**Gulf of Maine Council 2015 Awards**

**17 June 2015**

**Susan Snow-Cotter Leadership Award**

This special award is bestowed in memory of Susan Snow-Cotter, a long-time friend and supporter of the Council and Working Group. This 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 a coastal management professional who exemplifies outstanding leadership or exceptional mentoring in the Gulf of Maine watershed.

**Linda Welch, Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge**

As a Wildlife Biologist at the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Linda Welch manages a multitude of important seabird colonies, and each summer supervises a small army of researchers working in harsh conditions on remote islands. Many of these young people return year after year, thanks largely to the nurturing environment Linda creates. Her passion for these islands is clearly evident, and she goes far above and beyond her official management role to identify critical research needs and initiate timely, innovative, and enlightening research projects. In recent years, she has carried out ground-breaking tracking studies highlighting the long-distance migrations of marine birds breeding in the Gulf. In one, partnering with Canadian researchers and Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, she tracked Great Shearwaters to their colonies in the southern hemisphere.

Linda not only has a significant impact on the biological programs at the refuge, she is also instrumental in building collaborative efforts across the region. For example, Linda led the development of the Gulf of Maine Integrated Ecosystem Research Program, a broad coalition working collaboratively towards truly integrated studies of the Gulf of Maine’s magnificent ecosystem. In 2013, they secured a State Wildlife Grant to carry out broad-scale, multidisciplinary ecosystem studies that include coastal surveys to collect data on the distribution of zooplankton, fish, marine birds, and marine mammals in combination with detailed oceanographic measurements. As if that wasn’t enough, Linda works tirelessly in fostering regional coalitions and scientific groups, such as the Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative; she stays actively involved in professional groups, such as the Maine chapter of The Wildlife Society; she regularly contributes to scientific literature, and presents research at meetings and conferences; and still finds time to offer guidance to graduate students at the University of Maine.

**Longard Award**

The Longard Award is bestowed each year in memory of Art Longard, a founding member of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and long-time Working Group member. This Award is given to an individual or group of individuals from one of the five states and provinces bordering the Gulf of Maine to recognize volunteer commitment to environmental protection and sustainability within the Gulf of Maine.

**Stony Brook Herring Monitors**

Formed in 2007, the Stony Brook Herring Monitors is a group of fifteen volunteers that has been monitoring the Stony Brook herring run in Brewster MA since 2007 using a visual count method designed by Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. The herring run three-year restoration project was concluded in 2013. Improvements including widening of an undersized culvert from 4 feet to 18 feet and rebuilding of the fish passage leading to the first of five ponds containing nearly 400 acres of spawning, nursery and feeding habitat for river herring. Each spring since 2007 the Stony Brook Herring Monitors painstakingly tracked the return of herring to these precious ponds, noting the decrease in population. Their efforts paid off as with the finalization of the restoration project, the herring run increased by more than 1000% over the last four years. The ecological success is demonstrated by the increase in herring population that use this run every year. Documentation of this success was made possible by the monitoring work of the Stony Brook Herring Monitors.

**Sustainable Communities Award**

Each year, the Gulf of Maine Council presents a Sustainable Communities Award to recognize a community, or group within a community for exemplary work in achieving sustainable outcomes related to the environment and economy within the Gulf of Maine.

**City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire - US**

The City of Portsmouth embraces the sustainable community ideal in their progressive municipal governance, management and public services focused on sustainability. The City demonstrates a consistent vision for ensuring a high quality of life and protecting the environment by initiatives such as:

* City Complete Streets, Bicycle Friendly Community and Walk Friendly Community policies, and a new City Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
* State Street complete streets renovation project
* Green Infrastructure design for stormwater treatment at the Pierce Island Snow Dump
* Downtown Form-Based Districts and community visioning charrettes
* Partnership with the Portsmouth Historical Society to open the Discover Portsmouth Center, interpreting the City’s history and culture and serving as a non-profit hub
* Support for land conservation efforts and preservation of public parks and open space

Projects to improve infrastructure and services also engage the public about sustainability practices including:

* Installation of an electric vehicle charging station at the Hanover Street parking garage
* Annual Sustainability Fair and Market Square Day
* Installation of downtown on-street recycling receptacles
* Partner in Portsmouth Listens, a facilitated citizen dialogue on local issues from the Master Plan, Sustainability Plan and school redistricting

Community engagement activities are supported by a user-friendly City and Plan Portsmouth websites, and televised meetings of City Council, boards, commissions and committees as well as support fromnumerous non-profit organizations based in the city (Green Alliance, Seacoast Local, Seacoast Eat Local, PS21, Portsmouth Smart Growth for the 21st Century, Portsmouth Listens).

The City’s *Coastal Resilience Initiative* project, the first of its kind in NH, analyzed potential climate change impacts on infrastructure, historical resources and salt marshes. The project provides cost estimates to protect critical assets, flood potential maps, informational materials and a project website. Participation by City staff and officials in climate preparedness and adaptation activities include six years of membership in the NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup and Mayor Lister’s support of the upcoming fall 2015 national climate conference in Hampton (a Union of Concerned Scientists event).

**Sustainable Communities Award – CA**

**EOS Eco-Energy / Eco-energie**

**Port Elgin, Sackville, Dorchester, Memram cook**

**Geography and Environment Department – Mount Allison University**

The Tantramar region of New Brunswick is a hot bed of activity when it comes to climate change impacts and adaptation. The regional environmental group EOS Eco-Energy, has put research into action by coordinating a regional approach to climate change adaptation. In January 2012, the first annual workshop of the *Tantramar Climate Change Adaptation Collaborative* took place and a regional action plan was developed. Born out of the Workshop is the *Collaborative,* whose membership includes staff and councilors from the communities of Sackville, Memramcook, Dorchester, and Port Elgin, as well as academia, researchers, planners, Emergency Measures Organization, and non-profit groups. The Collaborative meets during an annual workshop to network, share research findings, and plan and coordinate adaptation initiatives in the region.

The Collaborative has delivered public information sessions on major items such as preparing for flooding and adaptation measures, hosted workshops on energy and climate change topics, started a car share service, and constructed rain gardens. These initiatives have created such a ripple of awareness of the issue of climate change adaptation throughout the region that some actions such as the creation of rain gardens gained prominence when the installations were profiled on the national news.

The Collaborative also created the *Tantramar Climate Change Week*. The event features a variety of activities in the 4 communities which has included everything from talks on solar energy, living off the grid, flooding issues, tours of energy efficient buildings, presentations to school children that focus on renewable resources, and engaging all sectors of the communities with energy reduction challenges.

The awareness of climate change impacts and adaptations has also spurred participation in initiatives to reduce GHG emissions at the municipal level. The result is demonstrated by the Town of Sackville which has built a new energy efficient town hall with green roof. Mount Allison University Students Union’s *Green Investment Fund* covered the cost to install a free electric vehicle charging station in Sackville. The EV charger promotes environmental responsibility and emissions reduction, and creates economic spinoffs by attracting tourists with EV’s to visit local merchants while waiting for their cars to charge. The charging location has put Sackville on the ever-growing EV map!

During the last ten years, the partnerships created by EOS Eco-Energy, the communities of Sackville, Port Elgin, Dorchester, and Memramcook, the Department of Geography at Mount Allison University, and other partners, has resulted in the delivery of highly successful projects, all of which have mobilized residents to adapt to our changing climate.

**INDUSTRY AWARD**

The Gulf of Maine Industry Award recognizes an individual, company, or organization within the Gulf of Maine that has demonstrated innovation and leadership in efforts to improve the well-being of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem and the communities that call it home. Nominations are considered from sectors such as tourism, commercial or recreational fisheries, aquaculture, renewable energy generation, and maritime transportation.

**Clover Leaf Seafoods, NB - Sustainable Industry Award – CA**

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| In 2012 Connors Bros. Clover Leaf Seafood Company donated the Pea Point Nature Preserve to the Nature Trust of New Brunswick for the purpose of permanently preserving its ecological, cultural and aesthetic values for the benefit of current and future generations. The Pea Point Nature Preserve is located near the village of Blacks Harbour, New Brunswick, adjacent to the Grand Manan Ferry Terminal and the Pea Point lighthouse, first lit in 1878. This nature preserve contains many ecologically significant habitats such as Acadian Forest which the World Wildlife Fund declared as one of the most endangered forest types in North America, wetlands, Blacks Harbour Redbeds and coastal shoreline along the Lower Bay of Fundy.  In 2014, Connors Bros. Clover Leaf Seafood Company donated the southern portion of Frye Island (168 acres). The island, located in the Lower Bay of Fundy, in the vicinity of the town of St. George, New Brunswick, contains a high diversity of plant and animal species providing a stopping point for migrating raptors and other birds, making it an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) for many species of birds. The area encompasses 14 kilometers of coastline which is characterized by headlands, coves, woodland waterfalls, and salt marshes. It also contains Acadian Forest, the most endangered forest in North America. There are scenic kayaking attractions amongst the coastal features such as shipwrecks, waterfalls, beaches, coves and marshes. This site also contains archeological site.  Connors Bros. Clover Leaf Seafood has been a significant part of the community of Blacks Harbour and the Bay of Fundy for more than a century and the donations of these important nature preserves to the Nature Trust is further evidence of their commitment to community health and the sustainability of the Gulf of Maine. |
| **Neptune’s Harvest, Gloucester, MA - Sustainable Industry Award – US**  Since 1986, this innovative organic fertilizer company has been targeting sustainable industry and protection of Gulf of Maine resources in everything they do. Their drive to take advantage of diversification opportunities while maintaining their commitment to improvement of ecosystem health has made them a leader in the industry and a model to follow. |
| Few companies embody the spirit of “Yankee ingenuity” quite as fully as Neptune’s Harvest, of Gloucester, MA. Neptune's Harvest is a spin-off of its parent company, a wholesale fish and seafood company called Ocean Crest Seafoods, Inc., which has been operating on Gloucester’s waterfront since 1965. Because 60-70% of processed fish remains as waste, or gurry, the company wanted to find an innovative way to avoid the costly and environmentally unsound approaches typically available for managing this byproduct. To do so, Ocean Crest got together with researchers from the University of Massachusetts marine science research center and developed the process of turning the gurry into fertilizer, allowing the company to beneficially use 100% of the fish they process.  Neptune’s Harvest products are beneficial to the Gulf of Maine environment because the company is able to use every part of each fish, so the waste that was once dumped back into the ocean or sent to landfills is instead used to help grow stronger, healthier plants by improving the soil. The use of these organic products eliminates, or greatly reduces, the need to use pesticides or any other chemicals that could runoff to coastal resources, and increases the organic matter in the soil. Higher organic content and lower chemical load means the soil holds more water, reducing runoff and helping to maintain healthy watersheds.  Neptune’s Harvest is a family run business that sells its organic products to everyone from small home gardeners to large farms, locally and around the world, in volumes ranging from one quart containers to 4,500 gallon tanker trucks. Their success stems from their goal of producing organic fertilizers that simply work better than chemical products, so that more people will choose and use organics and better protect our Gulf of Maine ecosystem. They are a model of sustainable, innovative industry in the Gulf of Maine, strengthening the working waterfront in Gloucester MA. |

**VISIONARY AWARDS**

Each year, the Gulf of Maine Council presents Gulf of Maine Visionary Awards to individuals or organizations within each of the five Gulf of Maine jurisdictions of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. These Awards recognize innovation, creativity, and commitment to marine protection.

**Visionary Awards – MA**

**The Jones River Watershed Association**

For a small organization, it can be easy to become overwhelmed with the effort it takes just to maintain your existence, and, whittled down by the slow pace of progress toward real change, to focus narrowly on what seems accomplishable. Under the leadership of Pine DuBois, the Jones River Watershed Association has instead leveraged the staff’s scientific aptitude and raw muscle to attract partners that have made what seemed impossible, possible. These attributes, plus the willingness to listen to all stakeholders without losing the urgency of their mission, made JRWA an appealing partner for the state and federal agencies that collaborated on the 2011 removal of the Wapping Road Dam. Following on that success, JRWA has set their sights on other limiting factors to the health of not only the Jones River but also neighboring watersheds and Cape Cod Bay itself, talking with landowners and resource agencies to organize a critical mass for effecting change.

JRWA has always made a point of taking the time to do things right, and thus to ensure that their work is supported by the key players and the results are held up as a model for others to follow. Such is the case with the Association’s dogged work to address water use impacts to the Jones River and two adjoining watersheds, all connected by the City of Brockton’s water supply system. JRWA has enlisted support from stakeholders in all three watersheds, and beyond .

Through all this, JRWA remains true to its community engagement goals, hosting interns and volunteers, and maintaining a dedicated and passionate membership. For all of these reasons, the Jones River Watershed Association is truly a Visionary for the Gulf of Maine.

**Todd Callaghan, MA**

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| Since his tenure with the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) started in 1999, Todd Callaghan has worked tirelessly to develop the strategy for achieving a Massachusetts statewide No Discharge Area (NDA) designation. The implementation of the NDA strategy has resulted in the protection of 2,530 square miles (100%) of state waters from the harmful effects of vessel discharges on water quality and public health caused by bacteria, viruses, nutrients, and chemicals. In 2014, the final pieces of the puzzle, a strip of waters between two and three miles from shore extending from Manchester-by-the-Sea to Marshfield, as well as remaining corridors in Vineyard Sound and in Nantucket Sound, were protected under Todd’s guidance. He has also secured the funding for, and managed the design of, eight commercial pump out facilities, totaling over $100,000. These facilities provide a convenient way for boat owners to properly dispose of their sewage. His work has resulted in a program that serves as a national model, providing assistance to programs on both the East and West Coasts. In addition to the protection of Massachusetts waters, impacts of sewage disposal to the greater Gulf of Maine have been significantly reduced due to Todd’s efforts. Todd has also been a significant contributor to the development of protections to marine habitats through his leadership of the Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan Habitat Workgroup. This work has involved the collection and analysis of sophisticated data resulting in the development of highly accurate maps for six Special, Sensitive, or Unique resource areas. |

**Visionary Awards – NH**

**The Nature Conservancy Oyster Conservationist Program**

The abundant wild oysters that local citizens knew fifty years ago are diminished but resilient. Once dominant in Great Bay Estuary (GBE), adult oyster populations plummeted with 90% losses by the year 2000 following disease outbreak in the 1990s. Today in the Great Bay Estuary, there is great hope for the oyster. The NH oyster population has slowly increased from a low in the early 2000s with the help of local restoration efforts, including the Oyster Conservationist (OC) Program. Since 2006, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), together with the University of New Hampshire (UNH), has organized and operated this community-based restoration effort. The Oyster Conservationist Program is based on local volunteers who raise oysters on private docks or moorings to help restore native oysters in the Great Bay Estuary.

In ten years of operation, the Oyster Conservationist Program has engaged more than 100 different families and raised more than 120,000 oysters for restoration efforts. In 2014 alone, 75 families participated in the program, with recent growth on the order of greater than 25% annually. The program also expanded into Southern Maine in 2014, and now operates in 14 different towns in the seacoast areas of the Piscataqua Region of New Hampshire and Maine.

**Candace Dolan**

For the past ten years, Candace Dolan has worked tirelessly to restore and protect Hodgson Brook – a tiny, degraded and forgotten stream that flows through the heart of Portsmouth, NH.

In her work as Coordinator for the Hodgson Brook Restoration Project, Candace Dolan has brought the brook’s plight to the attention of many including the City of Portsmouth, local businesses, educational institutions, state agencies, residents, visitors, and students. She has organized hundreds of volunteers to monitor water quality, pull thousands of pounds of trash from the brook, and install rain gardens. She has made the brook come alive for many local students with hands-on, in-the-brook water quality education. Candace has reached out to local businesses to convince them to partner with her to construct innovative treatment practices to clean stormwater runoff, reduce the use of salt on their parking lots, enhance stream buffers on their properties, and…donate money to the brook’s cause! She has spoken passionately on behalf of the brook numerous times in front of city boards and committees. She has provided a multitude of opportunities for college students to conduct scientific investigations on the brook and then has applied their results to restoration solutions. Candace is not afraid to tackle difficult restoration problems; in fact, she relishes a challenge, and will often jump right in without fear…if it’s something new or unknown that will help the brook, Candace will say “yes” first and then figure out how to get it done later. The list of Candace’s accomplishments – all conducted on behalf of a tiny little waterway that most would turn away from or forget – is endless. She is a force for the brook’s restoration; we have only the highest respect for her dedication, clear sense of purpose, and ability to blend science, policy, and culture for the health of Hodgson Brook.

**Visionary Awards – ME**

**Dr. Samuel B. Merrill**

Dr. Samuel Merrill is being recognized with a Gulf of Maine Council Visionary Award for his innovative approach to raising awareness about the financial implications of sea level rise and storm surge, which has led many Gulf of Maine communities to begin planning for climate change and other ecosystem changes. From 2001 to 2013, Dr. Merrill served as director of the EPA-sponsored New England Environmental Finance Center (NE EFC) and Associate Research Professor at the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine. As the NE EFC’s founding director, Dr. Merrill was a driving force for the program’s establishment and he built the entire program from scratch. During his first several years at the NE EFC, Dr. Merrill focused his efforts on providing communities with information on the financial and environmental benefits of adopting “smart growth” approaches to land use and development. Over the past 5-6 years, however, his focus shifted to helping communities understand the financial implications of sea level rise and storm surge, and various adaptations to these phenomena.

A recent example of how Dr. Merrill has used COAST to help communities plan for sea level rise and storm surge is his work with Portland, ME and the NH coastal communities of Seabrook, Hampton, and Hampton Falls. In 2011, the EPA Climate Ready Estuaries program awarded funds to the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership and the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership to use COAST in sea level rise adaptation planning processes in Portland and the Hampton/Seabrook estuary area. Dr. Merrill worked with municipal staff, elected officials, and other stakeholders to select specific locations, vulnerable assets, and adaptation actions to model using COAST. The NE EFC then collected the appropriate data layers, ran the COAST simulations, and provided visual, numeric, and presentation-based products in support of the planning processes underway in both locations. These products, which were completed in 2012, helped galvanize support for local adaptation planning efforts. Through facilitated meetings they also led to stakeholders identifying specific action steps and beginning to determine how to implement them.

**Dr. John “Jay” Holt**

Dr Holt or Jay, as he is most commonly known, is an amazing community organizer for the annual Maine Coastal Cleanup. He energizes the whole Georgetown community to engage in multiday cleanups of their coastal peninsula. The Georgetown cleanup results are often impressive with pounds of trash collected each year and sorted at their transfer station, which is also known as the “Georgetown Mall”. Volunteers of all ages and even some of the local pets, including horses, participate. Jay’s enthusiasm and passion for his work is contagious, and his documentation of the community’s efforts are masterpieces of communication and education about the importance of coastal stewardship.

Dr. Holt, early on, realized from his undergraduate biology degree that ecology matters, and ***has a mission*** in his retirement from academia, to make a positive contribution to the resuscitation of The Gulf of Maine. In addition to his coordinating Coastal Cleanup events over several years, he has, worked with Manomet, a non-profit, ***and Chris Warner, an experienced*** ***Georgetown, Maine clam harvester,*** to ***demonstrate*** the ***effective*** use of clam aquaculture to counter the detrimental green crab effects upon the economic and ecological issues for the shellfish industry in ***The Gulf of Maine***. He is a member of the Georgetown Shellfish Committee and the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust where he volunteers as a water quality monitor.

Dr Holt’s commitment and enthusiasm for Stewardship of the Gulf of Maine is exemplary. From his taking the call from the Georgetown Conservation Commission to accept the designation of “Captain of the Georgetown Coastal Cleanup” to his commitment to clean productive and economically viable clam flats for the town’s harvesters he is making enormous contributions to the health and resilience of the Gulf of Maine.

**Visionary Awards – NB**

**Mayor Stan Choptiany – Town of St Andrews**

Stan Choptiany, Mayor of the Town of Saint Andrews, is being recognized for being innovative and creative in providing citizens with climate change adaptation options that protect the town. Recognizing the risks and costs associated with climate change, Stan Choptiany has championed the cause by guiding citizen engagement activities to help present and explain the expected impacts on the Town of Saint Andrews.

In 2013, the Town of Saint Andrews undertook a community-wide Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment. The process worked to determine which elements of the community are most sensitive to environmental and climatic changes, in order to start the development of adaptation efforts that focus on building resilience against climate change.

The community-level advisory and engagement process enabled a dialogue which allowed for the development and sharing of information on topics such as sea-level rise and inland flooding. With this information, the assessment process was able to help shape recommendations for reducing the vulnerability to future climate related hazards.

In 2014 and 2015, the Town Councilors of Saint Andrews focused on creating an Adaptation Network to communicate and gain feedback from its citizenry, in order to formulate a place-based response to future challenges.

These initiatives demonstrate Stan Choptiany’s dedication to the people of Saint Andrews and a vision that aims for community sustainability and maintaining a quality of life.

**Greater Saint John Community**

Following over twenty years of community-based monitoring, public education and multi-sectorial collaboration, New Brunswick reached a milestone in the autumn of 2014 as the Saint John Harbour Cleanup Project put an end to centuries of raw sewage discharge into Saint John Harbour and its surrounding watercourses. Thanks to the hard work, diligence and perseverance displayed by the citizens and the business community of Greater Saint John, along with the incredible expertise of the staff of the City of Saint John, Port of Saint John, University of New Brunswick Saint John, and Saint John ACAP, the Harbour Cleanup project sets an incredible new precedent in the region for community-based, collaborative environmental management.

Harbour Cleanup reinvents Saint John Harbour, Marsh Creek and numerous other waterbodies, from degraded, embarrassing ecosystems into catalysts for growth - both ecological and economic - and for community pride. None of which could have been possible without the cooperation and support from the community, local business and all levels of government, from the City of Saint John to the partners in the Gulf of Maine Council.

**Visionary Awards – NS**

**Graham Fisher**

Mr. Fisher is being recognized for his efforts on the design, development and implementation of the Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (MCCAP) Guidebook which describe how municipalities plan to respond to climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Guidebook was prepared to serve as a guide and to assist municipalities in the preparation of their MCCAPs. These will allow municipalities to develop a clearer understanding of the ways in which climate change will impact the daily management and operation of communities; and for municipal councils to assign priorities to climate change issues with the potential to adversely affect the social, economic, environmental and cultural elements of communities.

Mr. Fisher’s dedication and in-depth understanding of municipal planning and climate change in Nova Scotia led to a guidebook which provides the tools for municipalities to effectively plan for climate change across the province. Nova Scotia is the first in Canada to make the plans a requirement in order to receive Gas Tax money and is an example of collaboration amongst all three levels of government. The Guidebook has been recognized as one of the best models of its kind.

**Oceans and Coasts Education Awareness Network Society – Nova Scotia**

Lisette Muaror-Wilson (Liz Wilson)

Jessica MacIntosh

Gillian Fielding

Founded in early 2014, OCEANS-NS is a team of graduate students and recent graduates engaged in projects that seek to enhance and strengthen oceans education in Nova Scotia; their mission statement is “*Connecting and Engaging Youth in Nova Scotia with Ocean Education and Career Awareness*”.

To achieve this goal the team is continually building partnerships with other organizations and government agencies. The team is guided by a board of directors with expertise in the fields of marine education, business development, technology, and the arts.

The energy, creativity, and dedication of the OCEANS-NS team is demonstrated by the variety of education initiatives pursued in their first year. Recent projects include:

* An Oceans-11 Professional Development Day for NS teachers
* An ocean education sessions at the Association of Science Teachers Conference
* A film initiative with High School students on their connections to the oceans
* Innovative ocean science activities for parents of students at the “Science Olympics”
* Research that explores connections between the Oceans 11 curriculum and ocean careers pathways
* A feasibility assessment and plan for a youth summit and awards program

The dedication and creative approaches of Ms. Wilson, Ms. MacIntosh, Ms. Fielding and their supporting board of directors promises to inspire new ways for Nova Scotia and perhaps also other Gulf of Maine jurisdictions to connect our youth with rewarding education and career pathways.

**Distinguished Service Awards**

As you all know, the accomplishments of the Gulf of Maine Council are made possible by the many individuals who serve as members of the Council, Working Group, and committees. Thanks to their collaborative efforts, we are able to make significant strides each year in our shared efforts to protect and restore natural resources in the Gulf of Maine. Tonight, we are pleased to honor several individuals who have provided exceptional service to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment over the past several years.

**Robert J. Capozi, New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government**

Rob Capozi is being recognized by his colleagues at the Gulf of Maine Council for his commitment, leadership, and contribution to the Council.  Though his tenure was relatively brief, Rob brought renewed energy and vigor to the Working Group and his expertise, tinged with an ever-present sense of humor that helped the Working Group navigate through some tough challenges and move forward at a very crucial time.  His expertise in coastal management and conservation was a valuable asset to the Working Group, as he brought a well-balanced perspective of government and non-government organizations (from his work with Ducks Unlimited).

**Tim Hall, Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

Throughout his decade plus tenure on the Gulf of Maine Council, Tim Hall has committed his extensive expertise and collaborative spirit to the benefit of all member organizations. A Canadian stronghold, Tim championed numerous Council efforts, including the State of the Environment reports, regional ocean governance and marine spatial planning, and recently, the 25th anniversary activities in collaboration with the CA Coastal Conference. Tim will be remembered for his ability to lead the group to consensus with a positive, can-do attitude and sincere professional commitment to transboundary collaboration, resulting in consistently excellent products, a highly credible organization, and lasting interpersonal relationships.

**Lori Hallett, Maine**

Lori Hallett served the Gulf of Maine Council and the Gulf of Maine Association tirelessly for over 10 years. She managed the often complicated flow of funds from two nations, three states and two provinces, while helping to keep track of dozens of annual contracts for the work of the Council. The health of Gulf of Maine ecosystems and communities is improving, and Lori Hallett helped to set the high standard of effort to which we all aspire.

**Terry Holman, US Department of Interior**

Terry Holman is recognized for her contributions as US Department of the Interior Councillor.  As DOI's Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Coordinator, she raised the visibility of the Gulf of Maine as a region of importance, including it as a separate region section in Newswave, DOI’s Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes newsletter. She enthusiastically supported Council efforts, participating in the 25th anniversary GeoTour and challenging other Councillors to do the same.

**Slade Moore, Maine**

For over six years, Slade served as GOMC’s habitat restoration coordinator and ran the Council’s NOAA-funded Community Restoration Program.  Working with partners from around the region, Slade’s work resulted in a significant increase in the number of acres and stream miles of important coastal habitat restored.  The track record for the Council’s restoration program is exemplary – all told, from 2002 to 2014, the Council funded 115 local projects that restored 680 acres of tidal marsh and reopened 4,900 acres of spawning area to sea-run fish such as alewife, eel and salmon. In Maine, Slade’s work has increased the pace, quality, level of professionalism and overall capacity in our state for habitat restoration.  Slade’s dedication, knowledge of coastal ecology, grant-writing and project management skills and his ability to garner community level support for habitat restoration have been invaluable to the Council.

**Stephen Perkins, US Environmental Protection Agency**

In 2007, Stephen Perkins was the Director of EPA New England’s Office of Ecosystem Protection, which is responsible for the federal air, water, climate and tribal programs in the six New England states.   Stephen championed the Gulf of Maine program, understanding the importance of international cooperation, communication and exchange of science.   His thoughtful considerations of the issues and breathe of knowledge, he brought to the Council assisted in the consensus building and decision making process.