

*AGREEMENT ON
CONSERVATION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT
OF THE GULF OF MAINE
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE BORDERING STATES AND PROVINCES*

The Governments of Maine, Massachusetts, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, Nova Scotia, as Parties to this Agreement and;

Considering that the shoreline, seabed, waters and associated natural resources of the Gulf of Maine region, including Georges Bank and the Bay of Fundy, constitute precious public natural resources shared by the contiguous States and Provinces and;

Considering that the natural resources of the Gulf of Maine are interconnected and form part of an overall ecosystem that transcends political boundaries and;

Considering that the sustainable development and use of these resources for recreational and aesthetic enjoyment activities as well as fish and wildlife habitat is dependent on the ecological integrity of the Gulf ecosystem and;

Considering that the planning and management of human activities which may affect the Gulf ecosystem should recognize and be based upon an understanding of the systems' integrity and;

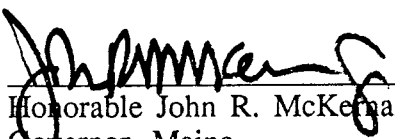
Considering that the Parties to this agreement recognize a shared duty to protect and conserve the renewable and non-renewable resources of the Gulf for the use, benefit and enjoyment of all their citizens, including generations yet to come and;

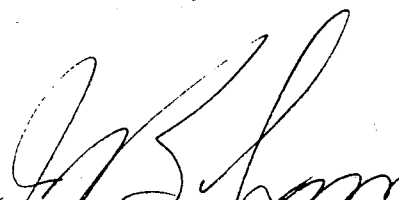
Considering that the most effective means of protecting, conserving and managing the region's resources is through the cooperative pursuit of consistent policies, initiatives and programs and;

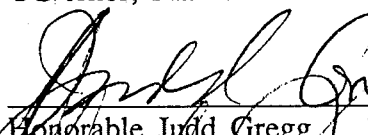
Considering that studies conducted by National, State and Provincial governments and other agencies have found that, without prudent management, the future development and use of the Gulf resources may have significant adverse impacts on the environment, economy, and general welfare of the Parties and have agreed to the following:


1. The Parties agree to establish a Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment to discuss and act upon environmental issues of common concern including but not limited to:
 - the protection and conservation of the ecological balance within the Gulf of Maine ecosystem;
 - the problem of marine debris and medical waste;
 - the relationship between land use and the marine environment;
 - the sustainable use of resources within the Gulf of Maine;
 - cooperative programs to better protect and conserve the Gulf's natural resources.
2. The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment will be composed of two representatives from each of the Gulf of Maine States and Provinces to be appointed by their respective Governors and Premiers within 60 days of the effective date of this Agreement.
3. The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment will produce its first annual report on environmental trends and conditions including specific recommendations on a Gulf of Maine Action Plan within 15 months of its appointment.
4. The Parties agree to minimize actions that would result in degradation of environmental quality or depletion of resources that individually or cumulatively could result in significant adverse impacts on resources leading to loss of sustainable use or environmental viability.
5. The Parties agree to design and develop a coordinated monitoring program to provide improved information for future decisions concerning the Gulf.
6. The Parties agree that the successful conservation of Gulf resources will require the development of additional agreements or protocols on specific issues or concerns that may be raised from time to time.

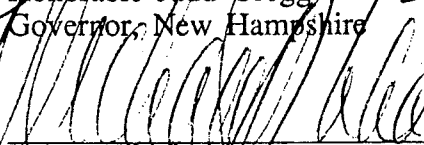
SIGNATURES:


Honorable John R. McKernan, Jr.
Governor, Maine


Honourable John M. Buchanan
Premier, Nova Scotia


Honorable Judd Gregg
Governor, New Hampshire


Honourable Frank McKenna
Premier, New Brunswick


Honorable Michael S. Dukakis
Governor, Massachusetts