

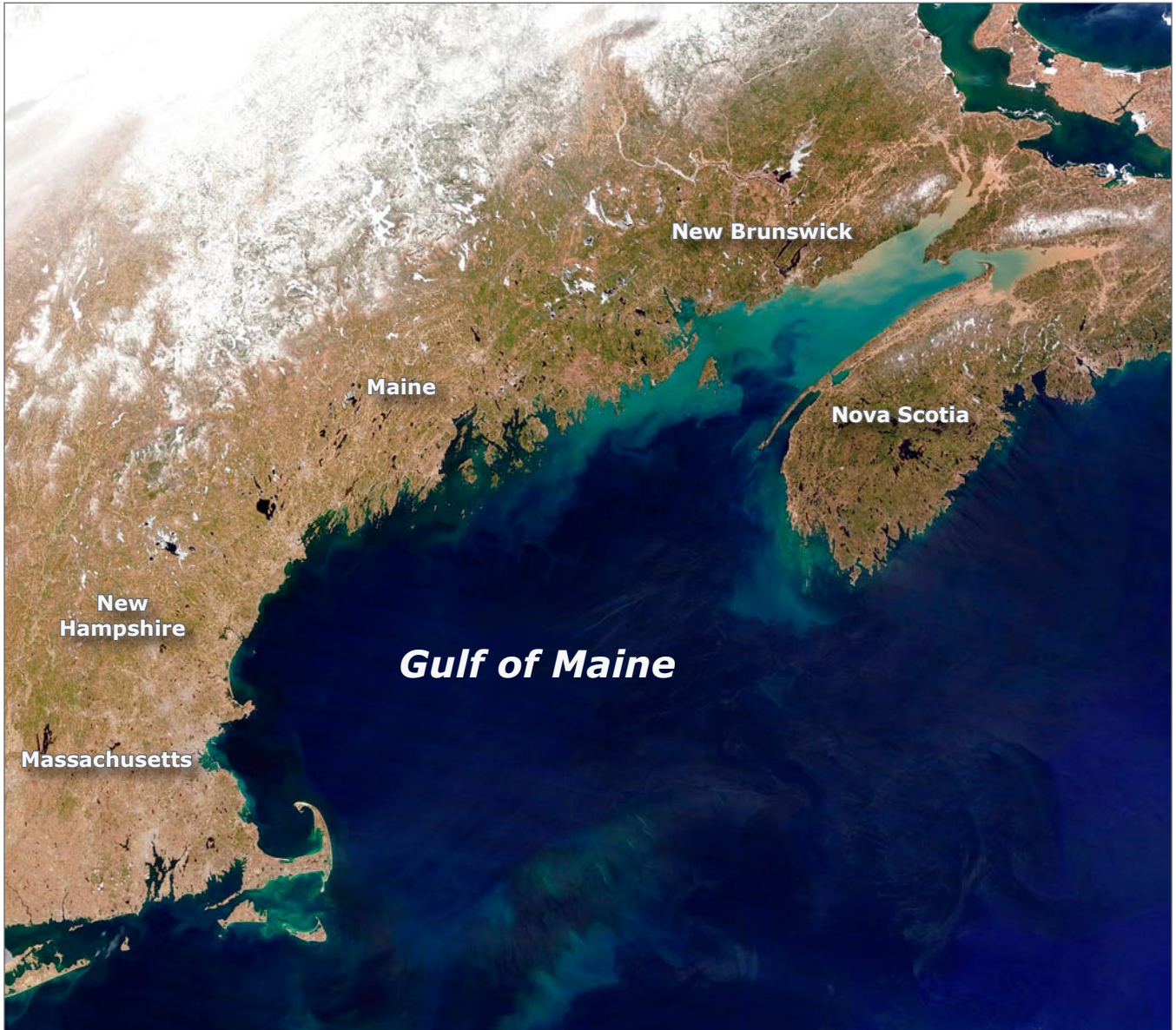
# **Gulf of Maine Ecosystem-Based Management Toolkit Survey Report**

March 2008



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

*The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment was established in 1989 by the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts to foster cooperative actions within the Gulf watershed. Its mission is to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations.*



Satellite image courtesy of Satellite Oceanography Data Lab, School of Marine Sciences, University of Maine

# Executive Summary



Photographs (left to right): whale (Matthew Hull); fishing boats (Chris Seufert); coast (Woodley Wondenworks); Asian shore crab, *Hemigrapsus sanguineus* (Jenn Forman Orth)

Many government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from the United States and Canada are collaborating to advance ecosystem-based management (EBM) in the Gulf of Maine region.

The Gulf of Maine is a semi-enclosed sea that is renowned as one of the world's richest marine ecosystems. It is bordered by Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Because of the growing variety and intensity of human uses of the Gulf of Maine, effective management is imperative to support ecosystem integrity and economic prosperity in the region.

Seventy-six representatives from government and NGOs in the United States and Canada participated in a regional EBM workshop in March 2007. They identified 7 Action Items as the top priorities for advancing EBM in the region. One of the Action Items was the development of a Gulf of Maine EBM Toolkit.

Workshop participants recommended that the Toolkit initiative should make existing EBM tools more accessible; provide a targeted set of tools adapted to the region's needs; develop new tools for this region; and respond to the evolving needs of coastal managers. After the workshop, a Work Group formed to pursue development of the Toolkit.

As an initial step in the Toolkit development process, the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and the Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea (COMPASS), in association with the EBM Tools Network, conducted an online survey of EBM practitioners in September and October 2007. The Gulf of Maine Ecosystem-Based Management Toolkit Survey was designed to provide information about tools needed by EBM practitioners in the region.

Key findings of the survey are outlined in the box (right). See Appendix B for complete survey results.

## Gulf of Maine EBM Toolkit Survey: Key Findings

### Major Obstacles to Implementing EBM

- Lack of money, time, or people to do EBM
- Lack of established methods for implementing EBM
- Lack of understanding or information on the ecosystem

### Important Management Issues

- Coastal habitats assessment and mitigation
- Stakeholder and/or community engagement
- Habitat restoration
- Marine protected area management
- Biodiversity conservation

### Management Capacity Needed

- Understanding how the ecosystem functions
- Engaging stakeholders in decision-making
- Communicating management processes to stakeholders
- Visualizing possible development and resource use scenarios

### Types of Information Needed

- Case studies of present-day management situations in the Gulf of Maine region and how EBM could be or has been applied
- Forward-looking assessments of how the Gulf of Maine ecosystem is likely to change and implications for management
- Spatially explicit information about human activities affecting the Gulf of Maine and its watershed
- Information about how the Gulf of Maine ecosystem functions

### Training Needs

- Training to understand conceptual framework of EBM and general approaches for putting EBM into practice
- Training to better understand the ecosystem context in which management occurs and that management decisions affect