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| gomcolortext1 | 2015Susan Snow-Cotter Leadership Award Nomination Form |
| 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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| **SusanFramed****Susan Snow-Cotter** | 0BNomination instructions1. Individuals or organizations may submit nominations. Self-nominations are not accepted.
2. The nominee must be resident of Maine, Massachusetts, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, or Nova Scotia and his/her work be conducted primarily in the Gulf of Maine region.
3. The nominee’s contributions must have occurred in the Gulf of Maine watershed.
4. Nominations must be made on this form. Attachments will not be accepted.
5. Nominations must be emailed to theresa.torrent@maine.gov by the close of business on **March 30, 2015**. Please rename the nomination form with \_LastNameofNominee added to the end of the file name.
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| Questions? Please contact Theresa Torrent at theresa.torrent@maine.gov or 207.287.2351. To view a list of past award winners, please visit: <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/opportunities/> |

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| **Nominee information**Name (as it would appear on the award plaque if selected): Betsy NicholsonAffiliation (if applicable): National Oceanic and Atmospheric AdministrationMailing address: NOAA Office for Coastal Management, 35 Colovos Rd, Suite 148, Durham NH 03824Phone: 617-869-9148Email: betsy.nicholson@noaa.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):** Betsy Nicholson is NOAA’s Northeast lead for the Office for Coastal Management and the federal co-lead of the Northeast Regional Planning Body. Betsy is an outstanding candidate for the Susan Snow-Cotter award, exemplifying all of the leadership traits of the award. Betsy learned to love the sea as a young sailor on Narragansett Bay in Bristol, RI. This experience evolved into an appreciation of maritime history and led her to pursue a career in marine sciences at Williams College and a Masters in Coastal Environmental Management at Duke University. In 2000, Betsy started her career at NOAA and serving as a policy advisor to the Secretary of Commerce.  As Northeast lead for NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management, Betsy and her team provide technology, information, and management strategies used by local, state, and regional  organizations to address complex coastal issues. Since 2012, Betsy has served as NOAA’s lead and Federal Co-Lead of the newly established Northeast Regional Planning Body (RPB), bringing a distinctive balance of skills, experience, and personality to the work in the Northeast on the implementation of the National Ocean Policy‘s regional ocean planning elements. She has also served as the NOAA representative to the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) since its inception in 2005 and has been involved with many aspects of the Gulf of Maine Council for many years. For more than a decade, Betsy has been a leader and champion in addressing shared regional coastal and ocean management challenges with collaborative efforts and creative solutions. Betsy played key roles in the early work in regional ocean planning, including convening regional ocean planning workshops and symposia in 2009, 2010, and 2012. As the Northeast RPB was being formed, Betsy’s knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm made her an easy choice to serve as the federal co-lead. She is firm believer in the principle of bringing together the best available science and high quality data with robust and meaningful stakeholder engagement to make important improvements in the way we manage our ocean resources and the many uses, trades and ecosystem services they provide. In her role as the co-lead for this effort, Betsy has demonstrated strong leadership for this coalition as the region moves towards more effective decision-making, with public input, for the protection and sustainable use of New England’s oceans and resources. Folks who work with Betsy, whether it be on regional ocean planning or other issues, know firsthand that she brings a well-rounded background of science, policy, and a keen understanding of the social and political dimensions of coastal and ocean management. From this vantage-point, Betsy is a great believer in developing workable approaches to complicated issues. She truly embraces collaborative approaches, and because she values the skills, expertise and insights that other professionals and stakeholders bring , she is able to channel the energy and knowledge of a group to collectively work towards actions on difficult issues. She is a great mentor to her team at NOAA/OCM and beyond to other individuals beginning or mid-career in their coastal management professions. Betsy does all of this with lots of optimism, a healthy sense of humor, and a definite composure that make her a pleasure to work with. We are so very proud to endorse Betsy Nicholson for the Gulf of Maine Council’s Susan Snow-Cotter Leadership Award. |  |
| Name and contact information of person making the nomination: Name: Bruce K. CarlisleAffiliation: MA Office of Coastal Zone ManagementAddress: 251 Causeway St., Suite 800, Boston MA 02114Phone: 617-626-1205Email: Bruce.Carlisle@state.ma.us |  |