



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

Working Group Briefing Packet • V.1
Meeting in Boston, MA • March 14-15, 2012



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Monday March 12, 2012, Omni Parker House, 60 School St, Boston MA

8:00 AM	Gulfwatch Annual Meeting
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Tuesday March 13, 2012, Omni Parker House, 60 School St, Boston MA

8:00 AM	Gulfwatch Annual Meeting
8:00 AM	Water Words That Work – Communications Training Sponsored by Maine Coastal Program
3:00 PM	Adjourn
4:00 PM	Group Visit to the North End – Gulfwatch and Working Group
6:30 PM	Group Dinner at the Antico Forno – Gulfwatch and Working Group

Working Group March 2012 meeting agenda

Wednesday, March 14, 2012, US EPA, 5 Post Office Square, 15th Floor, Boston, MA

7:30 AM	Committee breakfast meetings
8:30 AM	Welcome, introductions, and overview of objectives for the meeting <i>Rob Capozzi, Working Group Chair, NB Department of Environment</i>
8:40 AM PG 15 PG 16	Consent agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SOGOM report ▪ Fund development report
8:45 AM	Musselwatch Program and Possible Collaborations with Gulfwatch <i>Dr Gunnar Lauenstein and Dr Mark Monaco, NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science</i> Outcome/Desired Action: Potential linkages explored to be used by Gulfwatch for the creation of a new business plan for WG review.
9:30 AM	Update on NERACOOS <i>Dr J Ru Morrison, Executive Director, Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems</i>
10:00 AM	Break
10:15 AM	Discussion on Regional Inter-organizational Ocean and Coastal Collaboration Document <i>Theresa Torrent-Ellis and Rob Capozzi</i> Background: At the June 2011 meeting the Council decided to participate in an effort to explore collaboration with NROC, RCOM, and NERACOOS. Council representatives were elected to be the participants of an interview process which was conducted by contractor Evan Richert with support from the Maine Coastal Program. Outcomes/Desired Actions: The Working Group will consider input from all members including those representing NROC, RCOM, and NERACOOS on the WG, and will develop a recommendation for Council to be presented at the June meeting.
11:45 AM	Lunch on your own at Fanueil Hall
12:45 PM	Potential Press Event announcing the new Action Plan to local/regional media
1:00 PM	Report Out on Communications Checkup and Target Audience Profile <i>Eric Eckl – Water Words that Work and Theresa Torrent-Ellis</i> Background: In June 2011 the Council accepted the Communications Strategy and requested work commence on its implementation. MSPO contracted with Eric Eckl and his team from Water Words That Work to support our communications and development efforts. Outcome: Working Group will review the results of the Checkup and Profile and adopt recommendations for improving our communications tools and strategies.



2:00 PM	<p>Promotion of the Action Plan <i>Theresa Torrent Ellis- Maine Coastal Program/SPO</i></p> <p>Background: We have worked hard to revise the current Action Plan and now we want all our colleagues and partners know all about us and what we are planning to do in the next five years.</p> <p>Outcome/Desired Action: Working Group members will address how they are promoting the action plan using the “tool kit” and will create a strategy to increase promotional activity in each of the jurisdictions.</p>
2:45 PM	<p>Internal Items</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. USGOMA Update – Nominating Committee’s work - <i>Cindy Krum</i>2. Council Letterhead Changes - <i>Rob Capozzi</i>3. Update on Action Plan funding needs – <i>Cindy Krum</i> <p>Background</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Update on USGOMA Board Nominating Committee work.2. Discuss updating GOMC letterhead in an effort to more equitably represent private sector organizations.3. Discuss the Action Plan funding needs <p>Outcomes/Desired Action</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. USGOMA Board Nominating Committee work confirmed.2. Resolution on the need for an update and what a new letterhead would look like.3. Report on Action Plan funding needs
3:45 PM	<p>Recess for the day</p>
4:00 PM	<p>Group Tour of the New England Aquarium</p>
5:00 PM	<p>Reception at the New England Aquarium Ocean Center</p>
6:30 PM	<p>Group Dinner at Union Oyster House</p>



Thursday, March 15, 2012, US EPA, 5 Post Office Square, 15th Floor, Boston, MA

7:30 AM	Committee Breakfast Meetings
8:30 AM	Welcome and updates <i>Rob Capozzi</i>
8:45 AM	Workshop on Economic Assessment of Council Programs <i>Robert J Johnston – Professor, Department of Economics – Clark University Worcester MA</i> Background: At its June 2011 meeting, the Council requested the Working Group to explore how economic data (e.g., “return on investment” of Council programs, leveraging of Council investments, economic value of coastal economy, etc.) can be presented in the new Action Plan. Some preliminary discussions with economists resulted in their recommendation that the WG refine the questions/issues it is trying to describe, to present suggestions of how to proceed at the December Council meeting and to host an “economic session” at the March WG meeting in Boston. Robert Johnston, Clark University economics professor, has offered to facilitate this session pro-bono. Outcome/Desired Action: Working Group will have some guidance on what specific economic impacts can be demonstrated.
11:45 PM	Lunch on your own
1:00 PM	Merrimack Village Dam and Maxwell Pond Dam Removal and Restoration Projects <i>Steve Landry and Deb Loiselle - NH Department of Environmental Services</i> Background: These two projects will be highlighted as well as a brief programmatic overview of the DES’s <i>River Restoration Program</i> , including some very interesting facts on the number of registered dams in NH and the process by which DES provides assistance to interested dam owners considering removal of dams.
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2:00 PM	Work Plan Development for June Council Meeting <i>Theresa Torrent-Ellis – Action Plan Team - Maine Coastal Program/SPO</i> Background: The Action Plan has now been revised as a web based publication and we now have to build our work plans associated with each of the activities identified in the plan. Outcome/Desired Action: The Working Group will review the new components and activities in working groups which we will form to address each of the Goal areas. The Working Groups will bring back to the table recommendations for the work plans. This will include the formation of new committees and subcommittees as well as the identification of potential leads for each.
PP 20-21	
4:00 PM	Closing Remarks
4:15 PM	Adjourn

Working Group meeting summary

Saint John, NB • December 6-7, 2011

Working Group Members present

Rob Capozzi, NB Department of Environment; Steven Couture, NH Department of Environmental Services; Sophia Foley, NS Department of Environment; Tim Hall, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Russ Henry, NB Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Fisheries; Justin Huston, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Jackie Olsen, Environment Canada; Kathryn Parlee, Environment Canada; Ann Rodney, US Environmental Protection Agency; Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office; and Peter Wells, Dalhousie University/Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership.

Working Group Members present via webinar/conference call

Jennifer Hackett, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Betsy Nicholson, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and Prassede Vella, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management.

Others present

Andrew Allyn, US Fish and Wildlife Service (contractor); Martin Boulerice, NB Department of Environment; Melanie Corkum, Environment Canada; David Keeley, The Keeley Group; Cindy Krum, Krum Steele Consulting; Becca Newhall, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications.

Others present via conference call

Peter Alexander, Talking Conservation; Jim Cradock, Yellahoose, LLC; Eric Eckl, Water Words that Work; Evan Richert, Richert Planning; and Peter Taylor, Waterview Consulting.

Opening remarks

Rob Capozzi, NB Department of Environment, and Working Group Chair welcomed the participants who introduced themselves. The focus of the meeting will be the Action Plan roll-out.

Consent Agenda

Decision	Lead/contact	Due date
The Working Group accepted the consent agenda.	N/A	N/A

Action Agenda

Overview of the Action Plan revision

Theresa Torrent-Ellis and Peter Taylor led the Action Plan roll out discussion. The Plan is a web-based document and is posted on the new Council website. Peter provided a guided tour of the new Action Plan landing page and associated content including a three-slide show and a download for each of the goals. The full Plan can also be downloaded as a PDF. It may be a good idea, if the Council wishes, to add the Action Plan media release and other materials be publicized via Facebook and other social media links. The Working Group thanked Environment Canada for its funding for the website work for the Action Plan. Betsy would like to see mid-term tracking tools and other measures as was the case for the last Action Plan to document progress part-way through and at the end of the five-year period. The content management nature of the new website may negate the need for web content management services or the Council may elect to add this work to a contractor's scope of services.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_december_2011.pdf.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201112/>.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
Work plan uploading and other maintenance for the Action Plan will be added to a scope of services for a contractor.	Rob Capozzi, Working Group Chair	
The Working Group will develop mid-term and five-year measures and tracking tools for the Action Plan.	Rob Capozzi, Working Group Chair	

Presentation of the Action Plan tool kit and promotional plan

Theresa Torrent-Ellis and Peter Alexander led the discussion on the Action Plan tools and promotional plan with a communications strategy handout. There are documents that include a fact sheet, questions and answers, and internal talking points. There are talking points and other tools that are posted on the website but are not currently linked to the Action Plan pages. The Working Group may not wish to have the documents be public because they are

for the Council's internal audiences. A secure, password protected site to house these documents may be necessary. The former two types of documents should be more prominently accessible on the website such as in the "About us" vs. in the "Resources" page.

Peter Alexander wants the Council to develop a methodology and mechanisms to collect success stories. He suggested a poll that would be distributed every six months. He suggested that someone from the *Gulf of Maine Times* make calls to divine this information and write about it.

The Action Plan launch is slated for tomorrow with an event, media release, and customized materials for each jurisdiction. Peter said that everyone must be conversant on the success stories in the fact sheets. Rob Capozzi's office has prepared packets for all participants and the media. The 12.7.11 media release will be posted to the news section of GulfofMaine.org. Ann Rodney said that she and Susan Russell-Robinson are discussing a media event for the March 2012 Working Group meeting or June Council and Working Group meetings that would be the official United States Action Plan launch. Working Group members have committed to speaking with at least three potential partners to promote the Action Plan and identify areas for collaboration. There may be press events in March in Boston and in June in Fredericton.

Justin Huston and Steve Couture want to be sure that their jurisdictional presentations and promotion is targeted and that they have the materials that they need to best target the appropriate audiences.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_december_2011.pdf.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201112/>.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment internal communications tools, such as talking points, will be maintained as internal and not be linked to the public Action Plan web pages.	Jennifer Hackett	immediately
Each Working Group jurisdictional member will promote the Action Plan in his/her jurisdiction via presentations and will find linkages to other organizations' missions.	All Working Group members	By the March 2012 Working Group meeting
The Working Group will discuss the Action Plan launch in the United States in March or June 2012.	Rob Capozzi, Working Group chair with Ann Rodney and Susan Russell-Robinson	March 2012
Working Group members have committed to speaking with at least three potential partners to promote the Action Plan and identify areas for collaboration.	All Working Group members	By the March 2012 Working Group meeting
The Working Group will explore planning media events in March in Boston and in June in Fredericton.	Rob Capozzi, Working Group Chair	March 2012 June 2012

Working with our partners: report on the results of the partner consultation and recommendations for work plan and developing ways to engage them better

Theresa Torrent-Ellis and David Keeley led the discussion on a list of potential partners, including key contacts, for Action Plan implementation with linkages on how the Council can support those partners' efforts. The Council is the facilitator and conduit for the partners' activities that support Action Plan outcomes. David reported that the response rate to this survey could be better—there was not a great deal of additional response subsequent to the September 2011 Working Group meeting discussions and the resulting action item from that meeting. The resulting revised draft is the working document for partner engagement. A work sheet was distributed (and posted to the website for ease of editing) to Working Group members to provide their input on potential partners.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_december_2011.pdf.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201112/>.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
Working Group members will complete their Work Sheet to identify Partners via hard copy/electronically and give them/email them to David@TheKeeleyGroup.com .	David Keeley	immediately

Final fiscal year 2012 budget and administrative rate

Cindy Krum guided the Working Group through the financial documents that were emailed to the Working Group and Council, including the final budget. There are no funds being withdrawn from the reserve fund. The NH Department of Environmental Services funds have been received so the document will be updated to show that confirmed source. The Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) funds are represented in a separate column and shown as \$230,000

as direct funds for grants. Since the last draft, \$120,000 has been added for climate change and habitat restoration funds. Three issues of the *Gulf of Maine Times* are funded (about \$2,500 is needed). There is red text (funds not secured and added tasks) in some of the contractor scopes of services. The US Association contracts are increased to manage the NROC funds. The resulting indirect funds can also be used to fund either core services (general and administrative) or can be re-allocated to the Reserve Account. With more indirect funds in the organization, dues can be re-allocated to other core (general and administrative) services. Rob cautioned that the jurisdictions' dues are still key to the organization and necessary so the message to the Council should be that there is more money for its operations. Tim would like to see a discussion about Council priorities to guide its spending on core services and programs. There is some confusion with terminology: core services vs. general and administrative vs. US Association contracts.

Cindy said that the Council is in an extremely good position for the next two and one-half fiscal years and that previously de-funded services and programs can be re-funded, and the indirect rate percentage can go down. There is a shortfall of over \$100,000 for a combination of some Council projects and programs. This year, an audit was not required because less than \$500,000 in US federal funds were expended. Instead, a financial compilation and state and federal filings were prepared. Because fewer dollars were managed by the Association last year, the indirect rate would have been much higher at 35%. The previous year's rate was 20.61%. Several jurisdictions' dues have not yet been received so contracts may need to be revised until the funds are secured, such as core services. No contracts will be executed until the funds for those scopes of services are in hand.

Ann Rodney is concerned about the proposed DBA Gulf of Maine Association board and its fiscal management role and how it interfaces with Evan Richert's recommendations as the diminution of the Council and the growth of NROC. Tim feels that the committees can use the new Action Plan as the basis to formulate their activities and budget priorities.

Decision	Lead/contact	Due date
The Working Group recommends to the Council that the previous year's indirect rate of 20.61% be maintained for the coming year.	Rob Capozzi	December 8, 2011
The Working Group recommends that the Council adopt the budget as presented. Additional agenda time may be required to address scopes of services and Action Plan implementation deficits can be addressed.	Rob Capozzi	December 8, 2011
The Working Group will review the budget in March 2012 when additional funds are available and form recommendations for the Council.	Rob Capozzi	March 2012
Action	Lead/contact	Due date
The Working Group will review the budget in March 2012 when additional funds are available and form recommendations for the Council.	Rob Capozzi	March 2012

Joint CA/US Association plan

Justin Huston provided background on the issue. His presentation focused on the progress to date with recommendations for the establishment of a joint Canadian and United State Association, including ramifications to the Canadian Association and the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment's organization structure. The Canadian Association would remain with no changes. Canadian members would be added to the US Association board of directors. A key message is that the new "blended" association would not duplicate or replace the Working Group's or Council's functions. It would focus on finances, fund development, and contractual issues but Management and Finance would be designated with financial and contractual oversight and there will be two Association representatives on Management and Finance (MandF). This will require a change to the MandF terms of reference on which the Council must vote. The Council will form a nominating committee to determine the composition of the new Association. Canadian federal members are allowed but in the US, federal employees are barred from serving due to their conflict of interest guidelines. There was some concern about multiple layers of organizational structure that involve the same people. This new structure provides for better involvement from the private sector Councillors.

Specific membership and organizational recommendations are included in the presentation at

<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201112/>.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at

http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_december_2011.pdf.

Decision	Lead/contact	Due date
The Working Group will recommend to the Council that it accept the proposal for the joint US Gulf of Maine	Cindy Krum	immediately

Association, DBA, Gulf of Maine Association.		
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Complete the discussion of Action Plan promotion and work plan development recommendations to the Council

Rob Capozzi summarized the previous meetings' discussions and action items, including maintaining and updating TAPAS (Tracking Action Plan Activities Systems). Currently, TAPAS maintenance is not included in any contractors' scopes of service. Work Plans are completed for the State of the Gulf and Coastal Marine Spatial Planning. Work plan terms will be for five years to coordinate with the five-year term of the Action Plan. There was some concern about the long-term nature of five-year work plans due to funding and other changes. The work plans will be refreshed each year but not necessarily re-written. The Council's organizational chart will need to be updated to reflect the new Action Plan structure. Justin Huston provided background about how the TAPAS was created by Michele Tremblay and Jim Cradock during the last Nova Scotia Secretariat year because Councillors repeatedly asked for brief updates for each committee, subcommittee, and initiative including overview, deliverables with Action Plan goal linkage and other project work, SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis, budget, funding proposals, expenditures, and key contacts. This tool can be expanded for use in collecting work plans or the Council may wish for it to remain the same for its original purpose. Michele reminded the Working Group that TAPAS was used as the work plan format for the past two years. Parts of TAPAS could be linked to the correlating activity within the new Action Plan pages. Two versions may be required: one for the public and one for internal audiences. Sophia is disappointed that the tool is no longer useful because the information is not current. Michele and Cindy are no longer contracted to maintain TAPAS so it has not been updated since early June 2011. Cindy can maintain the Council-funded information within her current contracted scope of financial management. Justin proposed that part of the reserve fund or the additional indirect funds be re-allocated to contract services to maintain TAPAS, especially with the next twelve months a critical time to implement the new Action Plan. Theresa is concerned that this approach is not sustainable. Tim opined that the maintenance of TAPAS requires co-chair and project lead commitment. Justin's experience shows that support and coordination are needed. Steve felt that TAPAS could fulfill the mid-term and long-term Action Plan measuring and tracking. Steve suggested that Action Plan goal leads be identified. Michele said that the Council formerly had Goal leads composed of subcommittee co-chairs. She reminded the Working Group that TAPAS is essentially, a database and that different access can be provided not only to enter data but to view it or generate different reports. This maintains the Council's original vision for TAPAS but also make it a tool for mid-term and long-term measuring and tracking. She said that currently, there is no longer anyone contracted to provide the high-level analysis, using TAPAS and working with committees, subcommittees, and project leads, to identify gaps and lack of progress. Peter Wells wants to see the Working Group's decision to incorporate more committee, subcommittee, and project lead presentations into their and the Council's meetings. This effort can be dovetailed into the committee, subcommittee, and project lead monthly calls that Jackie Olsen has convened since October. Justin feels that the Council has gotten away from the more strategic structure of the Council's committees, subcommittees, and projects and the former role of the Council Coordinator being the convener and facilitator for the Action Plan implementation and tracking vs. Management and Finance being the lead. The following goal leads were identified:

- Goal 1 John Catena
- Goal 2 Kathryn Parlee, Susan Russell-Robinson, and Peter Wells
- Goal 3 Justin Huston, Jane Tims, and Theresa Torrent-Ellis

Michele opined that those individuals identified were Working Group members and that it may be useful to have at least one Councillor leading each Goal. She added that not only will new terms of reference be needed for the new organizational chart but that the Management and Finance and Secretariat Team terms of references will need to be changed to represent the current roles and operating procedures.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_december_2011.pdf. The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201112/>.

Decision	Lead/contact	Due date
<p>The Working Group will recommend that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Action Plan/work plan and organizational tracking will be implemented through TAPAS (Tracking Action Plan Activities System), which will serve as the reporting tool. It will be revised to meet public, private, detailed, and synopsis needs. ▪ The organizational governance will be revised to reflect the new Action Plan structure. ▪ Action Plan leads and support resources will be identified and secured to manage and implement these processes. 	<p>Rob Capozzi, Working Group Chair</p>	<p>Drafts by March 2012</p> <p>Review versions for the Council in June 2012</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Management, communications, and an evaluation plan will be incorporated in each work plan. 		
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Update on regional inter-organizational ocean and coastal collaboration

Evan Richert, via conference call, presented his recommendations for directions for the Regional Committee on Coastal and Ocean Management (RCCOM), Northeast Regional Oceans Council (NROC), Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS), and the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (the Council) including paring back the Council's programmatic activities; a merger at the committee level of the NROC and NERACOOS; and merging the US Gulf of Maine Association and the administrative functions for the NROC, NERACOOS, and the Council (this recommendation is not informed by the earlier discussions about the blended US and CA Association proposal—the ad-hoc group that formed the blended recommendation was not informed of the Richert recommendations); and the Council. He sees RCCOM and NROC as being endorsers and sponsors of the Council and feels that the Council's programs should be transferred to NERACOOS, leaving the Council to fulfill a cross-border communications and information exchange role only. The RCCOM and NROC would endorse the Council so that its new, pared back role would not be deemed expendable due to its lack of programmatic activities. The Council's Working Group and committees, subcommittees, and project leads would no longer exist so that those members could be freed up to focus on their NROC and RCCOM representation. Evan feels that there are too many entities and that they overlap in mission and in some cases, in theme areas, causing human resource and funding fatigue. Meeting management is also an issue including balanced discussions of process and content.

Justin acknowledged that while the ideas are intriguing, the timing couldn't be worse given the decision to move forward with a new structure for the US and Canadian blended Association and the release of the Action Plan. It seems in appropriate for the Council to be provided with this information and expect them to buy into and support the Associations proposal while launching the new Action Plan. There may be merit to have a discussion on what the Council should focus and he has so many concerns about it so he recommended that this item be removed from the Council agenda. Steve supports this recommendation. Theresa said that the process when Evan was contracted by the Maine State Planning Office was to work with the four organizations, speak with individuals within those entities, and form recommendations. She thought that the process was moving quickly and that the Action Plan wasn't recognized in the recommendations but the document is only raising possibilities. NROC and NERACOOS will be reviewing the recommendations. Tim felt that a report or update should be provided to the Council during its meeting this week with a tight and focused approach. He pointed out that there were many other organizations, committees, and groups, for instance, the Regional Association for Research in the Gulf of Maine (RARGOM) in the region and that the process and recommendations may not be complete without including them. Evan said that there reasons why the focus was on the four organizations. Ann asked if there were other recommendations or options vs. the one that was presented. For instance, she feels that given the four organizations' missions and focus (NROC: planning, NERACOOS: data-gathering), the Council should be at the top of the proposed structure. Evan said that the Council is only focused on the Gulf of Maine but it does not focus on waters outside of the Gulf. Betsy is concerned that the Council's programs find a good home and that the "new owners" commit to them so they may continue their work. She likes the idea of a "super-forum" that the Council would convene. Cindy wanted to know how it was determined that the Council be the organization to drop its organizational activities. Evan replied that it was a result of the interviews that he conducted. Michele said that many Working Group members and Councillors have expressed that one of the primary reasons that they participate and contribute to the Council is to be part of and "buy into" a portfolio of programs that are useful to their jurisdictions and for which they can invest and take credit. She expressed concern that the Council may not have the capacity to function or be able to function without their Working Group relationship. Becca feels that it is unfair for NERACOOS, NROC, and RCCOM to have the information but not have it presented to the Council. Justin and Sophia feel that it doesn't make sense for the Council, who has just received this document, to focus on the Action Plan and to consider simultaneously these merger and other de-programmatic recommendations. Prassede agreed but pointed out that the document was distributed to the Council this morning. Cindy is concerned that the other three organizations will begin to work on these recommendations and the Council will need to do so as well. She feels that a response is needed now vs. waiting until June 2012. Steve proposed that the Council convene a meeting with the three other organizations in March 2012 at the Working Group meeting to initiate inter-organizational discussions. The Working Group should analyze the recommendations, discuss ramifications, and come up with recommendations. This could involve a Council ad-hoc group who would explore the recommendations and provide more concrete examples of how the structure would work. Ann is concerned that since many individuals participate in several groups and that they may have a perspective that favors one organization over another. Cindy requested that the list of those interviewed be included in the document. She is concerned that only a handful of interviewees may have informed and influenced the document.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201112/>.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
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The Working Group will not formally present the “maritime collaboration” findings to the Council on December 8, 2012. The Council will be asked to provide, via email, their perspectives on the document. An ad-hoc group will be formed to explore the recommendations and assess ramifications. The four organizations will convene in Boston in March 2012 in conjunction with the Working Group meeting. The NB Secretariat may form the ad-hoc group and a terms of reference document.	Rob Capozzi, Working Group Chair	March 2012
Theresa Torrent-Ellis will request that Evan Richert include in the next draft of the “maritime collaboration” the list of individuals that he interviewed.	Theresa Torrent-Ellis	immediately

Committee Highlight: update on the Restoration Partnership

Slade Moore provided an overview of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Habitat Restoration Partnership’s structure, operations, activities, and funded projects and the Maine stream restoration initiatives. The program has worked with agencies to gather data on restoration miles, acreage and fish and other species. Justin suggested that this program and its successes be presented to the Council on Thursday in lieu of the “maritime collaboration” agenda item.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at

http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_december_2011.pdf.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201112/>.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
The “Committee Highlight: update on the Restoration Partnership” will be added to the Council agenda in lieu of the current 2:45 PM agenda item.	Slade Moore	immediately

Committee and Subcommittee engagement: restoration update

John Catena provided background on the Habitat Committee structure and recommendations on its viability. He does not feel that the Habitat Committee functioned as a true committee and he does not feel that it is needed. He has been involved with the Habitat Restoration Subcommittee but is not aware of any Habitat Conservation Subcommittee, Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee, or Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative (GOMMI) activities. He feels that the Habitat Restoration Subcommittee is functioning and should continue. The proposed revised organizational chart represents Habitat Monitoring and GOMMI as dormant. Michele said that originally, there was only one Habitat Committee and then four subcommittees were formed: Conservation, Monitoring, Restoration, and GOMMI because of the disparate foci and the funding focus on Restoration. The co-chairs of the four subcommittees wanted to communicate better and re-formed the Habitat Committee composed of the eight co-chairs. Steve feels that converting the Habitat Subcommittee to a “super committee” would detract from its focus. A goal champion or lead effort or leads could better coordinate goal one activities. The proposed organization chart maintains the Habitat Conservation and Monitoring Subcommittees and GOMMI as “dormant.” A Canadian co-chair is needed for the Habitat Restoration Subcommittee.

Decision	Lead/contact	Due date
The Working Group will recommend to the Council that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat Restoration will be established as committee (not a subcommittee); ▪ Leads will be established for Action Plan Goal 1; and ▪ Habitat Conservation, Habitat Monitoring, and the Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative will be listed as dormant. 	John Catena	N/A

Council letterhead: presenting the Council as a public, nonprofit, and private partnership

Rob Capozzi indicated that this item will be discussed offline and tabled at a future Working Group meeting.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at

http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_december_2011.pdf.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
Council letterhead: presenting the Council as a public, nonprofit, and private partnership will be discussed	Rob Capozzi	March or June 2012

offline and placed on a future Working Group agenda.		
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Canadian Habitat Restoration Funding Initiative

Rob Capozzi introduced the topic and David Keeley led the discussion. Habitat restoration is a priority in the Council's Action Plan. The Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Needs Assessment: Documenting Habitat Restoration and Land Conservation Programs and Needs (Canada) and the US Gulf of Maine Habitat Restoration and Conservation Plan (US) provides background information and identify needs for potential funders. David is working with Peter Lamb to build relationships with Sandy Thurber, Fundy Community Foundation, and other foundation, corporate, and private funders for Canadian habitat restoration support. There has been some Council trepidation on soliciting private funds but give this is for a specific purpose, it may be more palatable. Michele suggested that municipal and other local officials and activists should be part of the team approaching private, corporate, and other funders. There are also opportunities to build local, provincial, and federal partnerships.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_december_2011.pdf.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
The Canadian Habitat Restoration Funding Initiative update will be an agenda item on the March 2012 Working Group meeting.	Rob Capozzi, Working Group Chair	March 2012

Gulfwatch's future

Peter Wells presented a summary of Gulfwatch progress and plans for 2012 to 2017. There are 38 sites including benchmark, rotational, and multi-year, sampled according to the Gulfwatch manual. There are definite trends in the data including Gulfwatch data clearly demonstrating the efficacy of sewage cleanup in Boston Harbor. All of the Gulf of Maine jurisdictions use Gulfwatch data to make decisions on shellfish safety and other public health concerns. Gulfwatch is cited in the Action Plan (Goal 2). Gulfwatch's data are being used by managers—and this needs to be in a fact sheet and widely published. Continued support is needed from the jurisdictions, both as cash and in-kind contributions. Renewed NOAA-Mussel Watch program linkage could include an inter-calibration exercise, the possibility of metal analyses being conducted at SC lab, and further work at shared sites in GOMC, such as histopathology. Gulfwatch is requesting that Working Group members provide their jurisdictions' commitment to support and that the Council provide commitment of funding. There are linkages with the EcoSystem Indicators Partnership (ESIP) publicizing and marketing Gulfwatch and its data. It is not possible to specifically analyse web usage information to determine what Gulfwatch data are being viewed. There was a question as to whether an annual report is needed or will bi-annual reports suffice to conserve funding. Are there other streamlining and budge saving measures? Personal care products chemicals monitoring data has been identified as a need for New Hampshire. Those analytes could be tested but there is a lack of data on them. Gulfwatch is discussing sampling for those chemicals and PCPs, and analysing less for metals. Jackie suggested that instead of generating an annual report, a mechanism could be created to alert the public about contaminants "hot spots." She asked if it was possible to build a cost recovery model where municipalities, organizations, or other data users would pay to access the monitoring data that they use in their beach closure, public health, and other decision making. Gulfwatch and ESIP and the State of the Gulf of Maine could be combined for better data presentation and reporting. This approach is compatible with the new Goal 2 structure.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201112/>.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
The Gulfwatch presentation (truncated) will be added to the Council meeting agenda on Thursday.	Rob Capozzi, Working Group Chair	December 8, 2011
Gulfwatch will draft a business plan with recommendations for streamlined operations and budget savings	Peter Wells and Christian Krahforst	June 2012 Working Group and Council meeting

RARGOM Annual Science Meeting Highlight

Andrew Allyn, Gulf of Maine Integrated Ecosystem Research Program

Theresa introduced Andrew and provided background on why the Council should be aware of this new effort. From their website: www.GOMIERP.org: "Gulf of Maine Integrated Ecosystem Research Program will strive to understand the complex inter-relationships among living communities within the Gulf of Maine ecosystem and the physical marine environment, as well as how these relationships may respond to climate change and other large-scale disturbances. As the list of management agencies and conservation groups supporting ecosystem-based management continues to grow, the Gulf of Maine has a unique opportunity to be among the first regions to implement this new management paradigm. A true ecosystem study, both in its geographical scale and in the scope of its research, the Gulf of Maine Integrated Ecosystem Research Program will provide the research foundation necessary to realize this opportunity."

To date, there has not been a great deal of outreach to and participation by Canadian researchers and other audiences. There may be funding resulting through the Minas Basin tidal energy proposals.

Allyn may be reached at Andrew.Allyn@gmail.com and 207.671.8483.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_december_2011.pdf.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201112/>.

Environment Canada's Atlantic Ecosystem Initiatives

Melanie Corkum provided an overview on the history of the Initiatives and the linkages with the Gulf of Maine. Environment Canada is requesting the GOMC to confirm their support for the Environment Canada Atlantic's implementation of the Atlantic Ecosystem Initiatives in the Gulf of Maine ecosystem. This program builds on and supplants the Atlantic Coastal Action Program. There are memoranda of understanding and partnership agreements that provide some funding and other support for implementation at the provincial, state, and local levels (depending on details).

Jackie recommended that a transboundary presentation effort be added to the June 2012 meetings agendas. She is willing to provide support for an effort to expand the coordination contract to assist her with the committee coordination effort and the expansion. Steve is concerned about this being an addition to the increased work load of work plan production. Becca feels that this effort could be combined with the March 2012 Working Group meeting and session to discuss the Richert merger, integration, and collaboration recommendations.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_december_2011.pdf.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201112/>.

Decision	Lead/contact	Due date
The Working Group recommends that the Council confirm its support for Environment Canada Atlantic's implementation of the Atlantic Ecosystem Initiatives in the Gulf of Maine ecosystem.	Rob Capozzi, Working Group Chair	December 8, 2011
The Council will draft a committee work plan format for the Action Plan that will incorporate linkages with agency' priorities.	Rob Capozzi, Working Group Chair	March 2012 Working Group meeting
The Council will incorporate the linkages between the participants' agencies' priorities and the Council's new Action Plan to form committee work plans that can function as blended work plans with a new format.	Rob Capozzi, Working Group Chair	March 2012 Working Group meeting

Report on website upgrades

Jennifer Hackett provided background on the Working Group's decision to revise the website and update them on the progress to date. The new website has been re-designed and is now housed within a content management system to streamline information display and access. Jim Cradock said that content can now be updated via a web browser and does not require web design and FTP (file transfer protocol) software. Cindy requested that the US Gulf of Maine Association and its DBA name be provided with a presence on the Council's website, including a membership list.

Theresa led a discussion on the Action Plan page revision and troubleshooting from the Working Group members.

Jennifer Hackett is the sole co-chair of the Information Management Committee.

The revised site can be viewed (temporarily) at www.GulfofMaine.org/new-site.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_december_2011.pdf.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201112/>.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
On www.GulfofMaine.org , the link, "Recent news," will be replaced with "News" or "Highlights" on the website. The text and donate button will be re-sized and re-located. The link to the member agencies will be added to the Council membership roster. The <i>Gulf of Maine Times</i> text color will be changed from orange to green. Fixes will be made for text and image display for Internet Explorer 7. The black bar links at the top of the page are not linked. The Action Plan accomplishments date will be changed to 2007-2012.	Jennifer Hackett, Information Management Committee co-chair and Jim Cradock	Immediately

A page will be created to give the US Gulf of Maine Association (under its new TBD DBA name) a presence. The page will include a membership roster with People Finder coding to populate it.	Jennifer Hackett, Information Management Committee co-chair, Michele Tremblay, and Cindy Krum	Based on the Association's timeline and decision
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Report out on communications checkup and target audience profile

Theresa Torrent-Ellis introduced Erik Eckl who provided a communications planning assistance project overview, conducted under contract with the Maine State Planning Office. Eric outlined his communications check up plan. The target discussion profile will be augmented and the term “newsletter” replaced with “newspaper” or *Gulf of Maine Times*. The results of the session today and the pending survey will be reported at the March 2012 Working Group meeting. Rob asked how the Outreach Committee would be involved and asked that they should be consulted on the draft survey. Theresa said that the OC is operating as an advisory group because they are not working on any projects and that they membership needs to be assessed. Jackie would like the Outreach Committee convene to determine their objectives to support Council communications. They would then assess corporate and internal communications, and the elements of a public education approach. They should be involved with the communications check-up process. Debbie Buott-Matheson reported to Jackie that the strategy and structure should be re-organized. She would like to see the Outreach Committee lead these efforts so that her agency and the talent within others can be leveraged to work on Council communications.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201112/>.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
Working Group members and other participants will respond to the communications check up survey	Theresa Torrent-Ellis	January 2012
The Communications Committee will be convened to review and refine the communications check up survey and direct the strategy and re-organization process to assess corporate and internal communications, and the elements of public education outreach.	Outreach Committee co-chairs	immediately

Economic Impact of the Council and implementation of its Action Plan

Rob Capozzi said that Dr. Robert Johnston will present an approach to evaluate the value of the Action Plan activities. David Keeley provided background on the Council's June 2011 discussions that led to this effort. The overarching objective was to present the economic value of the Council's work and the implementation of its Action Plan. Jackie would like to see return on investment (ROI) in dollar amounts and job creation. This information would validate the agencies' work as well as their investment (cash and in-kind resources) in the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. David asked if that information would be used and how it would be used. Jackie uses this information to form compelling arguments that address the Canadian's government's priorities on job creation and other economic investment. In the United States, indicators and programmatic measures are the first step and are important in addition to the economic drivers. This effort should be coordinated with the jurisdictional talking points papers. Municipalities could be asked to provide financial and anecdotal information that relates the value of the Council in terms of economic development and jobs. Even if the data showed that the Council maintained these values—let alone enhanced them—it would be compelling to lawmakers in the short- and long-term. David questioned if the Council can say that it provides direct assistance to whale watching and other maritime activities that generate economic impacts. Justin cited alewife restoration and the critical role it plays as lobster fishery bait. This is an example of a tangible part of the Council's work and the far ranging and positive economic and employment effects that it has in the Gulf of Maine. Placing a value on the ecosystem goods and services should be part of the effort. David said that if the Council would raise \$30,000, Dr. Johnston could pay a PhD student for two years to conduct this study. Jackie suggested that at this week's Council meeting, they spend an hour refining their broad vision for this effort into a more concise guidance. The session would need to be facilitated by an economist who could provide grounding during brainstorming session. Following on Jackie's proposal, Michele suggested a “study design” approach and asking Councilors to prepare questions they are asked or barriers that they encounter when defending their budgets or countering arguments. They could be engaged in a brief brainstorming session and then a follow-up survey and focus group can be conducted.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at

http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_december_2011.pdf.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201112/>.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
The economic impact of the Council and implementation of its Action Plan will focus on	Rob Capozzi, Working Group Chair	June 2012 meeting



<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Is this what we heard? ROI▪ Leverage Council investments? Leverage what?▪ Ask specific questions to decide on what information they require.		
The Council be will be surveyed to provide specific feedback on questions they are asked or barriers that they encounter when defending their budgets or countering arguments. They could be engaged in a brief brainstorming session and then a follow-up survey and focus group can be conducted at the June 2013 meeting.	Rob Capozzi, Working Group Chair and Jackie Olsen	January 2012

Note: Where available, PowerPoint presentations, referenced handouts, and revised documents can be found at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201112/>.

Summary prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, natresource communications



State of the Gulf of Maine: editorial committee membership

Background

The State of the Gulf of Maine (SoGoM) Report aims to provide information on priority concerns for the region, which can be used for environmental management, decision-making and education. It is a part of the larger reporting effort within the Gulf, which includes the Ecosystem Indicator Partnership. The report is a modular, living, web-based document that will be updated continually over time. It includes an introductory overview and a series of theme or issue papers. The Gulf of Maine in Context provides an overview of the natural and socioeconomic environment. Theme papers provide a more in depth look at important issues identified by the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and have been developed incrementally. They cover the six indicator areas identified by ESIP, in addition to biodiversity. To date, the following theme papers have been completed: Climate Change and its Effects on Humans; Climate Change and its Effects on Ecosystems, Habitats and Biota; Microbial Pathogens and Toxins; Eutrophication; Coastal Ecosystems and Habitats; Marine Invasive Species; and Emerging Issues. Several others are in development and it is expected that the first editions of all theme papers will be completed by the autumn of 2012. The editorial committee will then begin to identify the papers that are a priority to update.

It is expected that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) will continue to coordinate the development of the State of the Gulf of Maine Report. The report has benefitted from the participation and perspectives of the editorial committee, which provides guidance on the direction and content of theme papers, identifies peer reviewers and provides an overall review of each theme paper. However, membership of the committee has dwindled. Ideally, there would be representatives on the committee from all provinces and states as well as from a US federal and a Canadian federal organization. We also aim to have a mix of people with both technical and communications backgrounds. Currently, there are members from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Maine State Planning Office, the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, and Environment Canada.

Possible activities and next steps

It is suggested that working group members consider identifying someone from their organization to join the editorial committee.

Action or outcomes requested

1. Three to four additional members for the editorial committee are identified by working group members.

Submitted by Heather Breeze, Acting Editor, State of the Gulf of Maine Report

Fund development activities summary 12.2011 – 3.2012

Background

The Council's fund development coordinator has worked with Councilors, Working Group and committee members and Council partners on several funding initiatives (see below).

1. Restoration and protection of water quality and habitats in the Gulf of Maine watershed

Funder: Royal Bank of Canada – Blue Water Project

Request: \$500,000

Proposal Summary: This project will protect and restore water quality, sensitive natural areas, and aquatic habitats throughout the bi-national Gulf of Maine watershed. It will build on a highly successful 11-year community-based stewardship partnership managed by the Canada - US Gulf of Maine Council. The two primary thrusts of this proposal are 1) to engage community-based organizations in the restoration and protection of freshwater and degraded aquatic habitats along the region's rivers and streams that flow to the coast; and 2) raise awareness and increase local stewardship of water quality and habitat restoration activities. This project will produce immediate and measurable environmental gains such as acres of watersheds protected, aquatic habitats restored and stream miles improved. It will also build the capacity for sustained, long-term ecosystem restoration.

2. Gulf of Maine Times: Renewal of contribution agreements & solicitation of new sponsors

Funders: current sponsors of the GOMT and new sponsors

Request: \$1000 - \$3000/organization

Proposal Summary: The Council has been successful in attracting 14 organizations with similar communication needs to co-fund the GOMT. We're in the midst of seeking renewals from these organizations. Four have now sent in year-two funding.

3. Growing the capacity of the Fundy Community Foundation for environmental giving

Funder: NB Environmental Trust Fund

Request: \$25,567

Proposal Summary: The Fundy Community Foundation (FCF) believes that long term funding for sustainable development must be done by a partnership between public and private sectors. We wish to be part of that effort, and intend to fund environment projects in Charlotte County by creating a permanent endowment. This Environment Fund would seek donations from private sources, such as foundations and individuals, and the income from the Fund would be granted to charitable organizations working in various aspects of environment in Charlotte County. The Project is all about promoting sustainable development forever.

With the support of the NBETF, we intend to set up the Environment Fund, to prepare reports and communications materials, and to seek initial donations. (Please note that any funds granted by the ETF will only be used to promote the endowment, and will not fund the Fund.) This Project will connect donors from across the continent, who have funds that they want to employ, with the "doers" in Charlotte County who know how to deliver successful projects in the fields of protection, restoration, sustainable development, conservation, education and beautification.

Note: The Council approached FCF in November 2011 about creating a fund within FCF to support habitat restoration throughout the two provinces. When FCF submitted the proposal in January it focused on growing the capacity of FCF to support environmental projects in Charlotte County.

4. Develop and implement ecosystem health communications strategy

Funder: TBD

Request: Likely in the \$200-300,000 range

Proposal Summary: ad-hoc work group is working at the concept level

This inter-organizational project (GOMC – ESIP/SOE/GOMT; NERACOOS; NEOSEC; etc.) will address the ongoing gap in communications between and among the science, management and policy communities. Presently most organizations acknowledge this gap, concur it's a priority to address and are responding independently with a range of activities (e.g., e-news, editorials, workshops and conferences, etc.). There is a need to better understand the respective cultures, constraints, and opportunities to enhance dialogue about issues like ecosystem-based approaches to management. THE COUNCIL'S INTERESTS ARE TO SECURE 2-3 YEARS OF FUNDING THAT SUPPORTS ESIP/SOE/GOMT COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVES.



Possible tasks include: complete rapid assessment to document and describe current (and previous) efforts within the region (and applicable examples from elsewhere) to bridge the gap and the results; articulate what the issues are and why they are important to address (e.g., what is not happening, what opportunities are missed, etc.); engage our audiences about what we need to effectively and efficiently communicate messages of ecosystem health and ask them how they like to get their information, why and from whom; identify and survey priority stakeholder groups to further document problem and identify possible responses; identify what information/expertise/knowledge is missing and needs to be brought in (e.g. social scientists who study people/communication/decision-making, etc); prepare draft communications strategy (e.g., tactics, content, messaging, costs, schedule, outcomes – behavior changes & outputs, etc.) and organizations best able to implement it; convene interested organizations to improve and adopt/accept; secure funding to implement 2-3 year communications initiative.

Submitted by David Keeley

Merrimack Village Dam and Maxwell Pond Dam

Removal and Restoration Projects: measuring success

Background – Maxwell Pond Dam (Black Brook) in Manchester, New Hampshire

A century-old dam across Black Brook created an impoundment called Maxwell Pond, which was a site for ice harvesting, fishing, swimming, and other recreation. Over time, sediment from poorly managed industrial sites accumulated in the pond, which became stagnant and shallow. As a result, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) added Maxwell Pond to the 2002 Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d) list of impaired waters. Multiple project partners began work to restore Black Brook in 2002.

Over a dozen project partners including the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment - NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership contributed funding (\$64,000) and resources to begin the dam removal process in February 2009. By mid-March, Black Brook flowed freely to the Merrimack River for the first time in more than 100 years. This project was one of the first dam removal and river restoration projects in the Gulf of Maine Watershed to implement the Gulf of Maine Council's *Stream Barrier Removal Monitoring Protocols* to measure restoration success. To date, the protocols have indicated the following:

- Water quality monitoring post-dam removal indicate that Black Brook now meets water quality standards for dissolved oxygen and this segment of Black Brook has been removed from the 303(d) list of impaired waters.
- Fish and invertebrate communities are diversifying throughout the previously impounded reach of Black Brook with several rare and endangered species present in the two years following dam removal.

In 2010, the Black Brook restoration project was selected as one of three projects in the United States to be featured in the American River's DVD *Restoring America's Rivers – Preparing for the Future* as this project exemplified the community partnerships and stakeholder commitments required to implement a successful dam removal project.

Background – Merrimack Village Dam (Souhegan River) in Merrimack, New Hampshire

The first dam at this site dates back to the 1730s and was the first manmade structure on the Souhegan River. According to historic records the purpose of the original dam was to power a saw and gristmill. Throughout the years the dam was modified and associated with a variety of industrial purposes which included the manufacturing of shoes, cotton, and wool. The dam was used for both water power and providing process water for a variety of factories that were located near this site on the Souhegan River. The most recent dam, built in 1895, was one of only a handful of gravity arch stone dams in New Hampshire; its uncommon curved shape likely was a response to the specific bedrock conditions. The 1895 dam had a concrete and granite block core that was later covered with a concrete spillway and spray skirt.

Over a dozen project partners including the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment - NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership contributed funding (\$75,000) and resources to begin the dam removal process in August 2008. By late August, fourteen miles of the Souhegan River flowed freely to the Merrimack River for the first time in more than 250 years. The removal of the dam provided additional opportunities for recreation enthusiasts, quality habitat for diadromous and resident fish species, and removed a barrier to aquatic species. This project was the first dam removal and river restoration project in the Gulf of Maine Watershed to implement the Gulf of Maine Council's *Stream Barrier Removal Monitoring Protocols* to measure restoration success. To date, the protocols have indicated the following:

- Sediment within the impoundment was allowed to transport freely and has been monitored by Boston College to research the post-dam removal geomorphic response rates of the channel upstream and downstream of the dam site. The research indicates the river eroded over 50% of the impounded sediment within the first 3 months. Work completed by Boston College fulfills the monitoring parameters for hydraulics, hydrology and sediment outlined in the monitoring guide.
- Atlantic salmon have been documented in locations that they have previously not populated.

A "Dam Cam" was installed adjacent to the project site and was funded in part by NOAA, Conservation Law Foundation, and Gomez & Sullivan. The "Dam Cam" provided Merrimack residents and people around the world an opportunity to view the deconstruction project and witness the river as it transformed back to its natural free-flowing state right before their eyes. Today you can still witness the rivers transformation by viewing the video time lapse.

Possible activities and next steps

- Visit <http://www.americanrivers.org/our-work/restoring-rivers/dams/restoring-americas-rivers-dvd.html> to view American Rivers DVD and/or request a copy of the DVD.
- Visit <http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/media/videos.html> and look under the "Fish Passage" tab for the *Timelapse: Merrimack Village Dam Removal 2008* to witness the dam removal and river response on the Souhegan River.



Action or outcomes requested

The Gulf of Maine Council receives updates on two dam removal and river restoration projects in New Hampshire that received Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment - NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership funding and implemented the Gulf of Maine Council's *Stream Barrier Removal Monitoring Protocols* to measure restoration success.

Submitted by Deb Loiselle, River Restoration Coordinator and Steve Landry, Merrimack Watershed Supervisor, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



Revised TAPAS Template

Background

The Working Group decided at its December 2011 meeting to update the existing online Tracking Action Plan Activities System (TAPAS) to aid in the implementation of the new Action Plan. Furthermore, TAPAS would be utilized in conjunction with more detailed activity work plans that would be developed to assist the Council in work planning and fund development efforts. TAPAS will remain focused on providing a high-level, up-to-date, and easily accessible overview of GOMC's core activities.

TAPAS was developed in 2009 in response to WG and Council requests for easy-to-understand snapshots of the status of core GOMC activities to aid in discussions about priority-setting, budgeting, etc. TAPAS was designed as an online tool to be easily used and shared among WG and Council members.

To access the old version of TAPAS:

- www.gulfofmaine.org/tapas
- Username: *your email* (use hustonje@gov.ns.ca if yours doesn't work)
- Password: *tapas*

Current status and next steps

The existing TAPAS template has been refined by Justin Huston based on the WG discussion that took place in December, as well as input from Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator, Cindy Krum, Executive Director of the US Association, and David Keeley, Fund Development Coordinator.

Once the updates to the TAPAS template are finalized, changes will be made to the online system. The Council Coordinator will then begin working with Committees and Sub-Committees to populate TAPAS.

Action or outcomes requested

1. Working Group reviews and finalizes the new template.
2. Funding allocated for: 1) IT to update TAPAS online; and 2) Council Coordinator to assist committees and subcommittees in populating the TAPAS sheets.

Submitted by Justin Huston, NS Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture

Proposed Revised TAPAS template

February 17, 2012

TAPAS Information Fields	Example
Name of activity	<u>EcoSystem Indicator Partnership</u>
Linkages to AP (direct and indirect)	<u>Direct</u> 2.2.1 Produce and disseminate ecosystem indicator products that respond to managers' needs <u>Indirect</u> 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 1.3.3, 3.1.1
Time period/# of months	2012-2013
Summary of Activities	Continue to develop and report on ecosystem indicators for the Gulf of Maine through ESIP This activity consists of three related components: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain active participation on the ESIP Committee and seven sub-committees 2. Continue to enhance and promote the ESIP Indicator Reporting Tool and Monitoring Map 3. Produce fact sheets on coastal development, contaminants and pathogens, and eutrophication.
Deliverables <u>Outputs</u> (reports, data, meetings, fact sheets, etc.) <u>Outcomes</u> (effect or results of project)	<u>Outputs:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Development indicators (e.g. population and employment density), contaminants indicators (e.g. shellfish sanitation data), and eutrophication indicators (e.g. dissolved oxygen) will be added to the ESIP Reporting Tool and Monitoring Map3. • Three new facts sheets released (Eutrophication, Contaminants and Coastal Development) <u>Outcomes</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation on the ESIP Committee and sub-committees remains active across participating jurisdictions and organizations • Decision-makers are using ESIP products



Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New indicators • New fact sheets • Number of active participants on ESIP committees and sub-committees • Increase in # of unique visits to the ESIP site
GOMC Lead(s)	ESIP Program Manager – Christine Tilburg ESIP Co-Chairs – Susan Russell Robinson, DOI; Kathryn Parlee, EC
GOMC Internal Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of the Environment Reporting • Gulfwatch • IT (Internet and web design team)
External Partners	Over 60 organizations are represented within ESIP's seven subcommittees
IT/Web requirements	10 hours a month to maintain the Reporting Tool and Monitoring Map, and uploading new fact sheets (will need to get a better estimate)
Communication/Out-reach requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications review of ESIP fact sheets • Input and assistance on promoting the ESIP tools • GOMT articles
Budget Information: required, in place, shortfall	\$122k required (\$x salary; \$x projects) \$70k in place (\$x salary; \$x projects) \$52k shortfall (\$x salary; \$x projects)
Funding opportunities (\$; existing task or new task; grant or contract; submitted or in development)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Canada Atlantic Ecosystem Initiatives amendment – ESIP Steering Committee meeting, IT, stakeholder demos (\$30K; existing task; grant; submitted) • New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund – Development of an Indicator Reporting Tool App (\$10K; new task; grant; submitted)