



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

**Council Meeting Briefing Packet**

*Final Version • June 6, 2007*

St. Andrews, NB • June 13 - 14, 2007

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## Council agenda

Wednesday, June 13, 2007, The Fairmont Algonquin, St. Andrews, NB

8:00 AM – 12:15 PM	<b>Executive Boat Tour of Fundy Isle (Including Head Harbour Passage)</b> <i>Meet in Lobby at 8:00am sharp</i>
12:30 PM	<b>Lunch will be provided on the tour, others will be on their own</b>
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM	<b>Industry Forum</b> (Algonquin Room)
6:00 PM	<b>Awards Reception</b> (On the rooftop of the Algonquin Hotel weather permitting (Van Horne Ballroom)

# INDUSTRY PANEL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE GULF OF MAINE

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Fairmount Algonquin Hotel, St. Andrews, NB  
Wednesday, June 13, 2007  
1:30 – 4:00 pm

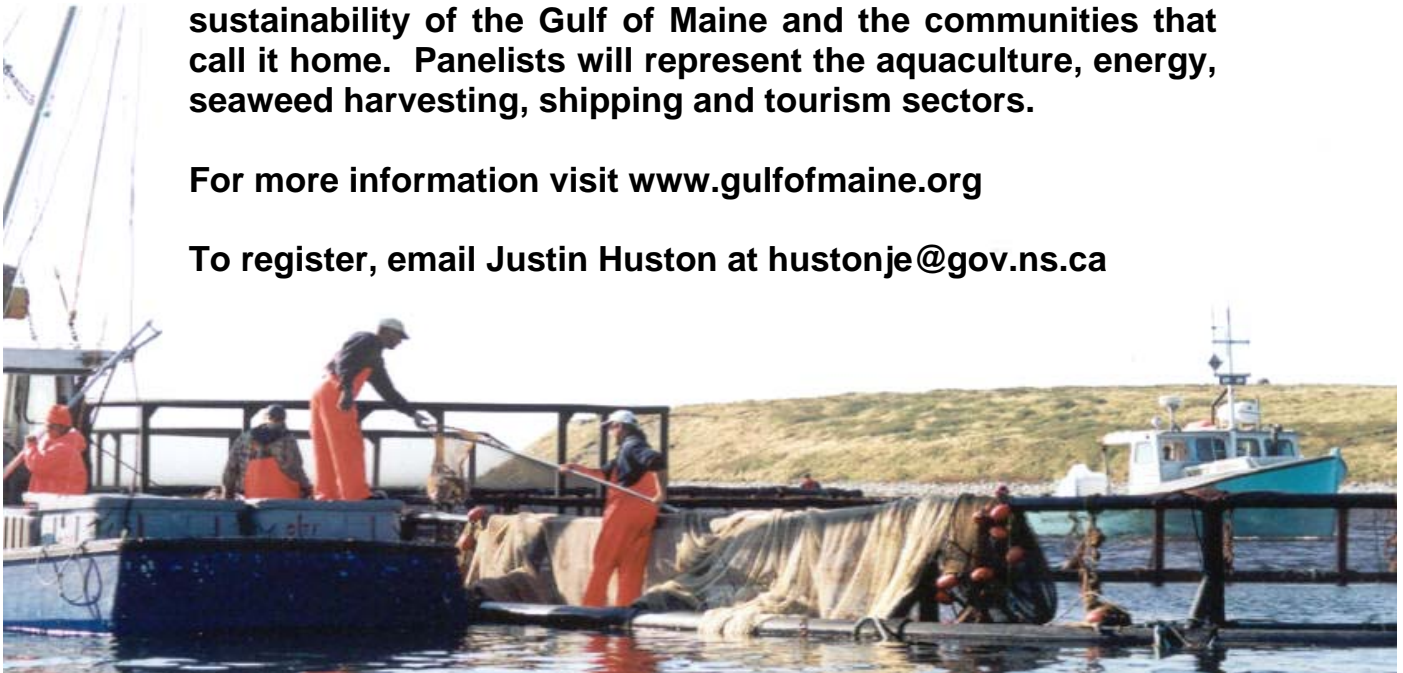


The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is hosting a public panel of industry representatives to discuss current and future sustainability efforts in the Gulf of Maine.

This will be a unique opportunity to hear first-hand how companies in the region are working to ensure the sustainability of the Gulf of Maine and the communities that call it home. Panelists will represent the aquaculture, energy, seaweed harvesting, shipping and tourism sectors.

For more information visit [www.gulfofmaine.org](http://www.gulfofmaine.org)

To register, email Justin Huston at [hustonje@gov.ns.ca](mailto:hustonje@gov.ns.ca)



On Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> in St. Andrews, New Brunswick the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment will host a panel of industry representatives to discuss current and future sustainability efforts in the Gulf of Maine.

A major component of the Gulf of Maine Council's latest 5-year Action Plan focuses on sustainability in coastal industries and communities in the Gulf of Maine region. The event is open to the public and will provide a unique opportunity to hear first-hand about sustainable practices in the aquaculture, energy, seaweed harvesting, shipping and tourism sectors. Following presentations from each panelist, there will be an opportunity for the audience to pose questions to the panel.

Location: Fairmont Algonquin Hotel, 184 Adolphus Street, St. Andrews, New Brunswick

Time: 1:30 to 4:00 pm

To register, please email Justin Huston at [hustonje@gov.ns.ca](mailto:hustonje@gov.ns.ca).

**Thursday June 14, 2007**

7:30 AM	<b>Councilor's Continental Breakfast</b>
8:00 AM	<b>Informational Session on the July 2007 to June 2008 Budget</b> <i>Cindy Krum, Executive Director, US Gulf of Maine Association</i> Meeting of Provincial, State, and Federal Councilors Budget summary (Separate document) Summary by program (Separate document) Scopes of Services (Separate document)
8:30AM	<b>Association Meetings -- optional</b> (separate rooms) <i>Association of Canadian Delegates to the Gulf of Maine (Van Horne Room)</i> <i>Association of US Delegates to the Gulf of Maine (St. Andrews Room)</i>
9:00 AM	<b>Welcome, introductions, and expected meeting outcomes</b> <i>T. Byron James - Deputy Minister of NB Departments of Agriculture and Aquaculture and Fisheries and Council Chair</i>
9:15 AM	<b>Approval of consent agenda</b> 1. Review of minutes from last meeting (p.10) 2. Scope of Services (Separate document) 3. Securing resources to implement the Action Plan – May 2007 proposal synopsis(p.12) and budget(p. 13) 4. Approval of Susan Snow Cotter Award (p.14) 5. Committee Reports a) Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee Report (p. 15) b) Sustainable industries and communities committee (p.16) c) Sewage Management Task Force (p. 17) d) Outreach Committee report (p.19) e) GOMC Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership Agreement (p. 20) f) Habitat Restoration Committee (p. 29) 6. Budget documents a) Internal Grant Allocations (separate document) b) Budget Summary (Separate document) c) Action Plan Grant Awards (Separate document)
<b>Morning Session – Ecosystem-based Approaches and Tools</b>	
9:30 AM	<b>Advancing ecosystem-based approaches in the Gulf of Maine</b> <i>Rob Stephenson, DFO/St. Andrews Marine Laboratory and David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator</i> <b>Background:</b> A cornerstone of the 2007-2012 Action Plan is that the region needs to further develop and implement ecosystem-based approaches to management. In March 2007 government and non-government stakeholders were convened by Communication Partnership for the Science and the Sea (COMPASS) and the Council to identify actionable ecosystem-based items for the region to pursue. The workshop participants recommended the Council facilitate an inclusive 9-12 month ecosystem visioning initiative that addresses both conceptual and operational objectives for implementing ecosystem-based management. <b>Meeting Packet materials:</b> Briefing materials from March 2007 workshop and recommendations on Council role (p.30-34) <b>Desired decisions/outcomes:</b> Determination of the Council's role in the visioning initiative and suggestions on the conceptual and operational content.
10:30 AM	<b>Break</b>
10:45 AM	<b>Bay of Fundy Marine Planning Initiative</b> <i>Susan Farquarson</i> <b>Background/purpose:</b> New Brunswick is pursuing a regional initiative in support of integrated coastal and ocean management. <b>Meeting Packet materials:</b> 1-page narrative (p.435) Desired decision or other outcome: To understand how EBM approaches are being pursued in NB.

11:10AM	<p><b>Priority Areas for the Conservation of Marine Habitat and Biological Diversity</b>  <i>John D. Crawford, PhD, Senior Scientist, Initiative on Marine Ecosystem Conservation, Conservation Law Foundation</i></p> <p><b>Background/purpose:</b> The Conservation Law Foundation (CLF-Boston) and WWF-Canada have mapped marine life and seascapes as a basis for identifying priority areas for conservation within the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank and the Scotian Shelf. They have identified a network of areas that is suitable for protecting the variety habitats and biodiversity of the region and illustrated a powerful method for ocean conservation planning. This presentation will offer a summary of this project, as recommended by Priscilla Brooks, Council Member, Massachusetts.</p> <p><b>Meeting Packet materials:</b> None. A handout will be distributed to accompany the presentation.</p>
11:45 AM	<p><b>Reporting to the Premiers and Governors</b></p> <p>1. Northeast Regional Ocean Congress  <i>Bruce Carlisle, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management); Ted Diers NH Coastal Program; and Kathleen Leyden ME Coastal Program</i></p> <p><b>Background/purpose:</b> On May 24<sup>th</sup> the Northeast Regional Ocean Council convened the NE Regional Ocean Congress to refine the proposed four focal areas (e.g., ocean ecosystem health, coastal hazards, maritime security, and ocean energy planning) and to provide the basis for recommendations to the Premiers and Governors.</p> <p><i>Meeting Packet materials:</i> 2-page handout (p.36)</p> <p><b>Desired decision or other outcome:</b> Councilors understand status of NROC efforts and recommendations to the Premiers and Governors</p> <p>2. <i>Gulf of Maine Council Action Plan</i>  <i>Russ Henry (NB)</i></p> <p><b>Background/purpose:</b> In December 2006, on behalf of the Premiers and Governors, the Council released its 2007-2012 Action Plan and commenced implementation. It is now timely to update the Premiers and Governors on Council priorities and progress.</p> <p><b>Meeting Packet materials:</b> Briefing memorandum for NEGC/ECP summer meeting packet (p.38)</p> <p><b>Desired decision or other outcome:</b> Councilors approve contents of GOMC materials for NEGC/ECP meeting packet</p>
12:05PM	<p><b>Indicators of ecosystem health: progress, needs and a focus on climate change</b>  <i>Susan Russell-Robinson, USGS and Christine Tilburg, Coordinator, ESIP</i></p> <p><b>Background/purpose:</b> Development of indicators of ecosystem health and State of the Environment reporting are priorities in the Action Plan and in the Council's 18-month work plan. ESIP, in partnership with GeoConnections Canada and GoMOOS, is developing web tools to facilitate access to data and information on nutrients and contaminants. Nutrients and contaminants represent two of the six ESIP focus areas with the remaining areas being coastal development, climate change, aquatic habitats, and fisheries/aquaculture. ESIP held a joint meeting with the Climate Change Network (CCN) on June 11th to launch the CCN and facilitate discussions of the impact of climate change on indicators and ecosystems.</p> <p><b>Meeting Packet materials:</b> TBD (p.39)</p> <p><b>Desired decision or other outcome:</b> Results of the 6/11 climate change workshop are disseminated &amp; Council considers recommendations; Council understands ESIP work plan and needs (e.g., importing databases into GeoConnex web tools, customer evaluation of interactive web sites, and maintenance of CICEET monitoring map present on ESIP webpage, etc.).</p>
12:35 PM	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>

<b>Afternoon Session – Initiatives to increase the region’s capacity to respond to pressing issues</b>	
1:35 PM	<p><b>Engaging Council Partners via Strategic Alliances</b>  <i>Russell Henry, Working Group Chair &amp; David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator</i>  <b>Background:</b> One method to accelerate implementation of the Action Plan is for the Council to formally engage and secure the support of other organizations through partnerships/alliances. The Working Group has developed recommendations on how to proceed.  Meeting Packet materials: Briefing memorandum on the concept and recommendations for forming alliances (p.40-42)  <b>Desired decisions/outcome:</b> Council approval of an internal process to create agreements, identification of priority alliances, and action on the draft GOMC resolve in support of BoFEP.</p>
2:05 PM	<p><b>Action Plan Implementation – A Sponsoring Partners Proposal</b>  <i>David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator</i>  <b>Background:</b> To effectively implement the Action Plan the Council needs to involve others. The Working Group and Council Advisory Group have explored the idea of engaging other non-profits and businesses through a sponsoring partners program. The purpose would be to increase external support for Action Plan implementation via the Council’s Action Plan Grant Program.  <b>Meeting Packet materials:</b> Briefing memorandum on the concept, scope and recommendations for a sponsoring partners program (p.43)  <b>Desired decision/outcome:</b> Council direction on whether and how to proceed in developing such a program</p>
2:35PM	<p><b>Increasing the stability of the Council – options to amend the dues/contributions structure</b>  <i>Russell Henry, Working Group Chair and David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator</i>  <b>Background:</b> At the December meeting the Council directed the Working Group to consider a dues/contribution increase and to report back at the June meeting with options. The Working Group and Council Advisory Group has developed options.  <b>Meeting Packet materials:</b> Briefing memorandum, review of dues raised and uses, and recommendations (p.44-46)  <b>Desired decision/outcome:</b> Council guidance on dues/contribution structure</p>
3:05 PM	<p><b>Sustainable Industries and Communities Committee</b>  <i>Justin Huston, Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture</i>  <b>Background:</b> The Action Plan goal #3 addresses several aspects of healthy and vibrant coastal communities. The Council views leaders of marine-dependent industries as key decision-makers. It values their input and needs their active participation. Update on the Industry Engagement study, outcomes from the June 13th Industry Panel, and establishment of Industry Awards.  <b>Meeting Packet materials:</b> Agenda for June 2007 forum (p.47)  <b>Desired decision/outcome:</b> Council awareness of progress to date, outcomes from the Industry Panel, and approval of the Industry Awards.</p>
3:20 PM	<b>Break</b>



3:35 PM	<p><b>Acting on Recommendations for Science Representatives</b>  <i>Michele L. Tremblay</i>  <b>Background:</b> In June 2006 the Council approved recommendations to strengthen the Council including expanding membership to include a science representative from Canada and the US. The Working Group has discussed this matter and offers recommendations  <b>Meeting Packet materials:</b> WG recommendations  <b>Desired decision/outcome:</b> Approval to proceed in contacting representatives and soliciting their participation.</p>
3:50 PM	<p><b>FY 2008 Budget Approval</b>  <i>Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association</i>  <b>Background:</b> In December the Council approved an 18-month work plan, allocated resources and directed the Working Group to proceed with implementation. Management and Finance has worked with the leads for each activity to have them report on progress for the first six months and to develop July 2007 to June 2008 work plans.  <b>Meeting Packet materials:</b> July 2007 to June 2008 Budget recommendations  <b>Desired decision/outcome:</b> Approval of the FY 2008 Budget.</p>
4:20 PM	<p><b>Items removed from the Consent Agenda</b></p>
4:50PM	<p><b>2007-2008 Council meeting scheduling</b>  <i>Kate Killerlain Morrison, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management and Working Group Chair 2007-2008, and Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator</i>  <b>Meeting Packet materials:</b> 2007-2008 Council and Working Group Schedules (p.48)</p>
5:00 PM	<p><b>Closing remarks and meeting adjourn</b>  Gavel passes to Massachusetts</p>

# Draft Council Meeting Decision and Action Items

## Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Draft Council Meeting Decision and Action Items Delta Fredericton, Fredericton NB December 14, 2006

### Council members in attendance

Peter Colosi, NOAA, NMFS; Hon. Rick Doucet, Minister, NB Dept. of Fisheries; Hon. Roland Haché, Minister, NB Dept. of Environment; Byron James, Council Chair, Deputy Minister, Dept. of Agriculture & Aquaculture/Dept. of Fisheries; Marvin Moriarty, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Dept. of Interior; Jackie Olsen, Environment Canada; Carol Ann Rose, DFO, Maritimes Region; Lee Sochasky, St Croix International Waterway Commission

### Others in attendance

Joe Arbour, DFO; Andrew Breau, NB Dept. of Agriculture & Aquaculture; Ed Christoffers, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Mel Coté for Linda Murphy, EPA; Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association; Ernest Fage, NS Fisheries and Aquaculture; Caroline Gravel, Shipping Federation of Canada; George Haines for Hon. Roland Haché, NB Dept. of Environment; Russ Henry, Working Group Chair, NB Dept. of Agriculture & Aquaculture; Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada; Patricia Hinch for Mark Parent, NS Dept. of Environment and Labour; Elizabeth Hertz for Martha Freeman, ME State Planning Office; Susan Howe, GoMC Administrative Assistant; Don Hudson, Chewonki Foundation; Justin Huston, NS Fisheries and Aquaculture; Marianne Janowicz, NB Dept. of Environment; Diane Kent Gillis, NB Dept. of Environment; David Keeley, GoMC Policy Coordinator; Kate Killerlain Morrison for Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Coastal Zone Management; Christian Krahforst, MA Coastal Zone Management Program; Linda Mercer for George LaPointe, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources; Betsy Nicholson, NOAA/National Ocean Service; Greg Roach for Ronald Chisholm, NS Dept. of Fisheries & Aquaculture; Susan Russell-Robinson, DOI/USGS; Harry Stuart for Thomas S. Burack, NH Dept. of Environmental Services; Jane Tims, NB Dept. of Environment; Michele L. Tremblay, GoMC Council Coordinator; Peter Wells, Dalhousie University, Environment Canada (retired); Eric Williams, NH Dept. of Environmental Services

Byron James, Council Chair, reviewed the Council agenda and chaired the Council meeting.

### Decisions

1. The indirect rate of 15.42 was approved by Council during the joint US and Canada budget discussion meeting, December 14, 2006. This indirect rate will go into affect December 15, 2006.
2. There were no additions or deletions were required for the Council Action Agenda and the Consent Agenda was approved by Council.
3. The Marketing Strategy for the 2007-2012 Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Action Plan was approved by Council.
4. Council approved a Dedication in memory of Susan Snow-Cotter which will be included in the 2007-2012 GoMC Action Plan.
5. The 18-month Work Plan was approved by Council.
6. The allocation of funding (which outlines 18 activities totaling \$203,000) is approved by Council in "principle" only. A report will be presented to Council in June outlining what has been completed and how it was accomplished. The dollars may change slightly (upon further review by the M&F Committee) for the 18 activities. The expectation is that Council will be briefed on any new information/changes that may arise.
7. Council approved the Fundraising Strategy. The Fundraising Strategy will be addressed with a uniform approach using the seven fundraising options as presented during this meeting.
8. Council's support for Ecosystem-based Approaches in the Action Plan. Council affirmed that both the COMPASS Ecosystem-based management workshop and the Northeast Oceans Congress play a significant role in accomplishing task 1.10 in the 18-month Work Plan.

9. Council committed providing web support for regional EBM initiatives.
10. Council encouraged Management & Finance Committee to further consider committing policy contractor support for workshop planning (included in task 1.10).
11. The Oceans Network Terms of Reference was removed from the Council agenda. This item requires further review by the Working Group with further recommendations to Council in June.
12. Approval of amendment to GoMC Terms of Reference - Reference to First Nations representative. Council agreed to defer this item to CAG and the Working Group. This will be included as an agenda item for the next CAG call to provide guidance to the Working Group. The Working Group will review the two First Nations representative scenario versus a one First Nations representative. The Working Group will work to clarify the proposed process of how one or two First Nations representatives would be identified.
13. Council approved the amendment to the Working Group Terms of Reference which states that both committee co-chairs may attend Working Group meetings.
14. Council approved the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) agreement “in principle” with the understanding that the revised agreement will be brought forward to Council for approval in June 2007 without reference to a specific funding amount. In addition, other strategic alliances will be considered that advance implementation of the Action Plan.

**Actions**

1. Council requested that the Working Group formulate recommendations for securing resources to implement the five-year Action Plan and present back to Council.
2. Cindy will update the Allocation of Funding spreadsheet for the 18-month Work Plan once the current internal grant round is complete and invoices have been paid.
3. New Gulf of Maine Councilor Representatives (CA/US Science Reps). By the end of February 2007 the Working Group was asked to forward senior science representative candidate names to Michele Tremblay in order to work towards confirming new councilor positions. Note: Canada and US each have the opportunity to have two private sector councilor seats.

*Prepared by Susan Howe  
GoMC Administrative Assistant*

## Project Synopsis

**What is requested?** The Gulf of Maine Council will continue its long partnership with NOAA and other partners to provide the tools managers need to accelerate the application of ecosystem-based approaches to management and to effectively engage the broader Gulf of Maine community. This proposal requests \$944,770 and provides \$184,350 in matching funds to augment the monitoring and mapping tools that managers need, communicate about ecosystem-based approaches, and engage the broader Gulf of Maine community. It contains eight, inter-related activities that leverage previous NOAA investments and those made by the states and our international partners.

**What are the benefits?** Benthic habitat maps that assist coastal and fisheries managers make more informed decisions. Improved access to habitat monitoring data to support integrated, ecosystem-based coastal decision-making. Augmented monitoring of the burden of contaminants beyond the lower trophic level organisms of the Gulfwatch Program and synthesis of contaminant exposure reported to environmental managers and general public. An integrated baseline description of chemical contaminants in marine and estuarine ecosystems with estimates of risks of trace chemicals to marine biota and humans. Research findings related to the region's coastal manager's priorities (e.g., coastal habitat and land use) are translated into user-friendly language and disseminated via information and products. Produce the Gulf of Maine Times and feature a new column focused exclusively on communicating innovative ecosystem-based approaches. Support continued implementation of *A Strategy for Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicators and State of the Environment Reporting*. Support sub-regional efforts that are advancing ecosystem-based approaches through a competitive *Action Plan Grants Program*. Create a conceptual and operational vision statement for ecosystem-based management in the Gulf of Maine that is accepted by the region's stakeholders. Develop a user-driven web site and learning network that provides ready and efficient access to relevant data, information, tools and facilitated real-time interaction among ecosystem-based practitioners.

**How does it impact NOAA EBM outcomes and strategies?** The proposal will advance two goals in the NOAA Strategic Plan (e.g., Healthy and productive coastal and marine ecosystems that benefit society & A well informed public that acts as a steward of coastal and marine ecosystems) and related strategies (e.g., developing a tiered system of ecological and socio-economic ecosystem indicators, implementing cooperative strategies to improve regional ecosystem health, manage uses of ecosystems, enhancing outreach and education efforts, improve international coordination and partnerships, etc.). (See Appendices for detail) It also supports the NOAA Education Plan and tasks in the SIMOR work plan. Timely investments by NOAA in the ecosystem-based approaches will leverage resources in the region and assist NOAA in meeting its strategic objectives more rapidly.

**Why do we need it?** The Pew and US Commission documented that the quality of our coasts and oceans are declining. Both studies confirmed the immense economic, cultural and recreational value of our oceans and coasts. The Bush Administration's Ocean Action Plan confirmed these facts.

## Budget Summary (\$U.S.)

<b>Work Element Part I</b>	<b>BAA Request</b>	<b>Match</b>
1. Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative (GOMMI)	\$200,000	\$93,550
2. Supporting management through a web-based regional habitat monitoring data system	110,000	87,000
3. Strengthening management of marine contaminants (Elements 1 and 2)	57,400	7,800
<b>Work Element Part II</b>		
1. Communicating with decision-makers and the public	\$70,650	\$6,000
2. Compiling and disseminating information managers need	139,500	32,000
3. Accelerating community actions that advance ecosystem-based approaches	146,000	6,000
4. Facilitating the development of EBM visioning	45,000	15,000
5. Promoting collaboration and innovation through an EBM practitioners learning network	50,000	
Direct Costs Total	\$818,550	
Indirect Rate at 15.42%	\$126,220	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$944,770</b>	<b>\$247,350</b>

Note: Significant additional funding from other sources is involved in running the programs described in this application and operating the Gulf of Maine Council. These additional funds are not shown as part of this application.

# Development of Susan Snow-Cotter Council Award

## **Summary**

At the March 2007 Working Group meeting, there was consensus that a recommendation should be made to Council to offer a namesake award for Susan Snow-Cotter, former Council Member for Massachusetts. A small group (Kate Killerlain Morrison, Jane Tims, Betsy Nicholson, Michele Tremblay) was asked to provide a recommendation to the Management/Finance Committee by May 1 on the criteria and process for such an award. The summary description below was decided via conference call on April 23, 2007. Marianne Janowicz participated on behalf of Jane Tims and Anne Donovan also joined the call from MA CZM for additional guidance.

## **Proposed Award Name**

Susan A. Snow-Cotter Leadership Award

## **Proposed Award Text**

To honor a coastal management professional who exemplifies outstanding leadership or exceptional mentoring in the Gulf of Maine watershed. Former Director of the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management and former Gulf of Maine Councilor Susan A. Snow-Cotter, was recognized as a leader who exhibited unwavering passion, enthusiasm, and insight to develop pragmatic approaches to coastal management challenges.

The Council presents this award to a professional who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in coastal and ocean planning and management by:

- Developing pragmatic solutions to pressing issues and focusing resources to achieve results;
- Building collaborative efforts through mobilizing and unifying others around an issue or initiative;
- Serving as a regional champion for the Gulf of Maine; and/or
- Serving as a strong and supportive mentor to emerging coastal management professionals.

## **Additional Criteria (not listed on actual award):**

The recipient must also work and live in the Gulf of Maine and the GoM Drainage Basin or in an area that influences the management of the Gulf of Maine.

## **Proposed Process**

- A call for nominations will be made annually, in conjunction with other Council awards, however the award will not necessarily be given each year.
- Award will be given at awards reception at June Council meeting.

## Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee Report June 4, 2007

The Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee will hold a meeting June 20-21, 2007, in Orono, ME. Currently we are expecting about 20 participants, including many new Canadian members. Environmental Monitoring Coordinator Greg Klassen is to be credited with generating interest and recruiting Canadian participation. Over the past several years HMSC has adopted a tiered framework for monitoring of critical habitats (<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/publications/HMSC-Regional-Monitoring-Framework.pdf>), collaborated in developing outreach material on salt marshes (<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/habitatmonitoring/>) and led development of a prototype Regional Habitat Monitoring Data System including online data entry, centralized data storage, and synthesis and dynamic display of salt marsh and seagrass monitoring data (<http://www.gomoos.org/gomc/map/>). Meeting discussions will focus on steps needed to fully implement regional habitat monitoring within the tiered framework using the data system as a synthesis tool.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilary Neckles, US co-chair

Note: Please print and bring the documents from the above links, for your information.

## Sustainable Industries and Communities Committee

The Sustainable Industries and Communities Committee (SICC) is progressing on two of the three priority actions for Goal 3 in the Council's 18-month Work Plan: industry engagement and collaboration (Action 3.1, pg 78) and; industry sustainability award (Action 3.2, pg 81).

### Industry engagement and collaboration

- An RFP was released in early April, and seven proposals were received. After review, the SICC chose MRAG Americas as the successful consultant to undertake the Industry Engagement Report.
- The SICC co-chairs had their first meeting with MRAG Americas on June 4<sup>th</sup> and are confident that the team at MRAG Americas will deliver an excellent product to Council in December.
- \$20,000 was allocated for this work by Council in December 2006 under the 18-month Work Plan.

### Industry sustainability award

- The following text has been drafted for Council approval in June 2007:

#### Gulf of Maine Sustainable Industry Award

In recognition of demonstrated innovation and leadership in sustainability.

Each year the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment recognizes a single individual, company, or organization within the Gulf of Maine watershed that has, through the adoption of sustainable practices, made a significant contribution to the well-being of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem and the communities that call it home.

Nominations are sought from the following sectors:

- tourism
- wild fisheries (commercial and recreational)
- aquaculture (finfish and shellfish)
- renewable energy generation (tidal, wave and wind)
- transportation (shipping, ferries, etc.)

Award winners will be honored at the annual Gulf of Maine Council awards ceremony, profiled in the Gulf of Maine Times, and be recognized in local or sector-based media through notices of achievement.

### Working Waterfronts

The third priority action is assessing awareness of working waterfronts (Action 3.3, pg 83). This action will be evaluated by the new Council Evaluator to determine performance measures and monitoring methods to best assess awareness of working waterfronts among coastal lawmakers. The SICC will work with the Council Evaluator in to undertake the assessment work by Spring 2008.

### Membership

Current membership:

Justin Huston, NSDFA (co-chair)  
Elizabeth Hertz, MESPO (co-chair)  
Theresa Torrent-Ellis, MESPO  
Eric Williams, NHDES  
Russ Henry, NBDAA  
Jane Tims, NBDE  
Linda Mercer, MEDMR  
Kate Killerlain Morrison, MAOCZM  
Bruce Smith, Seascape Kayak

Submitted by: Justin Huston and Elizabeth Hertz  
June 5, 2007



# Sewage Management Task Force

The GOM Sewage Task Force and Environmental Quality monitoring Committee has focussed on the following activities over the 2006-07 year:

- 1) Completed tasks under a 2005 –06 GOMC Internal Grants project. The Sewage Task Force hired Dr. Donald Waller to conduct the following work:
  - a) prepare a public communications/outreach plan to disseminate documents, reports, key message and notices of the Sewage Sub-Committee, adopting, adapting, or building on current GOMC outreach and communications procedures and practices;
  - b) select known sewage indicators to evaluate the environmental and human health quality of receiving waters, for consideration in GOM/Bay of Fundy monitoring programs, including Gulfwatch, and preparation of a report to discuss the rationale behind the selection of the chosen sewage indicators;
  - c) prepare a reference/resource document from information gathered from the jurisdictional survey and from interview responses, for internal Sewage Task Force use only;
  - d) prepare a detailed draft outline of a workshop program for a proposed GOMC hosted workshop in 2007, or forum or technical session during the Annual Aquatic Toxicity Workshop (Oct 2007) in Halifax, based on input from Sewage Task Force members to reflect their interests;
  - e) prepare a technical report on current best management practices and proven wastewater management technologies of on-site systems in the Gulf region and provide examples of other innovative technologies applied, under consideration, or development throughout the world, that could be applied in the Gulf region; and
  - f) develop a reference listing of relevant information materials collected for the best management practices report, for future development of a factsheet for public distribution, on best management practices.
- 2) Worked in association with the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership to prepare a Factsheet on Sewage Impacts and Management in the Bay of Fundy.
- 3) The Sewage Sub-Committee prepare a 2007-08 workplan to address Goal 2: “Raise awareness of requirements, best management practices, and innovative technologies in sewage management and on-site residential septic systems”. The workplan includes the following components:
  - I. Workshop session
    - a) In conjunction with the Atlantic Region National Program of Action, develop and conduct a GOM workshop session on on-site sewage management (best management practices and innovative technologies) for inclusion in a related conference to be held in the Gulf region over the next 18 months;
    - b) Obtain agreement from the organization/agency hosting the workshop/ conference to incorporate a session on on-site sewage management;
    - c) Consider inclusion of a similar workshop session during the 8<sup>th</sup> BoFEP Workshop on environmental management, in the Fall of 2008;
    - d) Prepare workshop session proceedings for GOMC website postage;

## II. Resource information

- a) Post links on the GOMC website, to resource/educational information/materials available from government regulatory agencies in the GOM region, on proper maintenance and management of on-site residential systems;
- b) Encourage the development of preliminary background papers/posters on emerging sewage and wastewater management issues and technologies, for review by Atlantic Toxicity Workshop and GOMC Sewage Management Sub-Committee members.

### Status:

- 1) Dr. Waller's contract work was completed in December 2006. The Sewage Sub-Committee Co-Chairs are in process of combining contract deliverables into a single document. This single document will be available at the end of June 2007.
- 2) The BoFEP factsheet will be available by the end of June 2007.
- 3) The Sewage Sub-Committee has begun to consider appropriate conferences that it might to approach to include a session on on-site sewage management.

Submitted by: Patricia Hinch, and Dr. Peter Wells, Co-Chairs, Sewage Management Sub-Committee.

## Outreach Committee Report

Members of the Outreach committee are gearing up for the 2007 National Marine Educators Conference to take place in Portland, Maine in July. On the planning team are members; Mark Wiley, Sharon Meeker, and Theresa Torrent-Ellis. Their contributions have included everything from setting the agenda, fund raising, conference coordination, registration, logistics and lodging.

The Coordinator has been working with The Biodiversity Project on phase 1 of developing a values-based marketing strategy for the Gulf of Maine. At this time funding has been secured to do a preliminary survey of potential audiences. Also The Biodiversity Project is developing ideas for what a marketing portfolio might contain and what a web site might consist of and how it should best be managed. The tools developed will be adapted to enhance the committee's current capacity and will specifically address new work plan items that request social marketing strategies. This process is the result of our workshop day in Boston.

The Coordinator is assisting with the development and dissemination of tools for managers to use Gulfwatch data and analyses through partnerships with other regional efforts (work plan item 2.1). The project team is made up of members of the Council Gulfwatch committee, ESIP, GooMOOS, Science Translation, Environment Canada and others. In an effort to document awareness of the Gulfwatch Program and to evaluate and enhance on-line tools, the team is coordinating a focus group for the end of June. Environment Canada is providing the license to Microsoft Live Meeting software which will allow members of the focus group to participate without leaving their offices. Feedback from the participants will guide the projects next steps.

Outreach also continues to write and distribute press releases and announcements for working group projects and committees and to respond to requests for communications related tools. Recently announcements were distributed on the new Visionary and Longard award winners, the Sustainable Industry Forum and numerous Council contract opportunities. Requests for the Action Plan PowerPoint presentation and other AP marketing items continue. The website's media room is maintained, media contacts and resources are continually updated and communications with US and Canadian media representatives initiated and sustained. Outreach supports the Gulf of Maine Times editor with management of the mailing lists and coordinates with Gannett Offset on mailing related issues.

The Outreach Committee has recently welcomed new members, Theresa Mitchell Barbo of the Cape Cod Bay Ocean Sanctuary Program, Kristin Whiting-Grant of Maine Sea Grant, and Rochelle Owen, Environment Canada.

*Submitted by Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office and Karin Hansen, Outreach Committee Contractor.*

# Gulf of Maine Council - Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership Agreement

In December, 2003, the Council agreed to establish a collaborative agreement with the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) and provide \$10,000 per year for three years to support projects and programs of mutual interest that link to the Council's Action Plan. The agreement requires BoFEP to present an annual progress report to the GOM Council. The following presents an update of work for 2006-07 and a summary of previous work accomplished from 2004-2006.

Work completed/under completion 2006-2007 (under contract)

-Maria-Ines Buzeta and Dr. John Roff - Mapping Persistent features, factors and processes in Southwest New Brunswick for use in habitat and biodiversity conservation.

The work involved producing GIS layers of information to assist in identifying, locating, and explaining areas considered to be of high ecological or biological significance. The area of focus is Southwest New Brunswick, although other sites already identified in the Bay of Fundy were also included. The project produced: GIS layers on persistent features, selected biogeography, larval availability and processes; GIS layers of sampling and monitoring efforts in the area; and extracted data available for multivariate analysis for hypothesis testing. The project created a visualization of significant areas identified. Presentations of the above information was made during the 7th BoFEP Workshop held in October 2006, in St. Andrews, NB. The final report will be made available on the BoFEP website by the end of June 2007.

- Dr. Elaine Toms, Dr. Bertrum MacDonald. And Dr. Peter Wells, "Developing an Information and Knowledge Repository for the Bay of Fundy".

The purpose of this project is to aggregate the documents that have been created and/or compiled by BoFEP to date, and to create a web-based and accessed, full-text, digital repository of those documents. The intent is to provide Google-like access to the intellectual resources of BoFEP, and to enhance that access by enabling searching for documents by author, title, geographic location, species, etc, as well as using general keywords, and to make the access publicly available via the Web. This project will deliver a report that describes the process of maintaining and updating the database, and a website that provides full-text access to the documents created by BoFEP. The final report will be made available on the BoFEP website by the end of June 2007.

Work completed from 2005 - 2006 (under contract)

- Van Proosdij, Dr. Danika, Department of Geography Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia (2006). Development of a series of historical digital mosaics depicting change in intertidal habitat in the Minas Basin. The purpose of this study was to assess and integrate all available historical aerial photography on saltmarshes within the Southern Bight of the Minas Basin, into the comprehensive digital geodatabase which had been initiated in 2004. This work compliments on-going initiatives to quantify the changes in ecosystem habitat in the Minas Basin. The air photo mosaics produced can be used by researchers to address questions of why and at what rate these changes are occurring, ideally separating the natural versus anthropogenic impacts. The final product of this project is a georeferenced rectified air photo mosaic layer for each year of available historical aerial photography at low tide, integrated into the GIS database. This database has been developed as a baseline for future research on the impacts of tidal barriers on intertidal ecosystems and is housed at St. Mary's University. The final copy of the report will be placed on the BoFEP website at: <http://www.bofep.org/>

- Sullivan, Denise (2005). Clean Annapolis River Project, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, Annapolis Watershed Salt Marsh Evaluation: Surveying Tidal barriers along the Annapolis Basin (2005). The goal of this project was to identify, evaluate and develop restoration plans for candidate salt marshes in the Annapolis watershed. The study examined the degree and cause of tidal restriction and the size and potential biological productivity of the site including contributing factors. Sites were ranked as to their feasibility for restoration. Project outcomes include: an inventory of candidate salt marsh restoration sites in the western Annapolis Valley restoration; the identification of priority candidate sites; development of restoration plans for high priority sites; and an initiation of protocols for pre-restoration baseline monitoring of priority sites. The final report is available at: <http://www.annapolisriver.ca>

- Dr. Gail Chmura, Department of Geography, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Lessons Learned from Recovering Marshes: the Hydrological Network in Abandoned Dykelands (2006), The purpose of this project was to study vegetation distribution and production in relation to the altered hydrology documented in recovering marshes. The project assessed the responses of two recovering dykelands - John Lusby Sanctuary on the Cumberland Basin and Saints Rest March near St. John. Each marsh was compared to a reference, or control marsh, Allen Creek/Wood Point on the Upper Bay and Dipper Harbour on the lower Bay, which have never been isolated from tidal flooding. Products of this study include: a digital spatial database of hydrological networks and elevation model; maps of modern hydrological networks at four marshes; maps of original hydrological networks of two dykes marshes; and a report of analyses of hydrological differences between reference and dyked marshes in the two parts of the Bay. A final copy of the report is available at: <http://www.geog.mcgill.ca/faculty/chmura/>

Work completed 2004-2005 (under contract)

-Dr. Danika van Proosdij , “Bay of Fundy Tidal Barriers GIS Database Development”, is available on the BoFEP website at:

[http://www.bofep.org/Publications/barrierGIS/BOFwebsite/vanProosdij\\_Dobek2005finalreport.pdf](http://www.bofep.org/Publications/barrierGIS/BOFwebsite/vanProosdij_Dobek2005finalreport.pdf)

After careful consideration, the first year of funding was applied to a geographic information system study with Environment Canada to map tidal barriers in the Bay of Fundy. The purpose of this project is to integrate Bay of Fundy Tidal Barrier Audits information from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, into a comprehensive digital database. The database will be used as a baseline to assess the cumulative impacts of tidal barriers in the Upper Bay of Fundy and serve as a platform for future research. Specific deliverables completed under this contract included:

- an integrated text report on CD of empirical data collected through the Bay of Fundy Tidal Barrier Audits including a series of PDF maps of all base layers (where available) and location of all barriers discussed in the Ecology Action Centre and CCNB reports. (Completed: March 31, 2005);
- a digital spatial database of tidal barriers and metadata sets of other data discussed in the report and a guide to their use, is now accessible through the internet in PDF form was completed June 30, 2005; (a hyperlink to fact sheets will be available for NS only);
- a final report and written assessment of availability of historical documents on terrestrial activities which might impact the ecosystem health of intertidal environments was completed June 30, 2005.

- a progress report presentation by Dr. Danika van Proosdij, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, on the Tidal Barriers Study during the GOMC Working Group Meeting in Fredericton, on March 17, 2005.

Other work elements specified in the GOMC – BOFEP Agreement December 2005 through June 2006 (not funded)

The agreement requires that BoFEP:

- 1)“Act as the key information source for the Bay of Fundy and other northern parts of the GOM”

Workshop/GOMC related activities:

- participated in GOM forum on coastal development (GOMC meeting Dec 2003);

- reported on BOFEP activities and progress during GOMC Summit (Oct 2004);
- provided tours of the KC Irving Environmental Science Centre at Acadia University and Acadian dykelands (June 2004);
- hosted the BOFEP Windsor Causeway Panel (January 2005);
- presented a progress report on the Tidal barriers Project to the GOM WG (March 2005); and

#### Communications:

2) "Contribute to the scientific understanding of the Bay of Fundy ecosystem through research and programs on contaminants and habitat restoration including new research projects such as a GIS study of tidal barriers in the Bay of Fundy"

#### Reports

- Dyer, C, S. Wehrell and Dr. G. Daborn (2005). Acadia University, Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Fisheries Management Issues in the Upper Bay of Fundy. ACER Publication No. 80. Available at: [http://www.bofep.org/PDFfiles/Final\\_ReportUBFFMPPJuly05.pdf](http://www.bofep.org/PDFfiles/Final_ReportUBFFMPPJuly05.pdf)

#### Presentations

- presented a summary report during the GOM Summit in Sept. 2004, on BOFEP activities, issues and priorities from the 6th BOFEP workshop for future consideration and action;
- developing a framework for preparing periodic State of the Bay of Fundy Reports (ongoing);
  - conducting studies on the cumulative effects of mercury and parasite burdens on migratory shorebirds (semi-palmated sandpipers) (ongoing);
  - continuing to review the literature on the biology and ecology of *Corophium volutator* (ongoing) (A compilation of more than 600 citations has been prepared by the *Corophium* Working Group of BOFEP. Draft is available only in hard copy. (Contact: [communications@bofep.org](mailto:communications@bofep.org) )
  - continuing to conduct research on toxic contaminants and implement programs on habitat restoration within the NB and NS area through its Working Groups and in conjunction with the Gulf of Maine Council through participation on GOM Working Groups including Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee; Sewage Task Force; and Habitat Conservation, Restoration (Cheverie Creek Project), and Monitoring committees);

#### Publications

- Fundy Issues # 25 "Contaminant Concerns: Heavy Metals and the Bay of Fundy" and #26 "Saving Special Spaces: Protected Areas. Available on the BoFEP Website at [http://www.bofep.org/fundy\\_issues.htm](http://www.bofep.org/fundy_issues.htm));
- Fundy Issue #27: Parious POPs; Persistent Organic Pollutants in the Bay of Fundy (available on the BoFEP Website at <http://www.bofep.org/pops.htm>)
- Perry-Giraud, Christian (2005). Thirty Year Assessment of the Cornwallis Estuary Evolution: Aerial Photograph and GIS Analysis. Report on an Internship project for the Minas Basin Working Group by Christian Perry-Giraud, Master "Environment, Ground and Water", University of Rouen, France September 2005. 65 pages. Available at: [http://www.bofep.org/PDFfiles/GISCornwallis\\_PerryGiraud.pdf](http://www.bofep.org/PDFfiles/GISCornwallis_PerryGiraud.pdf)
- J..A. Percy, A.J. Evans, P.G. Wells, and S.J. Rolston Eds. (2005). Proceedings of the 6th Bay of Fundy Workshop, "The Changing Bay of Fundy: Beyond 400 Years", held September 29-October 2, 2004, Cornwallis, NS. Environment Canada - Atlantic Region Occasional Report No. 23. March 2005. Available at: [http://www.bofep.org/PDFfiles/COASTAL\\_FORUM\\_WORKSHOP\\_RPT.pdf](http://www.bofep.org/PDFfiles/COASTAL_FORUM_WORKSHOP_RPT.pdf)

#### BoFEP Science Workshop Series:

- sponsored the 6th BOFEP workshop in October 2004 which provided overviews of current scientific research on issues of concern in the Bay of Fundy. Proceedings available in hard copy and at <http://www.bofep.org/bofep%20workshops.htm> printed.);

- BoFEP hosted the 7th Bay of Fundy Science Workshop "Challenges in environmental management in the Bay of Fundy-Gulf of Maine" Oct 25-27, 2006, The Fairmount Algonquin, St. Andrews, NB  
Purpose: to maximize opportunities for exchange and dissemination of scientific information among partners.

Discussion topics: biodiversity/ecology (incl. but not limited to research activities within the Discovery Corridor, near-to offshore environments); integrated coastal management/ ecosystem approaches (incl. fisheries); nearshore fish community structure/habitat; salt marsh ecology; environmental/science education outreach programs, and nearshore marine monitoring. (The proceedings are currently under completion).

#### Communications:

- maintains and develops the BoFEP website providing a wealth of continually updated information on the Bay of Fundy
- prepares and distributes a quarterly e-newsletter "Fundy Tidings" to all BoFEP members and other interested individuals. Current and past issues are available at: <http://www.bofep.org/tidings.htm>;
- prepares online popular articles on current Bay of Fundy topics. Further information is available at: <http://www.bofep.org/articles.htm>
- developed information Kiosks and posters for distribution in selected areas around the Bay of Fundy
- prints and distributes BoFEP reports regionally and internationally
- makes presentations to agencies and the public on BoFEP and its objectives
- distributes BoFEP publications to libraries
- members of BoFEP meet regularly with the GOMC Working Group to present results of BoFEP projects and workshops.
- created and sponsored a display on saltmarshes entitled "From Habitat to habitat" originally presented as a temporary exhibit at the O'Dell Museum in Annapolis Royal. The display is now a permanent display housed in the Interpretation Center at the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens as part of their Saltmarsh and Acadian history interpretation program;

2) "Contribute to the scientific understanding of the Bay of Fundy ecosystem through research and programs on contaminants and habitat restoration including new research projects such as a GIS study of tidal barriers in the Bay of Fundy"

A CD is now available with PDF copies of principal BoFEP Publications (six Science Workshop Proceedings, 28 Fundy Issues and a Bay of Fundy Coastal Forum) as well as a cumulative index by key word and author. Contact: [communications@bofep.org](mailto:communications@bofep.org)

#### Reports

- Dyer, C, S. Wehrell and Dr. G. Daborn (2005). Acadia University, Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Fisheries Management Issues in the Upper Bay of Fundy. ACER Publication NO. 80. Available at: [http://www.bofep.org/PDFfiles/Final\\_ReportUBFFMPPJuly05.pdf](http://www.bofep.org/PDFfiles/Final_ReportUBFFMPPJuly05.pdf)

#### Publications

- Fundy Issue # 25 "Contaminant Concerns: Heavy Metals and the Bay of Fundy" (All Fundy Issues are available on the BoFEP website at: [http://www.bofep.org/fundy\\_issues.htm](http://www.bofep.org/fundy_issues.htm));
- Fundy Issue #26 "Saving Special Spaces: Protected Areas".
- Fundy Issue #27: Parlous POPs; Persistent Organic Pollutants in the Bay of Fundy
- Perry-Giraud, Christian (2005). Thirty Year Assessment of the Cornwallis Estuary Evolution: Aerial Photograph and GIS Analysis. Report on an Internship project for the Minas Basin Working Group by Christian Perry-Giraud, Master "Environment, Ground and Water", University of Rouen, France September 2005. 65 pages. Available at: [http://bofep.org/PDFfiles/GISCornwallis\\_PerryGiraud.pdf](http://bofep.org/PDFfiles/GISCornwallis_PerryGiraud.pdf)
- J.A. Percy, A.J. Evans, P.G. Wells, and S.J. Rolston Eds. (2005). Proceedings of the 6th Bay of Fundy Workshop, "The Changing Bay of Fundy: Beyond 400 Years", held September 29-October 2,

2004, Cornwallis, NS. Environment Canada - Atlantic Region Occasional Report No. 23. March 2005.  
Available at: [http://www.bofep.org/PDFfiles/COASTAL\\_FORUM\\_WORKSHOP\\_RPT.pdf](http://www.bofep.org/PDFfiles/COASTAL_FORUM_WORKSHOP_RPT.pdf)



## Working Group Activities

### Minas Basin Working Group:

- developing a comprehensive environmental management plan for the Minas Basin (ongoing)
- developing a specific framework for preparing periodic State of the Bay of Fundy Reports (ongoing);
- met with municipal and regional planners around the Minas basin to consider ways of encouraging planners to consider coastal ecosystem and watershed implications of their activities and to develop appropriate planning tools.

### Salt Marsh and Rehabilitation Working Group:

- compiling an inventory and audit of existing tidal barriers, and identifying potential salt marsh rehabilitation projects (see Dr. Danika van Proosdij reports above).

### Sublittoral Ecology and habitat Conservation Working Group:

- disseminating information on sublittoral ecology and habitat conservation in the Outer Bay of Fundy to decision-makers, other researchers and the public through development of a systematic method for synthesis of relevant data and information;
- examining approaches and methods for indicating areas of high ecological value requiring protection;
- conducted a survey to document research capabilities of individuals and groups involved in benthic habitat and ecological process research in the region to assess the capacity to address emerging regional initiatives.

### Corophium and Mudflat Ecology Working Group:

- continues to summarize and make available existing information/knowledge on the biology and ecology of Corophium spp. identify key research questions and approaches, especially ecological models; facilitates research opportunities and mechanisms for cooperative research
- working on a monograph on Corophium volutator in the Bay of Fundy and a comprehensive bibliography of the species. (A compilation of more than 600 citations has been prepared by the Corophium Working Group of BOFEP. Draft is available only in hard copy. (Contact: [communications@bofep.org](mailto:communications@bofep.org) )

### Defining Stress and Cumulative Effects Working Group:

- conducting studies on the cumulative effects of heavy metals on salmon

### Fundy Biosphere Working Group:

- promoting the concept of establishing an ecosystem reserve at the head of the Bay of Fundy
- collecting scientific and empirical data relative to the uniqueness of the area in support of this initiative.

### Upper Bay of Integrated Fisheries Management Working Group:

- working with DFO to develop a pilot project for an integrated Fisheries Management Plan for the Upper Bay of Fundy;
- received project funding from the EJLB Foundation to produce a report entitled "Fisheries Management Issues in the Upper Bay of Fundy. A final report is available at: [http://www.bofep.org/PDFfiles/Final\\_ReportUBFFMPPJuly05.pdf](http://www.bofep.org/PDFfiles/Final_ReportUBFFMPPJuly05.pdf)

### Fundy Informatics Working Group

- recently formed to identify ways to facilitate the dissemination of, and efficient online access to, existing scientific and other information about the Bay of Fundy and coordinate its efforts with similar informatics initiatives of the Gulf of Maine Council to avoid duplication and ensure that projects are functionally integrated as much as possible.
- developing a number of projects designed to facilitate online access to information about the Bay of Fundy including BoFEPs various publications, bibliographies and working group reports. Made a presentation to the March 2006 GOM Working Group meeting in Halifax to introduce the Working Group, report on activities, and begin to explore opportunities for collaboration.

### Eel Grass Working Group:

- recently formed to support and facilitate collaboration, networking and information exchange regarding eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) in the Bay of Fundy and elsewhere in eastern Canada.

### Other activities:

#### Ecosystem Status reporting

- BoFEP members continued to work with both DFO and GOMC on the development of a framework for periodic State of the Bay of Fundy reporting. DFO was working on Ecosystem Overview and Assessment reports (EOA) and the GOMC, on indicators and reporting under ESIP (Ecosystem Indicators Partnership). BoFEP contributed substantially to developing a working framework for describing stressors and effects on the Fundy environment for the EOA reports (Section 8). There is continued input through conference calls, meetings and reviews of



documents both for the development of the Strategy for Gulf of Maine indicators and State of Environment reports.

- BoFEP also provided ESIP with considerable reference material on indicators to permit the development of the strategic document together with its framework for linking indicators, monitoring, reporting and management actions.

- BoFEP members continue to work on several initiatives resulting from the 2004 Summit process including working on the Contaminants Working Group of ESIP and keeping current with the science of monitoring, the choice of suitable indicators and the process of developing state of the environment reports.

#### Gulf of Maine Summer Institute

- BoFEP has provided funding in support of the Gulf of Maine Summer Institute 2006 in Cornwallis.

3) "Expand BOFEP to include more US representatives; BOFEP continues to welcome the participation of US representatives in BOFEP Working Groups and workshops "

- US representatives of USEPA, University of Maine, the Island Institute, Texas A&M University, Suffolk University and Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, made presentations during the 6th BOFEP Workshop entitled "The Changing Bay of Fundy - Beyond 400 Years".

- US representatives were also invited to attend the 7th BOFEP Workshop, entitled "Challenges in Environmental Management in the Bay of Fundy-Gulf of Maine" St. Andrews, NB, Oct 25-27, 2006. Oral and/or poster presentations were made by US participants including: Brian Todd, John Coon, Mimi Larsen Becker, Page Valentine, Megan Tyrell, Thomas Noji, Vincent Guida, Andrew Beaver, James Case, Sara Ellis, Lewis Incze, Nicholas Wolff, Shale Rosen, Adam Baukus, Kate Smuckler, Peter Taylor, Ray Konisky, Katherine Mille, Barbara Knuth, Patrick Sullivan, Thomas Trott, Cameron Wake, Bill Burtis, Elizabeth Burakowski, Thomas Huntington, and Susan Snow-Cotter.

4) "Promote effective communication and information exchange between GOMC and BOFEP members, and cross-link information sources such as web sites, displays, and joint fact sheets"

- BOFEP and GOMC maintain open communications and exchange information on issues of concern throughout the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy coastal, marine and watershed;

- BOFEP website is cross linked to the Gulf of Maine Council website;

- BOFEP displays and information materials have been on exhibit at the GOM Summit (Oct. 2004), GOM Visionary awards ceremony (Jan. 2005, 2006, 2007), GOM WG meetings (March 2005, June 2005, June 2006) and Council meetings (June 2005, June 2006).

- BoFEP members continue to collaborate, serve and support the work of the GOMC through participation of its members from NB and NS, on the GOMC Working Group, Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee; Sewage Task Force; and Habitat Conservation, Restoration (Cheverie Creek Project), and Monitoring committees, ESIP, and 2004 Summit followup activities.

5) "Provide consultation and scientific advice on issues of importance to the Council"

- BOFEP has continued to make presentations and participated as members of the GOMC Working Group, Committees, Task Forces, and panels. BOFEP members continue provide advice on issues and priorities of concern throughout the Gulf of Maine from a Canadian perspective.

Recommended action: For information only.

Prepared by: Patricia Hinch, NSEL

Date: June 4, 2007

## Habitat Restoration Subcommittee

### GOMC/NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership

The partnership has received notice that an additional three-year regional habitat restoration grant from the NOAA Restoration Center will begin on Aug. 1, 2008. This will allow continued restoration activities in the Gulf of Maine. To date, the Partnership has awarded \$2 million USD for 71 habitat restoration projects in the Gulf of Maine.

This year the Partnership will solicit letters of intent beginning in the second week of June. The objective is two-fold: first the partnership wants to give applicants more time to submit letters of intent prior to the release of the RFP in August, and second there are remaining funds that could be released through a competitive process prior to the next scheduled round. The next round of grants would be ready for contracting by January 2008; however, the Partnership is intending to have roughly \$175,000 USD ready for distribution by October 2007 based on opportunities solicited from the letters of intent. The full announcement that will go public in August will include another \$400,000 USD.

### GOM Barrier Removal Monitoring Workshop

The Habitat Restoration Subcommittee is developing regional monitoring standards for dam and culvert removal projects. These monitoring standards will evaluate restoration success in 1) in-stream, wetland, and riparian habitats; 2) hydrology, hydraulics, and sediment transport; and 3) diadromous fish.

To develop the monitoring standards, the Subcommittee convened nearly 100 regional experts to identify a short list of monitoring parameters that are necessary to evaluate the chemical, physical, and biological impacts of river barrier removal projects. Participants represented many perspectives including those of resource managers, academics, consultants, and NGOs in the United States and Canada. The workshop took place in June 2006.

Eight critical parameters emerged from the workshop process and subsequent review by the subcommittee. Taken together, the monitoring framework they comprise is cross-section based because the majority of the parameters are evaluated at, or in conjunction with, monumented stream channel cross-sections. The eight parameters are 1) monumented stream channel cross-sections; 2) longitudinal profile; 3) bed sediment grain size distribution; 4) photo points; 5) water quality (temp., DO, conductivity); 6) macroinvertebrates; 7) riparian plant community structure; and 8) fish presence above the barrier removal site.

Since the workshop in June 2006, the Subcommittee has been working to draft a document that summarizes the science behind the critical parameters and presents methods for collecting the data. More than 14 authors and an equal number of reviewers are involved in producing the guidance document. The editorial committee for the document includes staff from the NOAA Restoration Center, the Maine Coastal Program, and the New Hampshire Coastal Program (NHCP). We combined GOMC funding and NHCP funding to hire a managing editor to coordinate the process. The draft document is currently being reviewed by Subcommittee members involved with the effort as well as outside reviewers with expertise in barrier removal monitoring. Reviews are due June 8<sup>th</sup>, and then final editing, layout and printing will happen as soon as feasible.

### Restoration Subcommittee Efforts

The GOMC Restoration Subcommittee began work on two products that are the focus of the 2006-07 work plan for the Gulf of Maine. Two primers are being created for education and distribution in the Gulf of Maine. The two topics covered consist of salt marsh functions and restoration efforts and the lifecycle and restoration of the American eel. Both of these documents were developed with assistance from steering committees that include experts on each of the topics. The American Eel document is completed and available on the Gulf of Maine Council website: <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/publications/>, as well as printed copies from the Maine State Planning Office. The salt marsh restoration primer is nearing completion and will be available on the website soon, as well as printed versions once funds are raised.

Please contact Jon Kachmar, Maine State Planning Office/Maine Coastal Program, for additional information regarding any habitat restoration issues. 207-287-1913 or [jon.kachmar@maine.gov](mailto:jon.kachmar@maine.gov).



## **A Policy Relevant Science Vision for EBM in the Gulf of Maine**

### **Summary of Meeting Goals and Outcomes**

This document is a summary of the meeting outcomes and recommendations for implementing the seven regional action items agreed upon in March, 2007.

Building on past efforts and to catalyze future efforts, nine organizations collaborated to advance a regional ecosystem-based approach to ocean management starting with a policy-relevant science vision. These organizations included:

- COMPASS - Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea
- NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- DFO – Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- GoMC – Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
- Sea Grant Northeast
- RARGOM – Regional Association for Research in the Gulf of Maine
- Northeast Consortium
- Massachusetts Ocean Partnership Fund
- EBM Tools Network

The goals of the meeting were to:

- Develop a shared understanding of the science needed to advance EBM in the Gulf of Maine using input from managers and scientists
- Envision the policy-relevant science that would guide scientific research to inform EBM decision-making
- Turn a shared vision into a blueprint for coordinated action throughout the region.

In order to achieve these goals, the planning committee asked for participant input on their personal visions for achieving a more ecosystem-based approach to management. Based on those responses, a draft vision statement for policy-relevant science was provided in the meeting briefing materials. During the meeting, participants had rich discussions to help crystallize the science needed to implement EBM and managers' needs related to that science. Participants specifically identified methods for better connecting science to management, overlaid current scientific understanding with what's needed for coordinated action, and discussed the creation of an informal network to coordinate future efforts and develop an ongoing forum for regional communication.

Participants used the Scientific Consensus Statement (CITE) as a basis for discussing ecosystem-based management. Some of the underlying principles of EBM that were critical to meeting discussions were:

- A focus on ecosystem level goals across species and environments
- Consideration of the interconnections between ecosystem goods and services and human activities and well-being
- Consideration of natural boundaries
- Cumulative impacts of cross-sector activity
- Importance of acknowledging and making explicit the trade-offs between activities and sectors

Seven presentations kicked off the meeting including a keynote by Bob O'Boyle, Associate Director of Science at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Nova Scotia. Dr. O'Boyle's presentation highlighted the emerging paradigm shift in ocean management. He presented lessons learned from the Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) project and applied them to the Gulf of Maine. He also outlined the Canadian framework (being used in the Maritimes) for setting conceptual and operational objectives for EBM and for integrating science with policy and management at the regional scale. Other presentations included:



- Integrated Ecosystem Assessments – Steve Murawski, NOAA
- Science Requirements for Implementing EBM – Rob Stephenson, DFO
- Enabling EBM Approaches to Management: Census of Marine Life Program – Lew Incze, University of Southern Maine
- EBM in the Maritimes – Tana Worchester, DFO
- Massachusetts Ocean Partnership Fund (MOPF) – Stephanie Moura, MOPF
- Adapting EBM Principles for Maine's Near-shore Waters – Kathleen Leyden, ME Coastal Program

To provoke discussion and set some regional policy-relevant science goals, participants focused on three key themes:

*Identifying ocean/land-based activities & services in the Gulf of Maine*

*Identifying spatial and temporal scales for an EBM approach*

*The Integration of Science and Management*

Once the themes were discussed during the break-out sessions, participants met in plenary to develop action items related to the three themes. The goal was to create action items that could be coordinated, were practical and would advance the science needed for an EBM approach. Participants settled on seven key actions that encompassed needed research, data synthesis, decision-making tools, and decision-making frameworks.

## **Action Item 5 – A Common Vision for EBM in the Gulf of Maine<sup>1</sup>**

**What:** The Gulf of Maine region needs a shared vision of the goods and services society wants and needs for the various components of the Gulf's coastal and marine ecosystem (e.g., riverine, embayments/estuaries, near-shore, off-shore, etc.). This vision would begin to describe both the conceptual and operational objectives for implementing EBM.

**Goal:**

To have a vision statement for ecosystem-based management in the Gulf of Maine that is accepted by the region's stakeholders.

**Objectives**

1. Effectively engage a wide range of stakeholders in creating a vision of ecosystem-based management in the Gulf of Maine - build upon visioning exercises that already exist;
2. Better understand the range of institutional hopes and fears related to a more integrated approach
3. Summarize government statements (e.g., laws & policies) about desired ecosystem goods and services to establish a baseline from which to build on;
4. Produce a brief report that presents the elements of a shared vision for the GOM ecosystem and actionable items to advance this vision.

**An Opportunity:** Significant discussion has occurred within the region about developing and applying a more integrated approach to coastal/ocean management. However, there is no common currency about what it means and how it might be pursued. To achieve important legitimacy it was recognized that a wide range of stakeholders would need to be engaged in an inclusive and transparent process.

**How:** Participants called on the Gulf of Maine Council to facilitate this process and to actively engage government, non-profits, business interests and other stakeholders. The Council's Ocean Network (CON) will serve as a regional facilitator for this effort. (CON is being established in June 2007 and is open to all that want to participate.)

1. Engagement -- Drawing on multiple resources (e.g., Canadian EBM conceptual framework, etc.) CON will first prepare strawman vision statements for the components of the Gulf's ecosystem (e.g., riverine, embayments/estuaries, near-shore, off-shore, etc.). It will then engage the user communities (e.g., harvesters, recreationists, conservationists, marine transport, government, etc.) in face-to-face exchanges as well as electronic surveys/polling to develop a shared vision.
2. Assessment – All levels of government have codified their perspective on desired ecosystem goods and services. This material will be used to establish a baseline from which to build on.
3. Synthesis – CON will produce a brief report that presents the elements of a shared vision for the GOM ecosystem.

**Who**

Potential Lead Individuals/Entities

- Gulf of Maine Council – Representative to be determined
- Sally Yozell – The Nature Conservancy
- Geoffrey Smith – The Nature Conservancy
- Susan Farady – The Ocean Conservancy

Initial Work Group Members

1. Wendy Lull – Seacoast Science Center
2. Pam DiBona – COSEE – NEAQ
3. Bob O'Boyle – DFO, Bedford Institute of Oceanography

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<sup>1</sup> **A Policy Relevant Science Vision for EBM in the Gulf of Maine** - Workshop Proceedings - Action Item #5  
Sponsors -- Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea, Gulf of Maine Council, NOAA, DFO, Sea Grant, Northeast Consortium, EBM Network



4. Northeast Regional Ocean Council/Oceans Working Committee Representative
5. Rob Stephenson – DFO
6. Kats Haya – DFO
7. Kimberly Heiman – COMPASS
8. David Keeley, Gulf of Maine Council
9. Stephanie Moura – MA Ocean Partnership Fund
10. Jesse Mechling – NOAA
11. Kathy Mills – GBNERR
12. Kate Killerlain-Morrison – MA CZM
13. Ben Cowie-Haskell – Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
14. John Annala – Gulf of Maine Research Institute
15. Mike Fogarty – NMFS
16. Linda Mercer – ME Department of Marine Resources
17. Lew Incze – University of Southern Maine



## Council Ocean Network

### Terms of Reference

(Recommended for Council approval by the Working Group on March 29, 2007)

#### Purpose

The Council Ocean Network (CON) is an interconnected, electronic system of people working in the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy on ecosystem-based approaches to coastal and ocean management. It serves the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC) and is responsible for:

- a. Facilitating the collaboration, interaction and exchange of information and creative ideas (e.g., institutional mechanisms, stewardship, etc.) among government agencies, non-profits and marine-dependent businesses that are actively engaged in coastal/ocean management; and
- b. Assisting the Council in implementing its five-year Action Plan and biennial work plans through partnerships that advance regional ocean initiatives (e.g., ecosystem characterization, visioning of the desired goods and services for the coastal and marine environment, etc.)

#### Organization

- a. **Participation:** Participation is open to anyone interested in coastal/ocean management in the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy. A Steering Committee, designated by the Council, ensures the network is effective.
- b. **Methods:** CON performs its work electronically and telephonically. Examples of ways it conducts its business include:
  - Web services -- a web page on the Council's web site serves as a dynamic repository for ecosystem-based approaches to coastal/ocean management in the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy and elsewhere.
  - Ocean management list-serve & digest – a place to post questions and contribute ideas (e.g., archive by key word of previous messages/materials, digest of entries sent automatically (e.g., daily, weekly, or monthly) modeled after other efforts (e.g., Tools of Change on [www.cbsm.com](http://www.cbsm.com)).
  - Professional development -- facilitate dialogue, stimulate learning and foster innovation among Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy ecosystem-based management practitioners.
  - Non-binding Agreements – pursue agreements to share data, personnel, and materials.
  - Capacity building – enable existing EBM practitioners to be more effective by providing support, workshops, and training.
- c. **Member Qualifications:** Participants will have professional and/or personal interests in coastal/ocean management.
- d. **Duration:** CON is a temporary entity of the Council and will dissolve by June 2012 unless extended by the Council.



# Southwest New Brunswick

## MARINE RESOURCES PLANNING

### Bay of Fundy Marine Planning Initiative

In 2004 the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture launched discussions focused on a desire to improve resource planning and management in the southwest portion of the Bay of Fundy.

The concept of developing a Southwest New Brunswick (SWNB) Marine Resources Management Plan Planning Process was presented to the Bay of Fundy Stakeholders Forum in May 2004 and the development of the planning process was launched in September 2004.

During PHASE I, the Planning Process Committee was created and included individuals with a demonstrated knowledge of the issues and concerns of the relative marine resource sectors of the area. A Phase I Report, completed in September 2005, included the proposed planning area boundaries and recommended that before moving forward into a Marine Plan Development phase the public should be surveyed to determine support. Results of that Public Survey, which completed Phase I, indicated that residents still regard issues previously identified as priorities for more effective management. There was support for continuing this initiative and moving forward with PHASE II – Marine Plan Development

PHASE II, of Plan Development and Public Engagement, commenced with the hiring of a Chair/Champion and formally commenced with the introduction of the Steering Committee established to guide the planning process in December 2006.

To date, the Chair and Steering Committee have focused on the development of the tools, resources and expertise required to successfully develop a marine plan 'by the people for the people' in southwest New Brunswick Bay of Fundy.

A Phase I Report, Public Survey Report, Marine Plan Input Questionnaire and other details on the Southwest NB Marine Resources Planning Initiative are available at [www.bofmrp.ca](http://www.bofmrp.ca)

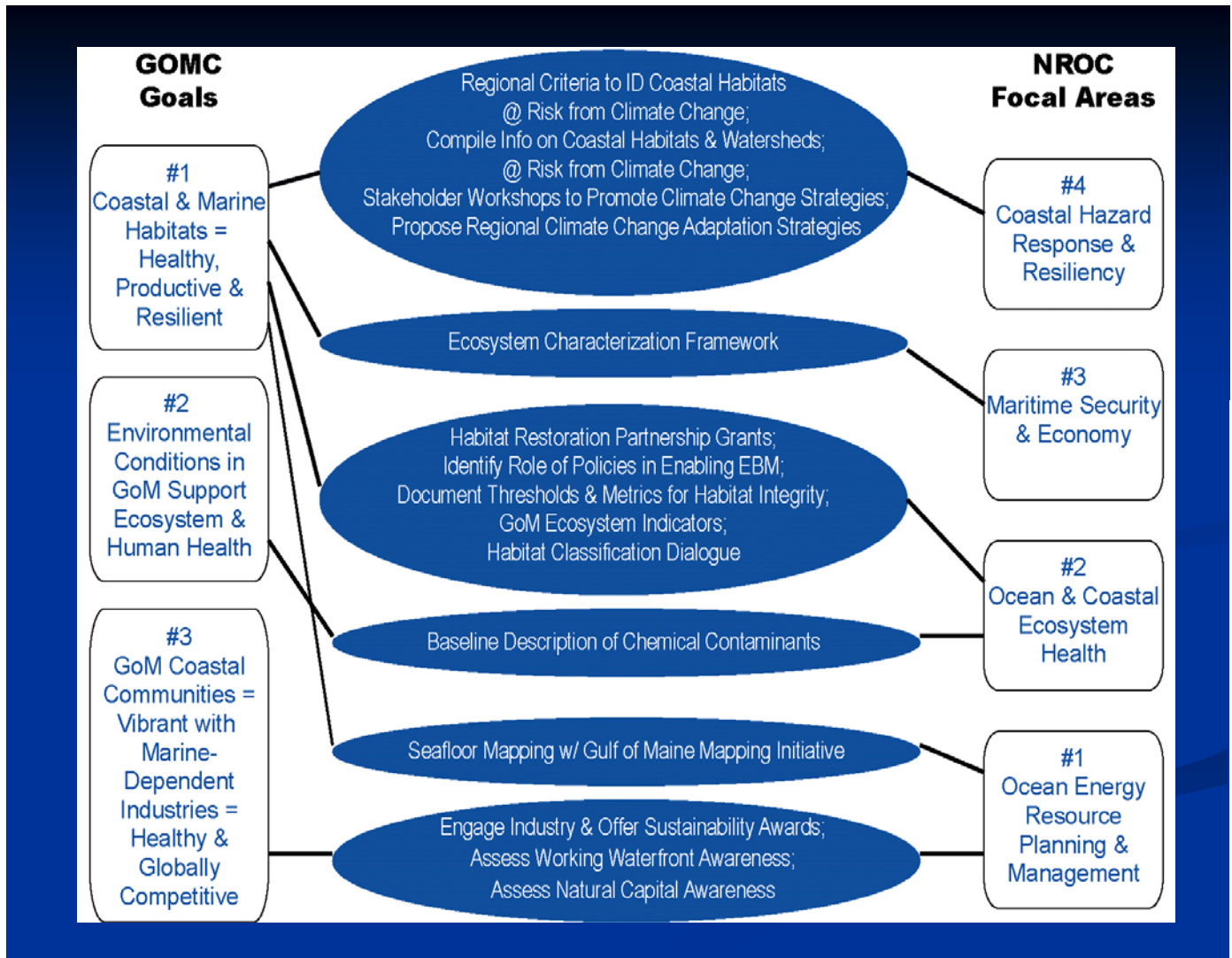
## **Northeast Regional Ocean Council Holds 2007 Ocean Congress**

On Thursday May 24, over sixty individuals representing regional organizations, state and federal agencies and environmental organizations convened at the University of New Hampshire's Alumni Center at the Northeast Regional Ocean Council's (NROC) 2007 Ocean Congress. Alice Chamberlin, representing New Hampshire Governor John Lynch, Mike Warren, of Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Mary Glackin, NOAA's co-chair for the Subcommittee on Integrating Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR), provided opening remarks. Attendees discussed potential regional responses to address NROC core focus areas: (1) Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health, (2) Ocean Energy Planning and Management, (3) Maritime Security and (4) Coastal Hazards Response and Resiliency.

The NROC has dual purposes: 1) to identify and address those critical regional issues that are not being currently tackled by an existing entity, and 2) to recognize and raise the profile of issues common to the two major ecosystems within the New England geography, -the Gulf of Maine and the Southern New England Sounds. To further this second goal, Kathleen Leyden represented the Gulf of Maine Council at the Ocean Congress by presenting the Council's mission and goals, as well as those activities called for in the 2007-2012 Action Plan that dovetail with NROC priority areas (see Figure 1). Progress on these synergistic activities represents the value-added that the GOMC can bring to NROC, and also highlights those items for which there is regional support beyond the Gulf of Maine.

NROC Ocean Congress recommendations included short-term activities that can be accomplished through improved coordination and existing resource, long-term activities that will require additional resources, and potential partnerships that can be formed around priority issues. Meeting recommendations will be provided to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and the New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers at their respective meetings in June.

Created in 2005, NROC is a partnership of six New England States: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont and Connecticut, with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of Interior (DOI) as federal co-leads representing the ten federal agencies with ocean and coastal missions. NROC is the United States component of the New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers' Oceans Working Committee, which includes the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland/Labrador and Quebec.





Date: June 5, 2007

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## Reporting to the Governors and Premiers

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**ISSUE:** On June 25-26 the Governors and Premiers are meeting in Prince Edward Island. It is timely to apprise them of the Council's progress in implementing the Gulf of Maine Agreement in the context of their renewed interests in ocean policy issues.

**BACKGROUND:** In June 2006 the Council concluded their self-assessment on the way it conducts its business. It identified fourteen issues; ranked them as urgent, very important or important; and commenced work on addressing some items. One issue was to strengthen communication between the Governors/Premiers and the Council.

The Council recognized the need for more frequent and ongoing communication when the Governors and Premiers passed their Ocean Resolutions in 2005 and 2006 calling for the formation of the Oceans Working Committee/Northeast Regional Ocean Council. A report on this evolving initiative will be presented at the June meeting in PEI.

**CURRENT STATUS:** It is timely to distribute copies of the Council's 2007-2012 Action Plan with a cover letter at the NEGC-ECP meeting.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Secretariat should be requested to prepare and disseminate a letter, attached to the Action Plan, to the Governors and Premiers at their June 25-26 meeting. The general contents of the letter would:

- Highlight the Council was formed nearly 20-years ago by the Governors and Premiers bordering the Gulf of Maine and express our appreciation for their ongoing support;
- Call attention to the new Action Plan;
- Describe how the Council has assisted OWC/NROC, as called for in the two NEGC-ECP Resolutions; and
- Explain how we intend to support the Governors and Premiers as they address the region's pressing coastal and ocean issues.

## **Ecosystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP)**

Background: Development of indicators of ecosystem health and state of the Environment reporting are priorities in the Action Plan and in the Council's 18-month plan. ESIP is composed of approximately 80 volunteer members from 42 different agencies. Members are working to identify priority indicators in six areas: Aquatic Habitat, Fisheries/Aquaculture, Climate Change, Contaminants, Coastal Development, and Eutrophication.

### **Deliverables:**

ESIP has produced the following products and services in 2007:

1. Updated the ESIP monitoring map which can be accessed from the ESIP home page (<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/esip/>). This map allows users to locate all monitoring in the Gulf of Maine with particular focus on the above ESIP six indicator areas.  
**Funding Need:** In order to continue to keep this map current and expand the user pool, funding needs to be secured to update the map regularly with additional monitoring efforts and to continue to work on improvement of the tool itself.  
**Note:** ESIP map needs have been included in a GoMC grant proposal submitted to NOAA (May 2007).
2. ESIP and the Climate Change Network held a joint meeting on June 11, 2007, in New Brunswick. The meeting served two purposes: (1) To launch the Climate Change Network and (2) to determine the potential effects that climate change might have on the various indicators that the ESIP subcommittees are discussing. Several documents were drafted and distributed before the meeting including the Terms of Reference for the ESIP subcommittees and a Climate Change Background document written by Gary Lines, Kyle McKenzie, and Chantal Gagnon. Speakers at the meeting included Bill Burtis, Greg Flato (IPCC), and Real Daigle.
3. ESIP has continued work on the GeoConnections project with GoMOOS. The focus of this project is to develop web tools which specifically look at contaminant and nutrient databases in the Gulf of Maine. Work completed to date involved database discovery. Databases were prioritized and a Canadian vendor was selected in April 2007 to develop web tools based on the ESIP drafted Technical Requirements Document.  
**Funding Need:** Funding is needed to further the GeoConnections work on three fronts:
  1. ESIP needs to start utilizing more databases from the other 4 indicator focus areas.
  2. ESIP needs to present both the GeoConnections project and the monitoring map at various regional agencies/departments as a means of promoting the tools and garnering user evaluations.
  3. ESIP has met with Tony Turner (GeoConnections) to discuss opportunities over the next six to eight months to compete for additional grants.



Date: June 1, 2007

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## Engaging Council partners via strategic alliances

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*A strategic alliance is a formal relationship between two or more parties to pursue a set of agreed on goals or to meet a critical need while remaining independent organizations.*

**ISSUE:** The Council adopted its 2007-2012 Action Plan and commenced implementation via its 18-month work plan. One implementation technique is to develop strategic alliances with other organizations that will pursue activities in the 18-month work plan. It is timely for the Council to determine what strategic alliances to pursue.

**BACKGROUND:** In the 1990s the Council had shared objectives with the Regional Association for Research in the Gulf of Maine (RARGOM) and the GOM Regional Marine Research Board. It signed an Agreement with them to capitalize on these interests. The Council also entered into a three-year funding agreement with the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) that contained specific deliverables.

In March 2007, the Working Group discussed the concept of strategic alliances and began to develop recommendations to the Council on how to proceed. Highlights of this discussion included:

1. There is a continuum of agreements ranging from brief resolves, statements, and pledges of shared interests/concerns and principles; to consultative arrangements; to comprehensive, performance-based partnerships that commit the parties to specific deliverables.
2. Agreements can outline how organizations share decision-making, provide access to members for consultation and advice, share work tasks, provide services to each other, or be process and/or outcome-oriented.
3. Agreements can be in force for a specified or indefinite period, may be renewable, seek to achieve a common objective, or may have two or more organizations involved.
4. It is important for the Council to adopt internal guidance on how it approaches these alliances. The guidance should describe the process to develop, monitor, and evaluate these arrangements. With this guidance the Council should then pursue priority alliances.

**STATUS:** The Working Group, Management & Finance and the Council Advisory Group has scoped what the internal guidance should contain (see below) and has reviewed the *Action Plan* and 18-month work plan to determine what activities could be significantly accelerated through such agreements. Of particular interest is what resources (e.g., cash, in-kind, profile/credibility, etc.) those organizations could bring to bear to advance activities in the 18-month work plan and to enhance inter-regional coordination and collaboration.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** In June the Council should:

- Discuss and finalize the policy guidance on how to approach strategic alliances and partnerships (attached);
- Assess the list of organizations<sup>2</sup> the Working Group believes can accelerate progress on activities in the 18-month work plan & direct the Working Group to prepare and negotiate at least one Agreement by December 1, 2007; and
- Amend and approve a Resolve of Support from the Council to the BoFEP (see attached)

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<sup>2</sup> **Monitoring and data management** - Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System, Ocean Data Partnership, NE Regional Association for Coastal Ocean Observing Systems, Census for Marine Life, RARGOM, **Place-based Management/Ecosystem-based Approaches** -- National Estuary Programs, National Estuarine Research Reserves, Atlantic Coastal Action Program, **Outreach & Education** -- COMPASS, Biodiversity Project

## Resolves, pledges, and strategic alliances – GOMC guidance on approaches

This policy describes key considerations on how the Council develops, monitors, and evaluates partnerships with external organizations.

Develop Partnerships	Monitor Performance	Evaluate Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify desired goals, objectives, results and/or deliverables consistent with the <i>Action Plan</i> and annual work plan</li> <li>▪ Address intellectual property concerns (e.g., federal and other funder access and distribution requirements)</li> <li>▪ Assess costs and benefits<sup>3</sup></li> <li>▪ Determine appropriate mechanism</li> <li>▪ Understand motives and assess ability of partners to perform</li> <li>▪ Identify termination and evaluation criteria</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parties periodically assess attainment of interim results &amp; report on them</li> <li>▪ Dialogue is open and frank about progress toward shared objectives</li> <li>▪ Adapt as required to strengthen partnership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assess informal and formal results, outputs, and outcomes</li> <li>▪ Determine effect on <i>Action Plan</i> mid- and long-term outcomes</li> <li>▪ Determine if Agreement should be amended, other parties added, renewed or terminated</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> Costs and benefits could include: raise dollars, increase profile, political implications, reputations & credibility, expanded services and products, share resources, data sharing, etc.



Draft – June 3, 2007

June 5, 2007

## **Statement of Support for the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership**

**Whereas:** The Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) and the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (Council) are mutually dedicated to fostering the well-being of the Bay of Fundy ecosystem;

**Whereas:** BoFEP is a thoughtful and respected representative of the government, academic, and non-government communities that have interests in the conservation and sustainable management of the Bay of Fundy ecosystem;

**Whereas:** The Council seeks to enhance opportunities for cooperation, expand capacity and stimulate knowledge in the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy and in so doing accelerate implementation of its five-year Action Plan;

**Whereas:** BoFEP can provide important and timely ecosystem science and policy insights to the Council and other organizations concerned about the region;

**Whereas:** Both parties concur that shoreline development and use of the Bay's resources are placing greater demands on the ecosystem. Thus we have a shared interest to expand stewardship, communication, and outreach initiatives; and

**Now Therefore:** we affirm our commitment to work with and seek counsel of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership through consultation or contractual agreement on mutually agreed projects/activities that assist in fulfilling annual work plan objectives and achieving the goals of the Council as stated in our Action Plan. Specifically,

1. *Advice on ecosystem science issues* – The Council will work closely with BoFEP in identifying and pursuing priority ecosystem science issues. In particular, it will participate in and draw on the results of BoFEP biennial Bay of Fundy Science Workshops as the Council develops and implements its five-year *Action Plan*.
2. *Stewardship of the Bay* - The Council will work in close partnership with BoFEP to enhance local stewardship of the Bay of Fundy by facilitating regional communication and cooperation about the Bay's ecological resources; and
3. Social well-being and economic sustainability of the Bay's coastal communities – The Council will work with BoFEP, local communities and others to ensure the Bay's communities are vibrant and have marine-dependent industries that are healthy and globally competitive.

Signed this \_\_\_\_ day of June 2007

Council Chairman, Byron James  
NB Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture



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## Broadening the funding base to implement the Action Plan

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**ISSUE:** The Action Plan is broad and ambitious. Effective implementation will require resources from government, non-profit organizations and the business community.

**BACKGROUND:** The Council has adopted an ambitious 5-year Plan that proposes a series of outcomes that many individuals and organizations around the Gulf support. It is timely for the Council to cultivate the external relationships necessary for these organizations to bring their shared human and financial resources to bear. (For 18-years the Council has been quite successful in creating sustained partnerships with provincial, state and federal government.)

**CURRENT STATUS:** In March 2007 the Working Group explored creating a Contributing Sponsors Program. In May the Council Advisory Group discussed the concept and concurred it has merit.

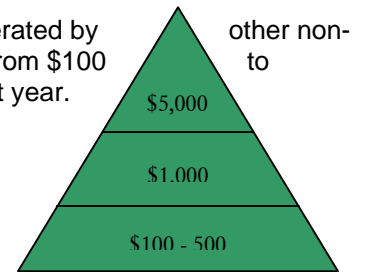
This effort would have two purposes:

1. Increase public awareness of the region's non-profits and businesses that are dedicated to advancing the Action Plan's broad goals and objectives; and
2. Build lasting partnerships that increase the human and financial resources to implement the Council's work plan and support its mission of environmental quality and sustainable resource use.

The Working Group has conducted some preliminary research of similar programs operated by profits – often with a connection with government agencies. Assuming gifts will range from \$100 to \$5,000/year and if ten organizations contribute it could produce \$10-\$12,000 in the first year.

CAG suggests the following key program elements:

- The Council will need to be clear with donors about the benefits for them to participate (e.g., public recognition, charitable donation, etc.);
- Contributing sponsors make a charitable donation and receive a statement from the Council that they can use when filing their taxes. The goal is that these will be annual, renewable gifts provided the donor concurs there is real value in how the gift was used;
- The charitable donations are placed within the Council's Action Plan Grant Program and distributed on a competitive basis to support implementation of the Action Plan<sup>4</sup>;
- The Council, in administering the program, has sole control of how the funds are expended;
- The Council will continue to operate the program in an open and transparent manner with rigorous, public reporting of results;



**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Council should address the following items:

1. Use of the funds and benefit to donors – Discuss the suggestion of using the funds to support local and regional groups addressing priorities through the Action Plan Grant Program and brainstorm the benefits to donors.
2. Identify possible lead gifts – Between June and December Councillors identify and work with the development contractor to secure 2-3 lead gifts (e.g., private phase).
3. Launch program – Between December and June Councillors on a peer-to-peer basis engage 10-15 non-profit organizations, Foundations and businesses identified by the Council. The goal is to announce the first ten sponsors at the June 2008 meeting with a kick-off event by a Governor and Premier.

Logistically we need to create a name for this contributing sponsors program (e.g., Friends of the Gulf of Maine, Bridging the Gulf, ??) and possibly release a new Action Plan Program solicitation.

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<sup>4</sup> Previous work by the Council confirms that few organizations/businesses want to “give to the Gulf of Maine Council to support its internal programs” (e.g., coal to Newcastle). Donors may however be interested in using the Council as a conduit to support local and regional efforts.

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## **Annual dues & contribution levels and uses of these funds**

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**ISSUE:** The scope of the Council's annual work plan and corresponding budget has increased considerably over the past 10-years. During this period the Council's reliance on contractors to provide annual support services has increased while dues/contribution levels have remained static. Determining how to allocate funds from all sources (e.g., federal grants, dues, contributions and indirect) to support these contractor costs has proven challenging.

Some of these activities (e.g., web services, external policy development, outreach, science translation, etc.) are supported with federal grants and others (e.g., secretariat expenses) are supported with indirect funds.

While this is an opportunistic approach the use of indirect and grants makes these activities vulnerable to inconsistent funding levels.

**BACKGROUND:** At December 2006 meeting the Council discussed a dues increase and had mixed views on how to proceed. It did request the Working Group to develop options for a dues increase and to present these options in June. (This request was based largely on the absence of continued support from NOAA via the traditional Congressional earmark.)

During the past ten years the scope of Council activities and its capacity has increased while inflation and increasing costs have eroded what could be supported. Simultaneously the Council is enacting internal policy improvements, consistent with its 2005-06 self-assessment, to be more professional and efficient.

In March 2007 the Working Group discussed the merits of a dues increase. There was not consensus on how to proceed. The following are highlights of that discussion.

- The last dues increase was nearly 10 years ago.
- The Council has enacted some efficiencies to extend the dollars provided.
- A dues increase of \$3,000 (approximately 20%) is reasonable given expenses & services received.
- Presently the financial ability of the individual state and provincial agencies to support a dues increase is mixed. Some find an increase difficult while others are willing to pay.
- In the context of these varying abilities it would be acceptable to set a new dues structure but understand that some agencies may provide less than the stated amount.
- Irrespective of the amounts contributed each year all agencies would continue to be equals and these different levels of contribution would not affect participation at the table.
- A "contributing sponsors" program that enhances partnerships and provides funding for Action Plan implementation should be explored.

On May 9<sup>th</sup> the Council Advisory Group discussed this matter. There was not consensus on how to proceed. CAG was apprised that M&F has constructed a budget (see box below) that will not require a dues increase this year. While this was good news there was a sense that proactive work was required for next year. The following are highlights of the CAG discussion.

- Council needs a sustainable framework for Council core services
- Core services included Secretariat, Administrative Assistant, web services, external policy, fund development, and outreach/communication. (There was no discussion on what level of effort was needed.)
- Consider a dues increase this year and hold the "increased funding" until next year.
- A multi-year/cost of living dues increase was preferable over a larger 1-time increase.
- Be vigilant to end-of-fiscal-year opportunities to pay dues rather than return unused.
- Request a 5-year retrospective on dues/contributions collected and their uses.
- Reserving some non-federal funds via the dues to leverage funding via competitive proposals was desirable.

**CURRENT STATUS:** Presently each province/state pays \$15,000/year (US) and Canadian federal agencies each provide an annual contribution of \$7,000. (US federal agencies have commonly provided project specific funding in lieu of annual contributions.) Presently total dues/contributions equal \$89,000.

In addition, the Council develops and applies an annual indirect grant rate, the auditor, to all external funding it receives. In the 1990's the Council designated the USGOMA as its primary business office and indirect funds support its expenses (e.g., executive director, finance assistant, auditor, some Council activities that benefit all aspects of the organization (e.g., ½ secretariat expenses). (The annual cost of the USGOMA/business office is work the Council directs it to do through the annual work plan (e.g., and manage contracts, manage financial accounts, etc.) It has no other

**Summary – Status Quo for July 2007 to June 2008**

If all agencies make the same dues/contributions by July 2007 as they did last year we can maintain the status quo. In combination, the dues/annual contributions, secured grants and indirect funds are projected to be sufficient to support the Council's core activities.

calculated by has are used to etc.) and of total tied to the negotiate functions).

Looking ahead the Council should expect a funding shortfall in July 2008 to June 2009 because existing federal grants will not be available. The Council has 12-months to develop a strategy.

**ISSUE:** The crux of the issue is the balance the Council seeks in terms of support for Council core activities between dues, grants and indirect. The following helps to illuminate this issue.

1. What are the Council's *core activities*?

Response: A starting point for this matter is the CAG suggestion that core services include Secretariat, Administrative Assistant, meeting expenses, web services, external policy, fund development, and outreach/communication.

In 2007-08 these activities total \$188,000 (e.g., contractor support is \$165,000).

2. Should the Council allocate a portion of the dues/assessments to matching/leveraging other funding?

Response: Frequently external funders will request or require funds to match/compliment their investment in a particular task. If the Council internally raises funds through dues in excess of its core expenses it could use these funds to leverage external commitments. CAG suggests this would be desirable.

3. If the Council approved a dues/contribution increase in 2008-09 to offset the lack of federal grants what would the jurisdictions need to receive?

Response: The jurisdictions need to routinely see some inherent value in the Council's core activities to justify making cash or commitments of in-kind services. Increased support will provide internal coordination of Council activities, meeting support and associated logistics, a dynamic and current web site, formulation and pursuit of external policy issues, and financial development (e.g., preparation of funding proposals in support of the annual work plan).

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- A. Determine Core Council Activities** – The Council should discuss and agree on what are the core Council services. (see above suggestion from CAG as a starting point)
- B. Commence Planning for a Dues/Contribution Increase** – The Council should direct the Council Advisory Group to:
  - Identify efficiencies and consider ways to reduce costs for core Council activities;
  - Explore a dues/contribution increase and implementation strategy for the period July 2008 to June 2009 to support core Council activities;
  - Continue to investigate other sources of funds (e.g., federal grants, non-government, other agencies with coastal/ocean mandates, etc.) to support core activities and develop recommendations;
  - Develop a policy that provides flexibility to allocate dues/contributions opportunistically (i.e., in the event other funds are available to support a portion of the core activities these funds could match and otherwise leverage external funding, etc.)



## Dues Budget Report

US Gulf of Maine Assoc  
GOMC Membership  
Dues  
5/29/2007

	<u>03-04 dues</u>	<u>04-05 dues</u>	<u>05-06 Dues</u>	<u>06-07 Dues</u>
<b>Dues Received</b>				
NH Dues	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
ME (DMR & SPO)	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
MA CZM	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Canada*	44,283	44,815	41,856	41,626
	<u>89,283</u>	<u>89,815</u>	<u>86,856</u>	<u>86,626</u>
<b>Spent on the following:</b>				
NE Coastal Indicators	3,183			
geo Tourism		136		
pepc	3,183	970		
Policy		4,000		
US Assoc**		19,788		
SOG summit	29,842	6,870		
Fund Development			18,334	18,364
Secretariat	53,075	58,051	68,522	33,287
<b>Total Spent to date</b>	<u>89,283</u>	<u>89,815</u>	<u>86,856</u>	51,651
to be spent in May-June 07				<u>34,975</u>
				<u>86,626</u>

\* The Canadian Dues listed above represent the following jurisdictions:

Nova Scotia	15,000
New Brunswick	15,000
Environment Canada Dept. Fisheries&Oceans	7,000

\*\* In 04-05 it was approved by Council during the June meeting to use dues to off-set the General and Administrative deficit at the end of the year

## INDUSTRY PANEL

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE GULF OF MAINE

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Fairmount Algonquin Hotel, St. Andrews, NB  
Wednesday, June 13, 2007  
1:30 – 4:00 pm



#### Panel Agenda

1:30 – 1:45 Introductions  
1:45 – 3:00 Presentations  
3:00 – 4:00 Q & A  
4:00 – 5:00 Coffee and networking

#### Panelists

Dr. Raul Ugarte  
*Seaweed harvesting*

Senior Scientist  
Acadian Seaplants Ltd.

Mr. Jaime Smith  
*Aquaculture*

Executive Director  
NB Salmon Growers Association

Mr. Bruce Smith  
*Tourism*

Founder  
Seascape Kayak Tours Inc.

Ms. Caroline Gravel  
*Shipping*

Director of Environmental Affairs  
Shipping Federation of Canada

Mr. John MacDonald  
*Sustainable Energy*

VP Energy Delivery and Generation  
Public Service of New Hampshire



## **2007-2008 Council and Working Group meeting scheduling**

### ***Background***

The Council's 2007-2008 Secretariat year will be managed by the MA Office of Coastal Zone Management with Kate Killerlain Morrison as Working Group Chair and Bruce Carlise as Council Chair. The 2007-2008 Secretariat has been polling Councilors and Working Group members on their availability for four meetings in the coming year. The open date ranges are shown below.

### *Working Group (one and one-half to two day meetings)*

September 24-28	October 1-5	March 10-14
	October 22-26	March 17-21
	October 29-30	March 24-28

### *Council (one and one-half to two day meetings for WG meetings, one-to-two days for Council meetings depending on forums or receptions)*

December 3-5	May 5-9	June 2-6
	May 12-13	June 9-13
	May 19-22	June 16-20
		June 23-26

### ***Action requested***

Councilors and Working Group members are asked to provide any other known conflicts for these dates to Michele Tremblay at 603.7962615 or [MLT@naturesource.net](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net) no later than June 30, 2007.

**Submitted by Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator**