



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

Gulf of Maine Proclamation: Committing to Change

For 15 years the Governors' and Premiers' Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment has sustained a solid foundation of international collaboration. It recognizes a shared duty to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations. In doing so it has focused on the region's priority management issues, namely the protection of coastal and marine habitats, protection of human health and ecosystem integrity, and the sustainability of maritime activities.

In cooperation with our federal partners we are taking a strategic approach that enables us to address immediate problems, while at the same time ensuring a sustainable environment for future generations. We envision a Gulf of Maine ecosystem where people make responsible decisions about the environment and economy based on a strong information base.

WHEREAS, traditional and emerging maritime activities in the Gulf of Maine contribute significant economic and social benefits to our respective jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, business leaders, governments, the non-profit community, and the public need sound and accessible information to build community capacity and strengthen decision-making and sustainable development in the Gulf of Maine and its watershed;

WHEREAS, our pursuit of ecosystem-based management requires an assessment of the state of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem using science-based indicators that characterize its condition, the stresses upon it, and the corresponding human responses;

WHEREAS, with over 300 monitoring programs in the Gulf of Maine, there is a pressing need to integrate traditional environmental monitoring and experience with emerging ocean observing tools so as to better respond to urgent management issues and support regional sustainable development initiatives; and

WHEREAS, private and public sector initiatives relating to conservation, protection and restoration are effectively impacting the Gulf of Maine watershed and contributing to its' sustainability.

THEREFORE, we the Governors of Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire and the Premiers of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia do hereby reaffirm our commitment to work collaboratively and toward this end direct the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment to:

1. Provide Timely and Responsive Information to Decision-makers

Promote the rapid and efficient distribution of information needed by the region's policy-makers to effectively manage the Gulf's coastal resources by: facilitating the effective integration and expansion of selected monitoring, mapping and observing programs in the region; disseminating science-based indicators that communicate the status and trends of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem; and facilitating the production of State of the Environment reports that describe the condition, pressing issues and management options in the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy.


2. Accelerate Transboundary Habitat Conservation, Protection and Restoration

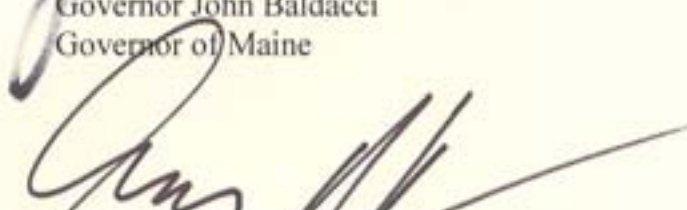
Accelerate habitat conservation, protection and restoration through the sharing of coastal and ocean management best practices, enabling stakeholders to learn from the experiences of others and tailor the best practices to their area.

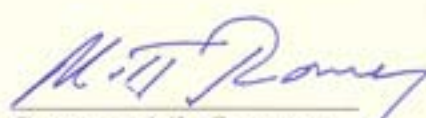
3. Support Sustainable Maritime Activities


Support sustainable maritime activities by developing and promoting Best Management Practices for resource based activities and identify marine research needs in order to address pressing management issues and support economic development opportunities.

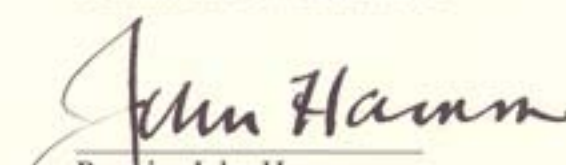
Signed this 27th day of October, 2004.


Governor John Baldacci
Governor of Maine


Governor Craig Benson
Governor of New Hampshire


Governor Mitt Romney
Governor of Massachusetts


Premier Bernard Lord
Premier of New Brunswick


Premier John Hamm
Premier of Nova Scotia