



## **Council / Working Group Meeting June 17 -18, 2015**

**NH Dept. of Environmental Services**  
222 International Drive, #175  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

**Briefing Book**

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## June 17-18, 2015 • Council / Working Group Meeting • Briefing Book

<b>Joint Council / Working Group Meeting • Wednesday, June 17, 2015</b> <b>NH Dept. of Environmental Services Office, 222 International Drive, #175, Portsmouth, NH</b>		
8:00 AM	<b>GOMC Council Meeting - Welcome, Introductions and Overview of Meeting Objectives</b> <i>Rene Pelletier, GOMC Council Chair, NH Department of Environmental Services</i>	
8:10 AM	<b>Consent Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 2015 Council meeting summary acceptance, pp. 5-6</li> <li>• April 2015 Working Group meeting summary acceptance, pp. 7-10</li> <li>• May 2015 CAC meeting summary acceptance, pp. 11-12</li> <li>• Climate Network Update, p. 13</li> <li>• GOMA / GOMC Finance / Budget Update, pp. 14-15</li> </ul>	✓ For Decision  pp. 5-15
8:15 AM	<b>GOMC Proposed Framework and Terms of Reference (TORs)</b> Steve Couture and Joan LeBlanc will summarize the Council Advisory Committee's efforts and present recommendations from the GOMC organizational assessment conducted during the 2014/2015 Secretariat Year. Council members are asked to review, provide feedback, and decide upon the proposed GOMC Framework and associated Terms of Reference.	✓ For Direction ✓ For Decision  pp. 16-28
10:15 AM	<b>Break</b>	
10:30 AM	<b>Roundtable Forum</b> Council / WG members discuss key issues facing jurisdiction and / or region.	✓ For Information
12:30 PM	<b>Lunch / Gulf of Maine Association Meeting</b> All Councilors are invited to the GOMA luncheon meeting. Lunch will be provided for GOMA meeting participants as well as all other Council / Working Group meeting participants.	
2:00 PM	<b>GOMA / GOMC Brief Status Report on Finance / Budget</b> <i>Cindy Krum, Executive Director, GOMA</i>	✓ For Information ✓ Internal
2:15 PM	<b>Developing GOMC Two-Year Work Plan</b> Steve Couture and Joan LeBlanc will provide an overview of the process for developing the GOMC two-year work plan and review plans for the workshop portion of the Council / Working Group meeting.	✓ For Information ✓ Internal  pp. 31-32
2:30 PM	<b>GOMC Workshop</b> GOMC Council and Working Group members will work together to develop GOMC work plan by considering proposed two-year work plans for existing and new GOMC initiatives.	✓ For Direction ✓ For Decision  pp. 33-44
3:00 PM	<b>Break</b>	
3:15 PM	<b>GOMC Workshop (continued)</b>	✓ For Direction ✓ For Decision
4:00 PM	<b>Adjourn for the Day</b>	

## Seashell Oceanfront Pavilion at Hampton Beach State Park • Hampton, NH

5:00 PM RECEPTION	<b>GOMC Awards Reception</b>
6:00 PM AWARDS	GOMC will host special reception and ceremony to present 2015 GOMC Awards.

**Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment**  
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**MEETING AGENDA – Day 2**

Joint Council / Working Group Meeting • Thursday, June 18, 2015 NH Dept. of Environmental Services Office, 222 International Drive, #175, Portsmouth, NH		
8:00 AM	<b>Overview of Objectives for Day 2</b> <i>Rene Pelletier, GOMC Council Chair, NH Department of Environmental Services</i>	
8:15 AM	<b>GOMC Workshop</b> (continued)	✓ For Direction ✓ For Decision
10:30 AM	<b>Break</b>	
10:45 AM	<b>GOMC Workshop</b> (continued) Council and Working Group will continue workshop and finalize decisions regarding GOMC initiatives to include in the two-year work plan.	✓ For Direction ✓ For Decision
12:00 PM	<b>EcoSystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP) Moves into ESIP 2.0</b> <i>Christine Tilburg, ESIP Program Manager</i> <i>Kathryn Parlee, Environment Canada</i>	✓ For Information ✓ Internal ✓ For Direction  <i>pp. 45-46</i>
12:30 PM	<b>Lunch – On Your Own</b>	
2:00 PM	<b>Joint Presentation on Sentinel Monitoring for Climate and Ecosystem Change / Northeast Coastal Acidification Network (NECAN) Initiatives</b> <i>Guest Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Matt Liebman, Environmental Biologist, U.S. EPA – Ocean and Coastal Protection Section</i></li> <li>• <i>Cassie Stymiest, Program Manager, NERACOOS / NECAN Coordinator</i></li> </ul>	✓ For Information ✓ External
3:00 PM	<b>Environmental Information: Use and Influence (EIUI)</b> <i>Tim Hall, Fisheries and Oceans Canada</i> During the upcoming year, EIUI will be taking GOMC on as a partner. Tim Hall will provide an update on this partnership and highlight some positive results and examples of EIUI's work.	✓ For Information ✓ Internal & External
3:15 PM	<b>GOMC Plans for 2015-2017 Secretariat</b> Steve Couture will present proposed plans for GOMC leadership and upcoming meetings.	✓ For Decision ✓ For Direction  <i>pp. 47</i>
3:30 PM	<b>Break</b>	
3:45 PM	<b>Review of Key Decisions / Next Steps from the Meeting</b> <i>Steve Couture and / or Joan LeBlanc</i>	
4:00 PM	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <i>Rene Pelletier, GOMC Council Chair, NH Department of Environmental Services</i>	
<b>Adjourn</b>		

**DRAFT Record of Decisions • April 9, 2015 • Council Meeting • Teleconference**

**Meeting Participants**

Jennifer Anderson, NOAA Marine Fisheries Service; Rob Capozzi, New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government; Bruce Carlisle, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management; Steve Couture, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; Tim Hall, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Don Hudson, Chewonki Foundation; Cindy Krum, GOMA Executive Director; Joan LeBlanc, GOMC Council Coordinator; Kathleen Leyden, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Ru Morrison, NERACOOS; Christophe Rivet, Environment Canada; Jack Schwartz, MA Division of Marine Fisheries; Lee Sochasky, New Brunswick; Theresa Torrent, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Prassede Vella, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management; and Jack Wiggin, Urban Harbors Institute.

**Opening Remarks**

Steve Couture welcomed participants and outlined objectives for the meeting, noting that the primary focus of the call is a brief check-in regarding the proposed GOMC Framework to be considered at the June 2015 GOMC meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

The following consent agenda item was accepted:

- Draft Summary of Key Decisions and Action Items, December 2014 Council Meeting

**Draft GOMC Framework**

Steve Couture and Joan LeBlanc provided an overview of the draft GOMC Framework. Following the December 2014 Council meeting, the Draft GOMC Framework was developed in collaboration with the Council Advisory Committee, Secretariat Team, and Working Group.

Following the December 2014 Council meeting, Steve and Joan met with the Secretariat Team to develop a draft GOMC Framework. The proposed GOMC Framework incorporates elements of the previously considered organizational alternatives while seeking to address a wide range of issues, concerns, and direction provided by GOMC Council, Council Advisory Committee and Working Group throughout the organizational assessment process.

During its January 28<sup>th</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup> meetings, the Council Advisory Committee provided constructive feedback and expressed support for the draft GOMC Framework. During its February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, Working Group expressed general support for moving forward with proposed framework and began developing strategies for conducting the joint Council / Working Group workshop in June and procedures for developing two-year work plans.

Joan reviewed organizational charts, key highlights, and scenarios for a base-line and broader approach to provide detail about how the proposed framework could work during a two-year leadership cycle.

### *Key Decisions / Action Items*

Council members expressed support for moving the proposed GOMC Framework forward for consideration at the June 2015 joint Council / Working Group meeting, with the following change:

- Regarding leadership structure, jurisdictions would continue as the lead agencies. In addition to the options already outlined for inviting federal or jurisdictional agencies to co-lead or assist, jurisdictions will now also have the option to invite NGOs to partner with them (without being official co-chairs) during the two year leadership period. This change still allows the existing signed agreement establishing GOMC with jurisdictional leadership to stay in place.

### **Next Steps for GOMC Draft Framework**

- Joan will send a follow-up email to check in regarding support for the proposed GOMC Framework with any Council members who were not on the call.
- Joan and Steve will develop a draft GOMC Terms of Reference based upon the proposed framework. Terms of Reference will be considered by Council at the June 2015 meeting.
- Joan and Steve will work with WG and CAC to develop templates for submittal of proposed two-year work plan initiatives.
- CAC will meet at least one more time before the June 2015 GOMC meetings to review the work plan templates and draft Terms of Reference.
- During discussion regarding leadership transition, Steve Couture noted that NH would be willing to continue as Secretariat Chair for at least the next year and may also invite a partner to co-chair during the next fiscal year. Steve noted that a certain amount of flexibility is needed since this will be a period of transition.

### **Plans for June 2015 Joint Council / Working Group Meeting**

Steve and Joan reviewed the following plans for the June 2015 GOMC meetings. A draft agenda for the June Council / WG meeting was also discussed.

- **Wednesday, June 17 and Thursday, June 18, 2015 – Joint Council / Working Group Meeting**  
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET / 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. AT  
NH DES, 222 International Drive, Suite 175, Portsmouth, NH
- **Wednesday, June 17, 2015, GOMA Luncheon Meeting**  
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET / 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. AT  
NH DES, 222 International Drive, Suite 175, Portsmouth, NH
- **Wednesday, June 17, 2015, GOMC 2015 Awards Ceremony and Reception**  
Reception begins at 5:00 PM ET, Awards Ceremony begins at 6:00 PM  
Seashell Oceanfront Pavilion at Hampton Beach State Park, Hampton, NH
- GOMC may also host a workshop regarding tidal stream crossings on June 16<sup>th</sup> (tentative).

*Record of decisions prepared by Joan LeBlanc, GOMC Council Coordinator*

Meeting materials are available at: <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-meetings/>

**DRAFT Working Group Meeting Summary • Conference Call • April 15, 2015**

**Meeting Participants**

Heather Breeze, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Jennifer Burley, Environment Canada; Steve Couture, NH Department of Environmental Services; Tim Hall, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Ellen Mecray, NOAA; Cindy Krum, GOMA Executive Director; Joan LeBlanc, GOMC Council Coordinator; Rebecca Newhall, NOAA; Kathryn Parlee, Environment Canada; Ann Rodney, US Environmental Protection Agency; Susan Russell-Robinson, USGS; Jack Schwartz, MA Division of Marine Fisheries; Theresa Torrent, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Peter Wells, Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership; Bill Whitman, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

**Opening Remarks**

Working Group Chair Steve Couture of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services welcomed participants and outlined objectives for the meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

The following consent agenda items were accepted:

- Draft Key Decisions / Action Items from February 18, 2015 WG Meeting
- Report Regarding Climate Network Activities (including King Tides)

**GOMC Framework**

Steve and Joan provided an update regarding progress in developing the draft GOMC Framework since the February 2015 Working Group meeting. Steve and Joan have continued to work with the Secretariat Team and Council Advisory Committee to identify and address issues associated with the Framework. Organizational charts, key highlights, and scenarios were revised with input from Council, CAC and Working Group to provide detail about how the proposed framework could work during a two-year leadership cycle. CAC made the following recommendations during their March 2015 meeting:

- Options for leadership during the two-year cycle were changed so that jurisdictions have the flexibility to add a federal agency as a co-chair or partner from either the US or Canada, vs. the previous framework which allowed flexibility to invite federal agencies from only the same country as the lead jurisdiction.
- Role of the Secretariat Team was clarified noting that the Secretariat Team would assume all former responsibilities of the Management and Finance Committee (M&F is eliminated under the proposed framework).
- Flexibility was added to the process for determining membership of the Secretariat Team so that this committee will always have appropriate Canadian / US balance.
- The order of jurisdictional leadership was changed to – New Hampshire, New Brunswick, Maine, Nova Scotia, Massachusetts. Four year period without Canadian jurisdictional lead shifts to the end of the cycle.
- Language was added to recommend that federal co-chairs be selected from existing Council members to the extent feasible.

- Criteria for GOMC initiatives to be submitted for inclusion in the two-year work plan was clarified to include language noting that the proposals should provide cross-jurisdictional benefit.

During the April 9 meeting, Council expressed support for moving forward with the proposed framework with the following additional change:

- Regarding leadership structure, jurisdictions would continue as the lead agencies. In addition to the options already outlined for inviting federal or jurisdictional agencies to co-lead or assist, jurisdictions will now also have the option to invite NGOs to partner with them (without being official co-chairs) during the two year leadership period.

#### *Key Decisions / Action Items*

- Joan and Steve will develop a draft GOMC Terms of Reference (TORs) based upon the proposed framework to be considered by Council at the June 2015 meeting.
- Working Group members are encouraged to participate in the next CAC call in May to review and provide feedback on the draft GOMC TORs.
- In developing TORs, Joan and Steve will utilize existing TORs as a starting point and be sure to further define the NGO supporting / partner role.
- Regarding leadership, NH is committed to continuing in the lead for at least one more year to help facilitate transition to the new GOMC Framework. Since this is a transition period, NH has requested flexibility to revisit the leadership role in the spring of 2016 to determine whether NH or NB would provide leadership for the 2016/2017 year. Working Group members expressed appreciation for NH's role in facilitating the GOMC organizational assessment.

#### **GOMC 2015 Awards**

Theresa Torrent provided an update regarding status and next steps for the 2015 GOMC Awards program. Theresa thanked everyone for helping to facilitate nominations. Regarding gulf-wide awards, GOMC has received two nominations for Industry Award, two for Susan Snow-Cotter, one for Sustainable Community, and one for Longard.

#### *Key Decisions / Next Steps*

- Jurisdictions will review and determine Visionary Award winners.
- Joan will schedule a Management and Finance Committee meeting to review and determine gulf-wide award winners, and identify distinguished service awardees.
- Theresa will continue working with Steve and Joan to coordinate 2015 Awards program.

#### **Plans for June 2015 GOMC Meetings**

Steve, Joan and Working Group members discussed plans for the joint Working Group / Council meetings scheduled to take place in Portsmouth, New Hampshire during June 2015. The following meetings / events are scheduled:

- **Wednesday, June 17 and Thursday, June 18, 2015 – Joint Council / Working Group Meeting**  
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET / 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. AT  
NH DES, 222 International Drive, Suite 175, Portsmouth, NH
- **Wednesday, June 17, 2015, GOMA Luncheon Meeting**  
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET / 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. AT  
NH DES, 222 International Drive, Suite 175, Portsmouth, NH
- **Wednesday, June 17, 2015, GOMC 2015 Awards Ceremony and Reception**  
Reception begins at 5:00 PM ET, Awards Ceremony begins at 6:00 PM  
Seashell Oceanfront Pavilion at Hampton Beach State Park, Hampton, NH

Joan and Steve noted that GOMC has decided not to host a Tidal Stream Crossings Workshop in June (previously scheduled for June 16). The workshop will instead be included as a proposed GOMC work plan initiative for the upcoming two-year period. Hosting the workshop at a later date will allow for adequate planning and outreach to ensure an effective bi-national workshop.

#### Agenda / Meeting Structure

The agenda for the two-day joint Council / Working Group meeting will include reviewing and deciding on the proposed draft GOMC Framework, roundtable discussion, a joint Council / WG workshop to develop GOMC's two-year work plan, and a joint presentation regarding Sentinel Monitoring for Climate and Ecosystem Change / NECAN initiatives.

#### Two Year Work Plans

Joan reviewed plans for developing GOMC's two-year work plan. In preparation for the June 2015 meeting, Council and Working Group members will be invited to submit proposed two-year work plans for new or existing GOMC initiatives. Joan provided a draft template, and a sample template for review and discussion.

#### Emerging Issues Document

Becca Newhall distributed a document 'Emerging Issues and / or Management Priorities in the Gulf of Maine'. While it doesn't reflect Canadian input at this time, the document can be expanded upon and used as a planning tool to help determine shared priorities around potential work plan ideas. Susan Russell-Robinson noted that there is a similar effort going on now at the US federal level where they are looking at large-scale climate issues. Peter Wells noted that a draft Emerging Issues paper based upon a talk given at Coastal Zone Canada 2014 may also be useful.

#### Key Decisions / Action Items

- Working Group supported the proposed template for preparing two-year work plans.
- While not funding requests to GOMC, proposed work plans may include initiatives that require additional fundraising to be undertaken by the project leads.
- Joan will develop instructions for completing the templates.
- Joan will circulate templates with instructions to Working Group and Council members ASAP.
- Council and Working Group will submit proposed work plans to Joan by May 22 deadline.

## **Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment**

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- Becca will meet with Steve and Joan to discuss opportunities for using the 'Emerging Issues' document as a resource for GOMC planning around potential work plan initiatives.

### Other Business

- Ann Rodney noted that EPA is currently mailing the Facing Change brochure to over 500 people.
- Peter Wells noted that Environmental Information: Use and Influence (EIUI) recently received a grant of \$400K to fund three-years of work on linking science and policy on environmental issues.

*Meeting summary prepared by Joan LeBlanc, Council Coordinator*

The Briefing Book for the meeting is available at:

<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-meetings/>

**Summary of Key Decisions / Action Items • Council Advisory Committee Meeting • May 19, 2015**

**Call Participants**

Jen Anderson, Rob Capozzi, Steve Couture, Don Hudson, Cindy Krum, Joan LeBlanc, Ellen Mecray, Christophe Rivet, Ann Rodney, Susan Russell-Robinson, Jack Schwartz, Lee Sochasky, Theresa Torrent, Jack Wiggin

**Consent Agenda**

The following Consent Agenda item was accepted:

- Draft Summary of Key Decisions and Action Items from March 2015 CAC Meeting

**Action Agenda**

**DRAFT - GOMC Framework and Terms of Reference (TORs)**

Steve and Joan provided an update regarding the draft proposed GOMC Framework and presented draft Terms of Reference for review and discussion by the Council Advisory Committee (CAC). Following the March 2015 CAC meeting, GOMC Council met on April 9 and Working Group met on April 15 to review and provide feedback on the draft GOMC Framework. During the April meeting, Council recommended the following change:

- Regarding leadership structure, jurisdictions would continue as the lead agencies. In addition to the options already outlined for inviting federal or jurisdictional agencies to co-lead or assist, jurisdictions will now also have the option to invite NGOs to partner with them (without being official co-chairs) during the two year leadership period.

Joan presented the draft Terms of Reference for the Council, Working Group and Secretariat Team, reflecting the decisions made during the 2014-2015 GOMC organizational assessment process. Council Advisory Committee recommended edits to the language in the Council TORs and the Secretariat Team TORs.

**Key Decisions / Action Items**

- Council Advisory Committee members reaffirmed support for the proposed GOMC Framework.
- Council Advisory Committee provided feedback regarding the proposed Terms of Reference, including a recommendation to revise the description of Secretariat Team membership so that it includes members of the former Management and Finance Committee.
- Council Advisory Committee recommended that Council members discuss the following two issues related to GOMC TORs at the June 2015 meeting: 1) tribal membership, and 2) the definition of consensus.
- Joan will update Terms of Reference to incorporate feedback from Council Advisory Committee.
- Joan will circulate updated Terms of Reference to Council and Working Group this week to solicit any additional feedback prior to the June 2015 Council / Working Group meeting.

### **Plans for June 2015**

Steve and Joan provided an update regarding plans for the June 2015 Council / Working Group meeting (as noted below) and circulated a draft meeting agenda for review.

- **Joint Council / Working Group Meeting (Day 1)**  
**Wednesday, June 17, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM ET**  
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
Pease Development Authority, 222 International Drive, Suite 175, Portsmouth, NH
- **GOMC Awards Ceremony**  
**Wednesday, June 17, Reception begins at 5:00 PM, Awards Ceremony begins at 6:00 PM ET**  
Shell Oceanfront Pavilion, Hampton Beach State Park, Hampton, NH  
<http://www.nhstateparks.org/explore/outings-events-in-the-park/oceanfront-pavilion.aspx>
- **Joint Council / Working Group Meeting (Day 2)**  
**Thursday, June 18, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM ET**  
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
Pease Development Authority, 222 International Drive, Suite 175, Portsmouth, NH

### Development of GOMC Two-Year Work Plan

Steve and Joan provided the CAC with an update regarding the status of preparing the GOMC two-year work plan. Following the March CAC meeting and April Council meeting, Joan prepared a template for proposed two-year work plans (included in the meeting Briefing Book). Working Group reviewed and supported the draft template during their April 15 meeting. In late April, Joan circulated a call for proposed two-year work plans to Council and Working Group members with a deadline for submittal of May 22, 2015. The proposed work plans will be considered during the workshop portion of the June 2015 GOMC meeting.

### *Key Decisions / Action Items*

- Council Advisory Committee members are asked to submit any proposed work plans by this Friday, May 22.
- Joan will send a reminder to Working Group and Council regarding outstanding work plan proposals.
- Proposed work plans will be considered during the June 2015 Council / Working Group meeting.
- CAC members are invited to participate in Secretariat Team call on May 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss plans for the workshop portion of the June Council / Working Group meeting.

The briefing book for the meeting including the draft GOMC Framework and draft Terms of Reference is available online at: <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-advisory-committee-2014-2015/>

*Summary prepared by Joan LeBlanc, Council Coordinator*

<b>Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment</b> <b>Meeting Briefing Note</b>					
<b>Title of Agenda Item:</b> Climate Network Activities (including King Tides)					
<b>Submitted by:</b> Ellen Mecray and Bill Appleby, Climate Network Co-Chairs					
<b>Type of Item</b> (place X in appropriate box)	<b>For Decision</b>	<b>For Direction</b>	<b>For Information</b> (internal GOMC)	X	<b>For Information</b> (External)
<b>Background</b> (required):					
<p>The <a href="#">GOMC Climate Network</a> has begun its second year distributing a quarterly <a href="#">Gulf of Maine Region Climate Impacts and Outlook</a> that is collaboratively developed by US and Canadian scientists (supporting an MOU established by NOAA and EC). The <i>Outlook</i> is available on multiple websites and is sent electronically to 130 members of the media and 225 subscribers (with online signups continually raising that number).</p> <p>The Climate Network received valuable feedback from 37 readers this winter through an online survey designed to refine and improve the quarterly. Notice of the <i>Outlook</i> is going to 65 regional organizations so they can invite their members to stay informed about regional climate and weather trends. Following the recent winter, the Climate Network expects increased interest in this resource!</p> <p>After four editions, the <a href="#">Climate Network e-bulletin</a> (which included notice of regional events, tools, reports and news stories) is being suspended. Funding limitations have greatly restricted the scope of the Climate Network Coordinator's contract so there is no staff time available to assemble this bulletin. The Climate Network web pages on the GOMC site were updated in March, with improvements to its Community Toolkit, Outlook page and Regional Links. New pages were added on recent projects (such as <a href="#">King Tides</a>, and the <a href="#">climate dashboard</a>); and on <a href="#">Living Shorelines</a>—a topic on which regional municipalities sought further information.</p> <p>The Climate Network recently received funding (for 2015-2017) from Environment Canada's Atlantic Ecosystems Initiative to create a web-based tool offering improved access to Intensity/Duration/Frequency (IDF) extreme rainfall data. It also received a small grant from the Maine Community Foundation to continue coordinating the Gulf of Maine King Tides Photo Contest (scheduled for October 28, 2015) and to create a traveling exhibit of inundation images.</p>					
<b>Possible Activities / Next Steps</b> (optional):					
<b>Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested</b> (optional):					
<p>None required.</p>					
<b>Supporting Documentation</b> (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):					
<p>NA</p>					

<b>Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment</b> <b>Meeting Briefing Note</b>					
<b>Title of Agenda Item:</b> GOMA / GOMC Budget and Financial Updates and Future Planning					
<b>Submitted by:</b> Cynthia Krum and GOMA Executive Committee					
<b>Type of Item</b> (place X in appropriate box)	<b>For Decision</b>	<b>For Direction</b>	<b>For Information</b> (internal GOMC)	x	<b>For Information</b> (External)
<b>Background (required):</b>					
<b>Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Operating Budget and Associated Scopes of Work</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details on FY 2015 – 2016 Proposed Operating Budget                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ GOMC predicted direct expenses are \$199,819</li> <li>○ Fiscal Agent predicted direct expenses are \$392,295</li> <li>○ Total budget (including GOMA management and administration) is \$698,988.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Unrestricted net asset balance                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prediction for FY 2014-2015 year-end at June 30, 2015 is \$119,993.</li> <li>○ If contracting in 2015-2016 goes as budgeted, FY 16 year-end prediction is \$75,385.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Management and Administration Contracting:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For the first six months of fiscal year 2015 – 2016 it is recommended that GOMA contractors remain at current level due to need to complete A-133 audit and close out five grants. This is based on 2014 – 2015 fiscal year annual expenses at June 30, 2015 expected to be \$1,327,668.</li> <li>○ The second six months of fiscal year 2015 – 2016 budgets reflect a 20% reduction to GOMA contractor fees. This will be discussed in November, 2015 when actual level of effort needed will be determined. Both GOMA management and administration contractors will begin with six month contracts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Core Service Contracting:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Council Coordination contract will remain at same level as 2014-2015 fiscal year for the first 6 months. The second six month contract is likely to remain at the same level of effort and funding. However, this will also be discussed in November based on available funding and level of effort needed.</li> <li>○ The Information Technology contract will be for 12 months and was cut by approximately \$6,000 from the 2014-2015 fiscal year amount. This was based on level of effort needed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>					
<b>Planning for the Future, 2016-2017</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of unrestricted net assets:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The 2015-2016 Budget and early predictions for the 2016-2017 Budget both incorporate unrestricted net assets to cover needed contractor expenses. These funds have been saved for this purpose, but this is the first time they have been needed due to decreasing budgets.</li> <li>○ GOMA need for contract support lags behind closing a year with a significant budget due to required audit and grant close-out procedures.</li> <li>○ Predicted US federal income for fiscal year 2015 – 2016 is \$508,892. If this amount is \$500,000 or greater, an A-133 audit will be needed in the fall of 2016. GOMA needs to be sure to retain funding for contractor/audit expenses at that time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fiscal Year 2016 – 2017 Budget:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ At this time the total predicted budget is \$222,378.</li> <li>○ This number includes predicted GOMC dues and unrestricted net assets to cover first six months of GOMA expense.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>					

- Reliance on fiscal agent services:
  - In the past and upcoming year the majority of the budget has been for fiscal agent services.
  - Assuming that the need for fiscal agent services will diminish after NOAA NROC grants are closed out by December 31, 2015, GOMA needs to plan for reduction in services.
- Future Funding Applications:
  - Environment Canada plans to release new requests for proposals in summer, 2015.
  - NOAA NMFS and NOAA NOS have recently released Federal Funding Opportunities for climate change initiatives.
  - Committees such as the Climate Network and ESIP continue to look for other opportunities.

Future funding will primarily come from federal partners

**Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested (optional):**

n/a

**Supporting Documentation** (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):

Detailed budget and financial information is available in the Briefing Book for the June 17<sup>th</sup> GOMA meeting at:  
<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-meetings/>

<b>Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note</b>				
<b>Title of Agenda Item:</b> Draft GOMC Framework and Terms of Reference				
<b>Submitted by:</b> Steve Couture and Joan LeBlanc				
<b>Type of Item</b> (place X in appropriate box)	<b>For Decision</b>	X	<b>For Direction</b>	X
<b>For Information</b> (internal GOMC)		<b>For Information</b> (External)		
<b>Background</b> (required):				
<p>Throughout the 2014 / 2015 GOMC Secretariat Year, the Council Advisory Committee, Council and Working Group worked together to conduct an organizational assessment facilitated by Steve Couture and Joan LeBlanc. To ensure adequate involvement and feedback, the Council Advisory Committee met six times, the Working Group met six times, and the Council met three times. The proposed GOMC Framework reflects recommendations and feedback provided by all parties throughout the year.</p> <p>During meetings this spring, Council and Working Group members expressed support for the proposed GOMC Framework. In preparation for the June 2015 meeting and decisions, Joan and Steve prepared draft Terms of Reference (TORs) for the Council, Working Group and Secretariat Team, reflecting recommendations made during the 2014-2015 GOMC organizational assessment process.</p> <p>At the May 2015 meeting, CAC recommended that Council discuss the following two issues associated with GOMC Terms of Reference during the June 2015 meeting: 1) tribal membership in the Council, and 2) the definition of consensus.</p> <p>Once the proposed GOMC Framework and Terms of Reference are finalized, they will be incorporated into a broader GOMC Terms of Reference document that will include additional items such as the GOMC founding documents and GOMA TORs that are not being updated at this time.</p>				
<b>Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested:</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Council and Working Group members are asked to review, provide feedback and decide upon the proposed GOMC Framework.</li> <li>➤ Council and Working Group members are asked to review, provide feedback, and decide upon the draft Terms of Reference for Council, Working Group and Secretariat Team.</li> <li>➤ Council and Working Group are asked to provide feedback regarding the proposed next steps for creating a broader GOMC Reference document.</li> </ul>				
<b>Supporting Documentation</b> (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):				
<p>The following documents are included following this briefing note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Draft Terms of Reference (TORs) for proposed GOMC Framework: pp. 17-20</i></li> <li>• <i>For reference, current GOMC TORs are available at: <a href="http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-advisory-committee-2014-2015/">http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-advisory-committee-2014-2015/</a></i></li> <li>• <i>Organizational Charts Highlighting Proposed GOMC Framework: pp. 21-25</i></li> <li>• <i>Key Highlights of Proposed GOMC Framework: pp. 26-27</i></li> <li>• <i>Scenarios (Broad Approach, Baseline Approach, Leadership Options, GOMC Initiative Example – ESIP), pp. 28-30</i></li> </ul>				

**Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment**  
**Draft Terms of Reference**

**Scope**

The governments of Maine, Massachusetts, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, and Nova Scotia established the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment through “An Agreement on the Conservation of the Marine Environment of the Gulf of Maine between the Bordering States and Provinces” signed in 1989 and amended in June, 1992 (*GOMC Agreement*). The Council discusses and acts upon issues of common concern related to the protection and conservation of the ecological balance within the Gulf of Maine ecosystem.

**Role**

The Council has three primary roles:

1. Facilitate integrated watershed, coastal and ocean management by fostering an ecosystem-based management approach. The Council works to ensure decision-makers possess the necessary information to manage human effects on the ecosystem, to preserve ecological integrity and to sustain economically and socially healthy human communities.
2. Enable the region’s states, provinces and federal government agencies to become more effective stewards by working together in a regional forum to learn from each other and try new approaches.
3. Develop and sustain strong partnerships among government agencies and with local and regional organizations to enhance and leverage opportunities for addressing issues of regional concern.

**Responsibilities**

During a given leadership period, Council will determine GOMC level of effort based upon funding, priorities and staffing capacity. Council leadership may choose to operate according to:

1. A baseline approach with one in-person annual meeting for Council and Working Group along with a limited work plan, or
2. A broader approach including at least one in-person annual Council meeting, periodic Working Group meetings, plus additional activities such as an annual awards program, workshop, or other GOMC initiatives with cross-jurisdictional benefit.

Councilors are expected to actively participate in development of Council meeting agendas and follow-up actions. Councilors are expected to actively pursue opportunities to advance the Council’s 5-year Action Plan and GOMC initiatives while in their home jurisdictions.

**Membership**

Each Governor and Premier appoints up to two cabinet level or senior level government representatives and up to two non-government representatives. Canadian and US federal agencies with a statutory mandate pertinent to the *GOMC Agreement* may designate a senior representative to serve as a member of the Council. In addition, the Governors, Premiers, and the Council will work collaboratively to make two-year renewable appointments for the following interests:

- A senior representative of the scientific community from each country that resides in the watershed; and
- A member of the tribal community that is nominated by the region’s First Nations.

Additional government or non-government representatives with appropriate expertise may be invited to participate in Council meetings as needed.

As of 2015, the following federal agencies are Council members:

- US: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Interior
- Canada: Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

### **Leadership**

Unless otherwise determined, the Council will operate with a two-year Secretariat leadership cycle. Responsibility to Chair the Council will rotate among jurisdictions according to the following order: New Hampshire, New Brunswick, Maine, Nova Scotia, and Massachusetts. As designated in the *GOMC Agreement*, jurisdictions will maintain the primary leadership role.

Jurisdictions may choose to invite a Canadian or US federal agency, or a provincial / state agency from the same jurisdiction to share leadership / and or management by co-chairing or through a less formal collaborative arrangement. Because federal participation in a leadership role is optional, there is no formal order of rotation. To the extent feasible, federal partner agencies will rotate evenly and federal co-chairs will be selected from existing GOMC Council members.

Jurisdictions may also invite non-governmental organizations to collaborate (but not serve as co-chair) during the leadership cycle. Jurisdictional plans to invite a non-governmental organization that is not an existing GOMC member to collaborate during the leadership period would require Council approval by consensus. Risk of potential conflict of interest with government agencies will be assessed if and when non-governmental organizations collaborate during the leadership cycle. The Secretariat Team will implement appropriate mitigation measures as needed to address potential conflicts of interest.

### **Meetings**

Council will meet in-person on an annual basis to promote networking around Gulf of Maine priorities, and to provide direction for the Gulf of Maine Council work plan and initiatives. Meeting location will alternate between Canada and US when feasible, and will be held in collaboration with Working Group when appropriate to enhance networking and collaboration. Council Chair, Co-Chair or his/her designee will moderate the meeting. Council may choose to utilize a portion of the annual meeting to host a workshop or other networking event that would encompass a broader audience.

### **Committees / Initiatives**

The Council may establish or disband committees, initiatives, or ad-hoc groups as it deems necessary to fulfill its mandate.

### **Communication**

The Council routinely apprises the Premiers, Governors, and others about Council activities and prepares reports documenting accomplishments when appropriate.

### **Decisions**

The Council will develop, as necessary, a unified consensus on policies and programs affecting its mandate. The Council may decide to vote on specific issues but the results are non-binding on those that oppose or abstain from the decision.

### **Support**

The Council Coordinator and the Executive Director of the US Gulf of Maine Association provide support as needed. Other contractors, agency representatives, and committee co-chairs may assist as needed.

**Secretariat Team**  
*DRAFT Terms of Reference*

**Purpose**

The Secretariat Team serves the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC) by acting as an executive committee for the Working Group and liaison between the Gulf of Maine Association and the Council.

**Responsibilities**

The Secretariat Team will advise the Council and Secretariat leadership on program, policy, finance, and other GOMC management issues or directives. While the duties and responsibilities of the Secretariat Team will vary based upon the needs of the Gulf of Maine Council, anticipated responsibilities include:

- Secretariat Team provides leadership for organizing Council and Working Group meetings, including development of agendas and meeting materials.
- Secretariat Team provides leadership for development of two-year work plans and the GOMC five-year Action Plan.
- Secretariat Team meets jointly with Gulf of Maine Association Executive Committee to review and provide feedback on budget implementation.

**Membership**

The Secretariat Team includes one representative designated by each state and province, one federal representative from each country, and one Gulf of Maine Association member from each country. The current Working Group Chair or co-chairs will serve as Secretariat Team Chair. If not already represented, Secretariat Team will also include representatives from the prior year Working Group leadership team during the first year of a two-year Secretariat, and representatives from the future year Working Group leadership team during the second year of a two-year Secretariat.

**Leadership**

The current Working Group Chair and / or Co-Chairs will serve as chair of the Secretariat Team during the two-year leadership cycle.

**Meetings**

- The Secretariat Team will meet to conduct regular business via conference calls as needed (usually not more than quarterly).
- Secretariat Team will participate in joint budget meetings with GOMA Executive Committee (usually twice per year).

**Decisions**

Decisions will be made by consensus.

**Support:** The Council Coordinator and Gulf of Maine Association Executive Director provide support to the Secretariat Team and participate in its discussions as needed.

**Working Group**  
*Draft Terms of Reference*

**Purpose**

The Working Group serves the Gulf of Maine Council (GOMC) by working with Council members to develop and implement the GOMC's five-year Action Plan and two-year work plan for GOMC initiatives.

**Responsibilities**

Working Group members will develop proposals for existing and / or new Gulf of Maine initiatives to be included in the Gulf of Maine Council two-year work plan. Working Group will meet regularly to promote implementation of the GOMC's five year action plan and two-year work plans. Working Group members will provide regular updates to each other and to their Councilors regarding progress associated with GOMC initiatives. Working Group members will network and work together to promote bi-national and cross-jurisdictional efforts toward a healthy Gulf of Maine ecosystem.

**Membership**

Each government Council member will appoint one representative to serve on the Working Group. For each Council committee or initiative, Council members shall designate a committee co-chair to serve as a member of the Working Group. Council may appoint additional Working Group members by consensus. Guests may be invited to participate in Working Group meetings when additional expertise is needed.

- Working Group members are expected to have the authority to represent the position of their agency and make decisions.
- Working Group members will provide regular briefings to their Councilor.
- A Council member agency may choose to designate one representative to serve on both the Council and Working Group as long as the manager has appropriate decision making authority.

**Leadership**

Working Group Chair will be a member of the Working Group from the jurisdiction in which the Council Chair is located. If the jurisdictional Council Chair elects to invite a federal agency as a co-chair or partner during its leadership period, the Working Group may be co-chaired by a member of the Working Group from the designated partnership agency. The Working Chair or Co-Chairs will work in collaboration with the Secretariat Team to develop meeting agendas and conduct GOMC business as appropriate.

**Meetings**

Working Group will meet up to four times per year with no more than two in-person meetings. When feasible, Working Group meetings will include a workshop element to enhance cross-jurisdictional education and collaborative efforts toward a healthy Gulf of Maine ecosystem. Working Group meetings will be combined with Council meetings when appropriate to promote efficiency and networking opportunities. Meeting locations will rotate among jurisdictions to the extent feasible.

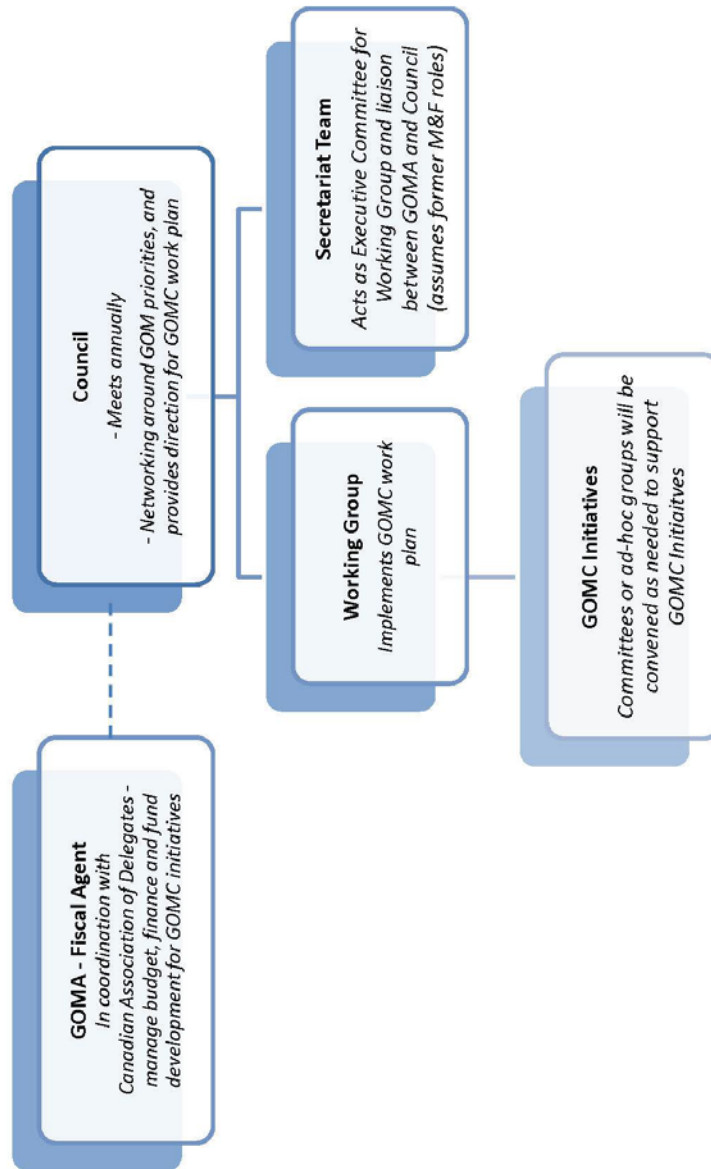
**Decisions**

Decisions will be made by consensus.

**Support:** The Council Coordinator will provide support to the Working Group and participate in its discussions as needed.

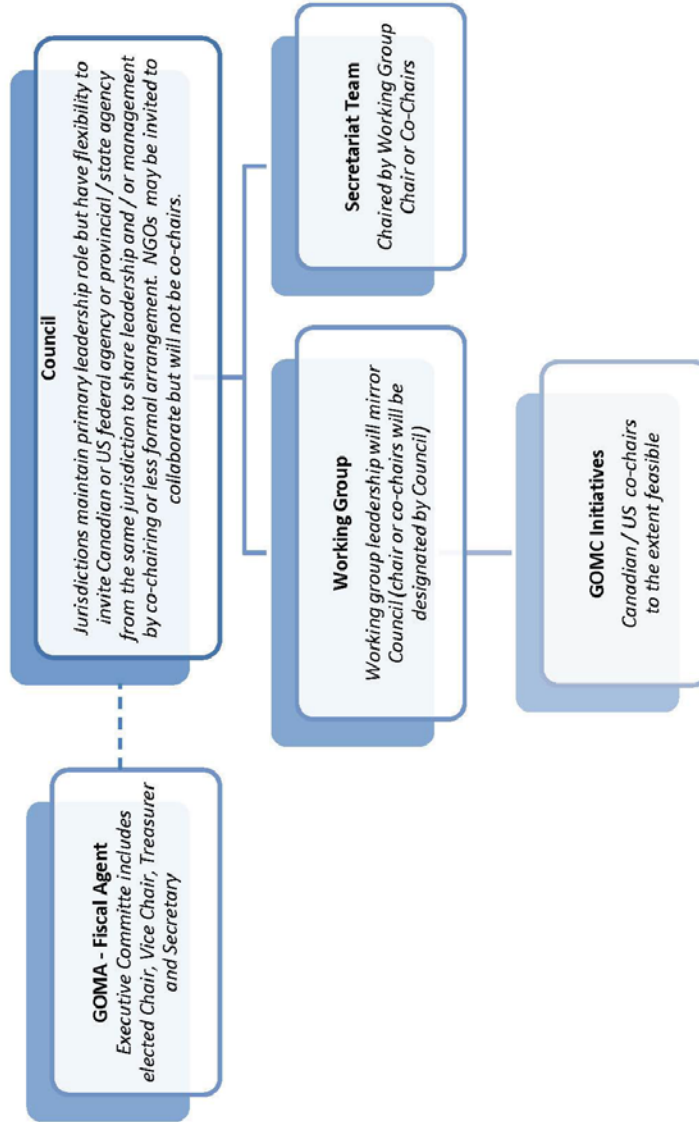
Gulf of Maine Council  
DRAFT – Proposed Framework

GOMC Organizational Structure



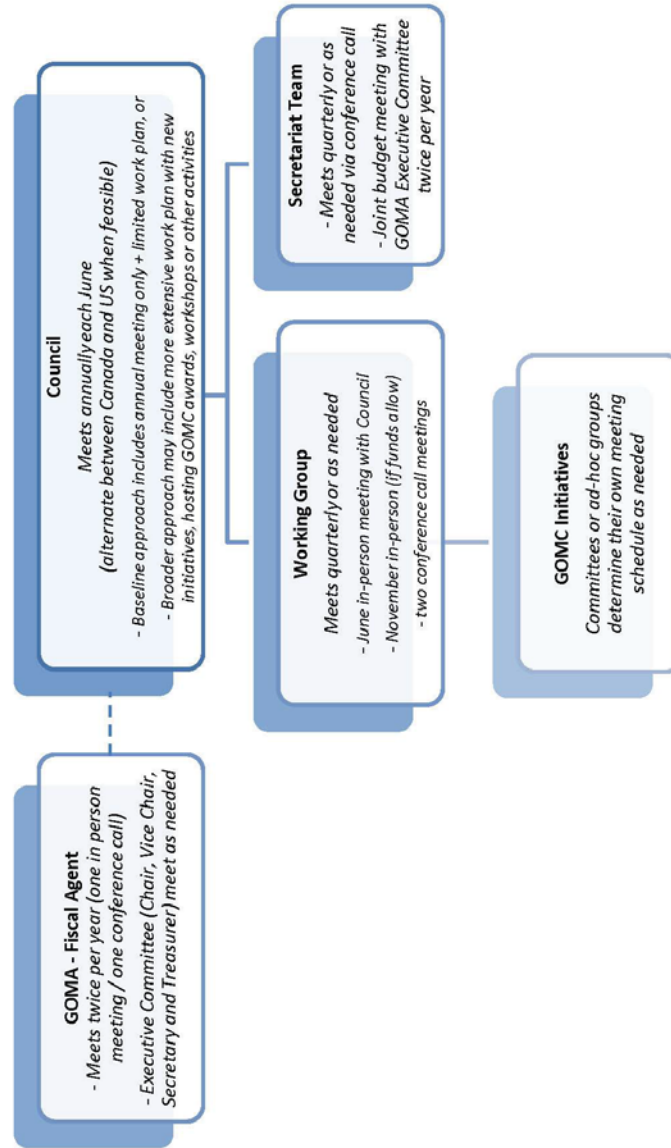
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Leadership (Who?)



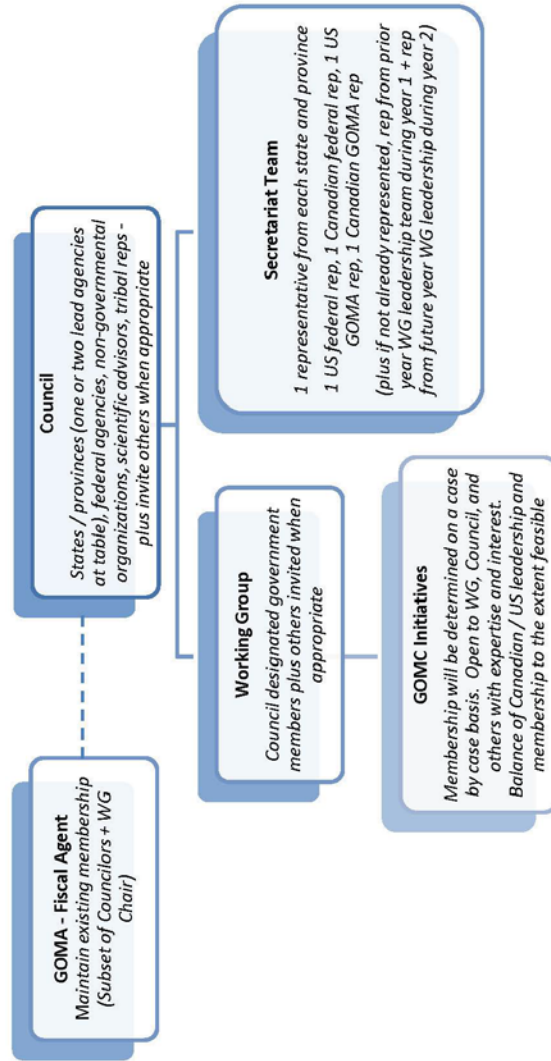
Gulf of Maine Council  
DRAFT – Proposed Framework

Two-Year Leadership Cycle  
Simplified 2-Year Work Plan (Retain Goals and Outcomes of 5-Year Action Plan)



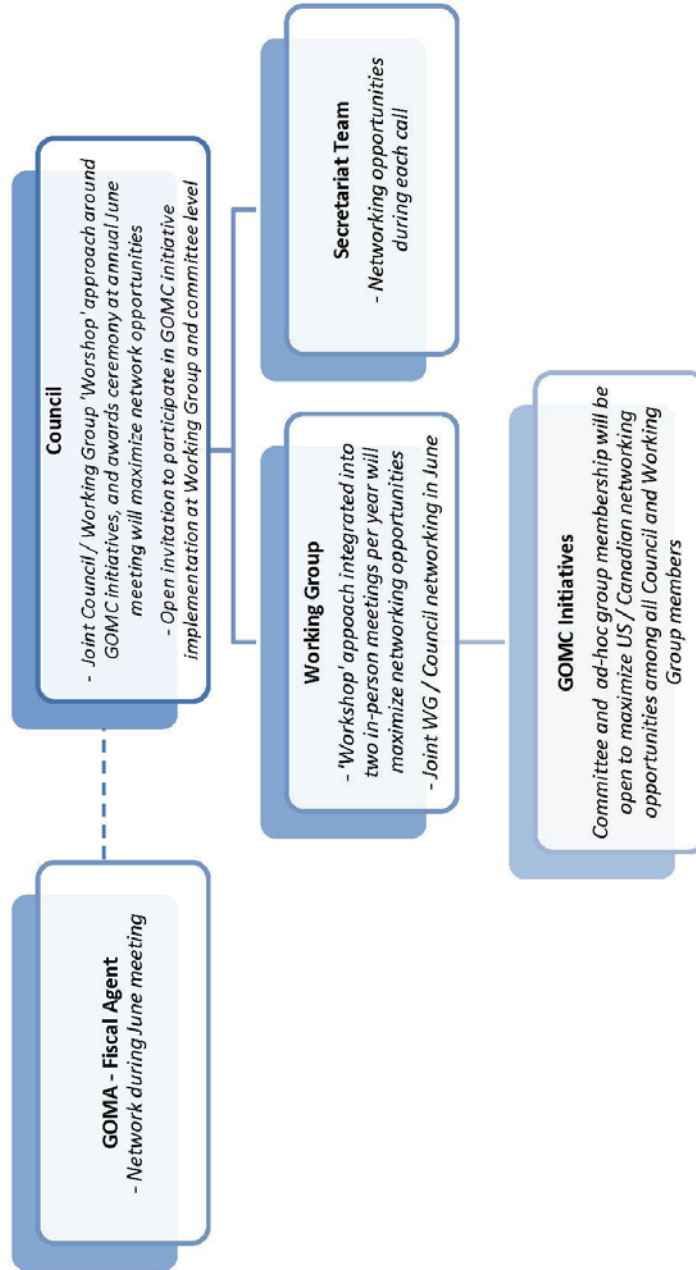
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Membership / Participants



Gulf of Maine Council  
DRAFT – Proposed Framework

Networking Approach



<b>DRAFT GOMC Proposed Framework - Key Highlights as Compared to Existing Framework</b>
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**Leadership**

- States and provinces maintain primary leadership role, while gaining the flexibility (if they so choose) to invite Canadian or US federal agency or jurisdictional agency (from the same jurisdiction) to share leadership and / or management tasks by co-chairing or other less formal arrangement. Jurisdictions also have the option of inviting NGOs to collaborate during the leadership year (but not as official co-chairs).
  - Provides opportunity to reduce management burden on jurisdictions
  - Would increase work load for federal partners agencies if they accept co-leadership role
- Extend leadership term from one to two years
  - Enhances productivity by reducing number of transitions
  - Would result in four year period without Canadian leadership at end of rotation cycle

**2-Year Work Plans (Retain Goals and Outcomes of 5-Year Action Plan)**

- Broad vision, goals and outcomes included in the 2012-2017 Action Plan would be reaffirmed at June 2015 meeting and provide foundation for more detailed two-year work plan
- Aligns work plans with leadership terms
- Simplifies work plans to focus on GOMC priority work during two-year term
- Allows for work plans that focus on realistic tasks that can be achieved with limited funding within the two year leadership cycle
- Aligning work plans with leadership terms will ensure that leadership team is committed to GOMC planned activities during their two-year period
- Revised form allows flexibility for shifting GOMC functions and priorities to be revisited at the outset of each leadership period

**Simplified Structure**

- GOMC would maintain a minimal baseline approach where Council and Working Group would meet in-person on an annual basis
- Depending upon funding, priorities and preference during the leadership period, GOMC may develop and implement a broader work plan that includes GOMC awards, workshops, and / or other Gulf of Maine Council initiatives
- Secretariat Team will serve as an executive committee to the Working Group and / or a liaison between GOMA and the Council
  - Management and Finance Committee would be eliminated
  - Management and Finance responsibilities would be taken on by Secretariat Team
  - Internal management structure would be simplified, reducing demands on leadership and contractors
- GOMA (US Association of Delegates + Canadian Association of Delegates) would continue to act as fiscal agent - managing budget, finance and fund development for GOMC initiatives
  - Will continue to provide fiscal structure to apply for grant funds as needed
  - GOMA role could be scalable once NROC project is complete

- Meeting schedule would be simplified
  - Reduce Council in-person meetings to once per year
  - Limit Working Group meetings to a maximum of two in-person and two conference call meetings per year
  - Council and Working Group meetings would be combined where appropriate to promote networking and efficiency
  - Secretariat Team would meet only 'as needed' (usually not more than quarterly)

#### **Council and Working Group Membership**

- Add flexibility to Council and Working Group membership
  - A state or province may choose either one or two agencies to represent them on the Council
  - Jurisdictions may choose to:
    - Have Council member designate an agency manager to serve on the Working Group, or
    - Agency may designate one representative to serve on both the Council and Working Group if the manager is at a high enough level to ensure agency 'buy-in' for decision making
- Guests may be invited to Council and / or Working Group meetings whenever additional expertise at the table is needed

#### **Secretariat Team Membership**

- Secretariat Team will be chaired by Working Group Chair or Co-Chairs for the leadership cycle
- Membership of the Secretariat Team will include:
  - 1 representative designated by each state and province
  - 1 federal representative from each country
  - 1 GOMA representative from each country
  - Plus, if not already represented, prior year WG leadership during Year 1, and incoming WG leadership (once identified) during Year 2

#### **Gulf of Maine Initiatives**

- Make GOMC committees more flexible / less formal
  - Committees or ad-hoc groups will be convened as needed to support Gulf of Maine initiatives and disbanded when no longer needed
  - US / Canadian co-chairs will be in place where possible but committees can still function as long as they have one active chair

#### **Networking Approach**

- Council and WG meetings will be organized to promote active exchange of ideas, knowledge, and strategies for addressing key Gulf of Maine priorities
- Council and Working Group will have joint workshops / collaborative sessions whenever feasible
- Committees will be open to all Council, Working Group and others with expertise and interest
- Council has flexibility to utilize a portion of annual meeting to host a workshop or other networking event that would encompass a broader audience



**Scenario 2: GOMC Framework – Baseline Approach\***

GOMC Activity	2015			Year 1 – 2015 / 2016				Year 2 – 2016 / 2017			
	April	May	June	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Council</b>			x				x				x
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meets in June 2015 and 2017 with WG for networking purposes and to develop / approve two-year work plan</li> <li>Meets in June 2016 with WG for networking purposes + brief work plan check-in if needed</li> </ul>											
<b>Working Group</b>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meets no more than quarterly for networking opportunities and to coordinate implementation of GOMC initiatives. June in-person meeting is held jointly with Council. No more than 1 in-person meeting per year.</li> </ul>											
<b>GOMC Initiatives</b>		x								x	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing active GOMC committees (initiatives) submit two year work plans (these are <u>not</u> funding requests but rather fully funded / or in-kind supported initiatives)</li> <li>Council identifies GOMC initiatives with cross-jurisdictional benefit to be supported as part of GOMC two-year work plan</li> <li>Ongoing approved GOMC initiatives are implemented throughout the year according to their own schedules</li> </ul>			x							x	x
<b>Secretariat Team</b>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meets quarterly or as needed to coordinate GOMC (conf. calls)</li> </ul>											
<b>GOMA – Fiscal Agent Role</b>			x		x		x		x		x
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GOMA Board meets in person in June + 1 conference call meeting. GOMA level of effort is scaled in proportion to GOMC initiatives. Executive Committee meets as needed.</li> </ul>											

\* Please note: Because proposed GOMC framework allows flexibility, leadership team can adjust baseline approach according to resources and capabilities anticipated during their leadership cycle.

### Two-Year Leadership Scenarios

#### Proposed Order of Jurisdictional Leadership: New Hampshire, New Brunswick, Maine, Nova Scotia, Massachusetts

- Each two year leadership period will be led by a jurisdiction.
- During their leadership period, jurisdictions may choose to invite a Canadian or US federal agency to co-chair or assist with GOMC management in a less formal manner. Jurisdictions may also choose to invite NGOs to collaborate (but not co-chair) during the leadership period.
- The GOMC proposed framework allows for a flexible leadership approach to accommodate jurisdictional and federal preferences, management capacity, and resources.
- While each of the five jurisdictions continues to commit to act in a leadership role, federal agency participation as co-leaders is optional.

**Federal Partner Agencies:** Because federal participation in a leadership role is optional, there is no formal order of rotation. However, it is assumed that jurisdictions will communicate with federal partner agencies and federal partners will rotate evenly to the extent that resources and political priorities allow. To the extent feasible, federal co-chairs will be current GOMC Council members. **(US Federal Agencies: NOAA, EPA, DOI / Canadian Federal Agencies: EC, DFO)**

#### Scenario for Existing Active GOMC Initiative (Example - ESIIP)

ESIP Activity	2015			Year 1 – 2015 / 2016				Year 2 – 2016 / 2017			
	April	May	June	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
ESIP prepares and submits template highlighting expected activities that will take place during two year leadership period	x									x	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Template will be provided by Council Coordinator</li> <li>• Proposed work plan should include secured or committed funding and / or in-kind support for proposed activities</li> </ul>											
Council supports proposed two-year work plan for ESIIP as part of overall GOMC planned activities for the leadership period			x								x
ESIP provides brief update regarding work plan accomplishments							x				x
ESIP implements program initiatives according to their own schedule and needs throughout the two-year leadership period				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

<b>Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note</b>				
<b>Title of Agenda Item:</b> Developing GOMC Two-Year Work Plan				
<b>Submitted by:</b> Steve Couture and Joan LeBlanc				
<b>Type of Item</b> (place X in appropriate box)	<b>For Decision</b>	x	<b>For Direction</b>	x
<b>For Information</b> (internal GOMC)		<b>For Information</b> (External)		
<p><b>Background</b> (required):</p> <p><b><u>GOMC 2012-2017 Action Plan</u></b></p> <p>As part of the proposed GOMC Framework, the Council Advisory Committee recommended that the goals and outcomes developed in the 2012-2017 GOMC Action Plan (noted below) be reaffirmed at the June 2015 meeting and provide the foundation for a detailed two-year work plan.</p> <p><i>Goal 1: Restored &amp; Conserved Habitats</i></p> <p><i>Outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Water Quality Protection</li> <li>1.2 Habitat Restoration Outcome</li> <li>1.3 Habitat Conservation</li> </ul> <p><i>Goal 2: Environmental &amp; Human Health</i></p> <p><i>Outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Environmental Monitoring</li> <li>2.2 Environmental Indicators and Reporting</li> <li>2.3 Climate Adaptation</li> </ul> <p><i>Goal 3: Sustainable Communities</i></p> <p><i>Outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Understanding How People Use the Gulf of Maine</li> <li>3.2 Community Stewardship</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Proposed Two-Year Work Plans for GOMC Initiatives</u></b></p> <p>In advance of the June 2015 meeting, Council and Working Group members were asked to prepare proposed two-year work plans for new and existing Gulf of Maine Council initiatives. Proposed work plans are intended to support the goals and outcomes in the 2012-2017 Action Plan. These work plans will be presented for discussion and consideration in a workshop format at the June 2015 meeting. Council and Working Group will also have the option of setting aside a portion of the workshop to brainstorm around any additional new ideas.</p> <p><b><u>GOMC Priority Types of Work</u></b></p> <p>As a reminder, during the June 2014 Council meeting, GOMC identified the following two highest priority types of work that GOMC should continue to focus on within the framework of a streamlined organization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Networking / Multi-jurisdictional Collaboration and Facilitation</li> <li>2. Sharing Resources / Best Practices / Capacity Building (regional or jurisdictional)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Preparation of Overall GOMC Two-Year Work Plan</u></b></p> <p>Following decisions and direction provided during the June 2015 meeting, project leads will incorporate feedback, and Council Coordinator will consolidate approved plans for GOMC initiatives into one overarching GOMC two-year work plan for the period July 2015 through June 2017.</p>				

**Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested:**

- Council and Working Group members are asked to reaffirm the goals and outcomes of the 2012-2017 GOMC Action Plan.
- Council and Working Group will participate in workshop to learn about and provide feedback on proposed two-year work plans for new and existing Gulf of Maine Council initiatives.
- If time permits, Council and Working Group members are welcome to set aside a portion of time during the workshop to develop new GOMC work plan initiatives for consideration.
- Council and Working Group are asked to support proposed two-year work plans for inclusion in the overall GOMC two-year work plan.

**Supporting Documentation** (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):

The following proposed two-year work plans will be considered at the June 2015 meeting\*:

- Climate Network, *p. 33*
- EcoSystem Indicator Partnership, *pp. 34-36*
- Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, *p. 37*
- Gulfwatch, *pp. 38-39*
- State of the Gulf of Maine – Watershed Status Paper, *p. 40*
- GOMC Awards Program, *p. 41*
- Sustainable Communities, *p. 42*
- GOMC Outreach Projects, *p. 43*
- Capitalizing on Existing GOMC Efforts, *p. 44*

*\* Any additional proposed work plans submitted will be circulated in advance of the June 17-18 meeting.*

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Proposed Two Year Work Plan – July 2015 through June 2017					
<b>Name of GOMC Initiative:</b> Climate Network					
<b>GOMC Project Lead (s):</b> Ellen Mecray and Bill Appleby, Co-Chairs					
Links to 2012-2017 Action Plan Goals and Outcomes					
Goal 1: Restored & Conserved Habitats		Goal 2: Environmental & Human Health		Goal 3: Sustainable Communities	
<b>Outcomes:</b>		<b>Outcomes:</b>		<b>Outcomes:</b>	
1.1 Water Quality Protection	x	2.1 Environmental Monitoring		3.1 Understanding How People Use the Gulf of Maine	
1.2 Habitat Restoration Outcome	x	2.2 Environmental Indicators and Reporting	x	3.2 Community Stewardship	x
1.3 Habitat Conservation	x	2.3 Climate Adaptation	x		
<b>Description:</b> <p><i><b>Mission:</b></i> In support of greater climate resilience and adaptability in communities throughout the Gulf of Maine watershed, the Climate Network fosters sharing of professional knowledge and resources and coordinated regional responses.</p> <p>The Gulf of Maine Council's Climate Network plays a significant role in four primary ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compiling and promoting (across sectors and borders) accurate information about likely climate impacts within the region;</li> <li>2. Identifying critical data gaps and convening regional experts to determine how to most efficiently gather and disseminate that information;</li> <li>3. Engaging citizens in tracking the impacts of climate change and transmitting those data to the municipal and regional managers who can best use that information to strengthen community resilience; and</li> <li>4. Catalyzing more coordinated and efficient approaches to adaptation by disseminating successful strategies and models.</li> </ol> <p>Climate Network projects are typically grant-funded and rely on an expert "working group" that is assembled for each initiative.</p> <p><b>Key Milestones Years 1 and 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand distribution of <a href="#">Gulf of Maine Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook</a> and related media outreach; publicize webinars held in conjunction with the <i>Outlook</i> release each quarter; and promote the availability of the Climate Network's new <a href="#">dashboard</a> of real-time data.</li> <li>• In collaboration with wildlife biologists, hydrologists and transportation engineers, create online guidance (following a regional workshop on tidal culverts) to help coastal communities improve design and engineering standards for coastal roads and tidal road crossings in ways that improve habitat and minimize impacts of sea-level rise and intense storm events. <i>(requires additional resources)</i></li> <li>• Through a collaborative, cross-border initiative, create a web-based tool offering improved access to Intensity/Duration/Frequency (IDF) extreme rainfall data, helping environmental managers and municipal planners in Atlantic Canada better prepare for climate impacts.</li> <li>• Continue coordinating the Gulf of Maine King Tides Initiative and annual photo contest, which generates inundation images from extreme tides to use for planning and educational purposes.</li> <li>• Respond to funding opportunities for projects involving collaborative, regional responses to extreme weather and its impacts on sectors such as health, transportation and natural resources.</li> <li>• Lead regional pilot overlaying climate data and health data to enable better management of vulnerable populations in extreme heat and weather events. <i>(requires additional resources)</i></li> </ul>					
<b>Project Funding (Amount and Sources):</b> Secured to date Environment Canada: \$105,806 Maine Community Foundation: \$7,000					
<b>Project Partners</b> GOMC members, Northeast Regional Climate Center, IC Net, North American Land Conservation Collaborative, NROC, GOM King Tides Partners, King Tides Network, funders.					
<b>Supporting Documentation:</b> <i>(If applicable, list additional documents included with this 1 page Work Plan proposal)</i>					

<b>Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment</b> <b>Proposed Two Year Work Plan – July 2015 through June 2017</b>					
<b>Name of GOMC Initiative:</b> EcoSystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP)					
<b>GOMC Project Lead (s):</b> <b>Co-Chaired by:</b> Environment Canada and US Environmental Protection Agency <b>Direction Provided by (Steering Committee):</b> Environment Canada, Fisheries & Oceans Canada, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, University of Maine, US Department of Interior, US Geological Survey and US Environmental Protection Agency					
<b>Links to 2012-2017 Action Plan Goals and Outcomes</b> <i>Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</i>					
<b>Goal 1: Restored &amp; Conserved Habitats</b>		<b>Goal 2: Environmental &amp; Human Health</b>		<b>Goal 3: Sustainable Communities</b>	
<b>Outcomes:</b>		<b>Outcomes:</b>		<b>Outcomes:</b>	
1.1 Water Quality Protection	X	2.1 Environmental Monitoring	X	3.1 Understanding How People Use the Gulf of Maine	X
1.2 Habitat Restoration Outcome		2.2 Environmental Indicators and Reporting	X	3.2 Community Stewardship	X
1.3 Habitat Conservation		2.3 Climate Adaptation			
<b>Description:</b> <p>As a cross-cutting committee, ESIP supports all three goals of the current 2012-2017 GOMC Action Plan, although the primary focus is Goal 2, Outcome 2.2. ESIP works closely with other current GOMC Committees to integrate and share information.</p> <p>ESIP was established as a cross-cutting committee of the GOMC to address the regionally identified need for stronger collaboration and information sharing to improve understanding and inform researchers, managers, and citizens about the status and trends in ecosystem health in the Gulf of Maine through the use of indicators. In addition, ESIP supports more informed management decisions by addressing issues to maintain ecosystem health. ESIP engages and draws on expertise from scientists, managers, academics, practitioners and interested organizations, and citizens from multiple sectors in both Canada and the U.S. ESIP works collaboratively to compile existing monitoring data and scientific information from a variety of sources, including government, citizen science groups, academics, and other non-profits. ESIP then integrates the information into a one-stop, on-line location or “environmental intelligence centre” which provides a local to regional picture of on-going monitoring activities and status and trends in habitat, water quality, climate change, human use, and overall ecosystem health in the Gulf of Maine. It also identifies gaps in monitoring and data, and works in partnership with other existing organizations to fill these gaps.</p> <p>ESIP is guided by GOMC Action Plans and by a Vision 2020 Strategic Plan. ESIP activities supporting these plans are determined by the ESIP Steering Committee and are outlined in an 18-month work plan. ESIP is currently wrapping up its 2013-2015 18 month work plan. The focus of that work plan was completing ESIP 1.0 and developing a direction and focus for ESIP 2.0. <b>The ESIP Steering Committee will be holding its annual face-to-face meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup> in Portsmouth to discuss on-going activities and its new 18 month work plan.</b></p>					

**On-going:**

ESIP 2.0 Development

The initial phase of ESIP, or ESIP 1.0, is nearing completion. Indicator data and information have been compiled, analysed, and disseminated through ESIP's on-line web tools, fact sheets, and direct engagement with users for 6 of ESIP's original 7 indicator themes – aquatic habitats, aquaculture, climate change, coastal development, contaminants, and eutrophication. ESIP is currently finishing work on the last indicator theme: fisheries. ESIP is now turning to the next phase, ESIP 2.0. A Directional Subcommittee was established, with participants from different federal agencies and academics in both Canada and the U.S. This subcommittee recommended that ESIP 2.0 enhance information and interpretation of ecosystem health through the use of more holistic, ecosystem services indicators to bring together ESIP 1.0 indicators and effects on ecosystem health and services. In particular, ESIP 2.0 will focus on new indicators that improve understanding on the status and trends of cultural, regulation, and provisioning services.

Water Quality and Sediment Monitoring

As a result of ESIP's efforts to compile monitoring and indicator data from Canada and the U.S., monitoring and data gaps are often identified. As part of compiling eutrophication and contaminant indicator data, it was identified that information regarding water quality and sediment chemistry was needed for the Canadian portion of the Gulf of Maine. Through collaboration with EC's Gulf of Maine Initiative and in partnership with Canadian NGOs, a water quality and sediment quality monitoring project was developed and is being implemented to address the gaps.

Linking Watershed Activities and Downstream Conditions

ESIP and EPA's Office of Research and Development have undertaken a new watershed project that aims to link upstream activities and downstream estuarine conditions. The study area encompasses Long Island Sound to the Annapolis River, Nova Scotia. The project combines and updates data on the embayments previously analyzed by ESIP's Eutrophication Sub-Committee with datasets from other partners.

ICUC App

To raise awareness and provide easy access to information on monitoring activities in the Gulf of Maine, and to engage citizen scientists in tracking ecosystem changes over time, ESIP is developing a Smartphone App. The ICUC App will allow the user to obtain information from the ESIP Monitoring Map, which currently contains information on 14,000 monitoring locations in the Gulf of Maine. It will also allow the user to upload information and georeferenced, time-stamped, images which will become part of a photo library to help show environmental change over time.

Web Tool Updates:

ESIP's web-based Indicator Reporting Tool is a primary mechanism for ESIP to compile and disseminate information on indicators and ecosystem change in the Gulf of Maine. The Indicator Reporting Tool database was originally designed and developed by DM Solutions and the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS) in 2007-2008 and migrated to the Gulf of Maine Council's servers in 2008-2009. The original database and web presence were designed and developed for a different purpose than today and the current model should be improved to more effectively and efficiently support ESIP and its Community of Practice. In 2012, the ESIP Monitoring Map, ESIP's mechanism for compiling and conveying monitoring information in the Gulf of Maine, was successfully redesigned and redeveloped to make it simpler, faster, and more user friendly. The intent is to conduct a similar redesign and redevelopment of the Indicator Reporting Tool to achieve similar results.

**New:**

- ESIP2.0 Implementation: Indicator development, collection and analysis of data
- Web Tool Updates: Yellahoos proposal
- Other: To be discussed at ESIP Steering Committee meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>

**Key Milestones YR1:**

Complete all ESIP 1.0 indicators including updates for theme areas that were finished several years ago (aquaculture, habitats, and climate change).

**Key Milestones YR2:**

Actively engage the ESIP community to bring together new “theme” subcommittee for ESIP 2.0

**Project Funding (Amount and Sources):**

**On-going:**

**Direct project costs for 2015-2016 Fiscal Year**

\$68,745 USD USGS

\$8,993 USD EC Atlantic Ecosystem Initiative

\$21,175 CAN EC Atlantic Ecosystem Initiative

**New:**

ESIP 2.0 Implementation - funds required (cash, in-kind)

Web Tool Updates – funds required (cash, in-kind)

Other – funds required (cash, in-kind)

**Project Partners:**

- General ESIP Partners: (48 Canada, 126 US)
- ESIP 2.0 Development: (3 Canada, 7 US)
- Water Quality and Sediment Monitoring : (4 Canada, 5 US)
- Linking Watershed Activities and Downstream Conditions :(0 Canada, 2 US)
- ICUC App :(2 Canada, 4 US)

**Supporting Documentation:** *(If applicable, list additional documents included with this 1 page Work Plan proposal)*

<b>Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment</b> <b>Proposed Two Year Work Plan – July 2015 through June 2017</b>			
<b>Name of GOMC Initiative:</b> Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning			
<b>GOMC Project Lead (s):</b> NOAA (Betsy Nicholson) and DFO Maritimes (Glen Herbert)			
<b>Links to 2012-2017 Action Plan Goals and Outcomes</b> <i>Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</i>			
Goal 1: Restored & Conserved Habitats	Goal 2: Environmental & Human Health	Goal 3: Sustainable Communities	
<b>Outcomes:</b> 1.1 Water Quality Protection 1.2 Habitat Restoration Outcome 1.3 Habitat Conservation	<b>Outcomes:</b> 2.1 Environmental Monitoring 2.2 Environmental Indicators and Reporting 2.3 Climate Adaptation	<b>Outcomes:</b> 3.1 Understanding How People Use the Gulf of Maine 3.2 Community Stewardship	x
<p><b>Description:</b></p> <p>The CMSP Committee was established to share ideas, lessons learned and information from marine planning initiatives across the Gulf of Maine. It also provides advice to the Council on appropriate opportunities for Council participation or support in these initiatives. There are currently many initiatives of various scales occurring on both sides of the border that committee members are actively involved in. While the primary objectives of these initiatives are often local they often require similar information needs, share common approaches and principles and require regional collaboration to address some issues. The CMSP committee provides an excellent mechanism to share information but also to carry out a regional level assessment of opportunities for collaborations that would benefit the entire Gulf of Maine “community”.</p> <p><b>Key Milestones YR1:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regular email and conference call discussions to               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. share information on the progress of current initiatives;</li> <li>1.2. identify and prioritize areas that could benefit from collaboration or shared experience; and</li> <li>1.3. develop recommendations for Gulf of Maine Council’s involvement in marine planning activities in Canada and US.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Annual workshop (in-person or virtual) to explore opportunities for future collaboration, exchange information on current initiatives and identify opportunities for Gulf of Maine Council involvement.</li> </ol> <p><b>Key Milestones YR2:</b></p> <p>Similar to YR1.</p>			
<p><b>Project Funding (Amount and Sources):</b></p> <p>In-kind staff support provided by NOAA and DFO Maritimes. If funding is required for hosting of workshop this will be organized by sponsoring organizations.</p>			
<p><b>Project Leads:</b> NOAA and DFO Maritimes.</p>			
<p><b>Participating Partners:</b> State of Massachusetts, State of Maine, Province of Nova Scotia, Conservation Law Foundation, NOAA, Urban Harbors Institute, DFO, WWF Canada.</p>			
<p><b>Supporting Documentation:</b> <i>(If applicable, list additional documents included with this 1 page Work Plan proposal)</i></p> <p>Current CMSP Committee Terms of Reference (available on GOMC website)</p>			

<b>Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment</b> <b>Proposed Two Year Work Plan – July 2015 through June 2017</b>			
<b>Name of GOMC Initiative:</b> Gulfwatch (Gulfwatch Contaminants Monitoring) – Goal 2			
<b>GOMC Project Lead (s):</b> Drs. P. G. Wells, C. Krahforst, S. Jones and J. Swartz			
<b>Links to 2012-2017 Action Plan Goals and Outcomes</b> <i>Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</i>			
Goal 1: Restored & Conserved Habitats	Goal 2: Environmental & Human Health	Goal 3: Sustainable Communities	
<b>Outcomes:</b> 1.1 Water Quality Protection 1.2 Habitat Restoration Outcome 1.3 Habitat Conservation	<b>Outcomes:</b> 2.1 Environmental Monitoring      x 2.2 Environmental Indicators      x and Reporting 2.3 Climate Adaptation	<b>Outcomes:</b> 3.1 Understanding How People Use the Gulf of Maine 3.2 Community Stewardship	
<b>Description:</b> 1. Evaluate status of and feasibility of continuing the Gulfwatch Program, which has been running since 1991. Include NERACOOS in this discussion. 2. Review 2012 metals analyses, and deliver data to ESIP. 3. Prepare RARGOM poster. 4. Prepare for presentation at SETAC 2015. Salt Lake City.			
<b>Key Milestones YR1:</b> 1. The program is re-funded by the GOMC partners. 2. Updated complete GW data set available. 3. Presentations at RARGOM and SETAC, and other venues as opportunities occur.			
<b>Key Milestones YR2:</b> 1. Unknown			
<b>Project Funding (Amount and Sources):</b> For the new FY, there is none in place as of May 2015.			
<b>Project Partners:</b> All of the agencies represented by the current GOMC Working Group			
<b>Supporting Documentation:</b> <i>(If applicable, list additional documents included with this 1 page Work Plan proposal)</i>  A Briefing Note on the following page provides background associated with the request for GOMC to discuss the role of Gulfwatch in Goal 2 of the current GOMC Action Plan, and its critical linkages to other parts of this goal, and to evaluate the status of and feasibility of continuing the Gulfwatch Program.  The following two reference documents have been posted with the meeting materials and are available at: <a href="http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-meetings/">http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-meetings/</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper by Sarah Chamberlain. <u>Developing and implementing a research framework to determine the use and influence of a long-term marine environmental monitoring program: A Case Study on Gulfwatch in Nova Scotia.</u> (128 pages)</li> <li>• Gulfwatch Bibliography by Chamberlain and Wells</li> </ul>			

<b>Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment</b> <b>Meeting Briefing Note</b>				
<b>Title of Agenda Item:</b> Goal 2 (Action Plan 2012-17) – Gulfwatch - Contaminants Monitoring (GCMSC)				
<b>Submitted by:</b> P.G.Wells, C. Krahforst, S. Jones and J. Swartz (written by Wells)				
<b>Type of Item</b> (place X in appropriate box)	<b>For Decision</b>	x	<b>For Direction</b>	x
			<b>For Information</b> (internal GOMC)	<b>For Information</b> (External)
<b>Background</b> (required):				
<p>The Gulfwatch monitoring program has been a core element of the GOMC Action Plan since 1991. It is part of the current Action Plan, 2012-17, Goal 2, an action plan still partially in effect. Its many results have been used nationally, especially amongst the GOMC partner jurisdictions, and internationally; it has given the whole GOMC program credibility and continuity; and its results have contributed to important GOMC initiatives such as the Gulf SOE reports/theme papers, ESIP, and innumerable summit conferences and workshops. Several of the jurisdictions, notably the US ones, depend upon its annual data and the overall knowledge of the spatial and temporal trends of chemical contamination in the Gulf. Knowledge of marine tissue contamination has important human health, ecosystem health, and economic implications. Responsible ocean managers want to know what is in their seafood, what may be affecting marine organisms such as cetaceans, birds and various ecosystems, and whether our regulatory and other control efforts have been effective at controlling harmful substances. They should worry about the continual presence of DDT residues and other pesticides in Gulf waters. They should welcome having background data on PAHs, essential for interpreting the fate and effects of future coastal oil spills.</p> <p>Gulfwatch is the longest running monitoring program for toxic substances in the region, something to celebrate. Despite this, Gulfwatch has continually had to defend itself within the GOMC circle against those who would prefer the Council not to be running credible, flagship scientific programs; it has been degraded as a program due to continual shortage of funding for analyses (despite good efforts of several persons) and no funds for coordination; and it depends on volunteers as much as on salaried staff to carry out its mission. After 24 years, the Gulfwatch team is suffering fatigue; unless funding can be found quickly, it is proposing to close the program down. Importantly, its data and papers will continue to show how exposed the GOM is to harmful toxic substances, and with how little seriousness the various jurisdictions are taking the risks of chemical exposure to human and ecosystem health. The credibility of the Council's work will take a severe hit as a result, despite its first 25 years of relative success.</p>				
<b>Possible Activities / Next Steps</b> (optional):				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss the role of Gulfwatch in Goal 2 of the current Action Plan, and its critical linkages to other parts of this goal – e.g. ESIP, SOE reporting, aquatic resource protection, climate change.</li> <li>2. Evaluate status of and feasibility of continuing the Gulfwatch Program. Include NERACOOS in this discussion.</li> </ol>				
<b>Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested</b> (optional):				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Decide whether or not the Council wishes to continue a Gulfwatch chemical monitoring program.</li> <li>2. If not, approve the closure of the program, the storage or disposal of its data and information assets, as well as the movement or closure of the Gulfwatch Tissues Archives (currently at BIO-DFO).</li> </ol>				
<b>Supporting Documentation</b> (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):				
See links to reference documents included with proposed Work Plan on previous page.				

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Proposed Two Year Work Plan – July 2015 through June 2017							
Name of GOMC Initiative: Watershed Status theme paper: State of the Gulf of Maine Report							
GOMC Project Lead (s): editor: Heather Breeze (Fisheries and Oceans Canada), lead authors: Glenn Benoy (International Joint Commission), Matt Liebman (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)							
Links to 2012-2017 Action Plan Goals and Outcomes <i>Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</i>							
Goal 1: Restored & Conserved Habitats		Goal 2: Environmental & Human Health		Goal 3: Sustainable Communities			
Outcomes: 1.1 Water Quality Protection 1.2 Habitat Restoration Outcome 1.3 Habitat Conservation		Outcomes: 2.1 Environmental Monitoring 2.2 Environmental Indicators and Reporting 2.3 Climate Adaptation		Outcomes: 3.1 Understanding How People Use the Gulf of Maine 3.2 Community Stewardship			
		x					
Description:							
The project leads will complete the final State of the Gulf of Maine theme paper on Watershed Status. All other papers were completed more than a year ago and can be found on the State of the Gulf of Maine website. The State of the Gulf of Maine Committee has ended and no other initiatives will be taken related to the State of the Gulf of Maine for the two-year GOMC work plan.							
A draft of the paper has been completed but needs more work before full review. The paper follows the same format as the other State of the Gulf theme papers (Issue in Brief, Driving Forces and Pressures, Status and Trends, Impacts, Actions and Responses). A poster on the paper was presented at the New England Association of Environmental Biologists (NEAEB) meeting in Bartlett, NH in March, and there is interest in this work from groups around the Gulf of Maine (e.g., Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, Environment Canada).							
Key Milestones YR1:							
Draft paper for editorial review: September 1, 2015							
Paper for Working Group and Council Review: October 7, 2015							
Paper sent for layout and design: November 16, 2015							
Final paper posted to website: December 20, 2015							
Key Milestones YR2:							
Project Funding (Amount and Sources):							
In-kind support for writing (authors above plus Eric Luiker, Environment Canada), map preparation (Greg Hellyer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) and editing (Heather Breeze, DFO and Anne Donovan, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management). Support is anticipated (to be confirmed) for the costs of layout and design, approximately \$1500 US. Project is not seeking funds from Council.							
Project Partners:							
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, International Joint Commission, Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management							
Supporting Documentation: (If applicable, list additional documents included with this 1 page Work Plan proposal)							
More information on the State of the Gulf of Maine can be found on the GOMC website:							
<a href="http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/sogom-homepage/">http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/sogom-homepage/</a>							

<b>Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment</b> <b>Proposed Two Year Work Plan – July 2015 through June 2017</b>			
<b>Name of GOMC Initiative:</b> GOMC Awards Program			
<b>GOMC Project Lead (s):</b> Steve Couture, Theresa Torrent, Joan LeBlanc			
<b>Links to 2012-2017 Action Plan Goals and Outcomes</b> <i>Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</i>			
Goal 1: Restored & Conserved Habitats	Goal 2: Environmental & Human Health	Goal 3: Sustainable Communities	
<b>Outcomes:</b> 1.1 Water Quality Protection 1.2 Habitat Restoration Outcome 1.3 Habitat Conservation	<b>Outcomes:</b> 2.1 Environmental Monitoring 2.2 Environmental Indicators and Reporting 2.3 Climate Adaptation	<b>Outcomes:</b> 3.1 Understanding How People Use the Gulf of Maine 3.2 Community Stewardship	x
<b>Description:</b>  <p>The Gulf of Maine Council will host an annual awards program to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of volunteers, environmental professionals, communities, non-government organizations, and industry in promoting a healthy Gulf of Maine ecosystem.</p> <p><b>Key Milestones YR1:</b> Host awards program in June 2016 in collaboration with GOMC June meetings.</p> <p><b>Key Milestones YR2:</b> Host awards program in June 2017 in collaboration with GOMC June meetings.</p>			
<b>Project Funding (Amount and Sources):</b> <p>Funding of \$2,000 for awards and associated in-kind staff time will be provided through the Maine Coastal Program. Additional staffing support from Council Coordinator or other source will be required for coordination and outreach. Project leads will ensure that appropriate support is available before moving forward with a call for nominations.</p>			
<b>Project Partners:</b> <p>GOMC Council and Working Group</p>			
<b>Supporting Documentation:</b> <i>(If applicable, list additional documents included with this 1 page Work Plan proposal)</i>			

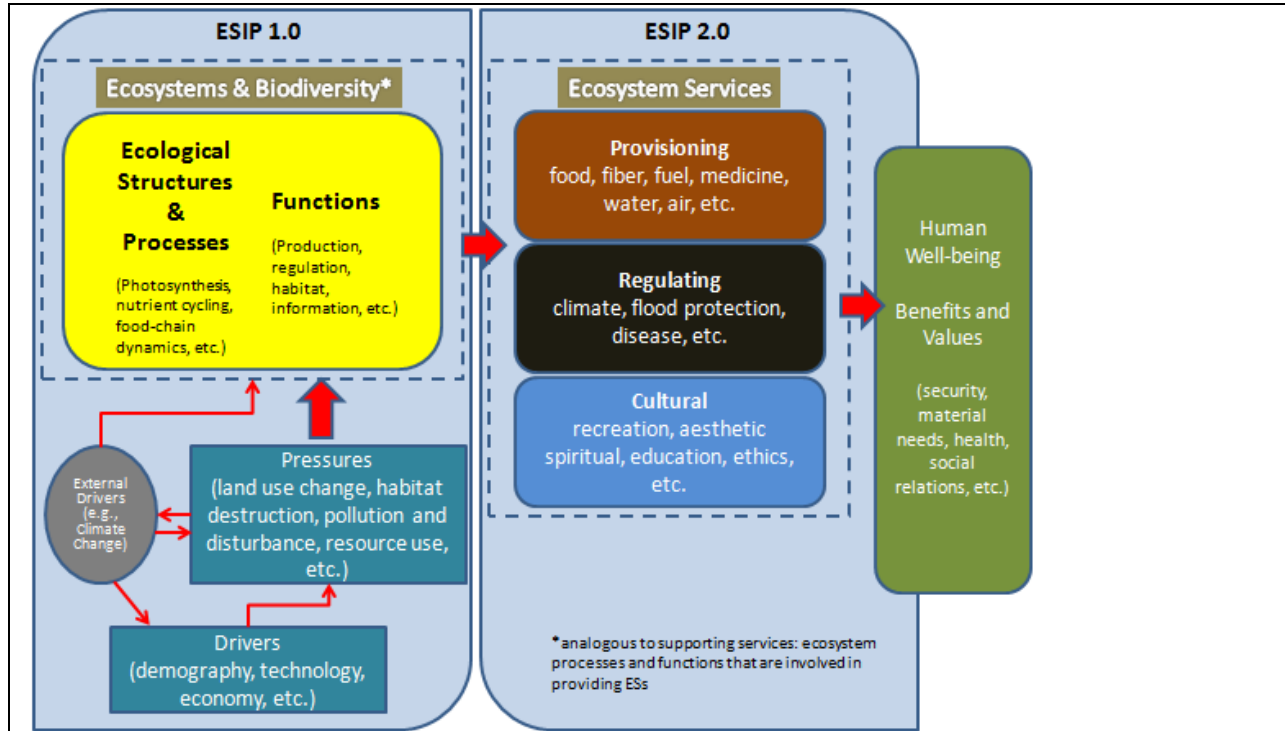
## June 17-18, 2015 • Council / Working Group Meeting • Briefing Book

<b>Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment</b> <b>Proposed Two Year Work Plan – July 2015 through June 2017</b>				
<b>Name of GOMC Initiative:</b> Sustainable Communities				
<b>GOMC Project Lead (s):</b> Theresa Torrent				
<b>Links to 2012-2017 Action Plan Goals and Outcomes</b> <i>Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</i>				
<b>Goal 1: Restored &amp; Conserved Habitats</b>		<b>Goal 2: Environmental &amp; Human Health</b>		<b>Goal 3: Sustainable Communities</b>
<b>Outcomes:</b> 1.1 Water Quality Protection 1.2 Habitat Restoration Outcome 1.3 Habitat Conservation		<b>Outcomes:</b> 2.1 Environmental Monitoring 2.2 Environmental Indicators and Reporting 2.3 Climate Adaptation		<b>Outcomes:</b> 3.1 Understanding How People Use the Gulf of Maine 3.2 Community Stewardship
				x   x
<b>Description:</b>  1.) Focusing on current information that supports the information goals of activity 3.1.1 in the action plan and finding innovative ways to share the current available information. Identify information gaps and create a plan for enhancing and growing this knowledge of human uses and values of the GOM.  2.) Create an information sharing event that integrates the knowledge gained in #1 with the engagement of communities in sustainable practices – activity 3.2.2 - around the GOM which will respond and adapt to a changing environment.				
<b>Key Milestones YR1:</b> Information and resources are collected and gaps are identified which will provide the foundation of an information exchange event.				
<b>Key Milestones YR2:</b> Communities engagement in an event/forum which shares both information on the population dynamics and values of the GOM along with the sharing of sustainable practices that will maintain healthy and productive communities in the GOM in the face of a changing coastal environment.				
<b>Project Funding (Amount and Sources):</b>				
<b>Project Partners:</b> Collaboration with the Climate Network and both the physical and social science research communities.				
<b>Supporting Documentation:</b> <i>(If applicable, list additional documents included with this 1 page Work Plan proposal)</i>				

<b>Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment</b> <b>Proposed Two Year Work Plan – July 2015 through June 2017</b>			
<b>Name of GOMC Initiative:</b> GOMC Outreach Projects			
<b>GOMC Project Lead (s):</b> Theresa Torrent			
<b>Links to 2012-2017 Action Plan Goals and Outcomes</b> <i>Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</i>			
Goal 1: Restored & Conserved Habitats	Goal 2: Environmental & Human Health	Goal 3: Sustainable Communities	
<b>Outcomes:</b> 1.1 Water Quality Protection 1.2 Habitat Restoration Outcome      x 1.3 Habitat Conservation                x	<b>Outcomes:</b> 2.1 Environmental Monitoring 2.2 Environmental Indicators and Reporting 2.3 Climate Adaptation	<b>Outcomes:</b> 3.1 Understanding How People Use the Gulf of Maine 3.2 Community Stewardship                x	
<b>Description:</b>  <div style="margin-left: 40px;"> <p>1.) Establish an outreach/communications advisory group from agency members of the GOMC who will give support to Council products including review of printed materials, supporting the growth of social media applications and marketing/press development as needed.</p> <p>2.) Develop the Gulf of Maine Marine Habitat Primer into an online tool. This is one of our most requested resources from a variety of marine education – both formal and informal – programs and courses which would translate well to an online education tool about the Gulf of Marine habitats.</p> <p>3.) Continue the work that has been done in the past year to update and upload email lists and contacts for each of the jurisdictions to enhance the quality of our marketing and communications through constant contact and social media.</p> </div> <b>Key Milestones YR1:</b> Create plan and budget for Gulf of Maine Marine Habitat online educational tool. Complete contact list development and updates.  <b>Key Milestones YR2:</b> Develop and load onto GOMC website the webtool.			
<b>Project Funding (Amount and Sources):</b>			
<b>Project Partners:</b> Other outreach, education and communications staff from agencies and organizations represented on the Council and Working Group.			
<b>Supporting Documentation:</b> <i>(If applicable, list additional documents included with this 1 page Work Plan proposal)</i>			

<b>Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment</b> <b>Proposed Two Year Work Plan – July 2015 through June 2017</b>				
<b>Name of GOMC Initiative:</b> Capitalizing on Existing GOMC Efforts				
<b>GOMC Project Lead (s):</b> Becca Newhall, NOAA				
<b>Links to 2012-2017 Action Plan Goals and Outcomes</b> <i>Place 'x' next to all GOMC outcomes supported by proposed GOMC initiative</i>				
Goal 1: Restored & Conserved Habitats	Goal 2: Environmental & Human Health	Goal 3: Sustainable Communities		
<b>Outcomes:</b> 1.1 Water Quality Protection      x 1.2 Habitat Restoration Outcome      x 1.3 Habitat Conservation      x	<b>Outcomes:</b> 2.1 Environmental Monitoring 2.2 Environmental Indicators and Reporting 2.3 Climate Adaptation      x	<b>Outcomes:</b> 3.1 Understanding How People Use the Gulf of Maine 3.2 Community Stewardship      x		
<b>Description:</b>  Throughout the Gulf of Maine, and particularly in New England, there are numerous efforts underway that focus on GOMC Action Plan goals and outcomes. This initiative is a deliberate effort to share knowledge of these types of activities, and invite (as appropriate) jurisdictions and federal agencies around the GOMC table to participate. As a starting point this effort will work on sharing information about: 1) living shorelines (or shoreline management or green infrastructure) webinar series; and 2) StormCoasts webinar series (focused on municipal and state preparation and response to coastal storms); and the roll out of 3) marsh migration guidebook. As appropriate this effort will utilize other GOMC initiatives to share the information.				
<b>Key Milestones YR1:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide awareness of ongoing webinar series and other forms for sharing information related to GOMC goals.</li> </ul>				
<b>Key Milestones YR2:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide awareness of ongoing webinar series and other forms for sharing information related to GOMC goals.</li> </ul>				
<b>Project Funding (Amount and Sources):</b>  None Needed				
<b>Project Partners:</b>  GOMC Council / Working Group, NROC Work Groups				
<b>Supporting Documentation:</b> <i>(If applicable, list additional documents included with this 1 page Work Plan proposal)</i>				

<b>Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting Briefing Note</b>				
<b>Title of Agenda Item:</b> ESIP moves into ESIP 2.0				
<b>Submitted by:</b> <i>Kathryn Parlee (EC) &amp; James S. Latimer (US EPA)</i>				
<b>Type of Item</b> (place X in appropriate box)	<b>For Decision</b>	<b>For Direction</b>	x	<b>For Information</b> (internal GOMC)
			x	<b>For Information</b> (External)
<b>Background</b> (required): <p>The EcoSystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP), a committee of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC), was formed to help assess the health of the Gulf of Maine through the use of biological, chemical, economic, and landscape indicators. ESIP draws on the input of over 150 expert advisors and practitioners. Working Group and Council members are invited to watch ESIP's introductory video at <a href="http://www.gulfofmaine.org/esip">www.gulfofmaine.org/esip</a>.</p> <p>ESIP has several projects building on the strong partnership of ESIP that are currently active. Each of the products will need communication and knowledge sharing results. ESIP asks the Working Group and Council how they would best provide information on the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Watershed project addressing sediment and water quality gaps (with partners Eastern Charlotte Waterways, Clean Annapolis River Project, and Environment Canada).</li><li>• Links watersheds to Estuaries (with partner U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)</li><li>• Smartphone app.</li></ul> <p>In addition, ESIP is preparing to move into the next phase of ESIP focusing on ecosystem services indicators. In May 2014 ESIP brought together 10 expert advisors to suggest a pathway forward for these ESIP activities. The advisors conducted five conference calls with the last one taking place in February 2015. The conceptual diagram below categorizes the ESIP 1.0 view within the ecological structures, processes, and functions box, together with the drivers and pressure categories at the bottom of the left side of the diagram. ESIP 2.0 categories build upon ESIP 1.0 by providing an ecosystem service framework. The Ecosystem Services box consists of three categories: provisioning, regulating, and cultural. As ESIP 2.0 begins the transition into this framework (combined ESIP 1.0 and 2.0), it will provide the necessary organizational structure for effective categorization, assessment, and indicator development to relevant ecosystem services.</p>				



**Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested** (optional):

ESIP requests assistance from the Working Group and Council on the following two questions:

1. Can members provide feedback on which of ESIP's current ESIP 1.0 indicator themes are more relevant to your department/agency? How can they be enhanced?
2. Provide direction on which ecosystem service under ESIP 2.0 should be the initial priority? Provide recommendations on who to engage in the development of specific indicators.

**Supporting Documentation** (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):

<b>Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment</b> <b>Meeting Briefing Note</b>							
<b>Title of Agenda Item:</b> GOMC Plans for the 2015 - 2017 Secretariat							
<b>Submitted by:</b> Steve Couture, Working Group Chair, NH DES							
<b>Type of Item</b> (place X in appropriate box)	<b>For Decision</b>	x	<b>For Direction</b>	x	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px; border-right: 1px solid black;"> <b>For Information</b> (internal GOMC)                         </td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <b>For Information</b> (External)                         </td> </tr> </table>	<b>For Information</b> (internal GOMC)	<b>For Information</b> (External)
<b>For Information</b> (internal GOMC)	<b>For Information</b> (External)						
<b>Background</b> (required):  <p>In order to facilitate a smooth transition as the Gulf of Maine Council shifts into its new framework, New Hampshire is willing to continue providing leadership for at least the 2015 – 2016 year. New Hampshire intends to invite NOAA as a partner to lighten the load by sharing management functions during the upcoming year.</p> <p>Because this is a period of transition, New Hampshire requests flexibility to revisit the decision regarding GOMC leadership for the 2016-2017 year during the spring of 2016. This would allow adequate time for New Hampshire representatives to confer with New Brunswick representatives (next in the jurisdictional leadership rotation) regarding their preference, and to evaluate New Hampshire’s capacity for taking on the second year of the two-year period.</p>							
<b>Possible Activities / Next Steps</b> (optional):  <p>The NH Secretariat recommends the following 2015-2016 meeting plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next in-person joint Council / Working Group meeting will take place during June 2016 in Canada. Specific location to be determined.</li> <li>Working Group will meet a maximum of four times (up to 2 in-person and 2 conference call meetings). If a mid-year in-person meeting is held specific location is to be determined.</li> <li>Secretariat Team will meet on a quarterly basis (or as needed) via conference call. NH is planning for one-hour monthly calls for the first six months.</li> <li>If approved in the work plan, GOMC Awards program will take place in June 2016 with continued support from the Maine Coastal Program.</li> <li>Meeting plans for 2016-2017 have not yet been developed.</li> </ul>							
<b>Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested</b> (optional): <p>Council members are asked to review and approve the proposed plans for the upcoming year.</p>							
<b>Supporting Documentation</b> (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):							