



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

Working Group
Meeting Briefing Book • V.2
Portsmouth, NH • October 9-11, 2012



Table of Contents

Working Group October 2012 meeting agenda.....2

Working Group meeting summary.....6

Updated Council letterhead.....15

Science Journal Entry for GOMC ESIP webpage16

ESIP Journal Articles: proposed months and author-organizations17

State of the Gulf Reporting Committee Terms of Reference18

First Nations, tribes, and aboriginal Councilor status20

Meeting Schedule for MA Secretariat July 2012 – June 2013.....21

Arriving at a value for the Gulf of Maine22

ESIP and the delivery of Ecosystem Indicators.....23

Gulfwatch update and next steps24

Gulf of Maine Association Update25

Initiative to increase pace of habitat restoration in the Provinces.....26

Implementing the Action Plan: Development of a Sentinel Monitoring Strategy.....28

Soliciting, accepting, and using non-government support29

Working Group October 2012 meeting agenda

Tuesday, October 9, 2012 – University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH

1:00 – 4:00 PM	UNH Stormwater Center workshop
6:00 PM	Meet at the Hilton Garden Inn lobby to walk to Blue Mermaid restaurant for a group dinner (for early WG arrivals and RARGOM)

Wednesday, October 10, 2012 – Portsmouth Public Library, Portsmouth, NH

9:00 AM	Welcome, introductions, and overview of objectives for the meeting <i>Prassede Vella, Chair, Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, and MA Office of Coastal Zone Management</i>
9:20 AM PG 6 PG 15 PG 16 PG 18 PG 20 on website PG 21	Consent agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WG June 2012 meeting summary acceptance ▪ Updated Council letterhead ▪ Appeal for ESIP journal entries ▪ State of the Gulf Reporting Committee Terms of Reference ▪ First Nations/Aboriginal/Tribes Council seats process update ▪ Action Plan Fund Development Activity Status Report ▪ MA meeting schedule
9:30 AM PG 22	Developing an economic model for evaluation of Council program and organizational success <i>Rob Capozzi, NB Department of Environment and Local Government, and Steve Couture, NH Department of Environmental Services</i> Background: At the June 2012 meeting, Working Group made a commitment to Council to conduct a search of databases and solicit council members to submit any information (reports, studies, in-house assessments, etc) that could inform discussions on the economic value of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem and its associated communities. Outcome/desired action: WG to discuss this approach and decision on path forward.
10:15 AM	Break
10:30 AM	Participant roundtable <i>Fast-paced updates from Working Group members</i>
11:00 AM	Action Plan implementation Part I: From five-year plan to work plans <i>Theresa Torrent-Ellis, Maine Coastal Program and David Keeley, The Keeley Group</i> Background: Most of the committees have developed their annual work plan for the implementation of the 2012-17 Action Plan. Work plan data are currently being uploaded to TAPAS and will be available online in November. Outcome/desired action: Committee review of work plans in preparation for December meeting and awareness of the updated TAPAS database.
11:45 AM	Lunch on your own
1:15 PM	Action Plan implementation Part II: Plan structure to organizational structure <i>Prassede Vella, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management</i> Background: In response to the Council's request to the Working Group to look at the current committee organization structure vis-à-vis the new Action Plan, an Ad Hoc group was established. Over these last months the group has been actively working with the committee co-chairs and the Council Goal Leads to identify challenges and needs, and start addressing gaps that will enable the committees to reach their outcomes. This will result in the development of strong ready-to-implement recommendations to the Working Group and the Council to address this issue. Outcome/desired action: The Working Group will review the draft recommendations and any other documents available to date, and provide input and a clear direction that will help the Ad Hoc group move forward with this task.



2:30 PM	<p>Action Plan implementation Part III: Mechanisms for funding activities <i>Cindy Krum, Gulf of Maine Association, and Prassede Vella, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management</i> Background: There are various methods of transferring money to fund Action Plan activities, either through the Canadian and/or GOM Association, or directly among the various agencies. The Council needs a better way of tracking these funds so that the benefits that are reaped from this and return on investment may be fully appreciated. Outcome/desired action: Working Group is aware of: 1). the various source of funding available and the efforts of various entities to attain the goals of the Action Plan, and 2). the benefits of indirect funds coming into the Organization.</p>
3:00 PM	<p>University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center <i>Jamie Houle, University of New Hampshire</i> Background: The University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center (UNHSC) research addresses the overall performance and effectiveness of a variety of stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control water quantity and treat water quality. To date the UNHSC has researched over 24 different BMPs ranging from conventional ponds to manufactured subsurface filters to broad array of Low Impact Development (or Green Infrastructure) practices. Outcome/desired action: Water quality protection is a priority activity of the Action Plan and the Working Group is looking to learn more about stormwater management options. Through this workshop and presentation, the Working Group creates the opportunity to disseminate information within the Gulf of Maine communities about viable ways of improving and protecting the region's marine and estuarine water quality.</p>
3:45 PM	<p>NS Ecology Action Center <i>Jocelyne Rankin, Ecology Action Centre, Nova Scotia.</i> Background: The Coastal and Water team at the Ecology Action Centre is interested in improving water quality in urban runoff and reducing flooding risk. In partnership with other organizations a Stormwater Management project has been developed to address these two issues while providing information for homeowners through demonstration sites and retrofit projects in the community. Outcome/desired action: The EAC group is keenly interested in learning more about stormwater management and BMP application and the Working Group will share information and lessons learned that will help the EAC in addressing these issues in Nova Scotia.</p>
4:30 PM	Items removed from consent agenda
5:00 PM	Recess for the day
6:30 PM	Meet at Hilton Garden Inn for group dinner at a restaurant TBA

Wednesday, October 10, 2012 – NH Department of Environmental Services, Pease Tradeport, Portsmouth

4:00 – 6:30 PM	Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Committee meeting
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Thursday, October 11, 2012 – Portsmouth Public Library, Portsmouth, NH

9:00 AM	<p>Committee spotlight: Coastal Marine Spatial Planning <i>Tim Hall, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Betsy Nicholson, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</i> Background: The Council and Working Group have decided to include one-two committee or subcommittee updates during each meeting. Outcome/desired action: 1). for the WG to be aware of the current Committee plans and activities and 2). to provide input for future activities.</p>
10:00 AM	<p>Great Bay Nitrogen: federal, state, nonprofit and municipal responses <i>Peter Wellenberger, Great Bay-Piscataqua WATERKEEPER, Conservation Law Foundation NH Dean Peschel for the affected municipalities</i> Background: Nitrogen in Great Bay has become an issue of concern for nonprofit conservation organizations, academia, citizens, state agencies, and municipalities. These organizations have their own reactions and responses to this complex issue. Outcome/desired action: Working Group members have an understanding of Great Bay nitrogen levels, its impact on the resource, and stakeholders' perspectives and responses.</p>
10:45 AM	<p>Break</p>
11:00 AM	<p>Review of final draft of Request for Qualifications (RFQs) <i>Prassede Vella, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management</i> Background: The Core Services of the Council are being revised to be aligned with the Council's needs as outlined in the 2012-2017 Action Plan priorities. RFQs are being announced in October for contracts for Council Coordination and for Fund Development. Outcome/desired action: The Working Group will review and approve the final drafts of the RFQs so that these may be announced in October.</p>
11:45 AM	<p>Lunch on your own</p>
1:15 PM PG 23	<p>Ecosystem Indicator Partnership survey <i>Christine Tilburg, ESIP Program Manager</i> Background: ESIP has recently conducted a survey to gather information from users on the ESIP Reporting Tool, factsheets, and indicators suites. A phone interview of 60-75 people was during late August and September. Outcomes/desired action: The Working Group will be asked to respond to the survey questions in order to compare the responses with those of the non-Working Group users.</p>
2:00 PM PG 24	<p>Committee spotlight: Gulfwatch Contaminants Monitoring Subcommittee <i>Christian Krahfurst, Washington College, Subcommittee co-chair, and Theresa Torrent-Ellis, Maine Coastal Program</i> Background: action: The Gulfwatch chemical contaminants monitoring program is continuing into its 22nd year. After a successful meeting of the Gulfwatch Contaminants Monitoring Subcommittee (GCMSC) in Boston in March 2012, a number of activities are underway to continue the program, under Goal 2 of the new Action Plan 2012-2017. There has been extensive discussion between members of GCMSC over the summer months regarding funding and other priorities of the program. Some key funding has been provided by Environment Canada (Dartmouth NS) and the Maine State Planning Office (Augusta ME), but it is insufficient for the annual analyses of tissue samples. However, sampling is now underway (completed for MA!) for Fall 2012, following the redesigned sampling scheme coordinated by UNH. Outcome/desired action: discussion and confirmation of next steps outlined in briefing note.</p>



2:45 PM	<p>Outreach and Communications: updates on the Outreach Committee and the <i>Gulf of Maine Times</i> <i>Theresa Torrent-Ellis, Maine Coastal Program</i></p> <p>Background: The Outreach Committee (OC) has gone through many changes of both purpose and composition over the past five years. As part of the Work Plan implementation we have done an assessment of the OC role, what are the current needs from OC in the work plan and how should this Committee move forward with both the charges of Outreach and Communications.</p> <p>Outcome/desired action: The Working Group will review recommendations from the OC and will help define the next steps for Outreach and Communications to coincide with both Work Plan and Internal communication goals.</p>
3:30 PM PG 25	<p>Gulf of Maine Association report and updates <i>Cindy Krum, Gulf of Maine Association</i></p> <p>Background: The new Gulf of Maine Association Board of Directors had their first meeting in June 2012 and their first Executive Committee call in September 2012.</p> <p>Outcome/desired action: The Working Group is informed of Gulf of Maine Association discussion items.</p>
3:45 PM PG 26	<p>Action Plan implementation Part IV: Funding the work <i>W. Donald Hudson, Jr., Jackie Olsen, Lee Sochasky, and Peter Lamb(as available) supported by David Keeley</i></p> <p>Background: In September, Gulf of Maine Councilors W. Donald Hudson, Jr. Jack Wiggin, Peter Lamb (former Councilor), Ru Morrison, and Lee Sochasky organized a conference call of Provincial foundation staff to introduce the Council and discuss regional needs. They are working to convene a 1-day forum in late fall 2012 of 30+ New England-based and Maritime foundations that have a demonstrated interest/capacity in environmental conservation. The concept flows from the 2011 Council-Foundation work session when 15+ foundations requested the Council take a convener role to assemble the region's foundations. The intent of the forum is to introduce the 2012-17 Action Plan, to provide information about leading issues in the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy, and to promote discussion about how the Council and the region's foundations might work collaboratively to support the priorities in the Plan. Seed funds for the event are being secured from the foundation community and a location is being identified.</p> <p>Outcome/desired action: The Working Group is aware of the Canadian habitat restoration funding Initiative (see briefing sheet) and contributes suggestions for speakers at the forum.</p>
4:30 PM	<p>Adjourn</p>

Working Group meeting summary

Fredericton, NB • June 5-6-15, 2012

Working Group Members present

Rob Capozzi, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Melanie Corkum for Jackie Olsen, Environment Canada; Ellen Mecray, 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; 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.

Working Group Members present via webinar/conference call

Sophia Foley, NS Department of Environment.

Others present

Heather Breeze, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Martin Boulerice, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; David Keeley, The Keeley Group; Cindy Krum, Krum Steele Consulting; Pierre Landry, Sentinelles Petitcodiac Riverkeepers; Colette Lemieux, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Simon Mitchell, St. John River Society; and Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications.

Others present via conference call

Jim Cradock, Yellahoose, LLC and Becca Newhall, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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

Susan asked that the letterhead item be removed from the consent to the action agenda. Rob provided a handout of the current, working draft of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment's letterhead. Susan is concerned that the current organization of the membership on the letterhead will require frequent edits and changes, resulting in additional time and expense. Ellen does not feel that it is appropriate for non-governmental organizations to be listed under their respective provinces and states.

Ellen requested that there be further discussion about the recommendations for "maritime collaboration," which will be discussed at 4:00 PM. Susan asked that the terms of reference for Management and Finance be removed to the action agenda.

Decision	Lead/contact	Due date
The Working Group accepted the consent agenda.	N/A	N/A
Action	Lead/contact	Due date
The Council's letterhead will be revised with updated membership information and correction for Working Group presentation and discussion.	Rob Capozzi	June 6, 2012
EcoSystem Indicator Partnership journal submissions will be solicited and submitted	Working Group members	Immediate and ongoing

Action Agenda

Presentation of Action Plan workplans

Theresa Torrent-Ellis thanked the Working Group on their TAPAS (Tracking Action Plan Activities System) updates. Justin Huston revised the TAPAS format. She provided a history of the Action Plan revision process. She directed the Working Group to break into three groups to work on the work plans and provided instructions. Kathryn feels that additional work is needed to assure that there are committees, subcommittees, co-chairs, and leads so that the work plans have responsible parties. There are also aspects of the Action Plan that are not addressed in the TAPAS. Susan and Melanie feel that there is a lot of work to engage US and CA co-chairs and full membership that includes all of the provinces, federal partners, and other participants. Kathryn added that Council resources should be quantified for each of these efforts. To help organize the session, Rob reviewed the three goals and respective committees to identify co-chairs and leads for work plan development. There are significant gaps in leadership and even more in membership, detailed in the table below.

*Action Plan goal	Committee/subcommittee	Status
Goal 1	Habitat Conservation	This subcommittee felt that all of the work for this aspect of Goal 1 was completed and the subcommittee is not longer active
Goal 1	Habitat Monitoring	The former co-chairs are no longer available and work has not continued due to lack of funding
Goal 1	Habitat Restoration	There is no Canadian co-chair; John Catena is the US co-chair; membership is strong and secure
Goal 1	GOMMI	There are no co-chairs at this time and the committee is inactive.
Goal 1	Water Quality	Not yet formed
Goal 2	Gulfwatch	Peter Wells and Christian Krahforst are the co-chairs, membership is strong and secure
Goal 3	Sustainable Tourism	Theresa Torrent-Ellis is the US Co-chair, Bruce Smith is the Canadian Co-Chair, but committee does not seem to be active.
Goal 3	Sustainable Industries and Communities	Rob Capozzi is the Canadian co-chair and Theresa Torrent-Ellis is the US co-chair; there has been a small core group but membership could be expanded
Crosscutting	EcoSystem Indicator Partnership	Kathryn Parlee and Susan Russell-Robinson are the co-chairs; membership is strong and secure
Crosscutting	Coastal Marine Spatial Planning*	Tim Hall and Betsy Nicholson are the co-chairs; membership is strong and secure
Crosscutting	Climate Change	There is no Canadian co-chair. Ellen Mecray is the US co-chair; she says that participation is good and could be expanded
Crosscutting	Ecosystem-based Management	Unknown
Service	Information Management	There are no co-chairs at this time; the participation is primarily contractors
Service	Outreach	There is no Canadian co-chair and Theresa Torrent-Ellis is US co-chair; the membership is uncertain and inactive

Tim pointed out that State of the Gulf of Maine isn't currently a committee. Michele suggested that it be established as a crosscutting committee along with the EcoSystem Indicator Partnership and Coastal Marine Spatial Planning. Susan felt that it fit there and had strong leadership and support. Tim felt that the effort should be recognized in the Council's structure. Michele suggested that the next step would be to draft a terms of reference document for Council consideration of State of the Gulf of Maine as a crosscutting committee. The effort does not lack direction and does not need a work plan drafted for it; it requires recognition in the Council's formal structure.

Michele said that an evaluation process had been conducted with Ann Rodney leading it. Following the NOAA Coastal Services Model, the process is intensive and expensive. That is why the Council's Evaluation Team chose one initiative, the Habitat Restoration Partnership Grants, as a pilot. This process is transferrable, with customization, to other Council initiatives. The process cannot be self-evaluation to be objective and useful. It should be conducted by a third-party or a quasi-third-party. US federal agencies cannot participate in any "Coastal Marine Spatial Planning." United States Executive Office policy has dictated that any further efforts can only be referred to as "Ocean Planning."

Theresa re-convened the breakout groups reported on their work and collected their work plan revision notes for inclusion in the TAPAS entries. She said that she is in the process of evaluating the Climate Change Committee and securing a Canadian co-chair. Melanie indicated that Environment Canada does not have available staff but has identified a provincial candidate. The Climate Change TAPAS will be revised for the December 2012 meeting. Steve Jones is no longer the contracted coordinator for Gulfwatch, due to insufficient funding. Theresa and Rob will be working on the Sustainable Industries and Communities Committee and will report on their progress in December. Tim suggested that identifying end users should be added as a data entry field in TAPAS. He said that some of the possible coastal marine spatial planning work plan tasks are not in TAPAS; specifically ecosystem based management and building on previous Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative (GOMMI) efforts. External partners for the effort include Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), Regional Committee on Coastal and Ocean Management (RCCOM), and Regional Association for Research in the Gulf of Maine (RARGOM), and the northeast Regional Planning body. He suggested several cross-references for those work plans. Heather reported that the Outreach Committee has been identified to work on outreach for the State of the Gulf of Maine Reporting. Susan reported that

the submission of ESIP fact sheets to the Outreach Committee is not a robust process and needs improvement. Tim suggested that the Councillor review process for fact sheets and other publications be renewed. It is an important editing process relative to Council policy. Melanie is concerned that the Working Group is not able to address potential questions from the Councillors about gaps in the work plans relative to the Action Plan.

Tim said that there would be significant changes to the several programs involved with coastal and ocean management in Canada. It is a good time for the Action Plan work plans and committee structure to be discussed and alignment with agency priorities reviewed. Steve feels that ultimately, the Working Group (individual leads) should have ownership and responsibility for Action Plan implementation. Rob suggested that Working Group leads can be assigned for each goal but it is not necessary for each activity. Council Champions for each goal are listed. All work plans are represented by name and by numbered item and assigned to a committee or it is indicated that there is a gap.

Kathryn provided an updated review table:

Organizational review and work plan status (Items highlighted in blue require Council action at June 2012 meeting)				
Council goal champions				
Goal #1: Restored and conserved habitats (Don Hudson and David Millar)				
Goal #2: Environmental and human health (Jackie Olsen and Ru Morrison)				
Goal #3: Sustainable Communities (Jack Wiggin and Perry Haines)				
Committees	Active	Co-chairs	Work Plan	Comments/Actions Needed
Habitat Conservation	No	No	No	WG needs to assess whether a “refreshed committee” is needed. No AP activity is tasked to this committee
Aquatic Habitat Monitoring	No	No	No	WG needs to assess whether a “refreshed committee” is needed. Activity 2.1.2
Habitat Restoration	Yes	Need CA	Yes	
GOMMI	No	No	No	WG needs to assess whether a “refreshed committee” is needed
Gulfwatch	Yes	Yes	Yes	Need work plan for Activity 2.1.3
Sustainable Tourism	No		No	No tourism activities contained in the Action Plan. WG needs to assess whether a “refreshed committee” is needed
Sustainable Industries and Communities	No	Yes	No	There is a small core group but membership could be expanded. Materials exist that can be used to create a work plan for Goal #3.
EcoSystem Indicator Partnership	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Climate Change	No	Need CA	No	Council needs to identify Canadian co-chair and assist with committee member recruitment. Activity 1.3.1; 2.3.1; 2.3.3
Information Management	Yes	No		Committee work plans contain IT needs. Overall web site upgrades are being discussed. Council needs to identify Canadian co-chair and assist with committee member recruitment.
Outreach	Yes	Need CA		Gulf of Maine Times work plan is available. Committees (ESIP, SOE, Habitat, and Gulfwatch) have identified outreach/communication needs in their work plans.

*David presented an updated organization review and work plan status table with recommended items that require action at the Council meeting. Kathryn provided a draft version of the table as a spreadsheet, which included goal and numbered activity references along with Council champions. The Working Group discussed revisions to these documents, which should provide specific recommendations for the Council's action. For instance, the funds needed for each activity. Cindy would need to provide updated budget information for each of the TAPAS entries. The Working Group discussed the document that Kathryn produced and she revised it during the meeting. Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_june_2012.pdf and at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201206/>.

Decision	Lead/contact	Due date
Becca Newhall is now a member of the Sustainable industries and Communities Committee		
Action	Lead/contact	Due date
Work plans for human use characterization and ecosystem based management will be added to TAPAS under the CMSP Committee	Tim Hall	immediate
Review publication policy and process for Working Group discussion and consideration at its next meeting	Prassede Vella	September 2012
The work plan and committee tables developed by Michele, David, Heather, and Kathryn will be further revised (or combined) for Council review and updated co-chair, committee, and work plan status and recommendations	Prassede Vella	June and September 2012

Engaging with our Action Plan partners

This item was not covered due to lack of time.

EcoSystem Indicator Partnership update

Susan Russell-Robinson and Kathryn Parlee provided their update of the program to date. There are over 128 individuals from 68 organizations working on eight subcommittees with an emphasis on information specific to the member provinces and states. The results inform revisions and other programmatic changes and developments. They have updated the indicator reporting tool, which is revised to use a Google map platform, resulting in faster graphing, better layer organization, and better metadata tables. Journal pages are maintained and updated. These pages could be highlighted as part of the Council's news. ESIP is requesting that experts make entries in the journal on a rotating, monthly basis.

The *Eutrophication Issues in the Gulf of Maine* fact sheet was released in May 2012. Fact sheets for contaminants, coastal development, and fisheries are slated for release from the fall of 2012 through the spring of 2013. Michele fielded a request for an ocean acidification fact sheet, which she forwarded to Susan, Kathryn, and Christine Tilburg. Rob suggested that New Brunswick be involved with the coastal development fact sheet. Fact sheets are colour-coded and cross-referenced.

The Working Group was asked to provide their input on the benefits to member organizations with the new provincial and state highlight feature, the need for a similar tool for federal agencies, and the preference for words vs. logos. The Working Group provided textual and formatting suggestions to improve the provincial and state features of the ESIP webpages. Specific success stories should be included. A set schedule should be established to update each of the fact sheets to keep them relevant and timely.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_june_2012.pdf.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201206/>.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
Update the ESIP website based on the Working Group's input.	Susan Russell-Robinson and Kathryn Parlee	Immediately
Working Group members will provide ESIP journal entries and solicit them from staff at their agencies	Working Group members	ongoing

Gulf of Maine Association

Cindy Krum updated the Working Group on the Gulf of Maine Association process. Fiscal agent arrangements are separate from the Council's operations. She provided an overview of revisions to the budget documents. The fiscal arrangements have resulted in indirect rate that is lower than it has been in a few years. Normally, this would free up funds for other operations such as Council coordination but dues are lower or some agencies are not contributing. There is \$61,000 from provinces and states plus \$30,000 from Department of Fisheries and Oceans and from Environment Canada. Each province and state is expected to pay \$18,000 for dues. Steve said that this may need to be re-evaluated given that agencies' ability or willingness to pay has changed. He asked on what the dues amounts were based. Michele said that those rates were established over twenty years ago based on the cost of a Council coordination, administrative assistant, awards, and meeting costs. These operations have been funded at far lower rates in the last several years than was the case two decades ago. Management and Finance has reviewed the documents and recommends that they be provided to the Council for its acceptance. Peter asked that in-kind support be quantified and documented. Michele and Cindy have tried to document it but there has not always been a response to requests for information. Internal policy was removed from the Council coordination contract so this

function is no longer supported. This information can be added to each TAPAS but there is not always an appropriate repository in that tool.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_june_2012.pdf and emailed to Working Group members and Councillors.

Decision	Lead/contact	Due date
The Working Group recommends that the Gulf of Maine Association accept the revised budget	Rob Capozzi	
The budget is placed on the Council's consent agenda	Rob Capozzi	
Action	Lead/contact	Due date
The budget will be presented the Gulf of Maine Association		June 7, 2012

Developing an economic model for evaluation of program and/or organization success

Rob Capozzi reminded the Working Group of its March meeting discussions. He highlighted the briefing note that he and Steven Couture prepared. The Council could commission a study with an economist who would use an existing model to gauge the value of the Gulf of Maine and the Council's work. Ducks Unlimited Canada and other organizations have existing studies and data that could be used for the Council's study. Rob proposed that the Working Group come to consensus on an approach to commission a study. Ellen and Ann asked how the work would be funded and if the Council requested that a study be conducted. David suggested that the Council as a whole or its agencies agree on what should be funded and commit it or their resources to support a GOMC effort. He suggested that the Council should not only determine what it wants to see in the study but also how the study information will be used by the Council. Tim would felt we may need the possibility of disaggregation of data by jurisdiction. Rob Johnston has received a grant from Sea Grant to conduct a study in the region. Ann and Kathryn felt that there should be a request for proposals or request for qualifications distributed for the proposed study. Susan said that contractor internal possibilities should be solicited on both sides of the border. Tim said that Department of Fisheries and Oceans and other partners have worked with local economists to conduct a study that covers an area from Nova Scotia to Massachusetts. Ideally, a team of CA and US economists would be ideal. Michele said that at a previous meeting, Jackie Olsen and others articulated specific questions that their lawmakers and higher-level managers ask relative to return on investment. Michele asked how ESIP's work could inform an economic study. In the overarching context component of the State of the Gulf of Maine, economic indicators were explored. Activity 3.1.1 in the Action Plan is one of the areas where an economic study is indicated. Prassede said that NROC is conducting a study from Maine to Long Island Sound. Kathryn reminded the Working Group that the December action items were to survey Councillors and ask them to articulate their questions. Councillors provided this information at the December meeting. Tim would also like to see the Council's work aligned with individual participants' agencies mandates and work plans. Susan is concerned that the Councillors will feel that they are covering the same issues. She suggests that the Working provide the Councillors with a summary of their study design questions, ask for refinement, commit to the study and resources to complete it, and then the Working Group can move forward with a request for proposals. Peter Wells suggested that this work could be conducted by a graduate student at a university. Michele had suggested that the first step would be to produce a study design, informed by the questions that Councillors are asked by their policy makers.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_june_2012.pdf.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201206/>.

Decision	Lead/contact	Due date
The Council will be provided with input on an economic study design, which will include background, approach, and a proposed process leading to distribution of a request for proposals for a CA and US consulting team.	Rob Capozzi and Steve Couture	September 2012
Action	Lead/contact	Due date
The Council will be provided with an opportunity to review their past recommendations for an economic study design and provide additional input.	Rob Capozzi and Steve Couture	June 2012

Climate Network update

Ellen Mecray presented "Efficiency and Effectiveness Discussing Climate in the Gulf of Maine Region." The clear message is that provincial and state, non-governmental organization, and federal agency coordination is needed. She recommends that the Gulf of Maine Council Climate Change Committee is renamed "Climate Committee." Heather

feels that the Council's Climate Change Committee would be a great starting point for provincial and state, non-governmental organization, and federal agency coordination. Theresa asked if Ellen feels that there is capacity and interest to make a committee to implement the Council's climate change Action Plan activities. Susan said that she chairs an NROC committee in this area and that the Gulf of Maine Council can be very strong in the habitat aspect of this work. Steve feels that there are so many other groups that it may not make sense to have a Council group focused on climate change. Kathryn pointed out that most efforts are focused either in CA or the US and that the Council brings a true bi-national capacity and approach. Susan said that NERACOOS's direction and goals are very different and that joint work plans and committees with NROC are not moving forward. This collaboration or merger has not proved as simple as some thought it would be. Rob said that it is very important for New Brunswick to have a climate effort and the Gulf of Maine Council is the only organization that allows them to access cross-border expertise and be a vehicle for coordination. Tim asked if there are any cross-border focus on NOAA's work other than information exchange and communication. Ellen said that there are individual provincial and state groups communicating but there is no regional, coordinated effort and that the Council could serve as a vehicle for more comprehensive and efficient coordination. For instance, there are two CA federal agencies and the Council's membership could be expanded to include more agencies for this coordination.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201206/>.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
Provincial candidate for Climate Change Committee Canadian co-chair is identified and secured	Melanie Corkum, Rob Capozzi (led by the Canadian Steering Committee), and Ellen Mecray	Immediate

State of the Gulf of Maine Reporting

Heather provided an update on the State of the Gulf of Maine effort including a handout detailing the status of the theme papers. Steve Couture volunteered to be the US Co-chair of what will be the State of the Gulf of Maine Reporting committee...

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201206/>.

Decision	Lead/contact	Due date
Steve Couture will be the US Co-chair and Heather Breeze will be the CA Co-chair of what will be the State of the Gulf of Maine Reporting committee, after it is established by the Council as a committee	Heather Breeze	n/a
Action	Lead/contact	Due date
State of the Gulf of Maine terms of reference drafted for Council consideration to establish a formal committee with a draft presented to the Working Group at its next meeting.	Heather Breeze and Steve Couture	September, 2012

Guest presentation: The St. John River Society

Simon Mitchell presented a background on the St. John River, designed as a Canadian Heritage River. The river was nominated locally and designed federally over a three-year period. The organization received a Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Visionary Award last year.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201206/>. Further information may be found at http://www.stjohnriver.org/canadian_heritage.htm.

Engaging the foundation community

David Keeley highlighted the possible activities and next steps in his briefing note, particularly identifying funding sources to support habitat restoration projects in the Gulf of Maine along with a summary of progress to date. One of the activities is for the Council to convene a one-day foundation forum. David indicated that foundation staff will need funding to cover travel expense to participate in this event. Peter Lamb resigned from the Council. Most of the Working Group Canadian members are participating in this effort. At its June 2012 meeting, the Council will be asked to identify possible foundation staff and corporate partners to engage in this one-day event. Ann thought that there was a list of prospective funders and why this was needed for Council discussion at its meeting in June. David would like to benefit from Councillor's networking experience. Steve asked what resources were leveraged by the last foundation forum (none to date); it was focused on cultivation. Melanie suggested that it may be more effective for Council representatives to go to foundation groups' meetings vs. the Council convening a forum and paying for foundation staff to travel to it.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_june_2012.pdf.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
Current foundation and other funder prospect list will be distributed to the Working Group	David Keeley	immediately

Items removed from consent agenda

Rob Capozzi opened discussions on the consent agenda and other items. Ellen Mecray did not believe that there was consensus on the Richert report recommendations and she did not feel that it was appropriate to bring them to the Council. Have the two committees agreed to merge as outlined in the recommendations. The briefing note in the Council's packet does state that the Working Group did not reach consensus. Ann asked if the respective boards of NERACOOS and NROC came to consensus. Susan was at the NERACOOS meeting and that the recommendations were not discussed. She said that there was some concern about combining committees. Steve said that NERACOOS and NROC are working on forming joint committees. Susan is concerned that the NROC area extends to Long Island Sound and that states of Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York would be involved and could be a focus. Rob said that the Council is the only organization that works for the federal and provincial Canadians and is very important to them. They do not want to see the Council and its programs gutted or moved to other organizations. Perry Haines, Assistant Deputy Minister, NB Department of Environment and Local Government will affirm that during the Council meeting. Ellen feels that it is very important for the Working Group to reach consensus for the Council. Michele is concerned that the entire focus of the conversation is on reducing the number of meetings when the Council has been meeting for nearly a quarter century with impressive results. Collaboration can occur in other ways that do not require merging organizations or circumventing meetings. Prassede says that the Council is not being asked to give up anything and that the Richert report recommendations were just that, recommendations. She added that the Council should not be averse to consider close collaboration with existing and upcoming bodies in order to have access to the latest developments and resources. David said that since Ru Morrison, director of NERACOOS and Bruce Carlise, chair of NROC (also incoming GOMC chair) will be at the Council meeting this week, everyone will hear all three organizations' viewpoints. He said that there are some Action Plan activities where collaboration would occur. Rob feels that the other organizations who are starting committees or initiatives or expanding geographic areas in which they work should be reaching out to the Council. He feels that it is not incumbent upon the Council to inform others of what it is already doing. Ellen reminded the Working Group that the Council's geographic scope is beyond the coastal zone and goes inland into the watersheds, unlike that of NERACOOS and NROC. Ann feels that the recommendations really are/should be that the Council engage its members in their transboundary communication and collaboration as well as its own portfolio of products. Tim feels that it is unfortunate that the report was released as it was and he does not want to see the Council's leadership role lost. He feels that people were upset and threatened by the way the report was presented.

Susan brought up her concern with Management and Finance's proposed new terms of reference including its new role of inter-committee coordination. She wants committees to be engaged via the Working Group. This change was made several years ago. The proposed Terms of Reference change for this meeting was to include Councillor participation to accommodate the new Gulf of Maine Association structure. Ellen feels that it is a good time to review and revise all terms of reference for the core management as well as for the committees and subcommittees. There should be less content in the briefing notes and more discussion with each other and committees. Melanie feels that it is time for the Working Group to revisit the general structure of the Council on the next agenda. Ann says that the Councillors need to commit their respective staff time to undertake this effort. Theresa does not think that it is worthwhile to spend a lot of time on the structure and listening to oral updates. She cautions that a re-organization is not needed. Susan said that her agency has grants and other programs that can provide direct assistance in support of the Council such as invitational travel. Theresa said that Susan would need to work with each Secretariat on an annual basis to provide these offers of assistance.

David prepared a summary of the first day work plan break out groups. The summary presentation was edited. Major points include amending the due date for Climate and Sustainable Communities Committees work plans. The Working Group must also ask the Councillors to commit resources for committee co-chairs and participants. The utility of jurisdictionally and other organizationally diverse organizations was raised. Is the expertise of individuals what is needed or is it committees representing all Council participants? What is the role of Council champions for the goals? Theresa indicated that she has not had time to follow-up with them. The Council Coordinator used to work with co-chairs and committees relative to membership, filing co-chair vacancies, developing work plans, reporting to the Councillors, and working directly with the Councillors.

The fund development consent agenda item was tabled. The briefing document with fundraising activities was presented as a background and has no bearing on the foundation community engagement discussion. Kathryn was confused because of the statement about the 70% funding coming from agencies and then the list of fundraising activities comes from other sources? David said that in some instances, funding went directly to other sources, such as direct payments to contractors. Kathryn asked where funds, such as those from Department of Fisheries and Oceans, were paid directly to a contractor. This was confusing and will likely raise questions from the Councillors. The funding sources should be categorized to reflect what payments were provided by agencies to the Council

(regardless of fundraising efforts), what were in-kind resources, and what were the result of direct fundraising. For instance, the Habitat Restoration grant from NOAA has been a funding source to the Council previous to the Funding Coordinator's work. Cindy said that the report should provide details on what the Funding Coordinator had an impact vs. what monies would have come to the Council otherwise. It would be difficult to tie this information to the annual budget. Ellen asked for the name of the NOAA climate change office program to be corrected in the report. Tim said that there are direct costs that Department of Fisheries and Oceans pays that can be documented. Michele developed (pro bono) a format for reporting this direct and in-kind match. She would initiate emails and calls to populate the format and included it as a briefing note in several consent agendas.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at

http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_june_2012.pdf.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201206/>.

Decision	Lead/contact	Due date
The Working Group recommends to the Council its next steps on the work plans	Rob Capozzi	
Action	Lead/contact	Due date
Council structure and policy will be on the next Working Group agenda	Prassede Vella	September 2012
Produce summary table of activities by goal and committee	Theresa Torrent-Ellis	immediate
In-kind and other support will be documented and reported to the Working Group and Council with Management and Finance acting as lead	Prassede Vella	immediate

Secretariat report on next steps re: core services

Rob Capozzi reported on the new approach for provisioning core services contracts for information technology, fund development, *Gulf of Maine Times*, and Council coordination, which were last solicited in 2007. Management and Finance developed a schedule for a request for qualifications, which will be lead by the Secretariat Team, Prassede, Rob, and Sophia. Four draft solicitations are being developed in executive sessions (without the current four contractors participating). Scopes of work are changing based on recommendations for the *Gulf of Maine Times* and other issues. The contractors for the EcoSystem Indicator Partnership, Gulfwatch, and the Gulf of Maine Association are not part of this process.

Susan asked how the federal agency participation on Management and Finance was determined. Michele said that on each side of the border, federal agencies were meant to come to an agreement on rotating. For instance, Department of Fisheries and Oceans served for a couple of years and then Environment Canada stepped up. This has been an understanding vs. explicit in Management and Finance's terms of reference. There are some issues with understandings vs. policies.

Michele said that a Councillor called her last week about the letterhead and thought that it was an Association function vs. that of the Council. The Councillor did not understand the organization, how it worked, and what it did. She acknowledged that there are some who do not want to spend time talking about structure but she feels that they already are spending a great deal of time on it through misunderstandings and re-inventions.. Without documentation, participants' time is spent unproductively and there are continued misunderstandings. Michele said that via her previous contracts, she used to provide the Council with internal policy and organizational management services. This included direct orientation with Councillors, Working Group members, and committee participants, working to help committees, and drafting and revising terms of reference and the Council's organization chart. She used to work with participants to revise and publish the Council's *Reference Handbook*.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at

http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_june_2012.pdf.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201206/>.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
The Secretariat Team will implement the core services request for qualifications	Prassede Vella	As outlined in the schedule

Report on website upgrades

Jim Cradock presented the server and website upgrades. Details about the revisions and upgrades are in the online presentation. Heather asked if the issue with Google and other searches for State of the Gulf of Maine and other Council programs would yield results for the old website. Jim said that the old website is still online and there are several re-directed pages. Jennifer Hackett drafted a list of all of the Council webpages that have been or need to be re-directed. Susan is pleased with the ESIP pages. The presentation is posted at

<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201206/>.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
A contract facilitator may be needed for Information Technology contracted services.	Prassede Vella	immediate

Guest presentation: Petitcodiac River's causeway removal and its early signs of recovery

Pierre Landry, Sentinelles Petitcodiac Riverkeepers, presented a history of the Petitcodiac and an update on the causeway removal and restoration. The gates are open and there are discussions to remove the entire structure and replace it with a bridge.

Further information is available at <http://www.petitcodiac.org/>.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201206/>.

Report on Gulf of Maine Times changes and updates

There was no time to address this agenda item.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
An update on the Gulf of Maine Times will be added to a future Working Group agenda	Prassede Vella	September.

GOMC library holdings

David Keeley highlighted the information in the briefing book. The (former) Maine State Planning Office maintained space for the Gulf of Maine Library for twenty years. Since the Office is now part of the Department of Environmental Conservation (MEDEC), it is working on digitizing priority documents. MEDEC is paying Yellahoose LLC to work on a web presence for the priority documents. Bigelow Laboratories will host the hard copy library, which contains not just Council publications but other organizations' Gulf of Maine documents and publications. naturesource communications houses the Council physical archives including Council and other Gulf of Maine publications, Council documentation and meeting files and other priority documents. The remainder of the Council documents are housed at the NH Department of Environmental Services. The Association has shredded all files older than seven years. When Michele was the Association contractor, she summarized in one document all of the grant and project files before she transferred them to Cindy. Michele has a link to a program within the University of New Hampshire that is digitizing many documents including town reports and other publications from the 1700s.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at

http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_june_2012.pdf.

Other business

Peter Wells announced that Gulfwatch members contributed to a paper on mercury sources, to be distributed shortly. The Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership workshops are now posted on <http://www.bofep.org/>. Peter is presenting at the Coastal Zone Canada conference in Rimouski in June. The presentation will include Gulfwatch results.

Ann Rodney asked that a roundtable item be added to each Working Group meeting agenda so that participants may provide one-minute updates.

Decision	Lead/contact	Due date
A participant roundtable item will be included in each Working Group meeting agenda	Working Group chairs	ongoing
Action	Lead/contact	Due date
Roundtable updates will be part of each Working Group agenda	Working Group chairs	ongoing

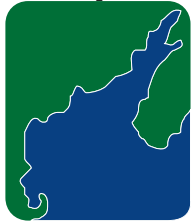
Summary prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications



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

**Working Group Meeting
October 9-11, 2012
Briefing Packet • Version 2**

Updated Council letterhead



Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

Maine

*Department of Conservation
W. Donald Hudson, Jr., The Chewonki Foundation*

Massachusetts

*Office of Coastal Zone Management
Priscilla Brooks, Conservation Law Foundation
Jack Wiggin, Urban Harbors Institute, UMass Boston*

New Brunswick

*Department of Environment and Local Government
Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Fisheries
Lee Sochasky, International Resource Planner*

New Hampshire

*Department of Environmental Services
Ru Morrison, Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems*

Nova Scotia

*Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Department of Environment
Bettina Saier, World Wildlife Fund Canada*

Senior Science Advisors

*John Annala, Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Robert Stephenson, St. Andrews Biological Station*

Federal Partners

*Environment Canada
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
US Department of Interior
US Environmental Protection Agency*

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

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management • 2012-2013 Secretariat

www.gulfofmaine.org

Submitted by Prassede Vella, Working Group Chair



Science Journal Entry for GOMC ESIP webpage

The Science Journal Entry is a way to convey the exciting work of the various member organizations of the Gulf of Maine Council to a wide, diverse and curious audience. The Journal will be immediate, frequently changing, and an “insiders view” of Gulf of Maine scientists and resource managers in action. The Journal is modeled after the US Fish and Wildlife Service journal feature. Here’s an example from the FWS Gulf of Maine Field Office:

<http://www.fws.gov/arsnew/regmap.cfm?arskey=20391&callingKey=region&callingValue=5>

Here is link to ESIP Journal Archive to see what has been submitted previously and to see short and long versions of journal entries:

<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/new-site/committees-and-programs/ecosystem-indicator-partnership/journals-archive/>

Guidelines for a Science Journal Entry

- (1) Prepare copy in 10 point, Verdana font.
- (2) Submit one photograph that shows action – a person doing something or interacting with others. Get the action from the front, so faces can be seen. No backside shots!
 - a. Write a caption that describes the picture. Identify the people by name and role with organization (not title).
 - b. Include photo credit and date of photograph (month/year)
- (3) Write three sections.
 - a. Section one. Describe the work being done. Use active voice and action words.
 - b. Section two. Describe the significance of the work. Tie to ESIP, if possible.
 - c. Section three. Provide information about future plans for project/activity. Include contact information, to learn more.
- (4) Submit one or two graphics (if appropriate) to illustrate information in the Journal submission.

Submit journal entry to Christine Tilburg at ctilburg@securespeed.us

Submitted by Christine Tilburg

ESIP Journal Articles: proposed months and author-organizations

October 2012	University of Maine – E. Stancioff
November 2012	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
December 2012	NEOSEC
January 2013	US EPA - New England Regional Office
February 2013	NB Environment and Local Government
March 2013	Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
April 2013	NS Fisheries and Aquaculture
May 2013	NH Department of Environmental Services
June 2013	NB Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture
July 2013	Maine Department of Conservation
August 2013	NS Environment
September 2013	US Army Corps of Engineers
October 2013	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
November 2013	US Department of the Interior
December 2013	Environment Canada - Atlantic Region
January 2014	Maine Department of Marine Resources
February 2014	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
March 2014	US EPA - New England Regional Office
April 2014	NB Environment and Local Government
May 2014	Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
June 2014	NS Fisheries and Aquaculture
July 2014	NH Department of Environmental Services
August 2014	NB Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture
September 2014	Maine State Planning Office
October 2014	NS Environment
November 2014	US Army Corps of Engineers
December 2014	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
January 2015	Maine Department of Marine Resources

Submitted by Christine Tilburg

State of the Gulf Reporting Committee Terms of Reference

draft as of September 10, 2012

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



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

**Working Group Meeting
October 9-11, 2012**
Briefing Packet • Version 2

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.

Submitted by Heather Breeze, Fisheries and Oceans Canada



First Nations, tribes, and aboriginal Councilor status

Background

When the Council revised its terms of reference to add two senior science Councillors and an additional private sector Councilor for each province and state, it provisioned two seats for individuals to bring a first nation/tribe/aboriginal perspective or lens to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment to better inform and enrich discussions with one nation or other organization on each side of the Canada and United States border.

At its June meeting, Councilor Jackie Olsen committed to lead the nomination effort for these two Council seats. Michele Tremblay offered to help, pro bono. Since then, Michele has been in contact (with copies to Ms. Olsen) with Justin Huston, Director of Consultation, NS Office of Aboriginal Affairs. He offered to provide contacts in the province as well as his counterpart in New Brunswick.

Action or outcomes requested

Contacts within the Gulf of Maine for New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts are requested. These contacts can be appropriate individuals for the Council seats or they can be organizations or agencies who would provide nominees.

Submitted by Michele L. Tremblay, natresource communications (pro bono for the Council)



Meeting Schedule for MA Secretariat July 2012 – June 2013

Proposed meeting schedule 2012-2013

Working Group Meeting	Council Meeting	Other	Location
December 11-12, 2012	December 13, 2012	TBD	Massachusetts
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



Arriving at a value for the Gulf of Maine

Background

At the June 2012 meeting, Working Group made a commitment to Council to conduct a search of databases and solicit council members to submit any information (reports, studies, in-house assessments, etc) that could inform discussions on the economic value of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem and its associated communities.

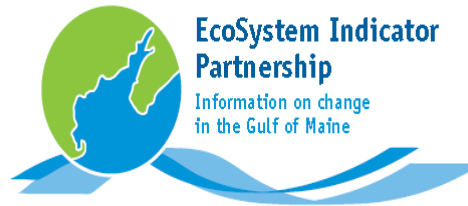
Over the last few months New Hampshire has graciously compiled an inventory of existing information that speaks to the numerous values of the GOM. This compilation can be used to inform WG on what other information is required to answer the proverbial questions related to the value of the GOM. In order to move forward with this assignment we are proposing to use the next 3 months to extract from this inventory the pertinent pieces of information that can be compiled into a summary document highlighting the value of specific activities, sectors, economies, ecosystems, infrastructure , etc. The report could then be presented to Council in December for their input and direction. We would like WG to discuss this approach during the October meeting.

Action or outcomes requested

WG to discuss this approach and decision on path forward.

Submitted by Robert Capozzi, NB Department of Environment and Local Government and Steve Couture, NH Department of Environmental Services

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 August)	Total
General ESIP Sheet	July 2009	321	290	791	217	1619
Aquaculture Fact Sheet	January 2011			494	218	712
Climate Change Fact Sheet	February 2011			554	198	752
Aquatic Habitats Fact Sheet	October 2011			365	304	669
Eutrophication Fact Sheet	May 2012				369	369

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. A sneak peak at the data reveals: There is 100% agreement that scientific data is highly valued by ESIP's users. In addition these users tend to focus on ESIP's fact sheets rather than downloadable datasets or the web tools.

Next ESIP 2.0 Steps

As ESIP completes analysis and delivery of information on the priority indicators, ESIP's Steering Committee is changing the focus to ESIP 2.0. Next steps for ESIP 2.0 will include looking at more interdisciplinary indicators and growing the membership in ESIP's working subcommittees.

Submitted by Christine Tilburg



Gulfwatch update and next steps

Background

The Gulfwatch chemical contaminants monitoring program is continuing into its 22nd year. After a successful meeting of the Gulfwatch Contaminants Monitoring Subcommittee (GCMSC) in Boston in March 2012, a number of activities are underway to continue the program, under Goal 2 of the new Action Plan 2012-2017. There has been extensive discussion between members of GCMSC over the summer months regarding funding and other priorities of the program. Some key funding has been provided by Environment Canada (Dartmouth NS) and the Maine State Planning Office (Augusta ME), but it is insufficient for the annual analyses of tissue samples. However, sampling is now underway (completed for MA!) for Fall 2012, following the redesigned sampling scheme coordinated by UNH.

Possible activities and next steps

- 1) Confirmation of funding for FY 2012-21013.
- 2) Confirmation of the contract with Dr Steve Jones, Jackson Estuarine Laboratory, UNH.
- 3) Planning of key papers to be prepared during Fall-Winter 2012-13.
- 4) Confirmation of lab space for the tissue archives at Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, NS.
- 5) Program planning and report writing contracts; developments, commitments, and implementation.

Submitted by Christian Krahfurst and Peter Wells, Co-chairs, GCMSC



Gulf of Maine Association Update

Background

On June 7, 2012, prior to the GOMC meeting, the recently established Gulf of Maine Association Board of Directors had its first meeting. Since that time, the Executive Committee of the Board has met once via conference call. On their call, the Executive Committee reviewed possible roles for the new board in addition to their current review of budgets, financial reports and audit documents. Their primary area of interest was Councilor/ jurisdictional engagement, return on investment and strategic/business planning support the Council's Action Plan.

Possible activities and next steps

- The Executive Committee will review existing action plan communication resources and determine the additional needs for strategic/business planning.
- The Executive Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the December, 2012 meeting regarding next steps for the Board's assistance with Councilor/ jurisdictional engagement and strategic/business planning.

Action or outcomes requested

1. Response from Working Group members in regards to next steps of the Gulf of Maine Association Executive Committee.

Submitted by Cynthia Krum, Executive Director, Gulf of Maine Association

Initiative to increase pace of habitat restoration in the Provinces

Goal# 1 – Habitat Restoration Activity 1.2.1 – Provide habitat restoration grants and technical assistance that result in restored coastal ecosystems

Background

In 2011 the Council formed a work group of Provincial and Canadian federal agency representatives to work with the fund development coordinator on raising funds to support habitat restoration in the Provinces. The December 2011 Council briefing note says: *“The core concept is to increase the amount of funding available for on-the-ground habitat restoration projects in the two provinces. (An inventory of existing habitat restoration programs is being assembled to inform our discussions.) Our intent is to adapt the Council’s habitat restoration program content, guidelines and hands-on technical assistance to grantees to create an ongoing competitive grant program that can be branded by the funder and other contributors. Sources of funds include private philanthropy, businesses and government.”*

Recommended Next steps:

1. *Work with the Canadian foundation community to bring greater awareness about the need for restoration in the Provinces;*
2. *Engage the Fundy Community Foundation to learn of their interest in building the capacity of FCF to secure resources; and*
3. *Network with non-profit Canadian organizations that have a shared interest in habitat restoration and land conservation so as to learn of their work, identify their concerns and suggestions, and to increase credibility of the concept.*

Progress to-date

1. The ad-hoc work group of provincial and federal staff has met a few times. Briefing notes in Working Group and Council meeting packets were distributed to keep people informed.
2. Environment Canada identified Canadian philanthropic sources and corporations that may share an interest in supporting locally-based, on the ground habitat restoration.
3. In January 2012 the Council assisted the Fundy Community Foundation prepare a \$25,000 proposal to the NB Environmental Trust Fund that would build the capacity of FCF to secure resources and work with the Canadian foundation community on environmental conservation activities. (The proposal was not funded however FCF is proceeding undeterred.)
4. Councilor Lamb helped to create an environmental field of interest fund at FCF and provided seed funds.
5. The Council prepared a \$500,000 grant proposal to the Royal Bank of Canada/Blue Water Fund in 2011. It proposed to create a habitat restoration re-granting program that leverages the GOMC/NOAA restoration partnership and to support a Canadian restoration coordinator. The proposal was withdrawn because the GOMA did not have the RBC required audited financial statements. RBC is undergoing a program review of the Blue Water Fund and has suggested the Council resubmit its proposal in late 2012.
6. Work commenced on the concept of identifying specific habitat restoration projects in the Provinces that could seek Canadian corporate and philanthropic support. Specific tasks included:
 - Interviews with John Brazner and Sophia Foley (NS Environment); Tim Hall and Anita Hamilton (DFO); Susan Farquharson (Canadian Rivers Institute/UNB); Tim Vickers (ACAP Saint John); David Coon and Matt Abbott (CCNB/Fundy Baykeeper); Reg Melanson (Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council – formerly worked with the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture in NS); Renee Estabrooks (JD Irving); Shawn Dalton (formerly with UNB); etc. The intent of the interviews was to describe the Council’s habitat restoration interests and to learn from them about related activities.
 - Understand Provincial and DFO Fisheries Act habitat requirements and efforts to create compensation and/or mitigation banking programs;
 - Secure commitment by Atlantic Salmon Federation regional biologists to assist local groups identify restoration projects and prepare Letters of Interest (LOI) in response to possible fall 2012 Council restoration solicitation. (The Fundy Baykeeper, Canadian River Network and Saint Mary’s University, and Acadia University may also have capacity to assist);
 - Understand that Environment Canada may have funding through March 2013 to support a Canadian coordinator that will assist with the identification of restoration projects among other things;
 - Identify existing funding sources (NBETF, NB Nature Trust, Adopt a Stream/NS, Aboriginal Species, EHJV, etc.) that could be leveraged to match new funding;
 - Compile list of community-based organizations in the Provinces that should be notified when the Council releases future LOI;



- Compile a list of potential corporate sources of support that might contribute individually or through a BoF business consortium approach (e.g., [Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership](#)), understand current corporate-non-profit habitat/conservation partnerships, and document previous efforts to engage the business community in restoring the environment such as the 2009 DFO-ENGO/CNGO Maritime Provinces Fish Habitat Protection Workshop: *Collaboration on Fish Habitat Protection*;
 - Explore the Council repeating some hands-on "training sessions" (2-3 evening sessions in different locations in each province) that brings prospective applicants together with technical providers to design competitive restoration projects. Webinars for watershed, community-based are another possibility;
 - Compile an initial scan of over 30 New Brunswick and Nova Scotia documents/report that identify conservation and restoration priorities.
 - Organize a July and then September 6th conference call of the Habitat Restoration Subcommittee (Canadian participants included Al Hanson (CWS) and Gail Chmura (McGill University) to discuss corporate and philanthropic sources and to determine if releasing a fall 2012 request for letters of intent would assist in identifying worthy restoration projects that could be packaged for consideration by businesses and foundations;
7. Commence analysis and networking with Canada-based foundations and consortia such as the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network and the Canadian Association of Community Foundations. Secure commitment of CEO Ian Bird to network with community foundations about environmental programming and the emerging pilot effort in the BoF.
 8. Support work of the Council's Ad-hoc Fund Development group (Councilor's Sochasky, Hudson, Wiggin and Morrison) and the Fundy Community Foundation to identify participants, solicit their interest in participating and to organize a September 26th conference call with representatives of board leadership and staff with the Fundy Community Foundation (FCF), the Greater Saint John Community Foundation, the Windsor Essex Community Foundation, the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia, the NB Environmental Trust, JD Irving, the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network and the Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia. The purposes of the call are to 1) introduce them to the GOMC and its role as a regional facilitator, 2) describes the regional priorities in 2012-17 Action Plan, 3) shares their current environmental portfolio, and 4) explores their interest in securing additional funding for environmental conservation and habitat restoration. The call will be lead by Councilors Sochasky and Hudson.
 9. Support work of Councilors Hudson, Wiggin, Lamb, Morrison and Sochasky to convene a 1-day forum in late fall 2012 of 30+ New England-based and Maritime foundations that have a demonstrated interest/capacity in environmental conservation. (Several larger national foundations will also be invited.) The concept flows from the 2011 Council-Foundation work session when 15+ foundations requested the Council take a convener role to assemble the region's foundations. The intent of the forum is to introduce the 2012-17 Action Plan and to promote discussion about how the Council and the region's foundations might work collaboratively to support the priorities in the Plan including habitat restoration. Seed-funds for the event are being secured from the foundation community and a location is being identified.

Actions or outcomes desired:

1. The Working Group is aware of this Canadian initiative and understands how it implements AP Activity 1.2.1
2. The Working Group offers recommendations for speakers for the fall 1-day forum of NE and Maritime foundations (see #9 above)

Submitted by David Keeley

Implementing the Action Plan: Development of a Sentinel Monitoring Strategy

Background

Goal #2 – Environmental conditions support the health of people and the environment contains Activity 2.1.3 Foster region-wide communication about existing monitoring activities, perceived gaps, and partnership opportunities.

In 1990 the Council commended work on one of the priorities in the 1989 Governor's and Premier's Agreement that formed the Council – development of a monitoring program. In June 1991 the Council approved the *Gulf of Maine: Environmental Quality Monitoring Program: An Initial Plan*. Implementation of this plan commenced in 1992 with a blue mussel sentinel monitoring pilot program called Gulfwatch. The intent was to demonstrate to ourselves and others that the Council could successfully conduct a bi-national monitoring program. The Council then planned to act on other recommendations in the Plan.

In July 1995 the Council partnered with NOAA scientist Donna Turgeon to prepare *Environmental Quality Monitoring Program: Strategies for Implementing the Initial Plan*. This initiative engaged many stakeholders and refined what the next steps might be in expanding environmental monitoring in the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy.

This spring, in response to Action Plan activity 2.1.3, a small work group was formed to begin work on a sentinel monitoring strategy. (Participants included Mel Cote (EPA), Jeff Runge (USM & NROC Ecosystem Health Chair), Brian Thompson (Conn DEP & NROC Ecosystem Health Chair), Matt Liebman (EPA) and David Keeley) A first step was to coalesce existing information that would inform this work including the recent EPA Climate Ready Estuaries initiative to create a climate sentinel monitoring program in Long Island Sound. In July Jeff Runge took a leadership role and prepared a white paper (see attached) to address the 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 $0.1\text{--}0.3^{\circ}\text{C yr}^{-1}$ over the past decade. The intent was to take advantage of regional capacity for data management and integrated analysis. At present, a sentinel monitoring program has been initiated for Long Island Sound, and for adjacent Canadian waters (the Atlantic Zonal Monitoring Program, initiated in 1998), but there is no organized sentinel monitoring of coastal ecosystems in the Gulf of Maine.

Possible Activities and Next Steps

The ad-hoc work group (Cote, Liebman, Runge, Thompson, and Keeley) is now working on a sentinel monitoring strategy (e.g., goals, objectives, outputs, outcomes, methods, etc.). Significant work has been done over the past 15-years that provides the foundation for this effort including two major monitoring workshops convened by the Council.

The work group plans to identify 15 +/- bright and motivated people that are willing to come together for a day and task them with creating "the guts" of a sentinel monitoring strategy. (Please see the list of contributors in the attached Community Whitepaper. Since Gulfwatch is a sentinel monitoring program it will be engaged in this effort. Members of the Climate Change Network also need to be engaged.) They will then engage a broader circle of scientists and managers for review and comment. (Maybe a 1-day RARGOM/BoFEP meeting.) Based on the results of that meeting they will create a funding strategy to make it happen.

Actions or outcomes requested

1. The Working Group is aware of this effort, understands how it implements the Action Plan (Activity 2.1.3), and supports the development of sentinel monitoring funding proposals.
2. The Working Group identifies individuals that should be engaged in this effort.

Submitted by David Keeley, Fund Development Coordinator

Soliciting, accepting, and using non-government support

Ad-hoc Fund Development Group suggestions

Background: At the June 2012 Council meeting Councilors identified some fund development issues and requested the Ad-Hoc Fund Development Group (Sochasky, Hudson, Wiggin, Morrison) to develop some options for the Council to consider at their December meeting.

Council Request #1: Identify the key issues with the Council accepting non-government and corporate funding to support implementation of the Action Plan and offer suggestions on how to manage these issues.

Issues	Options for managing situation
External perceptions of undue influence on Council foci when accepting and using foundation or corporate support	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicate clearly on all sources and uses of funding 2. Know the agenda of respective funders before approaching them 3. <i>Notification of Intent to Apply policy</i> is in place. It engages M&F but not Councilors directly 4. M&F recommendation on a funding proposal should be sent to Councilors 5. Acknowledge ability to “not pursue a project” at any point
Councilors feel beholdng or indebted to others	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be attentive at the Council level to understanding different perspectives and points of view 2. Be clear the Council, not its individual members, is the recipient of the funding
Council competing with local/regional organizations for funding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare competitive proposals and let the funder decide who to support 2. Pursue tasks that result in GOMC distributing most of the funds/re-granting to others 3. Pursue funding for projects that have regional implications and that build on GOMC strengths. Examples include information collating/data management, monitoring, mapping, etc.

Council request #2: Identify methods to secure non-competitive support for Action Plan priorities.

Pursuit of non-competitive funding (e.g. discretionary resources such as cash, staff, contributed services)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approach member and non-member agencies (e.g., NRCAN, FEMA, Army Corps) agencies for discretionary resources (e.g., cash, staff, contributed services). 2. Routinely inform Council agencies/members of all fund development needs. 3. Engage Councilors in identifying a more transparent way to match up funds with needs such as information in meeting packets on needs and timing.
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Actions or outcomes requested

1. The Working Group will provide comments on these options to the Ad-hoc Group

Submitted by David Keeley for Councilors W. Donald Hudson, Jr., Lee Sochasky, Jack Wiggin, and Ru Morrison