The Susan Snow-Cotter Leadership Award is bestowed in memory of Susan Snow-Cotter, a long-time friend of the Council and Working Group. The Award is given to an individual from one of the five states and provinces bordering the Gulf of Maine. The Susan Snow-Cotter Leadership Award honors coastal management professionals who exemplify outstanding leadership or exceptional mentoring in the Gulf of Maine watershed. As former Director of the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, Susan was recognized as a leader who exhibited unwavering passion, enthusiasm, and insight to develop pragmatic approaches to coastal management challenges. The Council presents this award to a professional who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in coastal and ocean planning and management by:

* Developing pragmatic approaches;
* Building collaborative efforts through mobilizing and unifying others around an issue or initiative; and/or
* Serving as a strong and supportive mentor to emerging coastal management professionals.

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| **Nominee information**  Name (as it would appear on the award plaque if selected): Susan Russell- Robinson  Affiliation (if applicable): U.S. Geological Survey  Mailing address\*: 905 National Center  Reston, VA 20192 (\* Susan also has a home in Norway, Maine)  Phone: (703) 648-6682  Email: srussell@usgs.gov |  |
| **Brief background on why the individual/organization is being nominated: Summary that will be read during the awards ceremony if nominee is selected. This text will also be used in media releases (not to exceed 2,000 characters, including spaces and punctuation):**  Colleagues from the GOMC Working Group and ESIP wish to recognize Susan Russell-Robinson for her passion, commitment, outstanding leadership and tremendous contributions to coastal management in the GOM.  For the past decade, Susan’s energy, vision, knowledge and leadership have been an integral part of the GOMC’s Working Group. She has been a leader in many facets of the Council’s work offering a U.S. federal perspective that can only come from her years of experience. Susan has a strategic outlook on the role of the Council and consistently provides solid advice and guidance on how the Council can improve and adapt to the ever-changing political and economic environment. Susan always keeps the ultimate goal of the Council in mind, which is the advancement of collaborative actions in support of the GOM ecosystem.  Over the years Susan has been able to leverage significant funding opportunities which have allowed the Council to expand its programs. Between 2006 and 2013, Susan served as the U.S. co-chair for the GOMC’s ESIP Her dedication, innovation, creative ideas and tireless efforts, as well as her ability to implement program-level strategic ideas, led to the formation and development of ESIP. Susan has guided ESIP from its infancy to a flagship program within the Council, with its engaging and ever-improving web presence and its multi-faceted content.  Susan has been a strong mentor to many members of the Council’s working group, past and present, guiding them in the ways of the council, and continuously highlighting its unique role and value as a bi-national partnership. She has been a regional leader in the northeast for decades, and has openly shared these roles and guided other participants to serve as leaders in these groups, including GOMC, NROC, NERACOOS, RARGOM and others. In all of these, Susan contributes and models her vision and broad regional understanding to all of us.  Her leadership and attention to the “larger picture” is obvious to anyone lucky enough to work beside her. She is a true champion of young leaders, the work of the Council, and GOM as a sanctuary for humans, wildlife, fish, and natural resources that we can work together to conserve. |  |
| Name and contact information of person making the nomination:  Name: Kathryn Parlee;,Jim Latimer; Christine Tilburg; Ellen Mecray; Tim Hall  Affiliation: Parlee: Environment Canada and ESIP Canadian Co-Chair; Latimer: US Environmental Protection Agency and ESIP US Co-Chair; Tilburg: ESIP Program Manager; Mecray: National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and GOMC Climate Network Co-Chair; Hall: Fisheries and Oceans Canada and GOMC Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Co-Chair  Address: Parlee: Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Latimer: Narragansett, Rhode Island; Tilburg: Buxton, Maine; Mecray: Taunton, Massachusetts; Hall: Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  Phone: Parlee: 902-426-1719, Latimer: 410-782-3167  Email: Parlee: Kathryn.Parlee@ec.gc.ca; Latimer: latimer.jim@epa.gov |  |