and to meet some of the deadlines a contractor was brought in last minute to help develop the communications strategy and plan. Currently the OC is functioning in an advisory capacity for GOMC projects and some members are also participating on the Times editorial committee. There is an ongoing need for a CA Co-Chair. <b>Outcome/desired action:</b> OC needs WG feedback on their current recommendations for next steps for Committee actions and priorities.</p>
<p>3:15 PM</p>	<p><b>Presentation</b> <i>Ivar G. Babb, NURTEC</i></p>
<p>4:00 PM Pg 35</p>	<p><b>Sentinel monitoring in the Gulf of Maine: Implementing Activity 2.1.3 in the Action Plan</b> <i>David Keeley</i> <b>Background:</b> The Council's 2012-17 Action Plan (Activity 2.1.3 - Foster region-wide communication about existing monitoring activities, perceived gaps and partnership opportunities) calls for work on expanding monitoring in the Gulf of Maine. A group is being formed by NERACOOS and NROC to articulate what a sentinel monitoring program might address via a workshop in 2013. (see briefing note) <b>Outcome/desired actions:</b> The Working Group discusses the opportunity and decides if and how it wants to participate.</p>
<p>4:30 PM</p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>
<p>6:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Event TBA</b></p>

## Working Group meeting summary

Portsmouth, NH • October 10-11, 2012

### Working Group Members present

Rob Capozzi, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Steven Couture, NH Department of Environmental Services; Sophia Foley, NS Department of Environment; Tim Hall, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Ellen Mecray, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Becca Newhall, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Betsy Nicholson, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Kathryn Parlee, Environment Canada; Ann Rodney, US Environmental Protection Agency; Susan Russell-Robinson, US Geological Survey, US Department of Interior; Jack Schwartz, MA Division of Marine Fisheries; Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME Department of Conservation; Prassede Vella, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; and Peter Wells, Dalhousie University/Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership.

### Others present

Denise Cavalleri, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Sarah Demers, NH Department of Environmental Services; Tricia Eisner, Halifax Water; Glen Herbert, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Jamie Houle, Stormwater Center, University of New Hampshire; W. Donald Hudson, Jr.; David Keeley, The Keeley Group; Peter Lamb; Dean Peschel; Jocelyne Rankin, Ecology Action Centre; Christine Tilburg, contractor for the Ecosystem Indicator Partnership; Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications; Peter Wellenberger, Great Bay-Piscataqua WATERKEEPERS, Conservation Law Foundation.

### Others present via conference call

Heather Breeze, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Cindy Krum, Krum Steele Consulting;

### Opening remarks

Prassede Vella, and Working Group Chair welcomed the participants to the first Working Group meeting of the Massachusetts Secretariat year. The participants introduced themselves. Betsy Nicholson announced that she is stepping away as the NOAA Working Group member and Becca Newhall is now serving in that role, as of this meeting. Betsy will continue to be a Working Group member because she is a Coastal Marine Spatial Planning Committee co-chair.

### Consent Agenda

Prassede reviewed the consent agenda items with project and discussion leads highlighting their briefing notes.

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Lead/contact</b>	<b>Due date</b>
The Working Group accepted the consent agenda.	N/A	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead/contact</b>	<b>Due date</b>
Email to Michele and Prassede Vella the full name of the Maine agency for the Council's letterhead	Theresa Torrent-Ellis	immediate
Provide correction for page 7 of the June meeting summary.	Susan Russell-Robinson	immediate
Work together to identify contacts or candidates for the United States native american Council seat and provide background, terms of reference, and other information for the US tribal Councillor.	Betsy Nicholson. Ann Rodney, Susan Russell-Robinson with counsel from Michele Tremblay	immediate
Explore the possibility of an insurance industry presentation on climate change at the December Council meeting, and include emergency planners in a possible panel discussion and a theme that will permeate throughout the meeting.	Ellen Mecray and Prassede Vella	December 2012
Work together to plan for a March 2013 meeting in Halifax to facilitate engagement and momentum for the 2013-2014 Nova Scotia Secretariat year	Sophia Foley and Prassede Vella	March 2013

### Action Agenda

#### Developing an economic model for evaluation of Council program and organizational success

Rob Capozzi and Steve Couture provided an update on their work to develop the model for the Council to consider at its December meeting. Sarah Demers, NH Department of Environmental Services, provided a bibliography of existing literature and reports on relevant valuations of coastal and marine resources, activities, and communities. Some of

the studies are from the late 1990s and early 2000s so adjustments may need to be made for the changes in the economy since then. Does the Working Group want to present hard number valuations and real estimates vs. projected, hypothetical, non-tangible, and estimates? Will it report on the values of the Gulf of Maine by disaggregating sectorial values from collected studies and reports or does it wish to assign a value to the work and programs of the Council—more of a business case approach in which jurisdictions can justify their involvement via a return on investment analysis? Is there a simpler question: what does the Council need for its members to answer questions from legislators, other policy makers, and the public? The key for this study is to identify the audience. For instance, do Councillors need to justify their participation in the GOMC? What is their return on investment? Councillors also need to be able to disaggregate data to how the economic improvement in their respective provinces and states. The Councillors have articulated many of these questions, such as economic impact of the Council's work in the provinces and states. Sarah's work is the first step to identify the studies completed to date. Articulating the Council's questions are the next step in a study design. These studies are scalable and come with varying costs. Is the Council prepared for what could be an enormous cost to conduct a comprehensive economic evaluation. Should the study address short-term and long-term economic impacts? The American Resource Recovery Act studies may be helpful. Talking points for the jurisdictions and federal agencies is a key end product of the process. An electronic library of economic studies could be created, which would build on the Gulf of Maine Library and Sarah Demers's work. This could become a more cohesive product that would permeate through the Council's *Action Plan* work. Case studies are needed for this process. The Council conducted its own evaluation on the effectiveness of the Habitat Restoration Partnership. There is a peer-reviewed study of Gulfwatch, which could be used as a case study. The Gulfwatch data are used for the Ecosystem Indicator Partnership. Further information may be found in the briefing note at [http://www.gulfmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc\\_wg\\_october\\_2012.pdf](http://www.gulfmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_october_2012.pdf). The presentation may be viewed at <http://www.gulfmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201210/>.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Disaggregate from the current studies what values exist for the Gulf of Maine and create talking points for fact sheets.</li> <li>▪ Create jurisdictional talking points for fact sheets.</li> <li>▪ Present existing case studies from Gulfwatch and Habitat Restoration Program to help Councillors determine if these are the models that they wish to use or they will determine other models or studies and how they will fund them.</li> </ul>	Rob Capozzi and Steve Couture	December 2012

### Participant roundtable

Michele Tremblay, as president of the New Hampshire Rivers Council, reported that she is leading phase V of the *What's our Water Worth* economic study with an added component of "what's our water cost" that brings to the process municipalities and other infrastructure costs such as water treatment (pre- and post-consumption) and delivery. The current documents may be found at [ww.NHRivers.org](http://www.NHRivers.org).

Tim Hall reported that there have been changes in the Habitat Provisions of the Fisheries Act and how they will be incorporated in policy and guidelines for the Department. This will have an impact on the habitat management program but the details are not yet known. The Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management has completed its five-year plan evaluation will be published in the next few months. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Maritimes Region is beginning a bioregional marine plan.

Betsy Nicholson reported that NOAA has been economics study. There are a half-dozen economic sectors in the study. They have worked on ocean level rise on coastal wetlands. NOAA has provided additional and significant funds to the Northeast Region Ocean Council (NROC) for ocean planning work. She provided a handout with URLs for this information.

Rob Capozzi highlighted his activities including wetlands on-the-ground delineations to engage municipalities in their development and planning. In November, they are hosting three-day Atlantic Canada-Northeast United States climate change forum.

Kathryn Parlee is securing funding for the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. She has been asked to submit a proposal for habitat conservation. Environment Canada is looking at new priorities with aboriginal and other stakeholders. Jackie Olsen is retiring at the end of January 2013 but she is currently on leave.

Steve Couture said that the City of Portsmouth received a climate adaptation grant that will analyse sea level rise and density to incorporate in its planning efforts. It is the second city in New Hampshire to incorporate climate change adaption and rising waters in their planning. NROC received funding for a recreation use study with all registered boaters asked for their input. Sectorial values are a focus for NROC's economic study work.

Becca Newhall added the marsh migration project would include Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Prassede Vella described that the Massachusetts Bays NEP has conducted a delineation and assessment of estuarine systems within the Gulf of Maine Council, depicting landward and seaward boundaries and identifying stressors and resources within these systems. The MA Office of Coastal Zone Management, is gearing up to revise the ocean management plan with a focus on spatial planning and recreational and commercial uses.

Theresa pass on re-grouping.

Susan Russell Robinson said that the US Department of Interior is evaluating its priorities on ocean and coastal issues. There are changes with those areas and climate change. The Climate Science Center will undergo changes. New tools and technology include new LIDAR that conducts bathymetric imaging in turbid waters. The first project will be in the Gulf of Mexico, then to the mid-Atlantic, and then the Northeast.

Glen Herbert said that the planning process marine spatial planning, decision making tools, and other resources for planning efforts for bioregions. Linking and

Peter Wells reported that Dalhousie is continuing with \$200,. Coastal Zone Canada planning is proceeding with possible Gulf of Maine Summit in 2014. This may also include the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. Messrs Butler and Hildebrand are the CZC co-chairs. The Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership has submitted a paper for publication.

Jack Schwartz said that the MA Division of Marine Fisheries has completed a conservation area survey that reinforces the importance for propagation of Atlantic Cod, which does not have many other nursery areas. They have formed a partnership with the MA Department of Public Health partnership with FDA approval, which could be a model for other states. They have completed listening sessions. Gulfwatch specimen collection is complete.

Ellen Mecray reported that the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers has signed a resolution on climate change, which focuses on adaption and formation of a group to address it. It will review the regional action plan and enhance links with private and NGO sectors as well as discuss with federal government coordination. The Council's Climate Change Committee has a new Canadian Co-chair, Bill Appleby, Environment Canada. The New England Climate US is compiling existing data and studies. NOAA climate change has been studying impacts and formed a forecast or the north Atlantic. She is working on a regional action plan for climate with a focus on fisheries impacts. She has invested \$10,000 in the Council's Climate Change Committee.

Ann Rodney reported that her focus at the US Environmental Protection Agency has been on stormwater permitting.

Sophia Foley reported that the Nova Scotia Environment Department's focus has been inland with stormwater to form policies and programs. She and other Department staff meet with University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center staff for a workshop yesterday. They are re-writing stream crossing standards and meeting with NHDES and Michele Tremblay.

### **Action Plan implementation Part I: From five-year plan to work plans**

Theresa Torrent-Ellis refreshed the Working Group on the process to date to update their workplans from the template that Justin Huston and Michele Tremblay developed and that Jim Cradock programmed. The TAPAS (Tracking Action Plan Activities System) has been the online entry tool for project status, funding, and other information that Councillors requested so that they could understand committee and project work. She will provide a notice to everyone to review their respective workplans online prior to the December Council meeting. Currently, the workplans are being uploaded into TAPAS to finalize by November.

### **Action Plan implementation Part II: Plan structure to organizational structure**

Prassede provided background on the need for a new organizational structure as a component of implementing the new Action Plan with an emphasis on committees that are clearly linked to activities and outcomes. The Council's committee organization chart on an activity alignment, Council champions for each goal, and the establishment of an Ad-hoc Committee Organization Group were included in this approach. She provided a review an organizational review status and work plan update reports.

The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Committee (CMSPC) felt that they could not take on any mapping work formerly conducted by the Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative. There is a tenuous and indirect tie between CMSPC and the mapping activity in the Action Plan. The CMSPC is meeting this afternoon to work on its recommendations for Action Plan implementation.

The CMSPC, Climate Change Committee, and State of the Gulf of Maine need to form their respective terms of reference for Working Group review and Council approval in December 2012. SOTGOM has prepared a draft terms of reference. The Outreach Committee should review its terms of reference, which may not address its status as a service committee along with the Information Management Committee.

The Information Management Committee currently has no co-chairs. The needs now would be for a database engineering expert and someone who is familiar with web design and social media tools. There has been some discussion about folding Information Management Committee functions into the Outreach Committee during the goal calls. There is a difference between the mechanics of the website, its database, and listserves vs. outreach and content functions. When Jennifer Hackett was the IMC sole co-chair, she was parsing what were outreach vs.

engineering functions. Others agreed that it should be a separate function with the content vs. engineering functions. This could be an opportunity to bring in other human resources for the IMC participation. Formerly, a GIS expert and an expert in data and social media tools were the co-chairs. It would be unfortunate for the Council's website to lose its cutting edge technology because there is no longer an Information Management Committee. Susan offered that the Department of Interior is thinking of assigning a Working Group member. She is currently serving on the Working Group as an ESIP co-chair. She will work with DOI to see if an information technology expert might be assigned for that role and that individual might be able to assist with the Information Management Committee. A contract facilitator for the IT contractor is also needed and ideally, would be one of the Information Management Committee co-chairs.

Prassede reviewed the steps to implement the Action Plan with a new organizational structure. Ideally, the recommendations would be presented to the Council prior to the December 2012 meeting. The goal champions have requested answers to the following questions:

- Identify the committee's priorities to perform the task,
- Identify tangible outcomes the committee would like to achieve,
- Specify challenges encountered in achieving these outcomes, and
- Identify opportunities that the committee should/will take advantage of to achieve outcomes and next steps.

There is a concern that this duplicates the information found in each TAPAS plan and report. Some felt that this work no longer belongs with the Council and that the Working Group needs to add detail to the framework that the Council designed. The Action Plan activities are fairly broad so it may be helpful to have more specific tasks that correlate to the Council's work. Others felt that the implications and options should be identified for the Council to choose and make decisions of its own vs. being a rubber stamp on Working Group recommendations.

The presentation may be viewed at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201210/>.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead/contact</b>	<b>Due date</b>
The Organizational review and work plan status document will be updated with the changes from the 10.2012 Working Group meeting discussions and from future goal committee conference calls.	Prassede Vella	ongoing
The Department of Interior may consider assigning an information technology expert as its Working Group member.	Susan Russell-Robinson	TBD or ongoing
The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Committee, Climate Change Committee, and State of the Gulf of Maine need to form their respective terms of reference for Working Group review and Council approval in December 2012.	Tim Hall and Betsy Nicholson Ellen Mecray and Bill Appleby Heather Breeze and Steve Couture	December 2012
The Outreach Committee should review its terms of reference so that they conform with its service committee status.	Theresa Torrent-Ellis	December 2012

### **Action Plan implementation Part III: Mechanisms for funding activities**

Cindy Krum provided background on the interaction between the Gulf of Maine Council and the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. The Associations on the Canadian and United States sides of the borders can accept and expend funds, which the Council, being a virtual organization cannot. Current funding includes payments from contracts from competitive processes or through grant, cooperative, or contribution agreements. This provides a convenient vehicle for agencies to transfer project funds to the Association for Council projects that further those agencies' goals. In the US, some federal agencies can use credit cards to transfer \$2,500 or less for Council projects. Greater than \$2,500 but less than \$100,000, agencies can use their acquisitions process. Competitive bid contracts are used for projects for over \$100,000. Cooperative agreements are used for projects such as ESIP.

In Canada, sole source projects can be funded under \$10,000. Internal funds can be used to contract for services, such as for Gulfwatch sample processing. In some cases, it is more convenient for Environment Canada to contract directly vs. transferring funds to the Gulf of Maine Association where sometimes, exchange rates can be an issue.

Cindy provided an explanation of how the indirect rate is calculated. The more money that moves through the Associations, the lower the indirect rate becomes. This is because the rate is calculated as a percentage of the general and administrative (GandA) costs of the Council as part of the whole budget. If the whole budget is lower but the GandA stays the same, the indirect rate rises. It is also easier to track Action Plan investments when they move through the Associations. The 2013 indirect rate will be presented to the Council for its approval at the December 2012 meeting. The current rate is 24.61%.

A suggestion was made that the Council should give money to its members for them to do their agencies' work.

**University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center**

Jamie Houle, Stormwater Center, University of New Hampshire provided an overview of the Stormwater Center's best management practices and technologies. Yesterday, the Center hosted and conducted a training session for Nova Scotians and other Council participants. Manufactured systems feeding pre-treated stormwater to green technologies is another strategy pavement? Maine is requiring the five-year Best Management Practices maintenance records. New Hampshire has a similar requirement for installed BMPs that are part of a permitting process.

The presentation may be viewed at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201210/>.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead/contact</b>	<b>Due date</b>
Jamie Houle will email URL for Stormwater Center to Michele Tremblay so that she can distribute it to the Working Group	Michele Tremblay	immediate

**Ecology Action Centre**

Sophia Foley introduced Jocelyne Rankin, Ecology Action Centre and Tricia Eisner, Halifax Water, whom presented its urban water quality and stormwater management project, whose partners include the Insurance Bureau of Canada, Halifax Water, and Halifax Regional Municipality.

The presentation may be viewed at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201210/>.

**Committee spotlight: Coastal Marine Spatial Planning**

Tim Hall and Betsy Nicholson, Co-chairs, Coastal Marine Spatial Planning Committee provided an update on their meeting yesterday and activities since June. Having Councillors as committee participants has been helpful and is recommended to other Council committees. The Council is the only bi-national vehicles that serve to bring together agencies. The committee has been not only a forum but a problem solving body for Canadian and United States agencies and organizations. Committee membership and further information may be found in Tim's and Betsy's presentation.

The presentation may be viewed at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201210/>.

**Great Bay Nitrogen: federal, state, nonprofit, and municipal responses**

Peter Wellenberger, Great Bay-Piscataqua WATERKEEPER and Dean Peschel, for the affected municipalities presented background and information related to nitrogen in the Great Bay of New Hampshire and the municipal and nonprofit organizations' respective responses.

The presentations may be viewed at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201210/>.

**Review of final draft of request for qualifications**

The Working Group conducted its discussions in an executive session.

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Lead/contact</b>	<b>Due date</b>
RFQ for Council Coordination was approved for publishing with agreed on changes.	Prassede Vella	n/a
Develop an RFR for Fund Development Plan, to be followed by the RFQ for Fund Developer contractor.	Prassede Vella	n/a
<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead/contact</b>	<b>Due date</b>
The RFQ for Council Coordinator will be published during the week following the WG meeting with a projected deadline of November 12. A review team will be established.	Prassede Vella	immediate
Prepare RFR for Fund Development Plan that will be followed by an RFQ for Fund Developer contractor.	Prassede Vella	November 2012

**Ecosystem Indicator Partnership survey**

Christine Tilburg, contractor, Ecosystem Indicator Partnership, presented the telephone survey results. The questions were similar to those on the Group paper survey that Working Group members completed yesterday. The results were different from the Working Group members' responses vs. those of the roughly thirty individuals in telephone interview pool. The schedule for volunteer journal articles was discussed and plans for new products and tools.

Further information may be found in the briefing note at

[http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc\\_wg\\_october\\_2012.pdf](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_october_2012.pdf)

The presentation may be viewed at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201210/>.

**State of the Gulf of Maine**

Heather Breeze and Steve Couture, co-chairs, State of the Gulf of Maine (SOTGOM) asked the Working Group if it wishes for the Council to proceed on a commercial fisheries (not stocks) paper for the SOTGOM. They have completed a draft terms of reference for the Council's approval in December 2012.

The presentation may be viewed at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201210/>.

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Lead/contact</b>	<b>Due date</b>
The State of the Gulf of Maine reporting may include a commercial fisheries paper that will not address fish stocks.	n/a	n/a
<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead/contact</b>	<b>Due date</b>
The State of the Gulf of Maine reporting will proceed with including a commercial fisheries paper that will not address fish stocks.	Heather Breeze and Steven Couture	As needed

**Committee spotlight: Gulfwatch Contaminants Monitoring Subcommittee**

Peter Wells and Christian Krahfurst, co-chairs, Gulfwatch Contaminants Monitoring Subcommittee presented an update on the activities since June. Christian acknowledged Susan Russell-Robinson for facilitating the US Geological Survey funding, Cindy Krum for fiscal Management, and Theresa Torrent-Ellis for conference bridge donation and meeting facilitation. Steve Jones, University of New Hampshire was the contracted coordinator but there are no longer funds for those services. There was a suggestion that the Council coordination request for qualifications include Gulfwatch coordination in addition to the current deliverable to of supporting committees generally. Prassede reminded committees to update their work plans that will be able to be uploaded to the TAPAS. Further information may be found in the briefing note at

[http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc\\_wg\\_october\\_2012.pdf](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_october_2012.pdf)

The presentation may be viewed at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201210/>.

**Outreach and communications: updates on the Outreach Committee and the *Gulf of Maine Times***

Theresa Torrent-Ellis updated the Working Group on her activities as the sole co-chair of the Outreach Committee and the *Times*. She reminded the Working Group that the prior name of the group was the Public Education and Participation Committee. She guided participants through an exercise to provide their perceptions of what the name means to them. This input will guide the committee in its process to help it decide on its purpose.

**RESULTS?**

For a time, the Outreach committee had a contractor. From her program's funds, she contracted with several consultants to provide the Council with studies. She feels that the new direction for the Outreach Committee is to treat it as an advisory board for communications projects. There is only one Canadian participant and the Committee has not met for approximately six years. Theresa said that dedicated funding is needed for the Outreach Committee to perform the services that the Council wishes for the *Gulf of Maine Times*. Some felt that there has been no one to do layout work for the *Times*. The cost is approximately \$10,000 per edition of the *Times*. With an irregular publication, Theresa feels that readership is lost. How does this proposal relate to the other proposal that will be made to the Council in its budget in December? It is likely too late to change the proposal for the Council. The next step would be to build the committee membership and then a proposal can be made. This should not be the task of a sole co-chair, a Canadian co0chair and a base of membership is needed. The first step is to present a proposal to Management and Finance.

**Gulf of Maine Association report and updates**

Cindy Krum provided an oral version of her report and updates in the meeting briefing book. The first meeting of the Gulf of Maine Association was convened in June. It will be closely tied to the Canadian Association, which continues its important function to receive and transfer Canadian funds. Jackie Olsen is interested in serving as one of the private sector Councillors for Nova Scotia, so she may continue on the Gulf of Maine Association. She has a great passion for the Council and supporting the Council. The focus of the board of directors is not to duplicate or replace the Council's functions such as strategic planning. It wants to take the lead on contractual management, fund development, and fiscal management. It wants to lead assigning values to the Council's work.

Further information may be found in the briefing note at

[http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc\\_wg\\_october\\_2012.pdf](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_october_2012.pdf)

The presentation may be viewed at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201210/>.

**Action Plan implementation Part IV: funding the work**

David Keeley with Peter Lamb and Don Hudson, highlighted his briefing note on development. There is an effort to foster relationships with Canadian funders with Lee Sochasky taking a lead with the Canadian Environmental



Grantmakers Network by finding common priorities. David is now working on a funders forum in the United States. He presented possible themes for the upcoming fora. The funders want science-based, unbiased opinions on what should be funded. They want to fund what is needed by the region not what an organization wants. There is some discomfort with soliciting funds vs. serving merely as a broker. Some are very concerned with who is asking whom and how the process will be perceived. It must be very transparent and could negatively affect the role that some of the participants have with the Council. "Socializing science" is what is needed. This means that several fora or meetings may be required to build capacity. It was expressed that there isn't concern about who pays for Action Plan activities as long as it gets done. On the other hand, the Council does not require a great deal of staffing but it should be covered. The Council has been an effective group in the region for nearly twenty-five years. There is some concern about a shift from a coordinating and collaboration organization turning into a fund soliciting and fiscal management organization. This is a communication effort so the dialogue must be clearly defined and framed. For instance, what should be achieved through working with foundations? This relationship must be mutually beneficial. It must be very targeted with a plan.

There may be some misunderstanding about the US vs. Canadian priorities regarding diadromous fish. This may be based on a single conversation where the information discussed might have been misconstrued so clarification is needed.

Further information may be found in the briefing note at

[http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc\\_wg\\_october\\_2012.pdf](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_october_2012.pdf)

The presentation may be viewed at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201210/>.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead/contact</b>	<b>Due date</b>
Coordinate a calls to clarify Habitat Restoration Partnership and Habitat Restoration Subcommittee roles and responsibilities	Cindy Krum and Michele Tremblay, respectively	immediate
Convene call to clarify issues regarding Canadian and US diadromous fish policies and priorities	Cindy Krum	immediate

Prassede thanked everyone and the meeting was convened.

*Summary prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, natresource communications*

## Indirect Cost Rate Recommendation

**Background:** Each year the Gulf of Maine Association (Association) reviews the auditor's indirect cost rate calculation (the actual indirect cost rate from the prior fiscal year). The Association (and GOMC) then approves an indirect cost rate that goes into effect in December following their meeting.

GOMA Approved Rates for Last Four Years:

December 2008 = 16.59

December 2009 = 19.24

December 2010 = 20.61

December 2011 = 20.61 (approved rate was lower than auditors calculation)

**Average rate over the past four years = 19.26%**

Fiscal Year 2012 Auditors Calculation:

FY 2012 audit = 21.32

The Gulf of Maine Association can decide on an indirect rate that is different than the rate calculated by the auditors. As you can see above, at the December 2011 Gulf of Maine Association meeting, a rate lower than the auditors calculated rate was approved. The new indirect rate calculation from the FY12 audit is 21.32%. The average rate used for the past 4 years is 19.26%.

**Recommendation:**

Gulf of Maine Council:

The recommendation is to set the rate at 19.26% (average over last four years) to go into effect December 14, 2012 through the December 2013 GOMC meeting. The rate would apply to new funds applied for or received after December 14, 2012 and would only apply if allowable by the funder and/or the Gulf of Maine Association has not made a different decision.

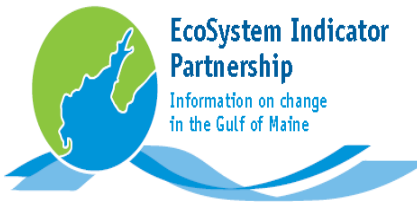
**Fiscal Agent Arrangements:**

Fiscal agent agreements will be locked in for three years at a time. Fiscal agent arrangements will be one-half the indirect rate rounded down to the nearest whole number unless otherwise decided by the Gulf of Maine Association.

**Recommended Action:** Review purposes only.

*Submitted by: Cindy Krum GOMA Executive Director with review by Don Hudson, Board Chair, and the GOMC Management and Finance Committee*

## EcoSystem Indicator Partnership



### ESIP and the Delivery of Ecosystem Indicators

#### Fact Sheets Out and About

ESIP has now released five fact sheets since 2009. Each fact sheet is a stand alone product yet contains the essentials of ESIP: our branding and focus on unbiased delivery of indicator information. The table below shows both hard-copy and downloads from the ESIP webpages.

Fact Sheet	Original Release*	2009	2010	2011	2012 (through October)	Total
General ESIP Sheet	July 2009	321	290	791	263	1665
Aquaculture Fact Sheet	January 2011			494	318	813
Climate Change Fact Sheet	February 2011			554	237	791
Aquatic Habitats Fact Sheet	October 2011			365	360	725
Eutrophication Fact Sheet	May 2012				426	426

\* *The AwStats program used by GOMC's IT team does not have downloads available pre-August 2011.*

#### Evaluating Through Interviews and Web Survey

ESIP has spent part of the summer and fall conducting evaluation interviews through both phone conversations with ESIP organizations and through a web survey for a project funded by EPA. Results from the survey through November 14 are below:

<b>Question 1: Are you familiar with ESIP?</b>
Quite familiar (66%)
Familiar (24%)
Not familiar (10%)
<b>Question 2: Do you find the individuals you work with place a high value on scientific data?</b>
Yes (93%)
Mixed (7%)



<b>Question 3: What one or two questions regarding the Gulf of Maine are you frequently asked?</b>
Questions centered around water quality (eutrophication, macroalgae, impacts of aquaculture, etc). (24%)
Climate Change questions (SLR, changes in water temperature, changes in molt cycles, ocean acidification) (22%)
General questions about the health of the Gulf (22%)
Questions about fish stocks (lobster and clams included) (20%)
<b>Question 4: What has been a difficult part of your job that additional data or products would have made easier?</b>
Need for data that has been synthesized/analyzed or even available in the right format (20%)
Difficulty obtaining information (issues with "knowing where to look") (15%)
Data on a finer scale than is provided (10%)
Information on eutrophication (10%)
Long-term conditions of a local place (10%)
<b>Question 5: Are there too many organizations providing data in the Gulf of Maine? Is the opposite true?</b>
Not too many (44%)
Too many (24%)
<b>Question 6: What emerging issues do you think will become important in the next 2-3 years? 5-10 years?</b>
Climate Change (76%)
Eutrophication (22%)
Ocean acidification (15%)
Fish stocks and biotic interactions (12%)
<b>Question 7: When you've used ESIP products in the past what form have they been in?</b>
Print form (fact sheets) (59%)
Web information (tools and articles) (59%)
Downloadable data (15%)
None of the listed (15%)

## **GOMC competitive grants and solicitations**

Received 2006-2012

### **Gulf of Maine Council - Competitive Grants and Solicitations Received: 2006 to 2012**

During the past six years the Council has written over twenty competitive funding proposals and ten were funded. In addition, the Council has solicited over thirty-six organizations to become sponsors of the Gulf of Maine Times and eighteen have become sponsors.

<b>Source</b>	<b>Purpose/Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Indicators</b>		
NOAA/CICEET	Indicators development (2006)	\$20,000
NRCAN (GeoConnections)	ESIP - develop tools and provide on-line access to spatial data and information from distributed sources over the internet (2007)	\$150,000
NERACOOS	ESIP – organize and convene users workshop (2010)	\$14,000
<b>Science Translation Project</b>		
NOAA/CICEET	Support GOMC science translators (2006)	\$40,000
<b>Gulf of Maine Times</b>		
Maine Community Foundation	Develop business plan for the GOMT (2008)	\$5,000
NH Charitable Foundation	Develop business plan for the GOMT (2008)	\$5,000
GOM Sponsors <sup>1</sup>	Support production of the Times	\$29,500
<b>Habitat restoration</b>		
Cox Charitable Trust	GOM Habitat Restoration and Conservation Strategy, restoration coordinator and IT support (2009)	\$63,500
NH Charitable Foundation	GOM Habitat Restoration and Conservation Strategy AND restoration coordinator (2009)	\$10,000
Maine Community Foundation	GOM Habitat Restoration and Conservation Strategy AND restoration coordinator (2009)	\$6,000
<b>Climate change</b>		
NOAA/Climate Program Office	Climate change research, communication and local grants (2011)	\$285,000
		\$628,000

<sup>1</sup> Examples of sponsors include: UNH/Northeast Consortium, SeaPlan, NEOSEC, NH Charitable Foundation, Census for Marine Life, CLF, Nature Conservancy Canada, CINAR, TNC New England,



# RARGOM/GOMC memorandum of agreement

Final version and execution for December 2012

## JOINT STATEMENT

by

*The Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine  
and  
The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment*

The parties to this Joint Statement are:

- a) The Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine, (herein referred to as RARGOM). RARGOM is a representative of the marine scientific community and has interests in the oceanography, ecology, natural resources, and environmental quality of the Gulf of Maine (Appendix A).
- b) The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (herein referred to as the Council). The Council is established by the five Governors and Premiers bordering the Gulf of Maine, to coordinate transboundary resource management concerns and to promote activities that sustain the ecosystem of the Gulf of Maine (Appendix B).

### Recognizing

- that the Gulf of Maine is a vast ecosystem of inestimable value to the region;
- that the wise management of the Gulf, including transboundary issues, is of utmost concern to all parties;
- that while each party has its own distinct mission, operates independently, and represents a different segment of the marine enterprise (Appendices), together they share a common interest in the Gulf of Maine; and
- that effective communication and exchange of information among the parties will avoid duplication of effort and maximize the effective use of resources,

Therefore, the parties declare that they will:

- 1) consult with each other as a source of review and advice in their respective spheres of authority or expertise;
- 2) RARGOM will seek active consultation from the Council on the science topics for its Annual Science Conference as well as other science meetings that RARGOM hosts, such as its Theme sessions and Symposia.
- 3) collaborate where appropriate in developing and periodically refining complementary marine research and environmental monitoring agendas for the region; (the Council's priority goals and objectives will be articulated and implemented through the Council's Action Plan and annual work plans; the role of RARGOM will be to assist in the design and review of scientific aspects of these programs and plans);
- 4) promote the exchange of information among themselves and with user groups, including but not limited to scientific data and information systems, meeting announcements, newsletters, media events, reports and other publications;
- 5) respect and mutually enhance their independent missions, as stated herein and elaborated in Appendices A and B; further recognize and promote the participation of other organizations and programs in the region that are involved in marine issues.
- 6) allow for the Association of US Delegates to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, when requested by RARGOM, to assist that organization by providing fiscal agent services including receiving, disbursing and accounting for funds that the organization receives.

### SIGNATURES:

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Kevin Friedland, Chair  
Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine

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Date

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Bruce Carlsle, Chair  
Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

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Date

## **APPENDIX A**

### **ARTICLE III Mission and Objectives**

RARGOM is an association of institutions that are actively involved in research, management and stewardship activities related to the Gulf of Maine and its watershed. RARGOM was founded in 1991.

RARGOM is an advocate for science and research in the Gulf of Maine. Its basic missions are to facilitate a coherent program of regional research, promote scientific quality and encourage regional coordination and collaboration among researchers and environmental decision-makers residing at its member institutions.

Its specific objectives include the following:

1. To serve as a catalyst for development of research visions, programs and infrastructure serving the regional interest
2. To promote and encourage the coordination of marine research and monitoring in and around the Gulf of Maine.
3. To provide scientific and technical advice and planning for federal, regional, state/Province and local agencies and organizations
4. To serve as an agent for communication of regional activities, resources and funding and employment opportunities to its members
5. To communicate the need for and results of scientific research on the Gulf of Maine
6. To foster communication and collegiality in the Gulf of Maine research community

## **APPENDIX B**

*(Summarized from the Operating Guidelines of the Council on the Marine Environment)*

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations.

### **Principles**

The following principles help guide the Council and participating agencies in their decisions involving the Gulf of Maine ecosystem. Each principle is congruent with international protocols, as well as state, provincial, and national legislation in Canada and the United States.

#### **Ecologically sustainable development**

The Council seeks to meet the region's current social, cultural, and environmental needs without compromising the needs of future generations. Working in partnership with others, it strives to sustain ecological processes and enhance the region's quality of life.

#### **Ecosystem-based planning and management**

The Council supports collaborative management that integrates economics and ecological values and objectives, emphasizing natural rather than political boundaries.

#### **Environmental protection through precaution**

The Council supports conservation of the coastal and marine environment, and urges its members to proceed with caution when scientific information is incomplete to avoid environmental degradation.

#### **Public information and participation-based planning and management**

The Council is committed to a participatory process that informs and engages the public in setting priorities, forming policies, and pursuing efforts to conserve the Gulf's environment.



## **Meeting Schedule for MA Secretariat July 2012 – June 2013**

**Proposed meeting schedule 2012-2013**

<b>Working Group Meeting</b>	<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Location</b>
March 5-6, 2013		TBD	Nova Scotia (?)
June 11-12, 2013	June 13, 2013	Awards Ceremony	Massachusetts

*Submitted by Prassede Vella, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management*

## **Gulf of Maine Council Awards**

### **Background**

Do you know a *group or individual* who has worked professionally or selflessly volunteered to improve the Gulf of Maine? A *volunteer* who has devoted his or her life to natural resource and environmental issues in the Gulf? A very special *coastal management professional* who works in the Gulf of Maine? A *member of industry* that has gone above and beyond requirements to be a good Gulf citizen? A *community or a group within a community* that exemplifies a sustainable environment and economy?

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment conducts an annual solicitation process for its Visionary, Longard, Susan Snow-Cotter Leadership, Industry, and Sustainable Communities Awards. This is one of the most visible and positive activities that the Council conducts each year. In my daily monitoring of Council media coverage and website crawler hits, no other program receives so much mainstream attention from mentions of award winners in conference biographical summaries to media releases involving awardees to radio, newspaper, and other print and electronic media carrying awardees' quotations. This is often in the context of those quoted having an elevated profile in part, because of their awards.

There are five award categories that facilitate up to fourteen individuals or entities being able to receive these awards.

- One group *and* one individual—paid professionals or volunteers are eligible—in each province and state\* will be selected to receive a Visionary Award.
- One Longard Award will be selected to honour a lifetime of achievement in his or her volunteer work.
- One individual will be selected for the first Susan Snow-Cotter award to recognize a coastal management professional who exemplifies outstanding leadership or exceptional mentoring in the Gulf of Maine watershed.
- One industry will be selected to receive the new award.
- One group or a group within a community will be selected for the new Sustainable Communities award.

### **Action or outcomes requested: please**

1. Consider nominating a deserving volunteer or professional individual or group for a Visionary Award, an individual volunteer for the Longard Award, a professional for the Susan Snow-Cotter Leadership Award, a business for the Industry Award, and a community or group within a community for the Sustainable Communities Award.
2. Visit <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/opportunities/> or click on the "Opportunities" link on the Council's home page to view previous award recipients and download the nomination forms.
3. Distribute the monthly emailed awards call for nominations widely and encourage colleagues to work together to submit applications.
4. Do not hesitate to contact me at 603.796.2615 or [MLT@naturesource.net](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net) if I may provide any guidance or other assistance with your nominations.

*Submitted by Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications*

## **Management and Finance, Secretariat Team and committee revised and new terms of reference**

### **Management and Finance Terms of Reference**

#### **Purpose**

Management and Finance (MF) serves the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment by managing and reporting on the Council's programmatic, personnel, finance, and budget directives.

- Programmatic – MF takes the lead and works closely with the Council, Working Group and Committees to develop and implement annual work plans that implement the five-year *Action Plan*. It oversees all related contract procurement procedures (e.g., requests for proposals, contract negotiations, contract reviews) including external and internal budget decisions.

It facilitates inter-committee coordination, establishes and monitors implementation of Council procedures(e.g., *Reference Handbook*), and coordinates internal policy. It organizes Council and Working Group meetings as needed including the development of agendas and reporting out of the results. It seeks to secure funding in support of approved Council initiatives and projects.

- Personnel – MF is responsible to the Council for all contractor/personnel decisions. In doing so it will delegate appropriate authority to the committees, ensure they have adequate support to perform this work and will make recommendations to the Council as needed.
- Finance and Budget – MF prepares the annual budget for Council and Working Group review and then oversees its implementation. (It can amend the budget if the changes do not cumulatively exceed 10% of the approved budget.)

#### **Membership**

Management and Finance is composed of a representative designated by each state and province, one provincial member at-large, one federal representative from each country, and one Gulf of Maine Association member from each country. The current Working Group chair serves as MF Chair.

#### **Support**

The Council Coordinator, Development Coordinator, Administrative Assistant, and the Executive Director of the Gulf of Maine Association provide the necessary contractor support. In addition, other Council contractors, agency representatives, and committee co-chairs may assist as needed and contracted.

#### **Decisions**

Decisions will be made by consensus.



### **Secretariat Team Terms of Reference**

#### **Purpose**

The Secretariat Team serves the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC), Working Group, and Management and Finance. Its purpose is to advise the Secretariat on matters related to routine policy, budgetary, logistical, and contract issues. The Secretariat Team develops options to facilitate the smooth operation of the organization for implementation by other GOMC groups.

#### **Organization**

- a. **Membership:** The Secretariat Team consists of a representative from the immediate past, current, and future jurisdictions to serve as the Secretariat. The Council may appoint additional members by consensus of its members.
- b. **Chair:** The Working Group Chair facilitates the Secretariat Team's calls, meetings, and processes.
- c. **Meetings:** The Secretariat Team is expected to conduct the majority of its business through telecommunications and email. It may meet as needed and agreed upon by its membership.
- d. **Decisions:** The Team has limited decision-making abilities. It may take action on matters directed to its attention. Decisions will be made by consensus. The Secretariat Team will forward its decisions as recommendations to the body that requested its involvement.
- e. **Support:** The Council Coordinator, Gulf of Maine Association Executive Director, and the Development Coordinator provide support to the Secretariat Team and participate in its discussions.

## **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Committee Terms of Reference**

### **Context**

The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) Committee was accepted as a full Committee by the Council on June 15, 2011 following recommendations arising from an ad-hoc committee.

### **Purpose**

The Committee will:

- Investigate and make recommendations on appropriate roles/activities for the Council in CMSP;
- Track and exchange information on CMSP policies and activities on both sides of the border; and
- Develop and implement an annual work plan and review progress.

### **Meetings**

At least once every year, the Committee will meet face-to-face to:

- Review accomplishments of the previous year;
- Establish priority work tasks for the following year; and,
- Establish the annual budget.

The Committee will strive to hold three conference calls per year to review progress and discuss current issues of mutual interest in the field of CMSP to the Committee members.

### **Meeting ground rules**

- Announced 10 days in advance to all committee members and will normally be held in conjunction with a GoMC Working Group meeting.
- A minimum of three participants (at least one from each country) plus one of the co-chairs will represent a quorum.
- Decisions will be by consensus.
- Meetings will be open to all interested parties.
- Minutes of all meetings will be distributed to Committee members by the co-chairs.
- Conference calls will be announced by the co-chairs.
- Committee presentations given at the Working Group or Council level will reflect the views of the full committee.

### **Membership**

There will be two co-chairs, one from the U.S. and one from Canada. The committee will strive to have membership from a U.S. federal agency, a Canadian federal agency, a U.S. state, a Canadian province, or a delegated (academic, non-profit, private) member from these jurisdictions. Each department, agency or organization on the Working Group and Council can, if they so choose, nominate a person to serve on the Committee. The respective Working Group members in each jurisdiction will make appointments to the Committee.

### **Chair Responsibilities**

- Set the agenda for meetings;
- Chair meetings;
- Publish and distribute minutes of meetings;
- Speak on behalf of the Committee; and
- Direct the expenditure of funds on behalf of the Committee and the Council.

### **Reporting**

Meeting summaries will be prepared by the one of the co-chairs, and will be sent to all members and the GOMC Coordinator.

The Committee will provide updates to the Council and Working Group on at least a semi-annual basis via briefing notes in meeting documents or presentations at Working Group and Council meetings.



## **State of the Gulf of Maine Reporting Committee Terms of Reference**

### **Context**

At the June 2009 meeting of the Gulf of Maine Council (GOMC), the Council decided to go forward with a State of the Gulf of Maine Report, based on the framework presented in the Scoping Document (Walmsley 2009). The aim was to complete portions of the report (the context document and several theme papers) for the June 2010 celebrations of the 20-year anniversary of the Council. The development of the report continued incrementally after that. The State of the Gulf of Maine Report is a modular document. The main products are:

1. Context Document,
2. Theme Papers on priority issues, and
3. Website.

### **Purpose**

The Committee will:

- Provide strategic direction on the Gulf of Maine Council's State of the Gulf of Maine Report,
- Provide editorial advice and guidance to the State of the Gulf Report editor,
- Review theme papers and other material prepared for the State of the Gulf of Maine Report,
- Oversee the content of the State of the Gulf of Maine Report webpage (part of the Council website).
- Collaborate with other Gulf of Maine Council committees to effectively disseminate State of the Gulf materials to our primary audiences and widely communicate the results and findings so as to inform decision-making.

### **Meetings**

At least once every year, the Committee will meet to:

- Recommend individuals to serve as co-chairs (one from each country);
- Review accomplishments of the previous year;
- Establish priority work tasks for the following year; and,
- Establish the annual budget.

### **Meeting ground rules**

- Announced 10 days in advance to all committee members.
- Normally will be held by conference call but will occasionally have face-to-face sessions in conjunction with GOMC Working Group meetings.
- A minimum of three participants (at least one from each country) plus one of the co-chairs will represent a quorum.
- Decisions will, by preference, be by consensus. If a vote is necessary, a majority of those present is required. Each jurisdiction will have one vote.
- Meetings will be open to all interested parties.
- Minutes of all meetings will be distributed to Committee members by the co-chairs.

### **Membership**

There will be two co-chairs, one from the U.S. and one from Canada. At a minimum, the committee should have membership from a U.S. federal agency, a Canadian federal agency, a U.S. state and a Canadian province. Each department, agency, or organization on the Working Group and Council can, if they so choose, nominate a person to serve on the Committee. The respective Working Group members in each jurisdiction will make appointments to the Committee.

### **Chair Responsibilities**

- Set the agenda for meetings;
- Chair meetings;
- Publish and distribute minutes of meetings;
- Speak on behalf of the Committee; and
- Direct the expenditure of funds on behalf of the Committee and the Council.

### **Reporting**

Meeting summaries will be prepared by the State of the Gulf Report editor or a meeting co-chair, and will be sent to all members and the GOMC Coordinator.

The Committee will provide updates to the Council and Working Group on at least a semi-annual basis via briefing notes in meeting documents or presentations at Working Group and Council meetings.



## **GOM Library goes digital and viral**

### **Background**

Since 1989 the Maine State Planning Office has served as the Council's repository for Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy publications. At present there are over 400 publications in the collection of which 100 +/- are estimated to be products of the Gulf of Maine Council. In May 2012 the Coastal Program moved to new offices and no longer has space for the library. To ensure an orderly transition of the library to the digital environment it worked to:

- Ensure priority publications remain available to the Council and the public; and
- Increase accessibility to Gulf of Maine print resources

This project had six steps including: understanding the contents of the library; exploring library partnerships to host elements of the collection; reducing the holdings to priority items; obtaining and creating digital copies (searchable PDFs with abstracts) of priority items; using the Council's *Knowledge-base* to make these publications accessible through an enhanced web presence on the Council's web site, including reconstructing the Council's "publications page"; and increasing awareness amongst users that these digital resources are available.

During this process it became apparent that there are key "grey literature" resources that are not in the library such as those produced by the Gulf of Maine Marine Research Board Program, the USF&WS Gulf of Maine Program Office, the Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine, the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership, etc. The Council's web site will identify these resources and point people to the appropriate locations.

In 2012 the Maine Coastal Program will transfer all hard copies to the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in Boothbay Maine. (Bigelow saw the merits of collection and will make the holding available to the public pro-bono.)

### **Possible Activities and Next Steps:**

1. Review and become familiar with *Knowledge-base* through an interactive tour provided by Jim Cradock (Yellahoose). (5-min)
2. Working Group identifies 2-3 desired resources (e.g., information on riparian buffers and setbacks, habitat restoration techniques, or seafloor mapping data). Using the Knowledge-base search features Jim leads a mock-exercise to locate the materials. (15-minutes)
3. Working Group members discuss about the search features and offer recommended improvements to better meet their needs. (15-minutes)

### **Actions/outcomes requested**

The Working Group is aware of what the Council's library contains and understands what holdings are relevant to the 2012-17 Action Plan tasks. The committees know what is in the library and how some holdings can inform their current work. The Working Group offers advice on how to communicate the availability and uses of the library to target audiences:

- GOMC member agencies;
- Action Plan partners (e.g., non-profits, NROC, BoFEP, RARGOM, etc.); and
- Others interested in the GOM/BoF (universities/students/academics, journalists/media, etc.)

*Submitted by David Keeley and Jim Cradock*

## Action Plan implementation Part I: Plan Structure to Organizational Structure

### Background

The adoption of a new Action Plan 2012-2017 in December 2011 triggered a series of discussions among Working Group members on the best approach to implement Action Plan priority activities. The GOMC is made up of several committees which over the past several months have been developing work plans outlining a strategy to address relevant priorities to fulfill the goals of the Action Plan. The importance of the roles of the Committees in implementing the Action Plan was brought to the forefront during the meeting in June 2012 when Council asked the Working Group to:

***“Develop recommendations for a defined structure for committees that are clearly linked to Action plan activities and outcome, which will include roles and link outcomes to the Action plan based on input from the relevant goal champions; this will include a schedule for periodic reporting on progress to be built into the process.”***

In addition Councilor volunteered to serve as goal champions and assist the Working Group in this effort. A Committee Organization Ad Hoc Group was established and conducted in-depth discussions with Committee Co-Chairs and goal champions to understand the status of each committee, identify its link to Action Plan activities, assess the availability of resources, and understand its readiness to implement the activities. Through this process the Ad Hoc group was also able to identify whether all activities in the Action Plan could be addressed by a committee and where there are gaps or loose ends.

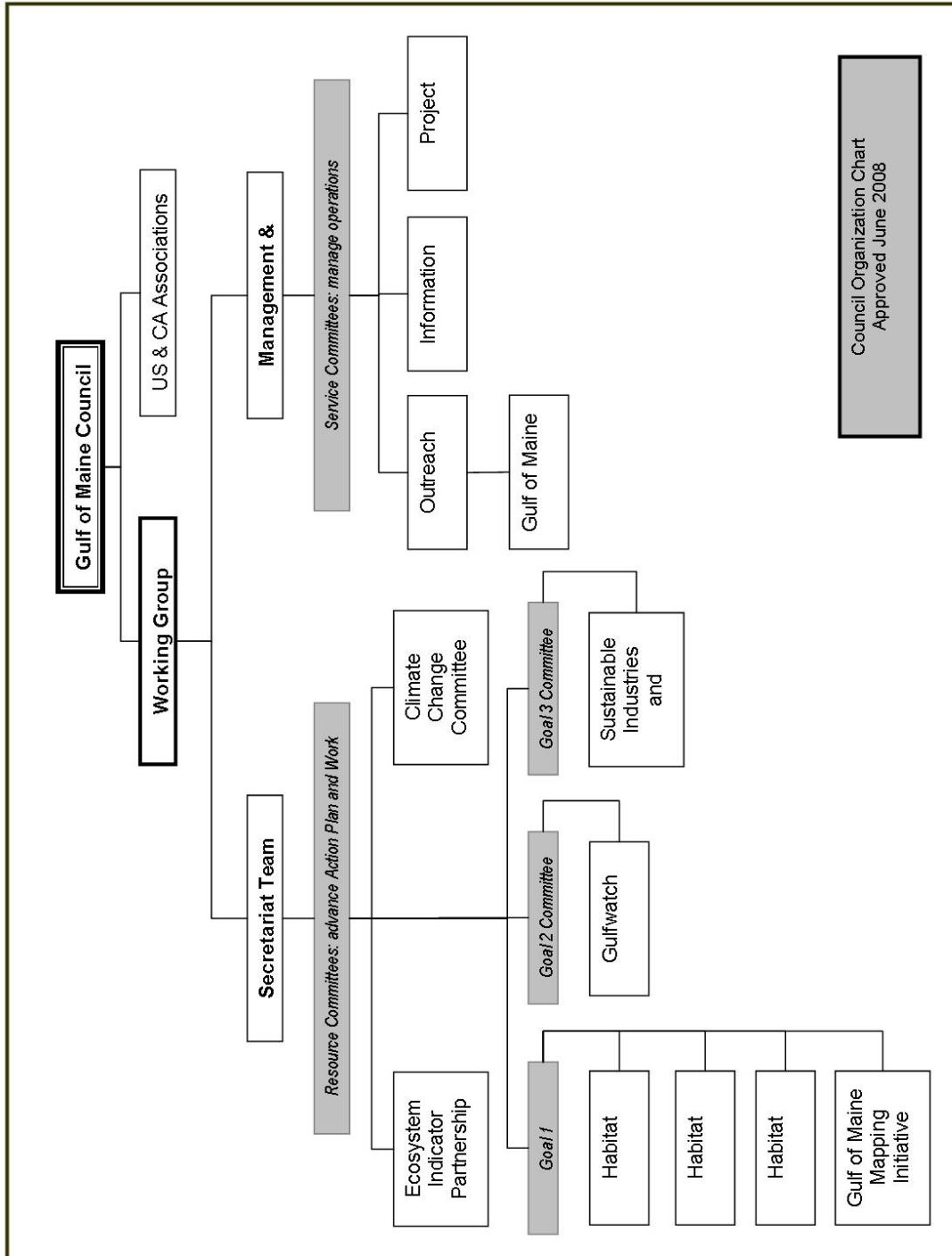
The following outcomes were produced:

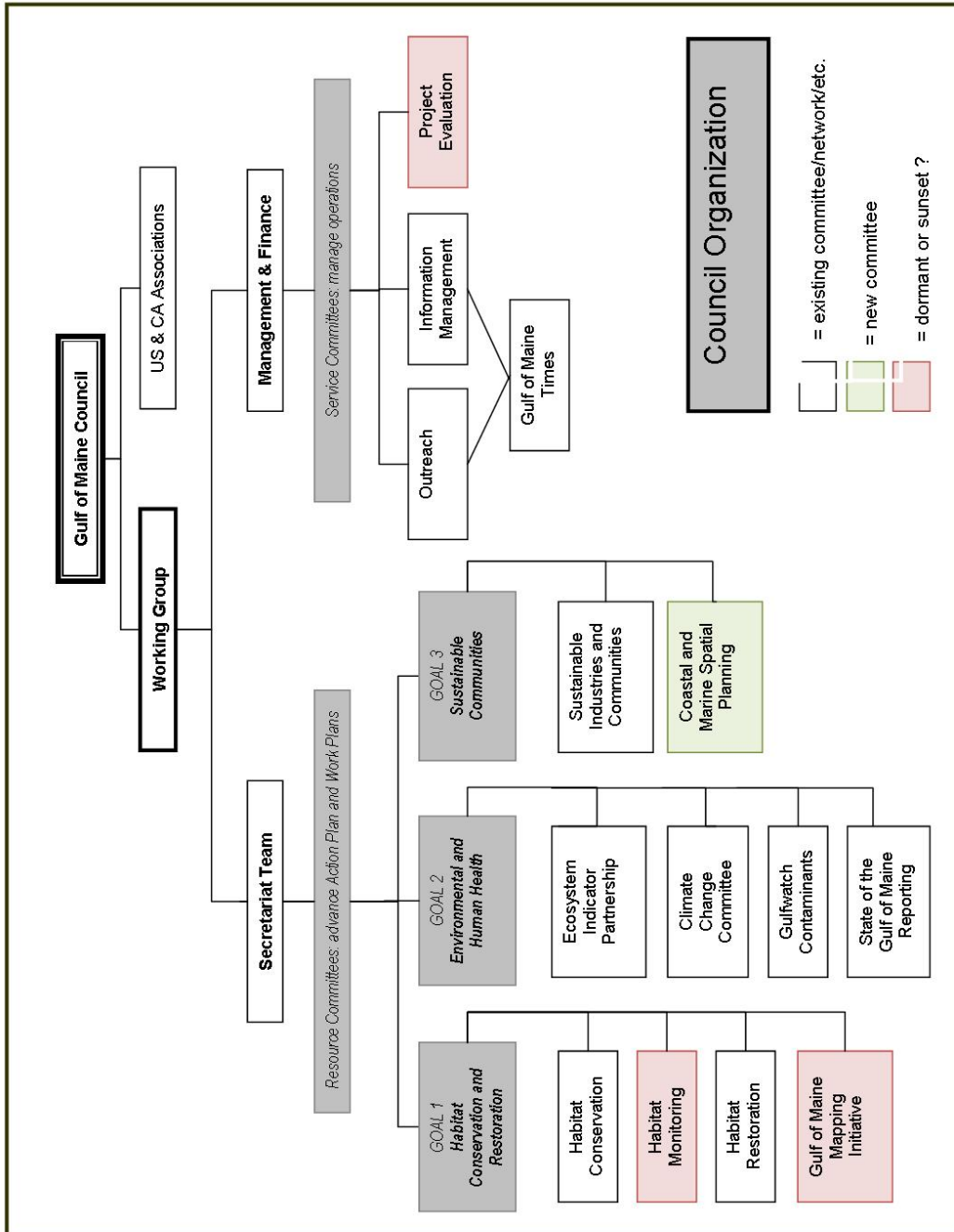
- 1) An updated organizational chart
- 2) An updated spreadsheet linking each committee to an activity or activities in the Action Plan
- 3) A summary of findings and a set of recommendations/next steps that will inform Council where and how each committee will need the Council's support to accomplish its goals

### Action or outcomes requested

The Working Group will review the current committee organization structure (draft chart) vis-à-vis the Action Plan goals, and the review/discuss the recommendations to Council based on detailed evaluation of the status of the committees.

*Submitted by Prassede Vella, obo Committee Organization Ad Hoc Group*







## **Recording and reporting on Council accomplishments**

### **Background**

Every five years, as one component of the Action Plan revision process, the Council produces a 5-year accomplishment summary. The content is gathered by reviewing meeting minutes and requesting input from committees. The Working Group needs a more thoughtful and predictable method to record and report on accomplishments. Routine reporting on our web site could inform external audiences about Council (and its committees) activities, assist WG members in making the case for continued jurisdictional participation, and help Councilors feel their time is well spent. The structure for this ongoing process should be based on the goals and priority activities of the Action Plan. A number of reporting and recording suggestions will be provided to stimulate discussions.

### **Action or outcomes requested**

The Working Group discusses the merits of recording and reporting Council accomplishments and creates some achievable path forward (e.g., what will be done, by whom, in what format and level of detail, how the information will be disseminated, etc.)

*Submitted by Prassede Vella, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management*



## **Coastal Zone Canada 2014: Opportunity for Collaboration**

Coastal Zone Canada (CZC) 2014 is currently in the initial planning stages. This will be the twentieth anniversary of this biennial conference series that provides an opportunity for professionals and interested parties to engage in dialogue on Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management (ICOM) and to help shape the future of ICOM in Canada and beyond. This is an international conference series and CZC 2014 will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 15 – 19, 2014.

CZC 2014 will coincide with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Gulf of Maine Council and being held in Nova Scotia provides an excellent opportunity for the Council to participate and feature aspects of its world class programs in the Gulf of Maine bioregion. The event also coincides with the hosting of the Council by the Province of Nova Scotia at roughly the same time as the June Council and Working Group meetings.

This also provides an opportunity to respond to one of the Council's June 2012 recommendations which was to explore the possibility of the Council hosting a regular summit - type event. The rationale was to enhance logistical efficiencies and collaborative opportunities and to promote the 2012 – 2017 Action Plan.

### **Possible activities and next steps**

In response to the Council's June 2012 request, the following ideas can be brainstormed along with others to help us develop possible approaches:

- Endorsement of CZC 2014 by the Gulf of Maine Council.
- Host a theme session that focuses on specific activities of the Council such as indicators, State of the Ocean reporting, bilateral collaboration, habitat restoration etc.
- Host a special event in conjunction with CZC 2014 as an anniversary event or as the first of a regular series of Gulf of Maine "summits". US DOI (USGS) has indicated an interest in helping to sponsor this type of an event.
- Hold the June 2014 Council and Working Group meetings in conjunction with CZC 2014 in Halifax.
- Submit a poster presentation showcasing the various aspects of the 2012 – 2017 Action Plan.

### **Action or outcomes requested**

The Working Group will brainstorm possible linkages with CZC 2014 and make a recommendation to Council. This may include the formation of an ad-hoc working group and identification of any resources required.

*Submitted by Tim Hall, DFO Maritimes Working Group Representative*



## **Core Services Contracts – optimizing support to the Council**

### **Background**

Following the development of a new Action Plan and in view of evolving roles and needs of the Council, the Working Group has discussed the need to review the current scopes of work for the core services provided to the Council. In March it was decided to look into this issue and issue RFQs for these services, starting with Council Coordination and Fund Development. A Request for Qualifications for Council Coordination was announced in October and applications are currently being reviewed with the goal of a contract starting January 1. In terms of Fund Development, various options of how best to approach and fill this need for the Council were discussed at the Working Group meeting in October and subsequently by the Management and Finance Committee which is preparing a recommended approach for the Working Group to review. Details will be provided at the Working Group meeting.

### **Action or outcomes requested**

The Working Group discusses recommendations made by the Management and Finance Committee on how to proceed with specific aspects of these contracts in order to answer to the needs of the Council and establish a strong support system. The Working Group will approve these recommendations so they will be presented to Council for approval.

*Submitted by Prassede Vella, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management*

## **Outreach Committee Status and Next Activities for the Work Plan**

**Background:** The Outreach Committee has historically been responsible for “public education and participation.” They have been responsible for production of various Committee projects which include the development of the Times and projects spearheaded by various members as part of their contributions to GOMC such as the *Sea Beside A Sea* brochure, the *Undersea Landscapes* poster and supporting the publication of the *GOM Marine Habitat Primer*. In the past few years there have been limited resources available for large outreach projects and products. The Committee has had primarily an advisory role. During the development of the new revised five year Action Plan the need for an internal and external communications focus was identified. The goal was to have the new CA Co-Chair build the new communications plan and for the US Chair to focus on building an outreach plan for the new committee activities. This unfortunately was only partially completed as the CA Chair was put on another project and the US Chair was the WG lead for the Secretariat during this time. To meet some of the deadlines a contractor was brought in last minute to help develop the communications strategy and plan. There has been an ongoing need for a CA Co-Chair for this Committee and for CA participation. It seems this may be more plausible with a focus on communications versus education.

Currently the OC is functioning in an advisory capacity for GOMC projects and some members are also participating on the Times editorial committee. There is limited interest and time on the part of participants for conference calls that have limited substance or that lack in specified project needs. The Committee has remained responsive and supportive to specific asks that have been made in the past year regarding their recommendations on content for a communications based funding proposal and recommendations on effective online publications they use. The Committee was also engaged and participated where possible in our communications trainings.

Next steps for the OC included the assessment and identified of areas in the Action Plan work plans where Committees have requested support from the OC. From this review it was suggested that currently the needs of two of these Committees, ESIP and Gulfwatch are either in process – such as the ESIP survey - or are not ready for OC participation. The SOER Committee has identified a need for greater marketing of their reports and building a connection with the Gulf of Maine Times as a component of this. The OC Chair along with feedback from the Committee will be focusing work on this project this winter and will revisit the other outreach requests to plan for future support to the other two Committees as needed. To address the Communications needs of the various GOMC programs and those of our partners we would like to continue to facilitate training workshops that help to build our communication skills and keep us educated on new tools and strategies. To build on our work to date in defining our communication needs the OC should continue to work in identifying our target audiences and assessing appropriate communication tools for our message(s) to them. Along with this focus on communication tools the OC should partner with IT for evaluation and updating of the GOMC website providing material and content recommendations to complement the maintenance of the site's functionality.

**Outcome/desired action:** OC needs WG feedback on their current recommendations for next steps for Committee actions and priorities.

*Submitted by Theresa Torrent-Ellis, Maine Coastal Program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry*

## Sentinel monitoring in the Gulf of Maine: Implementing Activity 2.1.3 in the Action Plan

**Background:** In 1991 the Gulf of Maine Council produced *Environmental Quality Monitoring Program: An Initial Plan*. It established three monitoring goals:

- To provide information on the status, trends and sources of risk to the marine environment;
- To provide information on the status, trends and sources of marine-based human health risks; and
- To provide appropriate and timely information to environmental and resource managers that will allow both efficient and effective management action and evaluation of such action.

Given the scope of this Plan and the resources available to implement it the Council developed the Gulfwatch Program, which uses blue mussels as a sentinel monitoring species, to demonstrate it could create and manage a bi-national monitoring program. And the rest is history.

In 1995 the Council's Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee produced *Strategies for Implementing the Initial Plan*. It rank ordered six priorities and provided specific recommendations for the following:

- Watershed land use/sub-tidal habitat changes;
- Point and non-point contaminant sources;
- Surveys and inventories of ecosystem biota;
- Overfishing, bycatch mortalities, harvesting impacts on benthic communities;
- Cumulative anthropogenic impacts/biotic index;
- Contaminants in food web species

In 2002 EPA and the Council collaborated in convening the *Atlantic Northeast Coastal Monitoring Summit* with a focus on methods to coordinate existing monitoring programs, develop a framework for a regional monitoring network, identify monitoring needs and corresponding research needs.

In 2011 the Council produced its fifth five-year Action Plan that contains Activity 2.1.3 - Foster region-wide communication about existing monitoring activities, perceived gaps and partnership opportunities. In response to this activity NERACOOS (Ecosystem Health Committee co-chair Jeff Runge) with support from the Council (David Keeley) and a team of thirteen US/Canadian scientists and managers led an effort to prepare a white paper articulating the need for sentinel monitoring in the Gulf of Maine. The abstract states:

"We address gaps in the Northeast Region's capability to observe key biotic and abiotic ecosystem variables that are likely impacted by climate forcing. The need to observe effects of shorter-term and longer term climate and ocean variability on coastal ecosystems is especially acute in the Northeast, where water column temperatures have been rising at the rate of 0.1- 0.3oC yr<sup>-1</sup> over the past decade. First, there is a need for coordination of sentinel monitoring for pelagic and benthic properties that makes use of regional capacity for data management and distribution, quality control and integrated analysis. The broad definition of a sentinel is a critical ecosystem variable (whether an abiotic factor, process, species or community index) that is measureable and likely to be affected by climate change. At present, a sentinel monitoring program has been initiated in parts of the Northeast Region, for Long Island Sound and adjacent Canadian waters, but there is no organized sentinel monitoring of other regional coastal ecosystems, for example in the Gulf of Maine. The NERACOOS Strategic Plan calls for development of an integrated sentinel monitoring program across the Northeast; here we discuss steps to make that happen. Second, there is a need for information about critical variables not presently sampled by the existing observing systems. We explore strategies for collection of data on sentinel variables that either cannot be measured autonomously with existing instrumentation or require validation with samples collected in the field. These strategies include establishment of sentinel, fixed time series stations and eventual introduction of new measurement technologies. We outline the way forward involving consultation with federal and non-federal users and experts to create a science and implementation plan and a vision for integration of data into physical-ecosystem models and dissemination of information to the user communities."

### Possible activities and next steps

Jeff Runge and Matt Liebman (EPA) are currently forming a steering committee that will help shape and oversee a strategy for implementing integrated sentinel monitoring for the Northeast Region. Important initial responsibilities include development of terms of reference and nomination of experts to form a workgroup tasked with writing a Science and Implementation Plan. They expect to convene a meeting of the steering committee, with a teleconferencing option, for a date in mid-January, with the goal of organizing a working group and workshop by late spring 2013.

### Action or outcome requested

The Working Group should discuss this opportunity and determine what role the Council will have in this effort.

*Submitted by David Keeley*