

GOAL 2

Environmental and Human Health

Environmental conditions support the health of people and the ecosystem.



OUTCOME 2.1

Environmental Monitoring

Scientists and coastal decisionmakers have access to data for assessing environmental conditions in the ocean and along the coast.



OUTCOME 2.2

Environmental Indicators and Reporting

Managers receive understandable, useful, reliable information about environmental conditions and trends in the region.



OUTCOME 2.3

Climate Adaptation

Decision-makers receive up-to-date information about the impacts of a changing climate on coastal and ocean areas and approaches for adapting to these impacts.



ACTIVITIES OF THE GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL

- 2.1.1 Implement the Gulfwatch contaminants monitoring program and integrate it with other monitoring programs.
- 2.1.2 Facilitate the compilation, sharing, and management applications of data from aquatic monitoring programs in the region.
- 2.1.3 Foster region-wide communication about existing monitoring activities, perceived gaps, and partnership opportunities.



ACTIVITIES OF THE GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL

- 2.2.1 Produce and disseminate ecosystem indicator products that respond to managers' needs.
- 2.2.2 Identify and assess new and emerging environmental issues in the Gulf of Maine.
- 2.2.3 Communicate about environmental conditions through the State of the Gulf of Maine reporting products and services.



ACTIVITIES OF THE GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL

- 2.3.1 Provide decision-makers with information to understand and prepare for sea-level rise, increased storm activity, and other climate-related impacts.
- 2.3.2 Provide grants and technical assistance that result in increased resilience of coastal communities to climate-related impacts.
- 2.3.3 Support the region-wide exchange of information on innovative adaptation efforts and on the observed and projected effects of climate change on the people living in the region and its coastal and marine habitats.

The Need for Regional Action: Goal 2

Each day in the Gulf of Maine, decision-makers such as business people, city planners, mayors, legislators, resource managers, and environmental regulators require information to sustain human communities and to preserve ecological integrity. They must sift through information about the environment, the impacts of human activities, and the changes in conditions brought by climate, toxic contamination, and other factors. They need to make decisions quickly, trying to access and then apply information from numerous sources. The geography of the Gulf of Maine adds to the complexity of their decision-making processes. As climate change continues to affect the Gulf of



Harvesting shellfish in the Gulf of Maine.

Maine ecosystem, it becomes ever more important to have easy access to reliable, up-to-date, understandable information and analysis, including regional ecosystem indicators, on which to base management and policy decisions.

Goal 2 activities address the region's need for data, information, and partnerships to ensure that environmental conditions support the health of people and the ecosystem.