



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

**Meeting Briefing Packet**  
*Council • Final Version • June 15, 2009*  
Halifax, NS • June 23-24, 2009



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**Day 1 – June 24, 2009**

**Environment Canada Offices, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
45 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth**

1:00 PM	Welcome and introductions <b>Greg Roach, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and acting Council Chair</b>
1:15 PM SENT VIA EMAIL	Presentation of the annual budget <b>Cindy Krum, Executive Director , US Gulf of Maine Association</b>
1:30 PM	Options for bi-national agreements in the Gulf of Maine <i>Moderator: Lucia Fanning, Director of Dalhousie University's Marine Affairs Program</i> <b>Background:</b> A host of CA-US federal agency agreements exist. (An initial inventory is in the briefing book that identifies the agreements, the issues they address, and the entities involved.) These agreements range from treaties, binding, to non-binding. It is recognized they were developed incrementally over time to address specific issues and are implemented separately. They generally raise the profile of shared issues and leverage resources. It is timely to assess what priority issues within the Council's Action Plan are not addressed by these Agreements (e.g., water quality issues) and whether there are emerging opportunities for a GOM specific US-CA agreement. Outcome/Desired Action: <b>There will be a shared understanding of existing agreements, the gaps as they relate to the GOM Council Action Plan will be identified, and the options that the Council and other partners may want to explore.</b>
3:00 PM	Meeting adjourned and travel to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic for Council and Working Group tour
3:30 PM	Council and Working Group tour of the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic <b>1675 Lower Water Street, Halifax</b> <a href="http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mma">http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mma</a>
5:00 PM	<b>Recess for the day</b>
6:30 PM	<b>Councilor reception</b> Citadel Hotel, 1960 Brunswick Street, Halifax



**Day 2 – June 25, 2009**

**Environment Canada Offices, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
45 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth**

8:00 AM	Canadian Association meeting
9:00 AM	Welcome, introductions, and overview and objectives for the meeting <b>Greg Roach, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Council Chair</b>
PAGE 6 PAGE 10	<b>Consent agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ December 2008 meeting summary acceptance</li> <li>▪ Committee and Subcommittee reports</li> </ul>
9:15 AM	<b>Transboundary spill preparedness in the Gulf of Maine</b> <i>Marc Sheeran, Science Advisor, Environmental Emergencies Program, Environment Canada</i> <b>Background:</b> Information will be provided on the Canada-United States preparedness plans currently in place for response to both inland boundary and marine spills that may impact the Gulf of Maine area. It will also include a discussion of other associated environmental initiatives. <b>Outcome/Desired Action:</b> Share information on the state of regional spill preparedness Identify potential linkages with the Gulf of Maine Council and opportunities for collaboration among member organizations.
9:45 AM	<b>Coffee and light snack</b>
10:00 AM  POSTED ONLINE	<b>The future of Council's core programs—function, form, and funding</b> <i>Greg Roach with support from Justin Huston and Michele Tremblay</i> <b>Background:</b> Decisions are required regarding the future of Council's key programs and core services. At the request of Council in December, detailed summaries of each core program area have been developed to facilitate this discussion and are accessible at: <a href="http://www.gulfofmaine.org/tapas">www.gulfofmaine.org/tapas</a> (LOGIN: <u>your email address</u> , PASSWORD: <u>tapas</u> . Please note that both are case-sensitive). Councilors should review each TAPAS sheet prior to the meeting, and will have an opportunity to discuss prior to the meeting via a Council conference call to be scheduled in May. <b>Outcome/Desired Action:</b> Council to make decisions on 09/10 activities and funding.
12:00 PM	Luncheon
1:00 PM	<b>Continuation: The future of Council's core programs—function, form, and funding</b> <i>Greg Roach</i>
2:00 PM SENT VIA EMAIL	Budget approval <b>Justin Huston and Cindy Krum (via conference call)</b>
2:30 PM	Coffee and light snack
3:00 PM  POSTED ONLINE	Scoping a State of the Environment report for the Gulf of Maine <b>Tim Hall and Jay Walmsley, Fisheries and Oceans Canada</b> <b>Background:</b> A scoping document developed by DFO on behalf of the Council will be distributed prior to the meeting. Following from WG and Council recommendations in December, the document outlines what a State of the Gulf report might look like and the implications for the Council if it pursues this approach. <b>Outcome/Desired Action:</b> Council to discuss and decide on its potential role in undertaking a State of the Environment Report for the Gulf of Maine.
3:30 PM	Celebrating 20 years of the Council: Oceans Day 2010 <b>Justin Huston, Working Group Chair</b> <b>Background:</b> It has been proposed that the Council hold a small celebration to recognize its 20 years



	of work in the Gulf of Maine, to be held in conjunction with an International Oceans Day event in Portland, Maine on June 8, 2010. <b>Outcome/Desired Action:</b> Council to decide on holding its celebration event in conjunction with the Oceans Day festivities in Portland, Maine on June 8 <sup>th</sup> , and shifting the June meeting date and location to align accordingly.
4:00 PM	December 2009 meeting dates and locations <b>Michael Walls, incoming Council Chair, NH Department of Environmental Services</b>
4:15 PM	Passing of the gavel, closing remarks, and adjourn <b>Greg Roach</b>



**Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment**  
**Council Meeting Summary**  
**1741 Brunswick Street**  
**Halifax, NS • December 4<sup>th</sup> , 2008**

**Councilors present:** Mel Coté for Stephen Perkins, Environmental Protection Agency; Tim Hall for Michael Murphy, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Adrienne Harrison for Pat Kurkul (when Betsy Nicholson is not participating via conference call), National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration; Russ Henry for Rick Doucet, NB Department of Fisheries; W. Donald Hudson, Jr. The Chewonki Foundation; Kim Hughes for Roland Haché, NB Department of Environment; Michael Langman for Mark Parent, NS Department of Environment; Jackie Olsen, Environment Canada; Greg Roach, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Susan Russell-Robinson, US Geological Survey for Marvin Moriarty, Department of the Interior; Jennifer Smith, World Wildlife Fund; Lee Sochasky, St. Croix International Waterway Commission; Rob Stephenson, St. Andrews Biological Station; Greg Thompson, Fundy North Fishermen's Association; and Theresa Torrent-Ellis for Kathleen Leyden (is not participating via conference call), ME State Planning Office Coastal Program.

**Councilors present via conference call:** Kathleen Leyden, ME State Planning Office/ME Coastal Program; Leslie-Ann McGee, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Betsy Nicholson for Pat Kurkul, NOAA; Michael Walls for Tom Burack, NH Department of Environmental Services.

**Others present:** Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada; Justin Huston, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association; Ann Rodney, EPA; Jane Tims, NB Department of Environment; Michelle Chisholm, Administrative Assistant; and Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator.

**Others present via conference call:** Ted Diers, NH Department of Environmental Services.

Greg Roach opened the meeting with welcoming everyone to Nova Scotia. He ran through the consent agenda items and opened the floor for comments/questions.

Russell Henry asked for DFO Maritimes Ecosystem approach by added to the agenda. It was so noted. Greg Roach wanted to bring forward the Committee & Subcommittee reports for discussion. ESIP/Gulf Watch in particular. This will be brought forward in the budget updates.

Greg Roach moved to accept the consent agenda. This was seconded by Kim Hughes.

Introductions were made around the table and Mr. Greg Thompson, Fundy North Fishermen's Association was welcomed to his first Council meeting of the Gulf of Maine Council.

Larry Hildebrand is leaving the Council for another assignment. Greg Roach recognized Larry for his years of service and thanked him for his 17 years of commitment to the Gulf of Maine.

**Budgets and Action Plan notes**

- 1) **Cindy Krum** gave a summary of the budget from June 2008 to July 2009. Cindy was seeking approval on the new adjusted budgets.

When the Council approved the budget in June 2008 it allocated \$23K from the reserve account to cover a budget shortfall for core activities. When this was done the US/Canadian exchange rate was nearly 1:1. With the current exchange rate of approximately 79%, and additional M&F recommended funding, the result is a \$67K shortfall vs. \$23k. Increased indirect funds result in an additional \$57k in the reserve account. Therefore, the reserve account is recommended to be drawn down to \$89K.

Management & Finance Committee has recommended adjusting the US/Canadian exchange rate to 79% which represents the average over the past year. Cindy also recommended that Council adopt a new indirect rate effective December 5<sup>th</sup> of 16.59%.

Cindy noted that a number of core programs and activities will run out of funds within the fiscal year or next year, including ESIP, GOMTimes, and Gulfwatch.



Lee Sochasky wanted to ensure it was noted that the exchange rate will fluctuate. We need to ensure that the reserve account is only drawn from as needed. If we budget using the lowest exchange rate over the past twelve months – everything should work out at the end of the year.

*Decision: Council approval of the adjusted budget and an indirect rate of 16.59%.*

Cindy then ran through the June '08 to July '09 budgets and indicated if all dues are paid by all jurisdictions with no further funding, we will be able to provide core services only, and even then at a reduced rate. Greg Roach initiated a discussion on the budgets and the difficulty some programs are facing and wanted to discuss some key issues & programs that will need funding to stay on.

Susan Russell-Robinson updated everyone on the *Gulf of Maine Times* sponsorship effort. She made a special appeal and shared her experience and commitment with the Gulf and her devotion to it. She distributed a pledge form and urged everyone to follow her and others' example to provide their sponsorship. The goal for the *Gulf of Maine Times* is to have four editions per year. The March publication is funded. By the March WG meeting we should have an idea of what the level of sponsorship is, and should be in a position for Council decision in June for next steps on funding for the Times.

*Action: David and Theresa will keep Justin informed of the level of sponsorship so that this can be discussed at the June Meeting.*

Secretariat: NH is working very hard to live up to NS's example to provide the Administrative Assistant to the Council. There is currently a Secretariat budget shortfall for the NH year. Ted indicated they are confident (but not positive) about the resources they can offer. It will be more challenging for NH to pay its dues. NH is trying to identify deliverables for which it could provide funding on a contract basis.

ESIP: EPA has just received some funds to allow the indicator program to continue for an additional three months. After which, funding does not exist. A number of funding proposals are being pursued. EC funds may be available.

Gulf Watch – there are some significant challenges around funding as well as committee participation.. Jackie Olsen – proposing that there may be grant money going into the GulfWatch program. Approximately \$16K with an additional \$12K for lab services.

*Action: Justin Huston and Michele Tremblay will work with Jack Schwartz prior to the June meeting to figure out where the critical gaps in the program are.*

Kathleen Leyden suggested that we need to look at some funding options. Suggested that it would be helpful to know what services could be provided in kind so that jurisdictions could look within their own organizations to see if these services could be offered in kind.

GOMMI: Leslie Ann McGee suggested that they are doing a marine mapping program this year and may be able to contribute to the coordinator position this year.

*Action: Justin and Cindy will work together to get a GOMMI contractor position description to Leslie-Ann for her grant and funding efforts.*

*Action: Secretariat and M&F to work with the Council Chair to have detailed, up-to-date information on each core activity/program funding and human capacity needs prior to the June meeting, as early as April so that Council can come together prepared to find solutions to the committee needs.*

### **Integration of efforts in the Gulf of Maine: Internal and external recommendations**

*Decision: The Council approved the changes to the organization chart that removed the Sewage Management and Monitoring Subcommittees from Goal 2.*



*Decision: Justin Huston, Jennifer Smith, and Michele Tremblay will work together to determine the status of the Action Plan tasks assigned to the Habitat Conservation Subcommittee and determine if/how the committee can continue its work.*

*Action: Jane Tims mentioned that NB Department of Environment staff will be identified to sit as the Canadian Co Chair of the SICC Committee. Tim Hall, DFO will offer a member to the SICC committee.*

#### **GOM Summit check-in**

Rob Stephenson gave a presentation to the Council based on feedback from the Working Group meetings earlier in the week. The general consensus from this meeting was that the committee felt they would not be ready by 2010 to produce a State of the Gulf report. The value in holding an event in 2010 is to recognize the council and to celebrate its accomplishments over the past 20 years, but to also look forward and perhaps kick off a longer-term SOE reporting/summit process.

After a discussion with councillors, the following are the highlights:

Go back to basics and renew the governors' and premiers' buy-in on the Council, its mission, its work, and the celebration (volunteers include W. Don Hudson, Rob Stephenson, Theresa Torrent-Ellis, and Susan Russell-Robinson, and her peer, Kyla Hastings). Justin is concerned about the GOMC's capacity to conduct the work. The organization does not have sufficient funds to meet its core obligations and its current programs. He feels that this event needs a champion. The current celebratory event is the prelude. The Summit is the finale. October 4-9, 2009 GOM RARGOM symposium in St. Andrews. BoFEP and ESIP workshop in May 2009.

*Action: The Council will contact RARGOM and BoFEP to explore opportunities for the GOMC might integrate presentations, displays, piggy backed sessions, or other events.*

#### **Awards**

NS Visionary Award Winners, Dr. Tony Charles and Lloyd Hines, President of the Union of NS Municipalities were recognized by the Gulf of Maine Council. .

Pat Hinch, formerly of the Department of Environment in Nova Scotia was recognized for her long-term dedication and years of service to the Gulf of Maine Council.

#### **Offshore Energy Panel**

Theresa Torrent-Ellis gave a presentation on the current initiatives in the State of Maine in wind energy with a current interest in offshore energy. Staff have developed a draft work plan and a task force will be looking at it. The outcome they hope to achieve is to meet the goal of 3000 mega watts by 2020.

Greg Thompson inquired as to the development plans and wanted to know if there will be a standard that will have to be followed across the Gulf in order to protect the interests of everyone (including fishermen). Theresa responded that they are looking at developing a plan that will ensure the offshore is shared with everyone and that the development will not affect the resources that are currently being used.

Leslie Ann indicated that in the State of Massachusetts there will be a draft resource use plan ready for June. Specifically it will address a zoning scheme, which will include next generation plans. The project will also include compatibilities for the shared resource and has direct ties with the NROC goals.

Two representatives- Sandra Farwell and Bruce Cameron, from the Nova Scotia Department of Energy were invited to the meeting to give a presentation and update on current initiatives underway in Nova Scotia to address alternate energy.

Sandra gave an overview of where the Department of Energy is looking to produce tidal energy. The Bay of Fundy is the most promising site for tidal energy in North America. The tidal energy produced just in the Bay of Fundy area could provide 15% of the total power requirements in Nova Scotia.

Department of Energy is currently involved in setting up a demonstration facility, conducting data collection & modelling, developing codes and standard and completing a strategic environmental assessment ( scheduled to be completed in June 2008 ).

The benefits of tidal energy versus wind energy is the predictability of tidal power. Winds are not as predictable.





Greg Thompson posed the question as to what the measurables are ? Do they exist ? What will be the effect of using tidal energy. Bruce Cameron responded that this will all be conducted by utilizing a model approach. Scientists will be able to measure the effects by using modelling.

Bruce Cameron, Department of Energy gave a presentation on George's Bank and where we are today with the moratorium that exists there. This moratorium is in effect in Canada until 2012. George's Bank is a significant fishing resources and petroleum interests were suspended in 1988. From 2008-2010 there will be a review of the moratorium and a decision will be made by Cabinet to decide if it will be extended or lifted.

#### **Planning for the June Council Meeting and adjournment**

## **Ecosystem Indicator Partnership: Spring 2009 Progress**

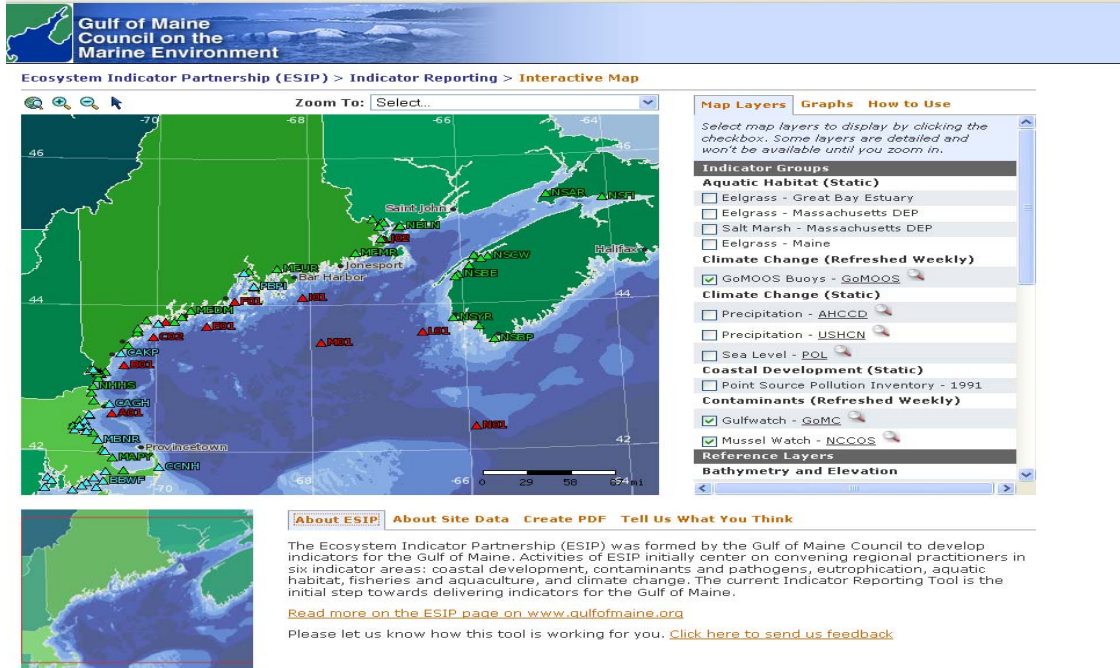
### **Background**

ESIP has continued to make progress towards delivering indicator data for the Gulf of Maine. Efforts this Spring have produced a general fact sheet, a new ESIP logo, presentations at several regional meetings, and major revisions to the Indicator Reporting Tool.

With the assistance of Environment Canada, ESIP was able to access the talents and knowledge of a professional designer for a general fact sheet and new ESIP logo. The new ESIP logo is pasted below. The fact sheet will be released in both print and PDF by the end of June.



In addition, ESIP has completed major revisions to the Indicator Reporting Tool. The tool now contains salt marsh data for all States and Provinces in the Gulf of Maine, eelgrass layers, annual precipitation, and sea level change along with the datasets already available. The tool has been made more user friendly as a result of intense work from Jim Cradock and the ESIP team. A screen shot from the newly released tool is included below. The tool was presented this Spring at the Fisherman and Scientists Research Society annual meeting, the Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership annual meeting, and the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership meeting.



### Upcoming Activities

- A demonstration workshop is being planned for the ESIP tools in connection with the December 2009 Working Group and Council meetings
- ESIP will be presenting at the following up-coming meetings: Coastal Zone 09 (July 2009 in Boston), RARGOM (October 2009 in St. Andrews)

Submitted by Susan Russell-Robinson (Department of the Interior) and Kathryn Parlee (Environment Canada, Co-chairs, ESIP)



## Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative

Since our reporting at the March 2009 Working Group meeting:

- GOMMI held a two-hour, face-to-face steering committee planning meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> in Portland, Maine with ten of its thirteen members in attendance. The steering committee discussed opportunities for integrating with other regional initiatives, mapping priorities, steering committee membership, funding mechanisms, and development of the 2010-2011 Workplan.
- GOMMI worked in partnership with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) to successfully convene a workshop on April 15-16<sup>th</sup> focused on the topic of "*Integrating Seafloor Mapping and Benthic Ecology Into Fisheries Management in the Gulf of Maine*" (workshop program attached). A draft of the workshop proceedings has been completed and is being submitted for review and approval according to the Gulf of Maine Council publications protocol. Funding for this workshop was secured from the Northeast Sea Grant College Programs, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and Maine Coastal Program. The workshop served GOMMI's goals to 1) increase regional and national awareness of GOMMI's ecosystem-based work and the importance of seafloor maps in implementing integrated ocean management; and 2) build the capacity of the end user community to apply seafloor maps to a wide range of cross-cutting management needs.
- GOMMI, GMRI, Natural Resources Canada, and the U.S. Geological Survey have teamed up to coordinate a technical session at the Gulf of Maine Symposium in October 2009. The application for this technical session has been submitted and approved. The convening partners request assistance from RARGOM and GOMC to advertise the session (description attached).
- In order to fulfill an informational request related to the U.S. congressional appropriations process, GOMMI was asked to coordinate a consultative and consensus-based process with state-level entities to identify regional seafloor mapping priorities for the New England region. GOMMI worked with federal and state agency personnel and non-governmental entities to submit to New England's U.S. Senators a table of seafloor mapping priorities, and justification for a \$1.5 million appropriations request for seafloor mapping in the New England region.
- NOAA Coastal Services Center and NOAA Office of Coast survey staff members have approached GOMMI to partner in a proposal being developed by NOAA's North Atlantic Regional Team to develop a regional mapping strategy for Northeast waters. The strategy would consist of a plan for ocean and coastal mapping in the New England subregion and build on the priorities that have already been identified by the New England states in the region's efforts to serve the federal appropriations process. The proposal is to develop provide a strategic approach to the acquisition of physical and environmental datasets to support the needs of NOAA activities and regional activities, such as ocean planning at state and regional scales, as well as Integrated Ecosystem Assessments.
- GOMMI has been asked to provide input on NOAA's Office of Coast Survey Hydrographic Survey priorities and to request input on these priorities from the New England states. [in-process]



- GOMMI has been invited to serve on a symposium at the AAAS meeting in San Diego in February 2010. The proposed 2009 symposium will highlight the important role that the science community plays in the development of an effective ocean management regime known as marine spatial planning. Contingent on funding, GOMMI will join speakers Meg Caldwell (Stanford Univ.), Larry Crowder (Duke Univ.), Jay Odell (TNC), and Will McClintock (UCSB) to discuss this approach to managing multiple uses of ocean space and the collection, management, and translation of baseline environmental data that will be required as a first step in establishing a marine spatial planning regime. The symposium will highlight the type of scientific information that is needed for MSP development, where that information has been most effectively compiled, and identification of information that need to be collected.
- An updated and improved coverage map of multibeam mapping in the Gulf of Maine has been completed and posted. GOMMI wishes to thank Jim Cradock (Yellahoose) and Seth Ackerman (USGS).

### **Funding Update**

GOMMI Coordinator funding expires June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries has requested two years of state mitigation funding to hire GOMMI to coordinate the state's work to conduct biological mapping in state waters and develop habitat mapping products. Pending.

The New England states have recommended that \$75,000 of funding be allocated to GOMMI for regional coordination activities as part of the \$1.5 million seafloor mapping federal appropriations request.



## **Gulfwatch Contaminants Monitoring Subcommittee Update**

The Gulfwatch Program completed all metals and organics laboratory analysis for the 2008 field season, and committee QC/QA is well in progress. Funding from Environment Canada was received and all prescribed deliverables have been completed. Delivery time for completion of organics analysis was reduced by approximately two months.

Gulfwatch continues to be without sufficient funds to operate for the upcoming 2009-2010 program. Despite the shortfall in 2009-2010 funding, planning and preparation for the 2009-2010 Gulfwatch Program operations will continue through the summer. Efforts to identify funding to support long term development of the program as described in the Statement of Basis for Developing a Business Plan will continue through the Council's Fund Development Coordinator.

Other tasks underway include completion of the 12 year program report, which was more complex and required more time than originally envisioned. The report will be completed this month. In order to progress on the 2007 and 2008 annual Gulfwatch reports, a Technical Support Specialist has been retained to complete these annual reports by September 30, 2009. The 2005 annual report will be finalized this month and the 2006 Gulfwatch annual report has been completed.

In order to build capacity for future projects as described in the Statement of Basis, an ad-hoc group of scientists, including scientists on the Gulfwatch Contaminants Monitoring Subcommittee, was established by the Co-Chair to recruit new committee members from the research/academic arena. This resulted in three scientists added to the committee from DFO-Moncton, NB, Environmental Research Group - U. New Hampshire, and School of Marine Sciences - U. Maine - Orono, respectively.

Dissemination of Gulfwatch Program information to scientists and coastal managers was enhanced through a presentation on the Gulfwatch Program given at the BoFEP (Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership) conference, Wolfville, NS. Additional presentations will be made in June at the NAC-SETAC (North Atlantic Chapter-Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) conference at Portsmouth, NH, and in October at the GOM/RARGOM (Gulf of Maine/Regional Association for Research in the Gulf of Maine) Symposium at St. Andrews, NB.

*Submitted by Jack P. Schwartz, Ph.D., Co-Chair  
June, 2009*



## Climate Change Network Update: Status of Action Plan Activities

### Background

At the December 2008 meeting the Climate Change Network briefed the Working Group on timelines proposed for delivery on the seven separate activities noted in the Action Plan.

These activities are:

- 1.5 Prepare regional criteria to identify coastal habitats at risk from sea level rise and other climate change impacts; integrate into **habitat restoration decision-making**.
- 1.6 Compile and disseminate information on **coastal habitats and watersheds at risk** due to climate change.
- 1.17 Conduct risk analysis and prioritize the vectors of **invasive species** and understand the effects of climate change.
- 1.18 Convene stakeholder workshops to identify and promote mitigative and adaptive strategies for dealing with **sea level rise and changes in water quality** related to climate change.
- 1.20 Enhance the climate change module of the Council's on-line **KnowledgeBase** by compiling programs, best practices and other information.
- 1.21 Investigate and propose **regional climate change adaptation strategies**
- 1.22 **Initiate the Climate Change Network and coordinate Climate Change Action Plan Activities for years one and two.**

Since that briefing progress has been made in developing information for several activities. A private consultant was contracted in mid Jan 2009 to complete three background pieces, one for each of activity 1.6, 1.17, 1.18.

### Here is a summary of the actions to date:

Activity 1.5: Products were delivered in June 2008. Still await further consultation with Habitat Restoration Committee.

Activity 1.6: Under contract the following deliverable was created,

- Identifying Coastal Habitats at Risk from Climate Change Impacts in the Gulf of Maine, February 2009.

Activity 1.17: Under contract the following deliverable was created,

- Identifying the Possible Effects of Climate Change on Invasive Species in the Gulf of Maine – A Background Report, March 2009.

Activity 1.18: Under contract the following deliverable was created,

- Identifying the Possible Effects of Extreme Precipitation and other Climate Change Impacts on Streamflow and Water Quality in the Gulf of Maine – A Background Report. May 2009.

Activity 1.20: No progress on activity this fiscal year.

Activity 1.21: No progress on activity this fiscal year.

Activity 1.22: A meeting of the Climate Change Network Coordinators and the GoM Secretariat in May 2009 resulted in a reworking of the proposed activities and funding for the coming fiscal year 09-10. Details are noted below.

### Possible Next Steps

1. As a result of a meeting among the 2 Network Coordinators and representation from the GoM Secretariat, a re-emphasis on moving forward with the Network was created, focusing on its original mandate and restating the need for resources to complete that mandate.

The following deliverables were restated in the financial planning tool **TAPAS**:



- Provide technical assistance to the GoMC committees and working group through establishing and maintaining the Network.
- Coordinate US and Cdn decision making activities as related to climate change information.
- Provide print and web information about climate change impacts and adaptation to stakeholders.
- Deliver climate change information through workshops, seminars and annual conference.

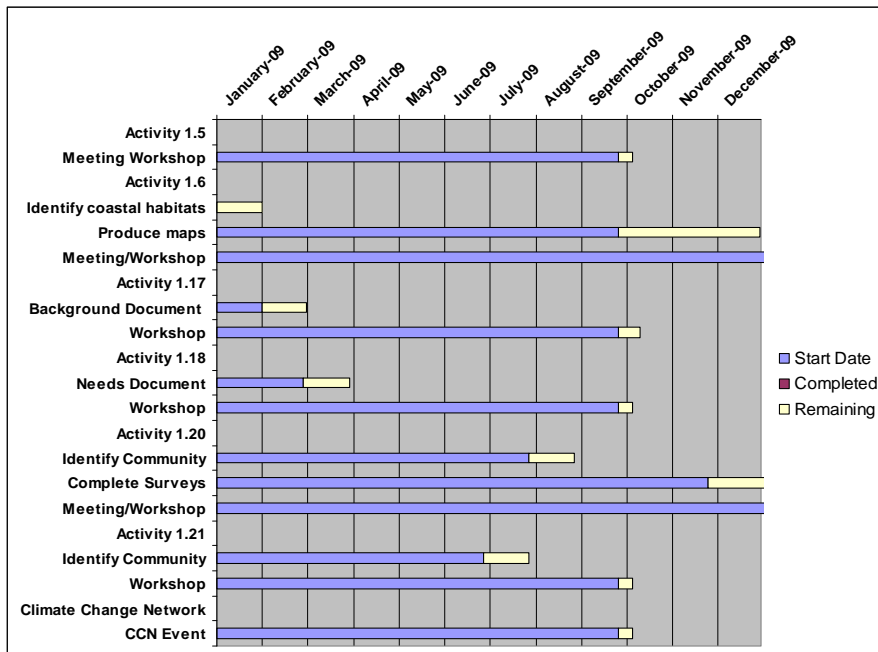
First 2 deliverables would cost approximately \$45K. The second 2 would total \$105K for an annual total of \$150K.

While this appears substantially different from the earlier projections for cost it is meant to better represent the amount of effort required to properly engage all the stakeholders necessary to fulfill the Network's mandate. To this point only small steps have been taken and minimal funding provided to achieve the Network goals which include delivering on the Action Plan activities.

2. Since there was no CCN event occurring in May 2009, that event is being rescheduled and reworked for the fall. CCN coordinators and representatives from NOAA have discussed an agenda and seek to schedule the event at or around the same time as other events planned this fall, namely the Gulf of Maine Symposium. The theme for the event is "**Climate Change Strategies for the Gulf of Maine**" and provides an opportunity for significant climate change "players" to discuss current and upcoming projects on both sides of the border. This will be a follow-on event from the Coastal Zone 2009 event in Boston (July) and focus on Gulf of Maine adaptation strategies.

3. Updated Activity Schedule fro June 2009

The figure below highlights upcoming activity events and milestones.



Submitted by Gary Lines  
12 June 2009





**Gulf of Maine Science Symposium  
St. Andrews, New Brunswick  
4-9 October 2009**

**Technical Workshop on Seafloor Mapping for Ecosystem Management in the Gulf of Maine  
5 October 2009**

**Goal:** To identify and explore current and potential uses of seabed habitat information for Ecosystem Based Management in the Gulf of Maine.

**Background:** The Gulf of Maine ecosystem contains a diverse array of geological and biological substrates that serve as habitat for commercially and ecologically important mammals, seabirds, fish, and invertebrates. Managing this system effectively will require balancing the habitat needs of these species with ongoing and emerging human activities such as fish harvesting, offshore energy development, and shipping, among others. Seafloor mapping is a relatively new technology that already has been used as an effective tool in assessing ecosystem impacts of human activities and defining essential fish habitat of economically important species. Yet, high-resolution seabed habitat information is extremely limited, especially in the U.S. portion of the Gulf of Maine.

Over the past decade, the Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative (GOMMI) has organized forums and coordinated efforts to advance mapping of critical seabed habitat characteristics in highly utilized regions of the Gulf of Maine. In April 2009, GOMMI and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute convened a workshop on how to integrate seabed habitat information into fisheries management decisions more effectively. Scientists and managers at this workshop articulated that ecosystem-based management will require improved information about the habitats of economically and ecologically important species and the impacts of different human activities.

**Our aim is to convene regional environmental scientists and managers, fisheries ecologists, and seabed mappers to explore how seabed habitat information is currently being used in ecosystem management. We will also investigate how this information can be made more useful to those who manage fisheries, energy development, and other human activities in coastal and offshore waters.**

**Structure:** Geologists, benthic ecologists, fisheries scientists, and managers are being invited to this session. There will be presentations by ten invited speakers, a poster session, and a closing panel session. The workshop is open to all Symposium registrants. If you are interested in presenting a poster, please submit an abstract by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Workshop Organizers:** Jonathan Grabowski, Gulf of Maine Research Institute; Brian Todd, Natural Resources Canada; Page Valentine, United States Geological Survey; and Tracy Hart, Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative