

Gulf of Maine Action Plan Grant Program

Summary for 2005-06 and 2006-07



April 2008

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Introduction

This report provides a summary and qualitative assessment of the results of the Gulf of Maine Council’s Action Plan Grant Program for 2005-06 and 2006-07. It identifies the grant recipients, summarizes their projects and the grant products, and identifies the results/outcomes of the projects. This assessment was made possible by an in-kind contribution of staff time by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Action Plan Grant Program

Every five years the Council adopts an Action Plan that establishes shared goals and objectives for this shared US/Canada ecosystem. Presently the goals include:

- Goal 1: Coastal and marine habitats are in a healthy, productive, and resilient condition.
- Goal 2: Environmental conditions in the Gulf of Maine support ecosystem and human health.
- Goal 3: Gulf of Maine coastal communities are vibrant and have marine-dependent industries that are healthy and globally competitive.

The Plan follows a logic model process that also identifies short, mid and long-term outcomes, and activities that will help to achieve these outcomes. The Plan is available at www.gulfofmaine.org/actionplan.

To accelerate progress in addressing these goals the Council provides Action Plan Grants to non-governmental organizations (e.g., community associations, cooperatives, civic groups), municipalities, and schools. Competitive grants of up to \$10,000 are offered to help these organizations achieve measurable progress toward the long-term outcomes in the Action Plan. While match is not required proposals that do incorporate matching cash or in-kind services are preferred. For the two years covered in this assessment the Council awarded approximately \$100,000.

Overview of Awards

In 2005-06 and 2006-07 the Council funded ten non-profit organizations in each year. They work at either the Gulf of Maine regional scale, within Canada or within the United States.

| Year | Total Awarded | Total Match | Average Award | Average Match | Award Range | Match Range | Regional/ CA and US |
|---------|---------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2005-06 | \$96,251 | \$219,934 | \$9,600 | \$21,993 | \$10,000 to \$7,575 | \$57,736 to \$3,550 | 2/3/5 |
| 2006-07 | \$95,748 | \$236,795 | \$9,574 | \$23,679 | \$10,000 to \$7,426 | \$137,445 to \$3,330 | 1/3/6 |

2005-2006 Action Plan Grants

| Recipient/Jurisdiction | Project Description | GOMC \$ | Match \$ | Products | Results |
|---|---|----------|----------|--|--|
| 1. Quebec Labrador Foundation (QLF) / Atlantic Center for the Environment | Citizen's Guide to Characterizing Marine Areas | \$10,000 | \$47,300 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed draft text of the proposed Citizens' Primer to Characterizing Marine Areas, a guide for local groups in the Gulf of Maine interested in undertaking participating in, or simply becoming more informed about this kind of baseline work Sent out this text for a four week peer review, in which revisions will be made and final Guide will be published | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The guide was peer reviewed by 23 people, is being printed by Sea Grant, and will be made available on QLF and participating organization's web sites The guide provided information of QLF's Atlas project that was funded by GOM in 2006-2007 |
| 2. Maine Audubon Society | Beginning w/ Habitat: Conserving Wildlife in Maine's Coastal Habitats booklet | \$10,000 | \$5,100 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produced the Beginning w/ Habitat: Conserving Wildlife in Maine's Coastal Habitats booklet | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project and booklet were presented to coastal towns of Maine The booklet is required information provided to towns when they update their plan Information gaps identified in this project are now being worked on (e.g. Anadromous fish passage locations are being identified through a MCPI grant) The DMR is now an involved partner with the formally terrestrial based Beginning w/ Habitat program |
| 3. Clean Annapolis River Project | Annapolis Watershed Pesticide Audit Pilot Project | \$10,000 | \$28,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pesticide use data was gathered and analyzed from seven sectors in the Annapolis River watershed (agriculture, domestic, forestry, large facilities and institutions, marine, municipal and misc.) | <i>Not available</i> |

| Recipient/Jurisdiction | Project Description | GOMC \$ | Match \$ | Products | Results |
|------------------------------------|---|----------|----------|---|---|
| | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produced Annapolis River Watershed Pesticide Inventory Report | |
| 4. Biodiversity Research Institute | Gulf of Maine Seabird Contaminant Assessment Network (GOMSCAN): Seabird Mercury Project | \$9,000 | \$7,500 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted a pilot study to screen mercury (Hg) levels in Gulf of Maine seabirds in an effort to determine which species are most at risk, the most appropriate bioindicators, and to refine sampling methods Produced the final report, <i>Mercury Levels in Seabirds in the Gulf of Maine</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional partners have been brought into the project (e.g. University of New Brunswick, Kent Island Biological Station) The paper produced from this study was invited to be submitted to the peer reviewed journal <i>Eco-Health</i> This study is being used as the baseline for future studies Sub-set sampling will continue every four years Researchers involved in the project continue to meet twice a year to update each other on the current research and future plans A larger study, funded through multiple and diverse sources, was conducted based on this pilot study including mercury but also 191 other contaminants |
| 5. Massachusetts Audubon Society | Little River Action Plan for Restoration | \$10,000 | \$3,550 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted 2005 Little River herring count, data compilation, and outreach Produced the final report, <i>Little River Action Plan for Restoration</i> Completed Little River Hydrologic Analysis In process of completing the Stream Team Evaluation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed the Stream Team Evaluation in summer 2006 Feedback from Action Plan was used to draft state recommendations Fish counts have continued in 2007 and planned for 2008 Little River was named a priority site from the state Riverways program |

| Recipient/Jurisdiction | Project Description | GOMC \$ | Match \$ | Products | Results |
|--|---|----------|----------|---|---|
| | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with officials with the City of Gloucester to discuss spring activities, restoration and stewardship project and continue to secure support for restoration and increased stewardship • Conducted 2006 herring count | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massachusetts Audubon is giving a talk on the stewardship and restoration project in the non-profit Adventure Lecture series |
| 6. Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) | Volunteer Salt Marsh Monitoring on Cape Cod | \$10,000 | \$3,550 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruited new volunteers via newspapers and the APCC web site • Provided training and workshops for volunteers to teach monitoring techniques and protocols for each salt marsh parameter • Provided field and technical support for monitoring efforts at all six salt marsh sites • Monitored six salt marsh sites for salinity, plants, avifauna and nekton • Compiled and synthesized the data for final report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring program has continued yearly (training and monitoring) • The APCC monitoring program has been used as a model for the Pleasant Bay Alliance, Harwich Land Trust, Coalition for Buzzards Bay, and the Cohasset school system |
| 7. Bird Studies Canada | Volunteer Beached Bird Survey in the Bay of Fundy | \$9,676 | \$45,536 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruited volunteers through newspapers, notices to naturalist clubs, and radio • Conducted three training sessions • Provided survey kits to 39 volunteers in the Bay of Fundy • Collected and analyzed the survey data • Produced the <i>Bay of Fundy Beached Bird Survey 2005</i> report | <i>Not available</i> |

| Recipient/Jurisdiction | Project Description | GOMC \$ | Match \$ | Products | Results |
|---|--|----------|----------|--|--|
| 8. Massachusetts Bay Estuary Association | Think Blue Massachusetts Bays: Storm Windows Stormwater Education Campaign, Phase 1 | \$7,575 | \$5,780 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a unified and strongly supported approach for the Think Blue campaign • Developed the duck logo, three print ads and other elements to define the “look” of the campaign for marketing messages and strategies • Developed and distributed a media kit • Developed a web site: www.thinkbluema.org | <i>Not available</i> |
| 9. Centre for Community-based Resource Management (CCBRM) | <i>Local Inshore Fisheries: A Geotourism Resource</i> – Developing an alliance and common understanding between the inshore fisheries and tourism of Passamaquoddy Bay | \$10,000 | \$4,670 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted in-depth interviews with local tour boat operators and restaurant owners • Created a handbook on the inshore fisheries for tour boat staff as well as a pamphlet on inshore fisheries geared toward tourists • Planned a workshop with tour operator staff and inshore fishermen • Generated ideas for future projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCBRM is no longer in existence but those involved in the Geotourism project are now on the board of the newly formed Coastal Livelihood Trust organization • The education pamphlets have continued to be distributed • The tour boat operator handbook has now been reprinted because of high demand • The network of industry people has continued |
| 10. Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation | Jeffreys Ledge Monitoring and Education Project, Phase 2 | \$10,000 | \$57,736 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hired and trained a temporary Data Management Assistant • Entered all sightings data since 1996 into a searchable Access database • Collected marine sightings data and educated passengers aboard four commercial whale watch vessels (367 total trips) • Evaluated the effectiveness of the educational aspect of the whale watch | <i>Not available</i> |

| Recipient/Jurisdiction | Project Description | GOMC \$ | Match \$ | Products | Results |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------|----------|--|---------|
| | | | | trips through randomly assigned passenger surveys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published and presented a poster entitled "Finback Whale Recurrence on Jeffreys Ledge in the Gulf of Maine, 1996-20005" • Published and distributed a special research edition of their newsletter, <i>Sea Notes</i> • Created a map of all the listed endangered species sightings based on the 2005 data | |

2006-2007 Action Plan Grants

| Recipient/Jurisdiction | Project Description | GOMC \$ | Match \$ | Products | Results |
|--|---|----------|-----------|--|----------------------|
| 1. Huntsman Marine Science Center, Atlantic Reference Centre | Acquire, test, and promote ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) Technology for environmental monitoring of the seabed in and around net pen aquaculture operations as an alternative means to diving | \$9,996 | \$137,445 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquired ROV Technology and developed an operational ROV team • Developed an operational ROV development team. • Hired and trained ROV technician • Trained additional HMSC staff in ROV operation to act as support personnel • Field tested ROV components and devised appropriate protocols/manuals for field deployment of ROV • Performed several public relations exercises (i.e. newspaper articles, workshops, exhibits, GOM Times newspaper) | <i>Not available</i> |
| 2. Friends of Taunton Bay | Develop and produce a fisheries management plan for the Taunton Bay Mudflat Ecosystem using Ecosystem-based principals | \$10,000 | \$5,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the document, <i>Taunton Bay Mudflat Ecosystem Management Plan: a Case Study in Fisheries Management Using Ecosystem-Based Principals</i> • Distributed hardcopies of the document to public libraries, town offices, and volunteer members of the technical advisory committee and placed an electronic copy online • Issued press releases to area newspapers and emailed announcements to various state and federal agencies and conservation organizations. • Conducted interviews and held meetings w/ various | <i>Not available</i> |

| Recipient/Jurisdiction | Project Description | GOMC \$ | Match \$ | Products | Results |
|----------------------------------|--|---------|----------|--|--|
| | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stakeholder groups during development of the management plan Held two local science and management forums | |
| 3. Maine Sea Grant | Produce a resource guide for sustainable tourism in Downeast Maine and Southwest New Brunswick | \$9,750 | \$6,232 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed document, <i>The Resource Guide for Sustainable Tourism in Down East Maine and Southwest New Brunswick</i> Distributed hardcopies throughout the region and posted electronic versions online through partner organizations' web sites Issued press releases to local, regional, and Gulf of Maine-wide media | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guide was presented at the Maine Governor's Conference on Tourism Project received an award - Best Implemented Project - from the Down East Resources and Development Council Partnerships have been established and maintained between Maine and Canada counterparts Guide will be replicated for other regions in Maine |
| 4. Clean Annapolis River Project | Conduct a population survey and economic valuation of two priority clam growing areas | \$9,900 | \$29,250 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted a population survey and economic evaluation at Deep Brook and Karsdale, two priority clam growing areas in Nova Scotia Produced the report, <i>A Population Survey and Resource Valuation of Soft-shell Clams (Mya arenaria) in the Annapolis Basin, Nova Scotia</i> | <i>Not available</i> |
| 5. Ecology Action Centre | Prepare for and host a workshop on salt marsh restoration work in the Bay of Fundy and the Maritimes | \$8,676 | \$11,938 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researched and presented a paper entitled <i>Lessons Learned: How our current Regulatory Framework affects salt marsh restoration in the Bay of Fundy</i> Two briefing papers were created and provided to workshop participants The workshop "Six Years in the Mud – Maritime Salt Marsh Restoration: Lessons Learned and | <i>Not available</i> |

| Recipient/Jurisdiction | Project Description | GOMC \$ | Match \$ | Products | Results |
|---|---|----------|----------|---|--|
| | | | | <p>Moving Forward” took place Jan. 31 to Feb. 2 at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digitized maps were created from information collected from workshop participants An interactive CD was created of the workshop proceedings | |
| 6. Watershed Action Alliance of Southeast Massachusetts | Foster stewardship to protect and restore herring runs in south coastal Massachusetts | \$10,000 | \$3,600 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A mobile interactive display was profiled at seminars, educational events, meetings and fish count trainings Mobile display includes: historical herring information, a video of herring runs in the region, a watershed map depicting the herring run counts within the region, and action steps for community members to become involved with the local watershed group and upcoming training events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The display is still in high demand and is currently on a regional library tour The display will be shown at the Budweiser Co. office building The project provided a critical education element to give local dam removal projects momentum |
| 7. Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies | Establish a volunteer monitoring program for Cape Cod Bay | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target areas for monitoring were selected Two seminars were held at Cape Cod Community College to recruit volunteers/educate the public Training sessions were held for volunteers to teach them proper sampling, analyzing, and data recording techniques A volunteer training manual was written and distributed to all volunteers Water quality data was | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program has continued every year since the grant The volunteer training manual has updated and redistributed every year Training workshops have continued yearly This program was used as a model for Nantucket Soundkeeper |

| Recipient/Jurisdiction | Project Description | GOMC \$ | Match \$ | Products | Results |
|-------------------------------|--|----------|----------|---|---|
| | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> collected weekly Laboratory & data analysis performed by staff Report of the 2006 field season was written and posted on their web site | |
| 8. The Lobster Conservancy | Mapping of lobster nursery habitat for local communities involved in the Juvenile Lobster Monitoring Program | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time series data on abundance of lobsters from 25 juvenile lobster nursery habitats (4/6-3/07) was completed Maps of the locations of lobster nursery habitats, including volunteer profiles and lobster densities, were compiled Maps were distributed and presented to volunteers, municipalities, ASMFC, NMFS, and some state agencies Final report entitled <i>Report on Mapping Lobster Nursery Habitats</i> was written, distributed, and presented to town, state, and local agencies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local cable TV programs featured the mapping project The time series data used in the maps has continued to be collected The maps are being used as evidence in a local communities law suite case TLC was able to help Nova Scotia set up a similar program through their Science Research Society TLC is working with the Long Island Sound Lobsterman's Association to establish monitoring sites within the sound |
| 9. Quebec Labrador Foundation | Create a Participatory GIS Atlas for the Muscongus Bay Ecosystem | \$7,426 | \$20,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted stakeholder meetings and interviews Gathered external data Finalized map design and content Designed the participatory GIS Atlas document (25 GIS maps representing almost 200 layers) Designed the CD-ROM containing the 25 atlas maps | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Atlas is being used in outreach campaigns throughout the community in many formats (CDs, printed maps, posters, Power-Point presentations, etc.) This project was used as a model for organizations with like projects (e.g. Blue Hill Bay) |
| 10. Great Bay Coast Watch | Support GBCW volunteer training and program management | \$10,000 | \$3,330 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided classroom and field training for volunteers to become QAQC certified GBCW staff was trained in | <i>Not available</i> |

| | | | | Dreamweaver software • GBCW web site was re-designed to facilitate online data entry | |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------|----------|---|---------|
| Recipient/Jurisdiction | Project Description | GOMC \$ | Match \$ | Products | Results |

Appendix

Grant Year 2005 – 2006 Success Stories

Appendix

Grant Year 2005 – 2006 Success Stories

Organization that received grant: Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC)
Name of project: Volunteer Salt Marsh Monitoring on Cape Cod
Brief description of project:
Specify GOMC Action Plan Goal #: Coastal and Marine Habitat Conservation
Region or community served: Cape Cod, MA
Interviewer: Regina Lyons
Interviewee: Tara Nye

Interview questions

1. What changed positively as a result of the GOMC grant funding?

The monitoring program has continued every year

- List of sites have grown and changed each year. They monitor sites that are influenced by the tides – 3 years before restoration, 3 years after, and at year 5 and year 10

The monitoring program has follow along with MACZM's wetland restoration priority list.

At each site the volunteers monitor salinity, plant life, fish, and birds

APCC is pursuing on-going grant funding for this program

- Now that it's an established program it is not very expensive to run. Major costs are Tara and a summer intern's salary.

Yearly training continues to take place

- Tara runs workshops like those in the GOM grant, at least 10-12 people at each workshop
- Tara continues to be out in the field for onsite training and technical/field support

APCC's program has been used as a model. Specific examples: 1) Pleasant Bay Alliance (tri-town organization), 2) Harwich Land Trust, 3) Coalition for Buzzards Bay, 4) Cohasset School system

2. What other resources were leveraged (before, during, and after) for this project as a result of the Council grant? If the organization has received multiple grants, how have the multiple grants built on each other?

On-going grant funding:

Now that it is an established program it is not very expensive to run. Major costs are Tara and a summer intern's salary

3. Has your project been used as a model for other projects in the Gulf?

YES – Specific examples: 1) Pleasant Bay Alliance (a tri-town organization), 2) Harwich Land Trust, 3) Coalition for Buzzards Bay, 4) Cohasset School system

Organization that received grant: Biodiversity Research Institute

Name of project: Gulf of Maine Seabird Contaminant Assessment Network (GOMSCAN): Seabird Mercury Project

Brief description of project:

Specify GOMC Action Plan Goal #: Ecosystem and human health

Region or community served: Gulf of Maine

Interviewer: Regina Lyons

Interviewee: Wing Goodale

Interview questions

1. What changed positively as a result of the GOMC grant funding?

The \$9000 GOM grant was the backbone of this study and is what allowed for this project and the partnerships established to really take off. This money provided direct funding for samples but also allowed Biodiversity to bring a network of organizations and experts together to utilize this network of people to continue the sampling beyond the initial GOM funded sampling. They were able to obtain data from people that were already conducting similar research throughout the region, rather than forcing Biodiversity to have to collect all of the samples.

Since the report additional partners have been brought in such as the University of New Brunswick, Kent Island Biological Station etc.

The organization is currently finishing a manuscript from all the data- 604 samples, 17 species, 35 sites.

The paper was invited to be submitted to Eco-Health-a peer reviewed journal the reaches a diverse research community (Educators, Policy makers, and Scientist all use this journal for information). This article should be published by spring 2008 and available for other researchers.

The work and paper that have come from the GOM funded project are unique in that nothing like this has been done before for the Gulf of Maine region.

This work serves as a useful baseline of data for future research. Also gives other researchers direction for their own work (i.e. useful bioindicator bird species were identified, 604 samples were evaluated)

From here a sub-set sampling plan is being implemented for every 4 years.

Researchers involved in this project get together twice a year to discuss each of their current research and where to go from there.

This past year they collected a whole new data set that not only looked at mercury but another 191 contaminants as well. This was an expansion project from the GOM funded mercury project. The success of the initial Mg group and net work allowed for this larger project to take place. In total this was a \$75,000 project with numerous and diverse funding sources that covered from the may of shoals to the Bay of Fundy.

2. What other resources were leveraged (before, during, and after) for this project as a result of the Council grant? If the organization has received multiple grants, how have the multiple grants built on each other?

The success of the initial Mg group and net work allowed for this larger project to take place. In total this was a \$75,000 project with numerous and diverse funding sources.

3. Has your project been used as a model for other projects in the Gulf?

No specific cases of this project being used as a model, but the networking throughout the Gulf could be definitely modeled.

Other information

1. Positive quotes from participants, constituents, or beneficiaries?

“The \$9000 GOM grant was the backbone of this study and is what allowed for this project and the partnerships established to really take off.”

Organization that received grant: Centre for Community-Based Resource Management

Name of project: Local Inshore Fisheries: A Geotourism Resource

Brief description of project:

Specify GOMC Action Plan Goal #: Vibrant Coastal Communities

Region or community served: Canada (St. Andrews)

Interviewer: Regina Lyons

Interviewee: Maria Recchia

*Centre for Community Based Resource Management is no longer in existence but there is a smaller, more locally focused new non-profit called Coastal Livelihood Trust out of St. Andrews. CLT focuses on stewardship initiatives with those who rely on the coast for their livelihood (i.e. fishermen, tourism, aquaculture, etc.)

Interview questions

1. What changed positively as a result of the GOMC grant funding?

Many of those involved in the GOM funded Geo-tourism project are now on the board of CLT (some fisherman, Bruce Smith, etc.). Many of the same players are also actively involved in CLT's public education and stewardship efforts around coastal livelihood. Industry personnel go into classrooms to educate on what they do and how they are doing it in a way that they are not affecting marine life. The committee that goes into the schools came from the GOM project.

The educational pamphlets made from the GOM grant have continued to be distributed around the town yearly. The tour boat operator handbook is in demand, so much so that they have printed additional copies to those that were created from the GOM grant.

One of the biggest benefits from the GOM project was establishing the communication, partnerships and network that allowed industry people to communicate.

In future projects they look to create a self guided tour of Deer Island about tourism.

2. What other resources were leveraged (before, during, and after) for this project as a result of the Council grant? If the organization has received multiple grants, how have the multiple grants built on each other?

Kendel funds were used in addition to the GOM funds, but the project was funded mainly from the GOM grant.

3. Has your project been used as a model for other projects in the Gulf?

It has not specifically been used as an example to date, but it could be used as one.

Other information

1. Positive quotes from participants, constituents, or beneficiaries?

"One of the biggest benefits from the GOM project was establishing the communication, partnerships and network that allowed industry people to communicate."

Organization that received grant: Maine Audubon Society

Name of project: Booklet: Beginning with Habitat: Conserving Wildlife in Maine's Coastal Habitats

Brief description of project:

Specify GOMC Action Plan Goal #: Coastal and Marine Habitat Conservation

Region or community served: Maine

Interviewer: Regina Lyons

Interviewee: Barbara Charry

Interview questions

1. What changed positively as a result of the GOMC grant funding?

The largest benefit of the funded project was bringing together the experts throughout the state. It brought together groups that were doing similar work to share and expand on their individual work.

The GOM project included a presentation for each coastal town when the project was completed. In addition, since Maine is a planned state, they have made it a requirement that each town receives a packet of materials including the "Conserving Wildlife in Maine's Coastal Habitats" every time they are updating their plan. Some towns have requested more information, which is then provided to them by Maine Audubon. The town is also given extra copies of the booklet for distribution throughout the town for the public.

The grant was also used to update the current maps from the information from all of the experts. They were also able to identify information gaps. (e.g. lack of state wide anadromous fish passage locations identification). This Anadromous fish passage information is now being collected through at MCPI grant, which will then be digitized and turned into a data layer.

Another product was that specific coastal focus areas were identified or highlighted as hot spots. The working group identified these areas along the coast that are of particular focus/need. Future grants and projects will be focused on these areas and recommend to other funded projects that they also focus their attention on these areas. The group is writing up descriptions of each area and USFWS and the state DMR are redefining their focus areas on the coast.

This project got DMR more involved with the larger Beginning with Habitat program. BWH began in 2001 but was largely terrestrial focused; this project brought the coast and marine resources to the forefront.

2. What other resources were leveraged (before, during, and after) for this project as a result of the Council grant? If the organization has received multiple grants, how have the multiple grants built on each other?

MCPI grant was received to continue data collection, mapping, and digitizing of information that was identified as information gaps by the working groups from this project

Future grants will be sought for work in the hotspots that were also identified by the working group.

3. Has your project been used as a model for other projects in the Gulf?

Not currently, but it could be

Organization that received grant: Massachusetts Audubon Society
Name of project: Little River Action Plan for Restoration
Brief description of project:
Specify GOMC Action Plan Goal #: Coastal and Marine Habitat Conservation
Region or community served: Massachusetts – Little River watershed
Interviewer: Regina Lyons
Interviewee: Kathy Leahy

Interview questions

1. What changed positively as a result of the GOMC grant funding?

A Shoreline survey (Stream team) was completed with volunteers (15 people) the summer of 2006. It included multiple training meetings and a meeting with the city officials. The Mass Riverways program wanted to get involved, so Mass Audubon now uses their protocols.

Feedback from their program was used to draft state recommendations. Mass Audubon has now focused on some of the particular state recommendations with the city staff. Example: There is a spawning pond that has a rail road that travels along it. The RR uses pesticides and dumps their rail road pins in the area by the pond. Mass Audubon is now working with the city to talk to the rail road company in hopes to mitigate the situation.

Mass Audubon wrote a grant proposal for clean up of the few sites, but it was not funded.

The fish count work continued in 2007 and was performed with volunteers including a few training meetings before hand. The fish count got press within the community. Fish counts are planned for 2008.

The most action that occurred after the GOM grant ended is within the restoration efforts.

- Little River was named a priority site from the state river ways program. Therefore they were given money and technical assistance for a restoration feasibility study and restoration plan. The engineering firm combined these two projects and finished them last spring.
- This spring will be the final design phase and then they will move on to permitting. Mass Audubon will be in control of the permits
- NRCS is interested in supporting this project, they are coming out to do a site visit, if it goes through they will give a lot of money towards restoration construction costs.
- MassAudubon meet with city officials about the restoration construction since there is a waste water treatment facility near the site, which in turn makes all of the land city property. They met with DPW and the city engineers and everyone is onboard.
- Gloucester also received a new mayor in January. Mass Audubon explained the project to her and she is thrilled about it- on board and in support of the restoration efforts.

In April Mass Audubon is giving a talk on the stewardship and restoration project in the Non-Profit “The Adventure Lecture Series.”

2. What other resources were leveraged (before, during, and after) for this project as a result of the Council grant? If the organization has received multiple grants, how have the multiple grants built on each other?

GOM funds certainly helped leverage the Riverways money. They hydro study showed commitment to the cause and coordination between the city and the technical staff.

3. Has your project been used as a model for other projects in the Gulf?

This project could be used as a model, especially since they worked with NOAA and the Riverways program. No specific examples to date however.

Other information

1. Positive quotes from participants, constituents, or beneficiaries?

“GOM was extremely important!”

“GOM has helped build the foundation for the restoration efforts in the city”

Grant Year 2006 – 2007 Success Stories

Organization that received grant: The Lobster Conservancy

Name of project: Juvenile Lobster Monitoring Program:
Mapping Lobster Nursery Habitat

Brief description of project:

Specify GOMC Action Plan Goal #: Coastal and Marine Habitat Conservation

Region or community served: Long Island Sound to the Canadian border

Interviewer: Regina Lyons

Interviewee: Diane Cowan

Interview questions

1. What changed positively as a result of the GOMC grant funding?

Diane Cowan (the project manager) has now been put on the ASMFC habitat committee

A local community is using the lobster maps as part of their evidence in a law suit case

The GOM funded project raised awareness and educated locals not only about lobsters but also about the Lobster Conservancy organization – now the locals know they have the resource in the conservancy.

A local cable TV programs ran a segment on the lobster nursery habitat maps.

The time series data used for the maps has continued. The life-span of a lobster is one decade, but the conservancy would like to go beyond that. Funding is the most major issue though. They have veteran volunteers (w/10+ years experience) and the lobster population/counts are doing well.

2. What other resources were leveraged (before, during, and after) for this project as a result of the Council grant? If the organization has received multiple grants, how have the multiple grants built on each other?

Hard to draw a direct line from GOM funds to other funds leveraged, but they definitely included the GOM funds in other grant applications (*Diane believed this was an asset.*)

3. Has your project been used as a model for other projects in the Gulf?

TLC has been contacted by Bedford Institute in Canada (Nova Scotia) because they wanted to join the network. However, because of limited funds, Diane was only able to give them the techniques for now. It is a challenge to get up Canada to fully implement the program, but places like the Science Research Society in Canada have begun to utilize the same techniques as the TLC.

They would love to establish the program bi-nationally.

The maps were presented to the Long Island Sound Lobsterman's Association. They are working to establish monitoring sites within the sound.

Other information

1. Positive quotes from participants, constituents, or beneficiaries?

“We are a success story”

“We greatly appreciate the funding...to finally be able to compile over a decades worth of data and send it out into the world was quite an accomplishment!”

Organization that received grant: Maine Sea Grant

Name of project: Resource Guide for Sustainable Tourism to
Down East Maine and Southwest New Brunswick

Brief description of project:

Specify GOMC Action Plan Goal #: Vibrant Coastal Communities

Region or community served: Maine and Canada

Interviewer: Regina Lyons

Interviewee: Natalie Springuel

Interview questions

1. What changed positively as a result of the GOMC grant funding?

Roughly, 8-9 months ago the final Resource Guide was distributed. All copies produced were given out (first ~100 went to the original work shop participants, then ~50 went to everyone that was highlighted within the guide, then the guide was distributed to the community planning agencies in the Down East region on Maine and in Charlotte County, New Brunswick).

The guide was presented at the Maine Governors Conference on tourism.

The project received an Award from the Down East Resource and Development Council- "Best Implemented Project"

Businesses in the local communities are using it as a resource guide (Ex. The Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce is distributing pertinent sections of the guide to all of their businesses).

Future plans include expanding the guide for other regions in Maine, specific requests to do so have come from the state level government.

The nature of the GOM funding (rather than state funding) allowed for a network and communication to be established with key counterparts in Canada (e.g. The Economic Development Agency directly across the border).

2. What other resources were leveraged (before, during, and after) for this project as a result of the Council grant? If the organization has received multiple grants, how have the multiple grants built on each other?

The GOM funding was stretched for the nuts and bolts for getting the Guide together. These funds were used to jump start the project.

3. Has your project been used as a model for other projects in the Gulf?

Not yet, but will be used as the model for the other regions in Maine

Other information

1. Positive quotes from participants, constituents, or beneficiaries?

“This guide is a foundation piece for natural tourism in this region”

“The GOM funding was the nuts and bolts for getting this book together”

“The GOM funding jump started the project; the organization wouldn’t have been able to do it with out the funding”

Organization that received grant: Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies
Name of project: Volunteer Monitoring Program for Cape Cod Bay
Brief description of project:
Specify GOMC Action Plan Goal #: Ecosystem and human health
Region or community served: Cape Cod, MA
Interviewer: Regina Lyons
Interviewee: Amy Costa

Interview questions

1. What changed positively as a result of the GOMC grant funding?

Program has continued every year afterwards (2007 and plans for 2008). GOM funds allowed them to buy the initial equipment so there is not much yearly costs to keep the program going.

Training manual continues to be used. They update and redistributive it every year.

From the initial set of volunteers about ½ have stayed on. Training workshops are provided yearly for new volunteers.

The PCC web site now allows for volunteers to directly enter the data, and for Amy to analyze it and post the data charts (password protected so only volunteers can get to the info).

2. What other resources were leveraged (before, during, and after) for this project as a result of the Council grant? If the organization has received multiple grants, how have the multiple grants built on each other?

GOM provided the start up funds for the monitoring program, PCC is using this to help leverage money for additional equipment and to expand program to more sites.

3. Has your project been used as a model for other projects in the Gulf?

YES – Nantucket Soundkeeper has contacted them; PCC gave them one of their manuals and discussed how to set up a similar program.

Organization that received grant: Quebec Labrador Foundation (QLF)

Name of project: 05-06: Citizen's Guide to Characterizing Marina Areas
06-07: Participatory GIS Atlas for the Muscongus Bay Ecosystem

Brief description of project:

Specify GOMC Action Plan Goal #: Coastal and Marine Habitat Conservation

Region or community served: Quebec

Interviewer: Regina Lyons

Interviewee: Jen Atkinson

Interview questions

1. What changed positively as a result of the GOMC grant funding?

2005-2006 Citizen's Guide to Characterizing Marine Areas:

Guide was peer reviewed by 23 people and is currently awaiting the printing of the guide from Seagrant. QLF hopes to have the guide on the GOM website by May. The working group participants are also putting it on their individual organization's websites.

2006-2007 Participatory GIS Atlas for the Muscongus Bay Ecosystem:

Jen is currently looking over the final proof of the Atlas and looks to release the Atlas in March. The final Atlas has 23 maps, and includes 200 GIS data layers.

The Atlas is being used in outreach campaigns. CD's of the Atlas will be distributed and some printed maps will be distributed as well (cost \$25 per map, so this will not be the most widespread way to distribute). Large printouts will be made into posters and QLF plans to do a 10 town tour with the posters and a PowerPoint presentation to present the information to the communities. One of the maps will also be made into a poster that will be distributed.

The atlas will also be available on the QLF website for download and will include: definition of terms, description, data source table, and how/where to obtain the data layers used.

Compiling all of the data layer sources was a major component to this project, with QLF taking the time to go after the best available data layers. QLF also created some of the data layers (i.e. commercial fishing, recreational facilities, sea-level rise-using the most accurate models/predictions available).

QLF offered to collaborate with GOM if they wanted to make more of an interactive website using the mapping tools (instead of just PDF files for download).

This Atlas project has been used as a model for other projects in various ways (e.g. Blue Hill Bay)

- Training and Tips
- Advising on techniques
- Model project
- way to promote like projects
- Data layer information and sources

Atlas used for public education, helps people see themselves as part of a defined marine region/area, promotes regional connectivity.

Even above the Atlas the biggest thing to come from this project was the compiling and organizing all of the data sources to make a data library that can be used by other organizations.

Some of the Atlas was also incorporated in to the 2005-2006 citizens' guide.

The GOM funds were critical in a transitional phase; it was the early anchor to the project that allowed the final product to be developed.

2. *What other resources were leveraged (before, during, and after) for this project as a result of the Council grant? If the organization has received multiple grants, how have the multiple grants built on each other?*

The 2005-2006 funds helped establish the relationship with the GOM for funding in 2006-2007.

3. *Has your project been used as a model for other projects in the Gulf?*

This Atlas project has been used as a model for other projects in various ways (e.g. Blue Hill Bay)

- Training and Tips
- Advising on techniques
- Model project
- way to promote like projects
- Data layer information and sources

Other information

1. *Positive quotes from participants, constituents, or beneficiaries?*

"The GOM funds were critical in a transitional phase, it was the early anchor to the project that allowed the final product to be developed."

Organization that received grant: Watershed Action Alliance of Southeast Massachusetts

Name of project: Mobile Interactive Display to foster stewardship, protect and restore herring runs

Brief description of project:

Specify GOMC Action Plan Goal #: Coastal and Marine Habitat Conservation

Region or community served: Southeast Massachusetts

Interviewer: Regina Lyons

Interviewee: Jill Cowie

Interview questions

1. What changed positively as a result of the GOMC grant funding?

The mobile display is still in use, and is in very high demand. They currently have a set schedule through May. They are doing a regional library tour, where it will be displayed in each town (currently in Norwell Library).

In addition the display will be shown at the Budweiser Co. office building in their library, and the project manager from NOAA showed interest in displaying it as well.

There are also 60 copies of the PowerPoint and display on CDs that were distributed throughout the community, including to those in the legislature for actions regarding Dam removal.

This project has provided a critical education element to give local dam removal projects momentum (e.g. Scituate is doing a restoration project; Plymouth had the display at a fund raising festival).

There is a press release announcing when the presentation is being held in each individual town. This is a great way to engage the public in the coastal conservation efforts taking place.

Information is available on their website as well.

2. What other resources were leveraged (before, during, and after) for this project as a result of the Council grant? If the organization has received multiple grants, how have the multiple grants built on each other?

GOM grant for this project is used in their portfolio when applying for other funding opportunities.

3. Has your project been used as a model for other projects in the Gulf?

This project could be used as a model for others, the State Riverways program has suggested to others to use this as a model.

Other information

1. Positive quotes from participants, constituents, or beneficiaries?

“The GOM seed money is really what got the project started.”