

Gulf of Maine Environmental Information Exchange

(GOMINFOEX)
Organisational Structure

Vision:

To maximize the benefits to coastal communities of the Gulf of Maine from available environmental information.

Principles:

As a group, GOMINFOEX will:

Promote a distributed participatory exchange of environmental information - everyone willing to participate is welcomed

Identify and promote appropriate collaborations

Work to identify required efforts not being adequately addressed - and attempt to promote work within partners to make progress.

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 effect information exchange among all interested and effected citizens. This group makes 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.

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 Congress:

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 Congresses 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 participants 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 Congress.

Constitution: