

GOMINFOEX Action Committee Meeting Minutes - March 8-9th, 2001

Gloucester Fisherman's Wives Association, Gloucester, Massachusetts

Attendees:

Paul Boudreau
Chris Brehme
Diane Carle
Courtney Coles
Ron Huber
David Lincoln
Paul Schroeder
Thomas Trott
Kate van Dyne

Attachments:

- 1) Boudreau's list of Activities; and,
- 2) Draft Constituting Document.

1) Welcome, introductions, announcements and acceptance of agenda:

- 1.1. Participants were welcomed to the offices of the Gloucester Fisherman's Wives Association. David Lincoln was thanked for his excellent efforts as host for the meeting.
- 1.2. The vision for GOMINFOEX from the Terms of Reference was read aloud (http://www.gulfofmaine.org/gominfoex/terms_of_reference.htm).
- 1.3. Due to the flexible nature of the meeting, participants joined in on the discussions according to their availability. Participants introduced themselves as they arrived. Boudreau, Brehme, Lincoln Carle, Schroeder and Trott attended all sessions. To respond to the coming and going of participants, agenda items were revisited often depending on those sitting at the table. This gave for a thorough review of all issues.

2. Technical Session:

- 2.1. Both Boudreau and Schroeder provided the group with a list of GOMINFOEX related activities (Attachments 1 and (<http://www.spatial.maine.edu/~schroedr/gom/20010308gulffprojects.html>)). These lists were used to carry out a review and update of activities. Even though the lists were not meant to be comprehensive, participants found them to be very valuable for their understanding of activities within the region. The lists, and the discussions surrounding them, highlighted the continuing problem of identifying and maintaining a definitive list of activities within the region.
- 2.2. It was proposed that these lists be used as a basis for developing a registry of activities. This will be considered under the present reworking of the website. Care should be given to ensuring participatory generation of the any registry rather than simple arbitrary posting.

3. GOMINFOEX Organisation:

- 3.1. The Draft Constituting document (Attachment 3) was circulated and discussed. In general the group felt that this was a good start. Many comments were made and it was agreed that many more comments should be solicited. As this is a very important document to promote our common understanding and agreement to work together, it is important to get widespread review, comment, input and buy-in to the document.
- 3.2. The Massachusetts Fish Partnership is another organisational example for our consideration.
- 3.3. It was agreed that Boudreau would prepare the next version of the document for circulation to all interested parties for their comments and suggestions. As much as possible, the new document should identify the authorship of the sections. Ways of posting the document on the web should be explored. It may be useful to provide an opportunity for an on-line discussion of the document on an appropriate site.

3.4. The next revision of the constituting document will be fixed no later than May 16th. This will be 6 weeks before the next scheduled action committee meeting to provide sufficient time for its review and comment.

4. **Other Issues**

4.1. It was suggested that a quarterly report on GOMINFOEX be prepared. This report would be circulated to all participants as preparation for the Action Committee meetings.

4.2. Related meeting announcements – CoastGIS, Halifax, N.S., June 18-20th, 2001. Webpage: <http://www.coastgis.org>. Contact: Paul Boudreau.

5. **Next meeting dates**

5.1. June 21-22nd, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia (<http://www.bio.gc.ca/bio/>).

6. **Action Items:**

6.1. Need to revise and circulate proposed GOMINFOEX constituting document- **Boudreau and Schroeder**;

6.2. Need to continue to work on resource to hire staff - **Boudreau and Hopkins**;

6.3. Continue to work on information sharing - **all**

6.4. Need to revise web page to reflect changes - **Brehme, Schroeder and Allan Gillis**

6.5. Write up minutes from meeting - **Boudreau and Schroeder**.

Boudreau's GOMINFOEX Registry of Information Exchange – March 2001

1. Activities (underway):

- 1.1. Gulf of Maine Environmental Information Exchange (GOMINFOEX)
 - 1.1.1.co-ordinator/organisational structure
 - 1.1.2.Silly-Word (http://www.gulfofmaine.org/gominfoex/silly_word.htm)
 - 1.1.3.E-Atlas (<http://www.islandinstitute.org/eatlas.html>).
 - 1.1.4.Association with GeoData Alliance (<http://www.geoall.net/6p-principles.htm>)
 - 1.1.5.Participants Map (<http://www.spatial.maine.edu/~schroedr/gom/participants.html>)
 - 1.1.6.Proposal development for Digital library
 - 1.1.7.Proposal development for Sustainable Communities information.
 - 1.1.8.Fishers web page (<http://www.gfwa.org/~gfwa/default.htm>)
- 1.2. Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Website (www.gulfofmaine.org)
 - 1.2.1.People Finder (<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/cdb/index.html>).
 - 1.2.2. On-the-fly mailing groups (<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/cdb/index.html>)
 - 1.2.3.Discussion Forum (<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/cgi-bin/forum.cgi>)
 - 1.2.4.Gulf of Maine Times (<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/times/>)
- 1.3. Marine Invertebrate Diversity Initiative (<http://www.fundyforum.com/MIDI/>)
- 1.4. Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS) – (<http://www.gomoos.org/>)
- 1.5. Department of Fisheries and Oceans
 - 1.5.1.Virtual Data Centre
 - 1.5.2.International Council on the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) Marine Habitat Mapping Working Group (<http://www.ices.dk/COMMITTE/MHC/WGMHM.HTM>)
- 1.6. Census of Marine Life
 - 1.6.1.Gulf of Maine Biogeographical Information System (GMBIS) (<http://kiefer4.usc.edu/gmbis/index.htm>)
 - 1.6.2.Benthic mapping
- 1.7. Gulf of Maine Aquarium (<http://octopus.gma.org/>)
 - 1.7.1.Fish and scientist web page (<http://www.Fishresearch.org>)
 - 1.7.2.Circuit Rider (http://octopus.gma.org/circuit_rider/index.html)
 - 1.7.2.1. Vital Signs – distributed monitoring technology and framework
- 1.8. Marine Protected Areas list server (<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/MPAListWelcome.htm>)
- 1.9. Massachusetts aquaculture system (MORIS)
- 1.10. Fishermen and Scientist Research Society (FSRS) (http://www.fsrs.ns.ca/index_files/slide0001.htm)
 - 1.10.1. Hook Line and Thinker newsletter (<http://www.fsrs.ns.ca/FSRSWeb/HLT.html>)
- 1.11. Other.

2. Proposals (under development):

- 2.1. FGDC/Geoconnections framework development

3. Committees/Organisations:

- 3.1. Regional Association for Research in the Gulf of Maine (RARGOM) (<http://www-nml.dartmouth.edu/rargom/>)
- 3.2. Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GoMC) (www.gulfofmaine.org)
 - 3.2.1.Data and Information Management Committee (DIMC)
 - 3.2.1.1. On line database of community/volunteer groups
 - 3.2.2.Public Education and Participation Committee (PEPC)
 - 3.2.2.1. Gulf of Maine Times
- 3.3. Gulf of Maine Marine Educators Association (GoMEA)
 - 3.3.1.Users survey

- 3.4. Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BOFEP)
(<http://www.auracom.com/~bofep/bofep.htm>)
 - 3.4.1. Survey of volunteer groups
- 3.5. Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee (ACZISC)
(<http://www.dal.ca/aczisc/>)
 - 3.5.1. Data directory/metadata
 - 3.5.2. High resolution mapping in Annapolis Basin

4. Other Resources:

- 4.1. Bay of Fundy Resource Centre (<http://www.bfmrc.ns.ca/>)
- 4.2. Cobscook Bay Resource Centre (<http://www.cobscook.org/index.html>)
- 4.3. ACAP Saint John (<http://user.fundy.net/acapsj/>)
- 4.4. CARP (<http://fox.nstn.ca/~carp/>)
- 4.5. Fundy Forum (<http://www.fundyforum.com/>)
 - 4.5.1. Timed discussions

5. Meetings:

- 5.1. Gulf of Maine Council – May 23-24th, Bar Harbour, Maine
- 5.2. CoastGIS 2001 – Managing the Interfaces – June 18-20 – Halifax, Nova Scotia
(<http://www.coastgis.org>)
- 5.3. Digital Earth – June 24-27th, 2001 – Fredericton, New Brunswick
(http://www.digitalearth.ca/digital_live/html/)
- 5.4. Out of the Fog III, Fall 2002 - USA – Portland???

Gulf of Maine Environmental Information Exchange (GOMINFOEX)

Constituting Documentation

Vision:

To promote effective exchange of available environmental information to maximize the social, cultural and economic benefits to coastal communities of the Gulf of Maine.

STATEMENT OF NEUTRALITY OF PROCESS AND INCLUSIVENESS (primary author Paul Schroeder with input from March Action Committee Meeting)

GOMINFOEX seeks to benefit those who are interested in the welfare of the Gulf of Maine region through initiating and strengthening information sharing partnerships. While working toward this goal the Exchange seeks to establish processes and relations that are inclusive, trusted, neutral and nonpartisan in nature. GOMINFOEX recognizes but does not seek to reconcile the many different values, interests, approaches and goals of participating individuals and organizations. The Exchange does not authorize any particular organization or information source. Agreeing to participate in the GOMINFOEX process does not imply endorsement of any other partner's individual or organizational goals.

Principles:

As a group, GOMINFOEX will:

- Promote a participatory exchange of environmental information
- Welcome everyone willing to participate and contribute
- Promote distributed actions in geographic locations and by appropriate individuals
- Identify and promote appropriate collaborations among participants.
- Work to identify required efforts not being adequately addressed by other initiatives
- Attempt to devise innovative solutions and application of appropriate technologies
- Work to ensure economic sustainability, environmental integrity
- Build capacity in information exchange through education and communication

Participants agree to:

- Be Collaborative - success will result from combined efforts among partners
- Co-operative - partners working together towards common goals
- Minimise duplication - financial and people resources must be used to their maximum effect

Under and within these GOMINFOEX principles, Geodata Alliance principles (<http://www.geoall.net/6p-principles.htm>) are accepted.

Participants:

Participants are all peoples who ensure their up-to-date contact details are posted in the PeopleFinder (www.gulfofmaine.org) and who subscribe to the GOMINFOEX mailing group under the PeopleFinder.

Concept:

A group of Gulf of Maine citizens to identify and promote effective information exchange among all interested and affected citizens. This group will make use of all available means to affect this exchange, including newspapers, libraries, museums, meetings, etc. A particular interest of this group is to work creatively with Internet web tools to achieve goals.

Conceptual Model 1: Registry of Exchanges - just as the registry of deeds is a place and a process to document agreements on the exchange of land, GOMINFOEX will play the role of documenting exchanges, activities and process of exchange of environmental information. As with the registry of deed, GOMINFOEX will help minimise conflicts and promote collaboration.

Conceptual Model 2: Stock Exchange - just as the World's financial stock exchanges provide a framework and mechanism for the purchase and selling of stocks, GOMINFOEX will play a role as a central meeting place for people interested in acquiring and or making use of available environmental information. As the World's stock exchanges make use of appropriate technologies from phones, computers, internet, etc. and busy transactions occur around the World, GOMINFOEX will use appropriate technologies to allow exchanges to occur throughout the region using phones, face-to-face meetings, internet, e-mail, etc.

Practice:

It is recognised that although the Internet tools provide great potential to support the actions of GOMINFOEX, those tools are neither sufficient nor adequate. They are not sufficient in terms of the requirement for people to meet face-to-face to present, talk, discuss and agree. They are not adequate in terms of the limits on some citizen's Internet access and limited time, commitment, training and funding to ensure equal participation through the available tools. This group will strive for a proper balance between all of the available communications tools.

The different types of decisions requiring GOMINFOEX attention will determine the balance.

Out of the Fog Conference:

For significant organisational decisions, such as the change in this document, the name and the Terms of Reference, decisions will be made at the bi-annual Out of the Fog Conferences of all interested participants.

On-Line Input and GOMINFOEX Meeting

To define such organisational decisions, and for decisions on the setting of the priorities, selection of focused GOMINFOEX commitments of people or resources, decisions will be made using a two step process. This process will be carried out at least once in every 3 calendar months. The first step will be the posting of a resolution to the website. All participants are free to submit resolutions to the CIN (chief info-nag) for posting at any time. Posting will be for no less than 30 days accompanied by a e-mail to the GOMINFOEX mailing group announcing the posting and advising participants to provide their input on-line.

At any point, the CIN (chief info-nag) will accept comments by any and all other means of communication.

The second step of the process will be an open discussion by all interested participants at a meeting to be held no less than 7 days after the final day of posting, nor more than 30 days after the final day of posting. The date, place and time of the meeting will be posted no later than of the beginning of the posting period. Participants in attendance will select a chair for the meeting, make decisions and plans for action by developing a consensus as much as possible.

For issues where 10% of the s as registered on the day of posting have provided input and there are not dissenting opinions, the attendees at the meeting will, without significant consensus and agreed counter views, accept the resolution.

For resolutions with 10% response from participants that includes dissenting or questioning opinions, the participants will discuss and make a decision on appropriate action.

For resolutions with less than 10% input, the participants will attempt to determine the level of interest and possible steps to solicit additional input or to remove the resolution from additional consideration.

All decisions for the meeting will be posted to the web no less that 7 days after the close of the meeting. Dissenting opinions will be posted. The CIN will accept and decide on any significant challenges to the meetings outcome for a period of 7 days following the posting of the results. Upon the decision of the CIN, all attendees may be contacted to consider challenges and revise decisions. Revisions will require approval by all attendees. The final arbitration on any and all challenges will take place at the bi-annual Out of the Fog Conference.

Constitution:

Not yet developed