



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

**MASSACHUSETTS SECRETARIAT YEAR  
Annual Report 2002-2003**

**Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment**  
*Massachusetts Secretariat Year Annual Report • 2002-2003*

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*The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is an international body established in December of 1989 through an “agreement on the conservation of the marine environment of the Gulf of Maine” signed by the governors and premiers of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. 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. The Council fosters cross-border cooperation among government, non-government, academic, and private groups.*

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment  
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## **I. The Year in Review**

July 2002

- The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management assumes the roles as the Council's 2002-2003 Secretariat. Director Thomas W. Skinner serves as Council chair with Assistant Director Susan Snow-Cotter as Working Group chair
- Laura Marron and Michele L. Tremblay are contracted to serve as the Council's coordination team

September 2002

- Working Group meeting, Saint Andrews, New Brunswick

November 2002

- Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee, Saint Andrews, New Brunswick

December 2002

- Working Group meeting, Boston, Massachusetts
- Council meeting, Boston, Massachusetts
- Ocean Zoning Forum, Boston, Massachusetts
- Visionary and Longard Award winners are announced at a ceremony at the Federal Reserve Bank, Boston, Massachusetts
- Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel meeting, Hadley, Massachusetts

January 2003

- Ocean Zoning background paper published

February 2003

- Council announces a total of **\$271,428.50** awarded for Habitat Restoration Grants

March 2003

- Working Group meeting, Concord, New Hampshire
- Marine Conservation Ad-Hock Task Force, Concord, NH
- Peer review of Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative strategic plan

April 2003

- Gulf of Maine Expedition begins

May 2003

- Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel meeting, Bar Harbor, Maine
- Rapid Response to Aquatic Nuisance Species in the Northeast: Early Detection and Eradication Protocol Workshop, Bar Harbor, Maine

June 2003

- Working Group meeting, Hyannis, Massachusetts
- Council meeting, Hyannis, Massachusetts
- Valuing Natural Capital Forum, Hyannis, Massachusetts
- First meeting of the Gulf of Maine Council Habitat Committee, Hyannis, Massachusetts

## **II. Highlights**

Over \$271,000 awarded to nonprofit organizations and grassroots and other groups by Habitat Restoration Grants Program to restore habitats throughout the Gulf. The Habitat Restoration Grants Program is a partnership of the Council and the National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

In June 2003, the newly-formed Council Habitat Committee met for the first time. The Committee is the coordinating body for the four sub-committees: Habitat Conservation, Monitoring, Restoration, and the Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative (GOMMI).

The Science Translation project was initiated during the MA Secretariat year. The initiative is funded provided by The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET), Maine State Planning Office, Coastal Program Maine Sea Grant, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, New Hampshire Coastal Program, and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Sea Grant with additional funding provided by Environment Canada, ME Department of Marine Resources, and National Ocean Service (NOAA). Additional partners include Great Bay National Estuary Program, Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve.

The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel (NEANS), hosted by the Council as one of its task forces, completed its first full year with meetings in Hadley, Massachusetts and Bar Harbor, Maine. The NEANS is funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as one of its regional panels of the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The Panel was one of the sponsors for the "Eyes on the Estuaries" workshop held in Boston in November.

In conjunction with its December meeting, the Council organized the Ocean Zoning Forum with funding from NOAA. The forum included speakers from the Gulf of Maine, Florida Keys, and Ottawa, Ontario who provided their perspectives on managing diverse ocean uses and stimulated lively discussion.

In 2003, David Keeley received the Walter B. Jones Awards and NOAA Awards for Excellence in Coastal and Ocean Management. Mr. Keeley was named "Coastal Steward of the Year" for his work with the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. The Walter B. Jones Awards honor excellence in conserving America's coast through its unique coastal and ocean resource management programs, as well as in public and private endeavors.

## **III. Core Projects**

During the Council's 2001-2002 year, focus remained on its historical core projects: *Gulf of Maine Times* newspaper, Gulfwatch mussel monitoring program, data and information exchange initiative, and implementation grants program. These projects are supported by funding from NOAA, through an appropriation of funds from the US Congress.

A new core project was added – habitat restoration. Habitat restoration is supported through a grant from the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Community-based Restoration Program.

### ***Gulf of Maine Times***

Launched by the Council in 1997, the *Gulf of Maine Times* is a quarterly newspaper that offers in-depth news on Gulf-related issues to a circulation of 9,000. Articles provide thorough coverage of policy, resource management, and scientific matters for government officials, staff of non-governmental organizations, educators, business people, press, and other interested readers. To subscribe to the *Times*, contact the editor, Andi Rierden, at PO Box 339, Annapolis Royal, Nova

Scotia, B0S 1A0, Canada, or by telephone at 902.532.0200, or via email at editor@gulfofmaine.org, or register online through the Council's People Finder. The following individuals served on the *Times* 2002-2003 Editorial Board: Patricia Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour; Anne Donovan, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Eric Williams, NH Department of Environmental Services, and Lois Winter, US Fish & Wildlife Program's Gulf of Maine Program. The senior editor was Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office.

### **The Gulfwatch Monitoring Program**

Gulfwatch uses blue mussels as a "sentinel species" to measure the level of toxic contaminants throughout the Gulf. Gulfwatch is based on the concept that an effective monitoring program requires long-term measurements to interpret temporal trends in pollution. Mussels are collected from designated sites, and mussel tissue is then analyzed for a suite of heavy metals and organic contaminants. Data is compiled and interpreted, and a summary document is written and distributed each year, and is available on the Council's website.

### **Data and Information Exchange**

The Council's website (<http://www.gulfofmaine.org>) offers a broad range of tools and Gulf-related information to enhance communication between the Council and citizens interested in Gulf of Maine and Council issues. These include a People Finder database, a library with access to many reports, the *Gulf of Maine Times*, and general information such as requests by the Council for grant applications and annual awards nominations, information about the Council's action plan, committee business, and special projects. The Council's website was re-designed with significant technical and design assistance from NOAA's Coastal Services Center. A Web Guild was formed as a collaborative to continue to develop the newly-designed website.

## **IV. Gulf of Maine Council / NOAA Partnership for Habitat Restoration**

This program provides habitat restoration grants under a renewable three-year partnership between the Council and the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Community-based Restoration Program. The purpose of this Partnership is to further the Council's goal of habitat restoration and to support a strategic approach to marine, coastal, and riverine habitat restoration within Maine, Massachusetts, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, and Nova Scotia.

Through a competitive grant process, the Council and NMFS funded projects that result in on-the-ground restoration of habitat to benefit living marine resources, including anadromous fish species. Restoration is defined as activities that contribute to the return of degraded or altered marine, estuarine, coastal, and freshwater anadromous fish habitats to a close approximation of their condition prior to disturbance. For more information, visit the Council's web site. The **Gulf of Maine Council Habitat Restoration Grants Program 2003 Recipients are:**

- Ducks Unlimited, Inc., NH Marsh Monitors/Volunteer Saltmarsh Monitoring Program
- Sheepscot River Watershed Council, Somerville Road NPS Reduction Project
- Town of Barnstable, MA, Bridge Creek Salt Marsh Restoration Project
- Salem Sound Coastwatch, Coastal Habitat Invasive Monitoring Program
- City of Revere, MA, Oak Island Marsh Restoration and Flood Control Project
- Barnstable County Resource Development Office & AmeriCorps/Cape Cod, Sesuit Creek Herring Run Restoration
- Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, Harbor Road Marsh Restoration

- Town of Barnstable, MA, Oyster Habitat Establishment and the Utilization of Remote Setting Techniques
- Ecology Action Centre, Cheverie Creek Salt Marsh & Tidal River Restoration Project

## **V. Awards**

### **Longard Award**

#### *Don Rice and Jim Todd*

For the past ten years, Don Rice, a well-known potter from Bear River, Nova Scotia and Jim Todd, an illustrator and graphic artist from Perotte, Nova Scotia have worked tirelessly and without pay to preserve the Tobeatic Wilderness Area. The Tobeatic, often referred to as the province's last true wilderness, covers approximately 104,000 hectares of Crown land in southwest Nova Scotia near Kejimkujik National Park. Largely through the efforts of Rice and Todd, the Tobeatic was declared a protected area in 1998. With deep roots in the province, their knowledge of Nova Scotia's natural and human history has helped them work effectively with non-governmental organizations, government representatives, and a full spectrum of stakeholders. An intelligent and compassionate team, their approach is direct but not aggressive, a style that has proven to be highly constructive. They currently serve as representatives on the Tobeatic Advisory Group, created by the Department of Environment and Labour. The committee, comprised of representatives of various stakeholder groups, will make recommendations to the Minister for a management plan for the Tobeatic.

## **VI. Visionary Awards**

### *Maine*

#### *Ted W. Regan*

Rippleffect was born in May of 1999 when Ted Regan led a team of six from Lubec, Maine on a kayak journey to memorialize the lives of several friends who had died of AIDS. While traveling 2,700 miles to Key West, Florida, the paddlers spoke with 2,300 youth about the choices between acceptable versus unacceptable risks in their daily lives.

Inspired by the relationships formed with youth on the journey, Rippleffect, with Ted as its executive director, returned to Maine and revised its mission. With a mission of promoting youth development through learning adventures in living classrooms, Rippleffect's unique programming provides coastal education opportunities to a broad range of youth, particularly those at risk. Rippleffect, which now manages two facilities on Casco Bay, specializes in adventure and wilderness experiences that build confidence and self-esteem.

Ted has combined his love for kayaking, concern for youth and a passion for the marine environment and created a dynamic project. Rippleffect celebrates the marine environment while nurturing a sense of personal strength and place in our youth.

#### *Aaron Frederick*

In 1999, Aaron Frederick joined Ted Regan and a small team of kayakers on a 2,700-mile kayak expedition from Lubec, Maine to Key West, Florida. The journey served as a tribute to friends of Regan who died of AIDS, and a way to educate youth about the disease. As the educational outreach coordinator for the expedition, Aaron created opportunities for the kayaking team to speak with 2,300 youth about the consequences of taking acceptable and unacceptable risks in their daily lives.

As program coordinator, Aaron helped to bring Rippleffect back to Maine. With a mission of promoting youth development through learning adventures in living classrooms, Rippleffect's

unique programming provides coastal education opportunities to a broad range of youth, particularly those at risk. Aaron designs adventure and wilderness activities that challenge youth and build confidence and self-esteem. After carving a niche in the community, Aaron hired sixteen dynamic guides in 2002, who provided 300 young people with an opportunity to learn about Casco Bay and about themselves. In living classrooms, youth celebrate the wonders of the marine environment.

### *Massachusetts*

*Dr. Moira Brown*

Working to protect the critically threatened North Atlantic right whale, Moira “Moe” Brown is truly a Gulf of Maine visionary. Currently serving as a researcher with the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown, Massachusetts, Moe is a mentor to countless whale researchers. Managers rely on Moe to help enhance right whale protection measures, and she frequently initiates outreach efforts to increase public awareness of cetacean issues and conflicts. Recently, Moe initiated and successfully led the charge to relocate shipping lanes in the Bay of Fundy to reduce the likelihood of right whale ship strikes by an estimated 80 percent, and serves as co-chair of the Canadian Right Whale Implementation Team.

Moe was born in Montreal and later studied with David Gaskin, founder of the Grand Manan Whale and Seabird Research Station. In 1985, Moe founded East Coast Ecosystems, a right whale conservation organization based in Freeport, Nova Scotia. Moe also served as director of Allied Whale, the marine mammal laboratory of the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine, and helped create the Atlantic Coast Disentanglement Network.

*Amy Holt Cline, Charles Saulnier, Steve Chinosi, and George Vanikiotis*

This team, which leads the Environmental Science Program at Essex Agricultural and Technical High School in Danvers, Massachusetts, has demonstrated vision, creativity, and commitment by exposing high school students to the world beyond their backyard. Using the Gulf of Maine Bioregion as the framework for the Environmental Science Program, these educators employ “expeditionary learning” through which students use practical skills to learn how an ecosystem works. Students learn many skills such as how to perform water quality testing, how to read a topographical map, and canoe building. They gain an understanding of how GIS and GPS systems work, and how currents drive the Gulf of Maine biological system. They even raise salmon, cod, and endangered turtles. An important component of this teaching approach involves field trips, and expeditions, both near and far. Classes conduct research in local wetlands, canoe down the Merrimack River and travel as far as Nova Scotia where they meet with other students to learn further about how to grow and release salmon into the wild. Department Head Charles Saulnier, Marine Biology teacher Amy Holt Cline, English Literature teacher Steve Chinosi, and canoe building teacher George Vanikiotis inspire a new sense of place for their school students, and equip them with skills to be environmental stewards personally and professionally.

### *New Brunswick*

*David A. Ganong*

Within the past year, an important piece of coastal land and habitat has been secured for the lasting enjoyment of New Brunswickers and visitors with the acquisition of the Whidden and Eleanor Ganong Nature Park on the St. Croix River near St. Stephen. This 142-hectare sanctuary includes a large and unique intertidal grant. David A. Ganong, President of Ganong Bros.

Limited, a company that has been family-owned and operated since 1873, facilitated the process of the transfer of the family-owned lands into a conservation trust managed by the St. Croix Estuary Project (SCEP). David participated as a project champion and his pragmatic approach contributed greatly to the efforts of the Interim Park Trustees. As a result, in June of 2002, the dream of his uncle, Whidden Ganong, was fulfilled and the property became a nature park for all to enjoy.

#### *Atlantic Salmon Federation*

The Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) views Atlantic Salmon as the very essence of wild, free-flowing rivers and their presence in our rivers is a signal of the health of our world. The decline that began in the 1970's and accelerated in the past decade prompted ASF and its Regional Councils to launch a comprehensive campaign to conserve and restore the species. This included effective research, restoration, public education programs, and forging strategic partnerships with governments and other conservation organizations. ASF was a major partner in removing the Edwards Dam on the Kennebec River in 1998, a landmark in river restoration work in the Gulf of Maine. The Federation was also instrumental in efforts to list Maine's Atlantic Salmon as endangered in 2000 and inner Bay of Fundy Salmon as endangered in 2001. ASF's Fish Friends program encourages understanding and respect for the role salmon play in our ecology and our history among thousands of students in schools throughout the Gulf of Maine. ASF has been a leader in developing technology to track salmon in the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine to understand the threats to migrating smolt.

#### *New Hampshire*

##### *Barbara Baird*

Barbara Baird has been a Great Bay Coast Watcher since the group's inception thirteen years ago. She faithfully monitors her site at Portsmouth Country Club/Winnicut River monthly from April through November, reporting salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen, water and air temperature, and Secchi depth readings on the high and low tides. Barbara is always available to help with aspects of the Watch, including quality-assurance checks, clean-ups, and phytoplankton monitoring. Barbara craves new information about the estuary and enthusiastically educates others in her community. A few years ago, Barbara became fascinated with horseshoe crabs and raised some from eggs. She enjoyed studying them in detail. Barbara is a dedicated volunteer and the Watch just wouldn't run without her!

#### *The Outreach & Education Committee of the City of Dover, NH*

The Dover, NH Outreach & Education Committee, in conjunction with the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Open Lands Committee coordinated a series of "Growing Greener" workshops to address open space protection within the Gulf of Maine watershed. Through the workshops, hundreds of residents, decision-makers, landowners, and developers learned about the benefits of permanent land protection and strategies for mitigating harmful impacts of development.

The success of the workshops continues. Through changes in zoning ordinances and subdivision regulation, the Planning Board is managing residential growth and protecting natural resources. Proponents of economic development have embraced open space protection as a means of controlling residential growth, stabilizing taxes, and contributing to the quality of life for Dover residents.

This committee of grassroots volunteers, along with the municipal boards that supported



them, deserves to be recognized for the results of their efforts and the ripple effect that their success has had throughout Dover and the NH Seacoast region. They have inspired other residents to step forward and offer their time and talent to the achievement of community goals.

### *Nova Scotia*

#### *Dr. Martin Willison*

Dr. Willison is recognized for his dedication and commitment to marine conservation and sustainable fisheries management in Atlantic Canada; for establishing the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Oceans Committee and an international network of marine protected areas extending from Canada to the Caribbean; his involvement in the protection of deep sea corals in the Northeast Channel and of inshore marine areas in Nova Scotia; the promotion of awareness of the impacts of seismic surveying on marine mammals off Atlantic Canada; and for his inspiration to students and colleagues through many years of research and teaching as Chair and a Professor of Biology at Dalhousie University.

#### *Ducks Unlimited*

Ducks Unlimited is recognized for over 35 years of involvement in conservation, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands and associated habitats throughout the Bay of Fundy and Maritime region; for work in partnerships with landowners, government and non government organizations to procure and conserve wetland habitats; and for delivery of public education and awareness programs on wetland conservation.

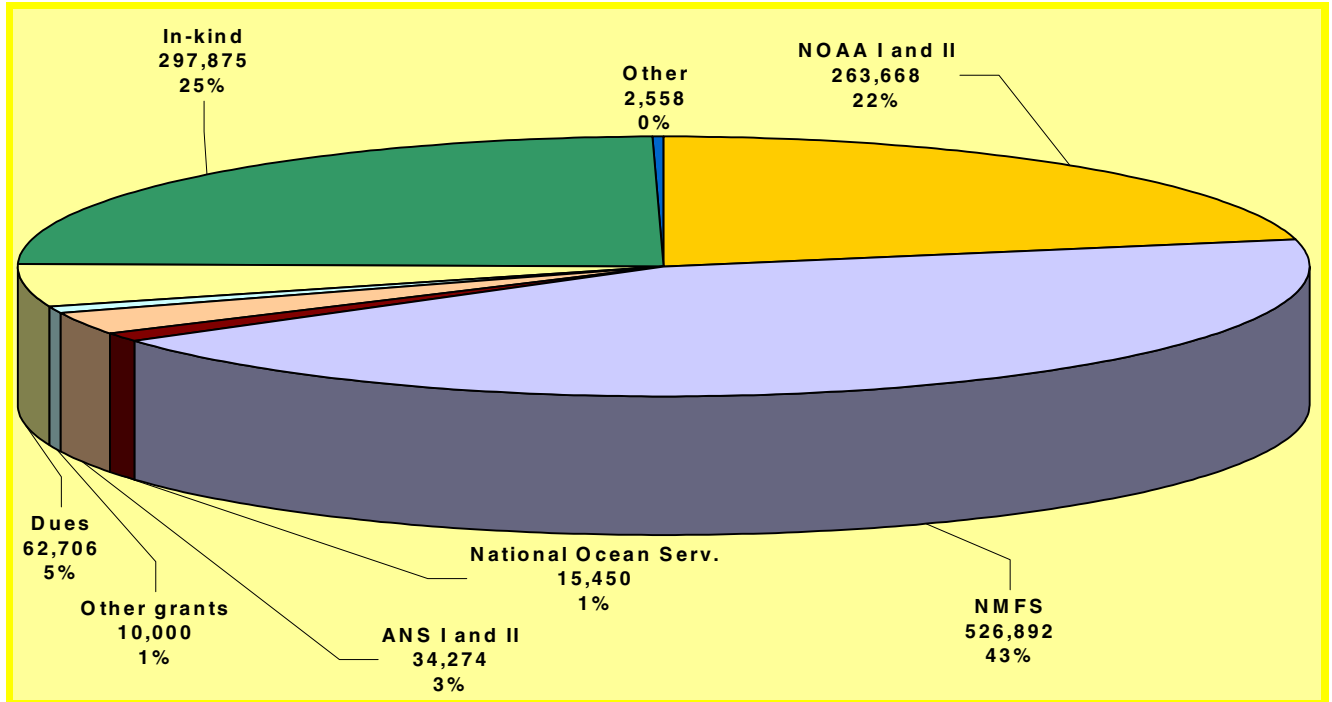
### *Special Recognition Award*

#### *Gulf of Maine Expedition 2002*

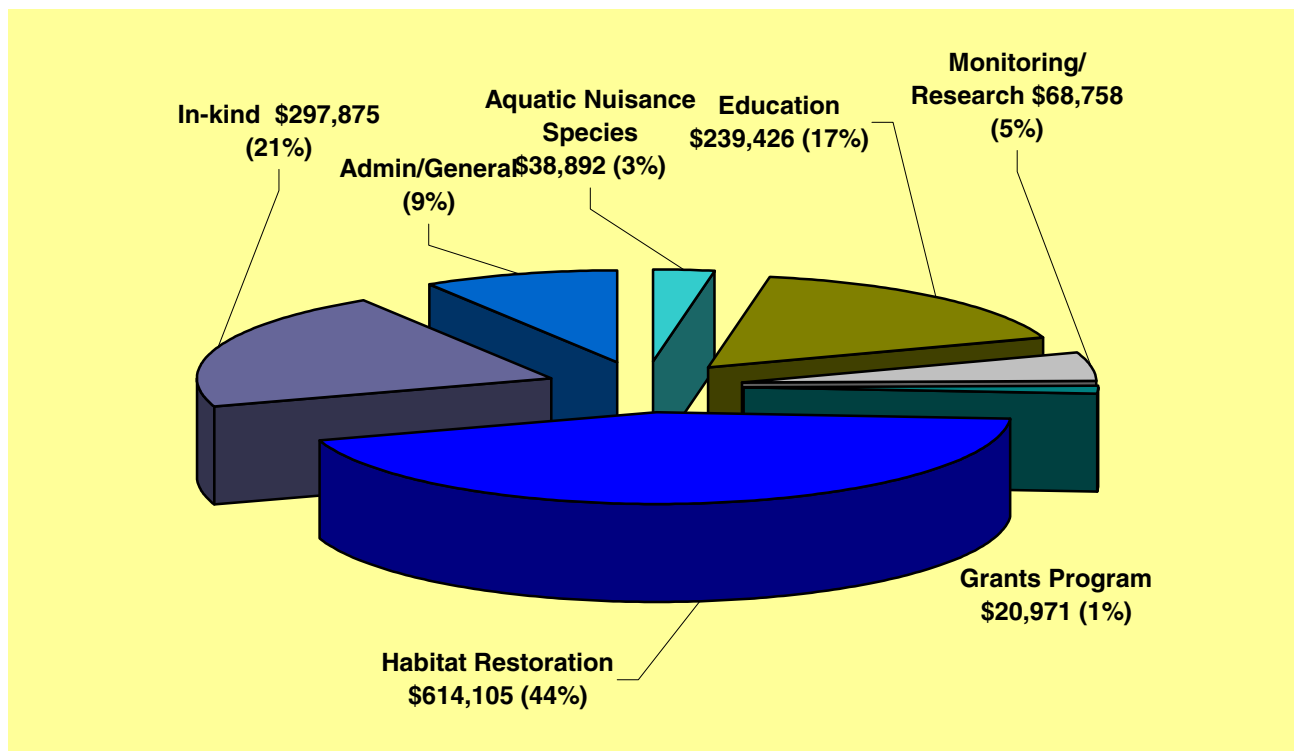
Natalie Springuel and Rich MacDonald from Maine and Dan Earle and Sue Hutchins from Nova Scotia, set out in kayaks in early May with a mission: to educate the public about the ecological and cultural legacy of the Gulf of Maine and its interconnection to each and every resident living within its watershed—and educate they did. By the time the team paddled from Cape Cod to the southern tip of Nova Scotia some 1,200 miles later, they had spoken to thousands of individuals including grade school children, politicians, fishers and local residents through random encounters and scheduled presentations. The Gulf of Maine Council applauds the enthusiasm and endurance of this team that educated and inspired many along their journey. Their observations will live on as they create a permanent record of the current conditions of the Gulf, from journals of observations and interactions, photographs, and recorded weather and water conditions.

**VII. Financial Report July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003**

**Revenue**



**Expenses**



## **VIII. Publications**

- *Celebrating our Coastal Heritage, Gulf of Maine Expedition 2002, Final Report* (produced by the Expedition and funded, in part, by the Council)
- *Gulf of Maine Times* (four editions)
- *Mapping the undersea landscape: Using seafloor maps to improve management of the Gulf of Maine*
- *Ocean Zoning for the Gulf of Maine: A Background Paper*
- *Sewage Management in the Gulf of Maine – Workshop Proceedings, April 11-12, 2002*

## **IX. Council and Working Group membership**

### **Council**

Gordon Balsler, NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries  
Priscilla Brooks, Conservation Law Foundation (private sector for Massachusetts)  
Shawn D'Entremont, Inshore Fisheries Limited (private sector for Nova Scotia)  
Ernest Fage, NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries  
George Finney, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service  
Priscilla Geigis, MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs  
David M. Haney, Fleet Bank (private sector for New Hampshire)  
David Hartman, NH Office of State Planning  
W. Donald Hudson, Jr., The Chewonki Foundation (private sector for Maine)  
Robert Janson, US Environmental Protection Agency  
Kim Jardine, NB Department of Environment and Local Government  
David Keeley, ME Office of State Planning  
Patricia A. Kurkul, National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration  
George Lapointe, ME Department of Marine Resources  
Sherry Morgan, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
David Morse, NS Department of Environment and Labour  
Michael Nolin, NH Department of Environmental Services  
Faith Scattolon, Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
Thomas S. Skinner, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management  
Lee Sochasky, St. Croix International Waterway Commission (private sector for New Brunswick)  
Rodney Weston, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

### **Working Group**

Joe Arbour, Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
Seth Barker, ME Department of Marine Resources  
Paul Boudreau, Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
Jean Brochi, US Environmental Protection Agency  
Paul Currier, NH Department of Environmental Services  
Verna Delauer, NH Office of State Planning  
Stewart Fefer, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
David Hartman, NH Office of State Planning  
Russell Henry, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture  
Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada  
Patricia Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Local Government  
Kim Hughes and Paul Wilson, NB Department of Environment and Local Government  
Justin, Huston, NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries  
Steve Jones, University of NH

David Keeley, ME State Planning Office  
Murrin Leim, NS Department of Environment and Labour  
Linda Mercer, ME Department of Marine Resources  
Bill O'Beirne, National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration  
Cathy Demos Rogers, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Jack Schwartz, MA Division of Marine Fisheries  
Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management  
Herb Sooley, Health Canada  
Peter Wells, Environment Canada

## X. Committee and sub-committee co-chairs and contract staff

### Committee and sub-committee co-chairs

- Data Information and Management Committee, Seth Barker, ME Department of Marine Resources and Paul Boudreau, Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee, Steve Jones, University of NH and Peter Wells, Environment Canada
- Habitat Committee
  - Habitat Conservation Sub-committee, Marianne Janowicz, NB Department of Environment and Local Government and Katie Lund, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management
  - Habitat Monitoring Sub-committee, Hilary Neckles, US Geological Survey and Reginald Melanson, Canadian Wildlife Service
  - Habitat Restoration Sub-committee, John Catena, National Marine Fisheries Service and Kim Hughes, NB Department of Environment and Local Government
  - Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative, Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management and Brian Todd, Geological Survey of Canada
- Public Education and Participation Committee, Verna Delauer, NH Office of State Planning

### Contract staff

Kent Curtis, Coordinator, Public Education and Participation Committee  
Christy Finlayson, Coordinator, Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee  
Cynthia Krum, Executive Director, US Gulf of Maine Association  
Laura Marron, Council Coordinator  
Ethan Nedeau, Science Translator  
Andi Rierden, Editor, *Gulf of Maine Times*  
Peter Taylor, Science Translator  
Michele L. Tremblay, Program Manager, US Gulf of Maine Association and Council Coordinator

## X. Secretariat Cycle

The Secretariat jurisdiction manages the Secretariat Office for one full year, from July 1 to June 30. The management is then passed on to the next jurisdiction on the rotation list.

2002-2003 Secretariat • Massachusetts  
MA Office of Coastal Zone Management  
Contact: Ms. Susan Snow-Cotter

2003-2004 Secretariat • Nova Scotia  
NS Department of Environment and Local Government  
Contact: Ms. Patricia Rae Hinch

2004-2005 Secretariat • New Hampshire  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
Contact: Mr. Paul Currier

2005-2006 Secretariat • Maine  
ME State Planning Office  
Contact: Mr. David Keeley

2006-2007 Secretariat • New Brunswick  
New Brunswick Department of Environment  
Contact: Mr. Paul Wilson

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