

## An Introduction to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is an American-Canadian partnership of government agencies, non-government organizations, and business interests.

The governors and premiers of the five states and provinces that border the Gulf of Maine—Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia—created the Council in 1989 as a regional forum to exchange information and engage in long-term planning.

The Councilors are leaders of state, provincial, and federal agencies; non-government organizations; and the private sector. The Council fosters consensus-based decision-making and collaboration among a wide range of parties with an interest in the Gulf. Its meetings are open to the public, and its activities incorporate diverse public input.

The Council seeks to address the region's socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental needs without compromising the needs of future generations. Working in partnership with others, the Council works to protect the Gulf of Maine environment to ensure sustainable resource use by current and future generations.

### Partnership of Public & Private Sectors

Representatives of numerous government agencies, academia, businesses, and non-government organizations participate in the Council and its committees. On an annual rotating basis, one of the five states and provinces serves as the Secretariat and coordinates the Council's work. Contract staff located around the region work with the Council and its committees to help accomplish its goals. The Council is administered by non-profit associations in the United States and Canada.



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### Council at a Glance

- Established in 1989 as a regional forum to exchange information and engage in long-term planning.
- Business, government, and non-profit organizations are represented.
- Members from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and U.S. and Canadian federal governments.
- Committees focus on habitat restoration, ecotourism, water quality, sustainable maritime industries, and other topics.
- Focal area: Cape Cod to southwest Nova Scotia including ocean waters, rivers, and coastal lands.
- Website: [www.gulfofmaine.org](http://www.gulfofmaine.org)

### Council Activities

- Scientific information for management
- Raising awareness about the Gulf
- Connecting people, organizations, and information in the region.
- Grants and awards
- Conferences and workshops
- Environmental monitoring



## Sustainable Industries & Communities Committee

The Sustainable Industries and Communities Committee of the Gulf of Maine Council works to promote and support sustainable economic development efforts. The committee pursues opportunities to enable marine-related businesses to thrive in the Gulf of Maine region.

More information: [www.gulfofmaine.org/council/committees/sicc.php](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/committees/sicc.php)



## Habitat Restoration Partnership Grants

The Council supports habitat restoration activities that help sustain fishing and other marine-related businesses in the Gulf of Maine. A partnership between the Council and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has provided more than \$1.4 million in competitive grants to community-based organizations in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. The 56 projects contributed to restoration of salt marshes, rivers, lakes, and other habitats for sea-run fish; shellfish habitats and populations; and shoreland habitats that support clean water.

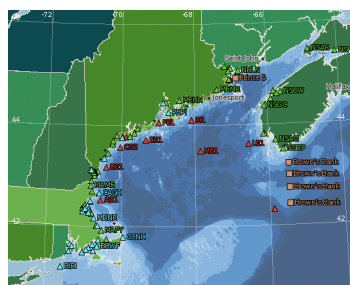
More information: <http://restoration.gulfofmaine.org>



## Ecosystem Indicator Partnership

The Ecosystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP) is a committee of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. ESIP is developing indicators for the Gulf of Maine and integrating regional data for a new Web-based reporting system for marine ecosystem monitoring. Activities of ESIP initially center on convening regional practitioners in six indicator areas: coastal development, contaminants and pathogens, eutrophication, aquatic habitat, fisheries and aquaculture, and climate change.

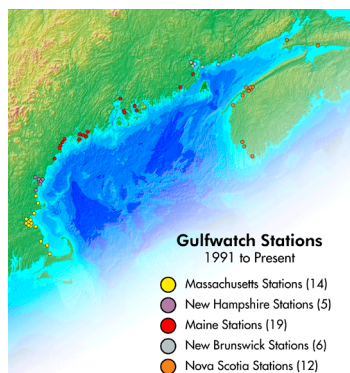
More information: [www.gulfofmaine.org/esip](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/esip)



## Gulfwatch

Gulfwatch is a chemical-contaminants monitoring program organized and administered by the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. Since 1993, Gulfwatch has measured contaminants in blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) to assess the types and concentration of contaminants in coastal waters of the Gulf of Maine. It is one of the few monitoring programs and the only one in the Gulf of Maine to be coordinated across international borders. Gulfwatch is coordinated and conducted by scientists and managers from agencies and universities around the Gulf.

More information: [www.gulfofmaine.org/gulfwatch](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/gulfwatch)



**For more information about the Council:**  
**[www.gulfofmaine.org](http://www.gulfofmaine.org)**



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*The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment was established in 1989 by the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts to foster cooperative actions within the Gulf watershed. Its mission is to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations.*