**Voices of Our Ocean and Coastal Treasure: The Gulf of Maine**

[**Coastal Zone Canada 2014**](http://www.czca-azcc.org/czc-zcc2014/home.htm)**, June 17, World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia**

Heather Breeze, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Susan L. Russell-Robinson, U.S. Department of the Interior/U.S. Geological Survey

Participate in a special session about the rich natural resources, scientific research, and challenges to the coastal and marine environment of the Gulf of Maine. This special place stretches from Cape Cod Bay to the Bay of Fundy, including parts of the shorelines of three states and two provinces. Organized by the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC) as recognition of 25 years of commitment to the health and sustainability of the Gulf of Maine, this three-part session (multi-media presentation, invited speakers and invited panel) allows participants to better understand this unique cross-border area, its social and economic value, the collaboration needed to protect and sustain its natural heritage, its use by communities and industries, and its ecosystem services.

The session will open with a multi-media-presentation that sets the scene: the ecologically rich, yet vulnerable, Gulf of Maine. Next, speakers representing the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC) will give three papers on current issues facing the Gulf. Fitting with the overall theme of the conference, all speakers will be asked to identify future opportunities and challenges for the area and the roles of the GOMC and other organizations in addressing them. Following this, a panel will discuss top priorities and needs for the Gulf of Maine from a variety of perspectives—Aboriginal people, natural resource industries, scientists, youth and non-governmental organizations.

**Part 1 (1:30 pm – 1:45 pm) Introduction to the Session and Multimedia Presentation**

The opening multi-media presentation visualizes the beautiful, yet fragile setting of the Gulf of Maine. The Gulf of Maine is one of the world’s most biologically productive environments. It has supported subsistence fishing for millennia and commercial fisheries for hundreds of years. How can we continue to benefit from its resources while protecting its health? The visually-rich production includes still photography, film clips, artwork and inspirational quotes about the Gulf’s history, use as a place to live, work and visit, and the scientific concerns for the long term sustainability of ecosystems and ways of life.

**Part 2: Presentations (1:45 pm – 3pm)**

Habitat Restoration in the Gulf of Maine Watershed: Past Experience and Challenges Ahead

*Speakers:* Slade Moore, Habitat Restoration Coordinator, Gulf of Maine Council and Don Hudson, Chewonki Foundation and Councilor, Gulf of Maine Council

Reporting on the Health of the Gulf of Maine

*Speakers:* Christine Tilburg, Program Manager, EcoSystem Indicator Partnership and Heather Breeze, Fisheries and Oceans Canada/Editor, State of the Gulf of Maine report

AddressingChanging Conditions in the Gulf of Maine: Establishing a Regional Climate Network

*Speakers:* Ellen Mecray, Regional Climate Services Director, Eastern Region, NOAA and Bill Appleby, Director, Meteorological Service of Canada-Atlantic, Environment Canada

**Part 3: Panel Discussion (3:30 – 5:00 pm)**

Panelists will address questions about what they see as the greatest concerns and needs for action within the Gulf of Maine. The moderator will encourage and foster an exchange of thoughts and ideas between the presenters and the audience about how to inspire residents and visitors to protect the natural treasures of the Gulf of Maine while still using its resources sustainably. The panelists are:

Alexandra Duchemin, Tantramar Wetlands Centre and Gulf of Maine Institute, New Brunswick

Richard Getchell, Aroostook Band of Micmacs, Maine

Marianne Janowicz, Chair, Bay of Fundy EcoSystem Partnership

Rob Snyder, President, Island Institute, Maine

TBD, Nova Scotia

*Moderator*: Lee Sochasky, GOMC Councilor, New Brunswick