



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

**Council Briefing Packet**  
*Version 1*  
Portland, Maine • June 9, 2010



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## Council Agenda

**Tuesday, June 8, 2010**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1:00 - 3:00<br>PM  | <b>Casco Bay Tour – WG and Council celebrating World Ocean Day</b> |
| 6:00 - 7:00<br>PM  | <b>Reception with cash bar</b>                                     |
| 7:00 - 10:30<br>PM | <b>Gala dinner, presentations, and dancing</b>                     |

**Wednesday, June 9, 2010** (Eastland Park Hotel, 157 High Street in Portland Maine)

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 8:30 AM                          | <b>CA and US Association meetings with breakfast provided</b>  |
| 9:30 AM                          | <b>Welcome, introductions, and overview and objectives for the meeting</b><br><i>Mike Walls, NH Department of Environmental Services Assistant Commissioner and Council Chair</i>  |
| 9:35 AM<br>(PAGE 3)              | <b>Consent agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accept December 2009 Council meeting summary</li> <li>▪ Committee and Subcommittee reports</li> <li>▪ Partial list of Funds/in-kind Services Donated to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and Wish List for Funds/in-kind Services</li> <li>▪ 2009 – 2010 Fund Development Report</li> <li>▪ TAPAS (Tracking Action Plan Activities System—in separate document at <a href="http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal">http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal</a>)</li> <li>▪ Regional Climate Change Project Proposal Ideas</li> </ul>  |
| 9:40 AM<br>(PAGE 20)             | <b>2010-2011 Gulf Maine Council budget</b><br><i>Ted Diers and Cindy Krum, Association of US Delegates to the Gulf of Maine Council</i><br><b>Background:</b> The Management and Finance Committee has reviewed all details of the annual budget (July 2010 -June 2011) and accompanying Scopes of Services for contractors and has presented the budget to the Working Group. A list of contractors has been provided to Council for informational purposes.<br><b>Outcome/Desired Action:</b> Decision on the 2010-2011 budget.  |
| 10:00 AM                         | <b>Action Plan: guidance for the future and engaging the Council's membership in implementation</b><br><i>Kathleen Leyden and Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office and incoming Council and Working Group incoming co-chairs</i><br><b>Background:</b> The Working Group had a productive session in March where agencies shared their priorities and reviewed those in the Council's current Action Plan. The resulting matrix, presented at this meeting, summarizes and provides a basis to analyze the intersection of these priorities and how it can help the Working Group form recommendation to the Council.<br><b>Outcome/Desired Action:</b> The Council will decide on the Gulf priorities to include in the Action Plan that will engage its membership for maximum success in implementation. |
| 11:00 AM                         | <b>Habitat Restoration Partnership update</b><br><i>Slade Moore, Habitat Restoration Partnership Coordinator and ME State Planning Office</i><br><b>Background:</b> since the inception of GOMC's habitat restoration efforts, "on-the-ground" restorative actions, and administrative requirements have expanded dramatically. This update will provide a brief overview of restoration successes, challenges, and how the GOMC-NOAA Partnership is adapting to conditions associated with a program of this scale and impact.<br><b>Outcome/Desired Action:</b> An update on the GOMC-NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership.  |
| 11:30 -<br>12:00 PM<br>(PAGE 20) | <b>Release of the State of the Environment Report / Media / Press Event</b>  |



|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 12:00 PM             | <b>Lunch on your own in hotel or downtown Portland</b><br><i>Discount coupons for the Top of the East available</i>   |
| 1:30 PM              | <b>Councilor roundtable</b><br>Councilors will share information to increase the GOMC's role as a valuable coordinating and convening organization  |
| 2:30 PM<br>(PAGE 21) | <b>Discussion on new Council member agencies</b><br><i>Mike Walls and Ted Diers</i><br><b>Background:</b> On its May 6 call, the Council discussed the possibility of adding new member agencies at the provincial, state, and federal levels.<br><b>Outcome/Desired Action:</b> The Council will make recommendations to follow-up on new Council member agencies.   |
| 2:45 PM<br>(PAGE 23) | <b>Coastal marine spatial planning overview and linkages in the Gulf of Maine</b><br>Kathleen Leyden, ME State Planning Office; Mel Coté, US Environmental Protection Agency; Susan Russell-Robinson, US Geological Survey, US Department of Interior; PRESENTER, NOAA; Russell Henry, NB Department of Fisheries and the Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture; and Tim Hall, Department of Fisheries and Oceans<br><b>Background:</b> In Canada, the Regional Committee on Coastal and Oceans Management is the senior intergovernmental coordinating body for coastal and ocean management issues in the Maritime Provinces. Tim and Russ will provide an overview of this current oceans management framework and identify the current challenges and opportunities in relation to planning in the Maritimes. The US National Ocean Policy and anticipated CMSP final framework and Executive Order are anticipated by early June. Susan, Kathleen, and Mel will provide an overview and update and discuss implications for the Gulf of Maine.<br><b>Outcome/Desired Action:</b> This agenda item will include an overview of CMSP from the provincial, state, and federal perspectives. The Council will determine what role it wishes to play in CMSP and offer input on a proposal to sponsor a CMSP forum. |
| 4:00 PM              | <b>Time for items removed from Consent Agenda or unfinished business</b>  |
| 4:15 PM              | <b>Passing of the gavel</b><br><i>Michael Walls, Council Chair, passes the gavel to the Kathleen Leyden, Maine State Planning Office</i>  |
| 4:30 PM              | <b>Meeting adjourns</b>   |

## Consent Agenda December 2009 Council Meeting Summary

### Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Council Meeting Meeting DRAFT Summary Portsmouth, NH, December 10, 2009

**Councilors present:** John Annala, Gulf of Maine Research Institute; Priscilla Brooks, Conservation Law Foundation; Bruce Carlisle for Deerin Babb-Brott; MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Pete Colosi for Pat Kurkul, National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration; Tim Hall for Acting Director, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; NB Department of Fisheries; Russ Henry for Jim McKay; NB Department of Fisheries; Don Hudson, The Chewonki Foundation; Diane Kent Gillis for Rick Miles, NB Department of Environment; Kathleen Leyden, ME State Planning Office; Jackie Olsen for Daniel Lebel, Environment Canada; Stephen Perkins, US Environmental Protection Agency; \*Greg Roach, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Michael Walls for Tom Burack, NH Department of Environmental Services; and Mel Cote, US Environmental Protection Agency; Jack Wiggan, Urban Harbors Institute.

**Others present:** John Coon, University of NH PhD candidate; Ted Diers, Working Group Chair, NH Department of Environmental Services; Jay Espy, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation; Adrienne Harrison, National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration; Anne Hayden, Davis Conservation Foundation; Resources Services; Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada; \*Justin Huston, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; David Keeley, Development



Coordinator; Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association; Betsy Nicholson, National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration; Mary Power, logistics planning for the GOMC; NH Coastal Program; Megan Shore, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation; Theresa Torrent-Ellis, Maine State Planning Office; Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator; Jay Walmsley, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Peter Wells, Dalhousie University; Peter Lamb, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation; Matthew Wood, Administrative Assistant, and Karen Young, Maine Community Foundation.  
\*via conference call

**Consent Agenda**

*Decision: The Council took off the annual indirect rate approval to discuss further and accepted the consent agenda.  
Decision: The Council approved the annual indirect rate of 19.24%.*

**Council Business Session  
Dues Structure**

Ted presented an overview of the dues structure and presented option for how to proceed into the future. Ted presentation included a retrospective of how the council has spent money during the period from 2004 to 2009. The Council is in a period of shrinking budgets and the way in which the Council allocates funds are changing, with a move towards habitat restoration activities. The total cost of capacity is about \$175,450.00, with the core services requiring approximately \$165,450.00. The Council will need additional funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 if the next round of Restoration Partnership Grant is awarded. Overall there is a shortfall of approximately \$70,000.00. The options for raising this shortfall include, raise dues, to expand dues request to current Council members, and to expand membership to other regional players. Ted closed by asking the Councilors which path they would like to see the GOMC follow. Jacky commented that what Ted presented were reasonable options, however she felt that an increase in dues was not realistic for Environment. Canada. In order to meet the goals several approaches may need to be utilized simultaneously. Jacky suggested that other options be considered. Cathleen asked the group why so much was being spent on administration with the smaller budget. Diane also requested that the administrative costs be evaluated. Jacky commented that the Council can not cut administrative cost any more than they have already and still sustain the organization. It was suggested that a cost benefit analysis be conducted in June. Don commented that he felt it was a fair proposal for the Council to look at NGOs that do not currently pay dues in addition to expanding membership to other regional players. The Council agreed that the GOMT should not be one of the services cut. Ted asked the Councilors for volunteers for a committee to discuss these issues further. Don Hudson, Kathleen Leyden, Jack Wiggin, Jackie Olsen, and John Annala agreed to on the committee.  
*Action: Ted and Cindy will pull together the budget information describing difference in budgets and distribute it to the individuals that volunteered for the committee.*

**Measuring Success of the 2007-2012 Action Plan and Preparing a Framework for 2013-2018**

*Action: Betsey will send out and e-mail to the Council listserve with a summary of the successes of the 2007-2012 Action Plan.*

**Celebrating 20 Years of the Council: Ocean Day 2010**

Theresa gave an overview of the upcoming 20 year celebration and how it could be tied in to World Ocean Day. A summary of the ideas generated during the Working Group meeting are presented in the table below:

| Planning element                  | Options | Decision / recommended actions  |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---|
| Event venue                       |         | Eastland Park Hotel, Portland, ME   |
| Schedule/structure of celebration |         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ June 7               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Day long: Working Group meeting</li> <li>▫ Release State of the Gulf of Maine report</li> <li>▫ 6:30: Census of Marine Life presentation by Gulf of Maine Research Institute</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ June 8: World Ocean Day               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ 8:00 -11:30: Working Group meeting</li> <li>▫ 12:00 - 6:00: World Ocean Day exhibits/presentations</li> <li>▫ high school poster session (Gulf</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |



| Planning element   | Options   | Decision / recommended actions   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Theme(s)<br/>(one for WOD) and one for<br/>the Gulf of Maine</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use World Ocean Day theme and have subtheme for the Council</li> <li>▪ “Our vision for the next 20 years”</li> <li>▪ “20/20 Vision for the Gulf”</li> <li>▪ “The Gulf of Maine And The World’s Ocean”</li> <li>▪ “GOM: Our World’s Ocean”</li> <li>▪ “GOM: Your Ocean”</li> </ul>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>of Maine Institute) and local art display (art night out)</li> <li>□ possible film or film festival</li> <li>□ 6:30 -10:30: World Ocean Day dinner/council recognition with “friends of the gulf” entertainment</li> <li>□ Council anniversary and other awards and recognition</li> <li>▪ June 9: Council meeting</li> </ul> |
| <b>Collateral</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Posters (post them on ferries)</li> <li>▪ Outreach video (can be shown on ferries)</li> <li>▪ Gulf specific logo (in addition to WOD logo)</li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>Corporate sponsorship</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maine-centric</li> <li>▪ Gulf-wide</li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>Banquet</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Paid open registration or invitation only (fee or no fee)</li> <li>▪ Corporate sponsorship</li> <li>▪ Canadian consulate sponsorship</li> <li>▪ Send out specific invitations for those we want to come. Reserve a number of seats and if they are not filled, open them to the public.</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>Wall of accomplishments</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepared ahead of time</li> <li>▪ Poll partners for accomplishments</li> <li>▪ Interactive Opportunity to add achievement on site</li> <li>▪ (possible intern from jurisdictions)</li> </ul>   |  |
| <b>Film/film festival</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Natural Resources Defense Council ocean acidification video*</li> <li>▪ Wild and scenic festival (Patagonia grant)</li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>State of the Gulf of Maine<br/>Report release<br/>Gulf of Maine Times<br/>Support<br/>Participation</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cooperate Sponsorship</li> <li>▪ Summer issue sponsorship</li> <li>▪ Paid registration</li> <li>▪ Web conferencing governors and Premiers</li> <li>▪ Possible web conference with Halifax World Ocean Day</li> <li>▪ Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership</li> </ul>                                 |  |
| <b>Media<br/>coverage/involvement</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CA and US media release</li> <li>▪ CA and US media packet</li> <li>▪ Poster for ferries</li> <li>▪ Show our partners films on ferries</li> </ul>   |  |



The budget for the event is set at \$5,000.00. The Eastland has agreed that if the amount of money spent on food is the same as the rooms, they will comp the meeting room fees. The Eastland has also agreed to set aside a block of rooms with the Government rate of \$99 per night.

*Action: The Council gave consent to proceed with the event.*

### **State of the Gulf of Maine Report**

Tim gave an update to the Councilors on progress made on the State of the Gulf of Maine report. The intent is to release the report in June, possibly in conjunction with the 20 Year Celebration. The products that will be released in June will include a website that contains the context document and three to four of the theme papers. As they are completed, the remainder of the 14 theme papers will be added to the website, with the goal of completion in three years. The topics of the 14 theme papers include: Climate Change and its Effect on Humans; Climate Change and its Effect on Ecosystems, Habitat and Biota; Aquaculture in the Gulf of Maine; Commercial Fisheries and Fish Stock Status; Land Use and Coastal Development; Toxic Contaminants; Microbial Pathogens and Toxins; Eutrophication; Coastal Ecosystems and Habitats; Offshore Ecosystems and Habitats; Watershed Status; Invasive Species; Species at Risk; and Emerging Issues. At least two of the following four papers will be presented on the website when it is launched: Emerging Issues, Climate Change and Effects on Ecosystems, Coastal Ecosystems, or Invasive Species. Support is required from the council to assist in the edit/review process. The idea was proposed to transition and expand the task group into an editorial review committee. Tim asked the Councilors of volunteers to be on the review committee. Mike Walls, Priscilla Brooks, Peter Colossi, Stephen Perkins, Russ Henry, and Don Hudson volunteered. Tim closed by informing the Councilors that Council approval on the document would be needed by May.

**Action: The council came to consensus for approval of the workplan.**

**Action: The council came to consensus for approval to have the task group continue as an editorial committee.**

**Action: The council came to consensus to support the June website deadline.**

### **ESIP 2009 Progress**

Christine gave an overview of ESIP focusing on how people can find, retrieve, and use the data. When beginning to use the ESIP webpage an individual is presented with a monitoring map that indicates where data is being collected. From there a user can use the indicator reporting tool to retrieve the data. The indicator reporting tool can also be used to create Arcview type maps and graphs from the data. There is also a tool on the website to save the project information an individual works on as a .pdf file so that the analysis may be duplicated or updated at a later date. Christine asked for the Council's assistance with locating individual to assist in restarting the fisheries subcommittee, locating an individual to help with watershed delineation for a coastal development subcommittee, getting the word out about these innovative and the usefulness of the ESIP tools, and obtaining funding to spotlight the usefulness of ESIP's indicators for weighing specific issues/decisions in the member States and Provinces. The group concluded that ESIP should be considered as one of the core services of the Council.

### **Great Waters Initiative – Gulf of Maine Conservation and Restoration Initiative**

David gave an update on the initiative to the Councilors. The Initiative provides an opportunity to advance the Council's restoration and conservation priorities in the GOM. Two primary paths have been considered for the initiative, an umbrella restoration and conservation plan and the creation of an advocacy coalition. Peter Lamb of the NH Charitable Foundation, commented that money set aside for conservation and restoration projects could entice interested foundations to step in with grants for capacity building of the organization, which is the direction many foundations are heading. To date the GOMC has received \$7500 from the Maine Community Foundation, \$30,000 from the NH Charitable Foundation and was requested by the Cox Charitable Trust to submit a proposal. Currently the Initiative is putting its effort into an appropriation request to Congress to request \$40 million to support projects, with approximately \$8 million earmarked for each state.

David reviewed the three options in the briefing book that are proposed by the Working Group concerning the role the GOMC could play. The Working Group recommendation to the Council is that the GOMC should work as regional facilitator. John Annala asked David for a clarification on the difference between the convener and the facilitator. He explained a facilitator would take a lead role in bringing participants together and help provide structure to the group where as the convener would be more active in providing direction to the group and deciding what is done. Some of the Councilors were concerned that this initiative may have the capacity to replace the GOMC in the future. The councilors agreed that a more detailed discussion was needed at the next Council meeting in June so that they can gain a better understanding of the difference and how this may impact the individuality of GOMC as an organization. The councilors asked how the initiative would proceed should the Council decline to serve as either a convener or facilitator it at this time. The response was that the state representatives and non-profits throughout the Gulf of Maine are advocating for the Gulf of Maine Conservation and Restoration Initiative and would continue to move forward without the Council serving in a convener or facilitator role at this time.



**Action:** *David will present a detailed discussion of the Gulf of Maine Conservation and Restoration Initiative at the June 2010 Council meeting, which will include a discussion of the GOMC role and implications of the initiative on the Council as an entity and on its Action Plan.*

**Action:** *An agenda item will be added to the Working Group's March 2010 meeting to continue the Gulf of Maine Conservation and Restoration Initiative discussion with a goal of developing clear directions to be presented to the Councilors at the June 2010 Council meeting. (For example, does the Council support accelerating the pace of habitat conservation and restoration in the Gulf/BoF? Are the proposed categories in the GOM Restoration Plan consistent with the agency mandates?)*

**Action:** *Invite members of the coalition and ACOA to speak at the June 2010 Council meeting so that the Councilors can gain another perspective on what they envision as the role of the GOMC in the initiative.*

#### **GOMC Science Perspective and RARGOM Symposium Meeting and Council Response**

John gave an overview of the 2009 Gulf of Maine Symposium, which was well attended with 240 participants and 141 presentations.

#### **Update on US Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force Report and its Potential Benefits and Role for the GOMC**

Mel and Betsy gave an overview of the US Ocean Policy Task Force. The White House advises that nine regional planning bodies be created around the country in coordination with the existing regional ocean governance. The mandated jurisdiction will be from mean high water to 200 miles offshore with the ability to extend the terrestrial boundary as each regional planning body deems appropriate. The Nation Ocean Council will develop objective, criteria and guidance; coordinate with regional planning bodies; coordinate federal activities; certify regional plans; evaluate adherence to regional plans; provide guidance on data and decision support tools; and assess resource needs and provide initial funds. The expectations of the region may include identify regional objectives; identify existing efforts and build on them; stakeholder involvement; conduct scientists and technical experts; and conduct regional assessment. Two of the possible roles of the Council in the Task Force would be help facilitate the national policy/policy coordination framework and regional coastal & marine spatial planning. Tim suggested that the Council continue the ongoing dialogue with the Canadian officials as this follows very closely with what Canada has already put together. There is language in the plan that allows each region to start at the sub-region level, which could lead to the use of the GOMC Action Plan. Betsy followed up the discussion of the task force with a presentation of the Northeast Regional Ocean Council – Gulf of Maine Council Memorandum of Understanding. The major methods of collaboration include in the draft MOU include: coordinate strategic planning; ecosystem health activism; climate change activism; joint projects; progress reports; and fund development and management. The duration of the MOU is for one year so that the model can be tested and easily redeveloped if needed. The Secretariat would be in charge of carrying through the MOU and making sure it is followed. The Canada representatives requested an opportunity to examine the draft MOU before it is signed by the Council. The Council was in agreement that a thorough examination of the MOU will occur before it is signed by the Council Chair.

**Action:** *Betsy will send the draft MOU to the Councilors via the Council's listserve so that their respective jurisdictions may have an opportunity to review and comment on the MOU.*

**Action:** *The Council came to consensus that comments will be due on January 15, 2010. Following the comment period the Council gave authority for Mike to sign the MOU, barring no major changes are requested.*

**Action:** *Tim and Russ will discuss the MOU with the Regional Ocean Council to determine if the development of a similar MOU is warranted. Their findings will be presented at the June 2010 Council meeting.*

#### **Gulf of Maine Time: A Strategy for Sustainability**

Theresa gave an overview of the Gulf of Maine Times (GOMT) and its current status. The GOMT is an objective, factual newspaper that is distributed to over 12,000 readers. The council has trimmed costs by discontinuing paper copies creating an on-line based quarterly publication. The times should remain an on-line voice for the Gulf of Maine and a quality communication and outreach tool for the GOMC. One of the new features of the on-line version is a comments section for readers. With this new feature comments about the content can be tracked and the audience of readers better understood. The Council does not have an ability to sustain the GOMT by relying solely on volunteers from the jurisdictions. There is currently a funding committed through the Department of the Interior for one more addition. Environment Canada is also working to obtain funding for an additional addition. The costs are approximately \$12,000.00 per addition. Theresa requested that the Councilors give their commitment to add the GOMT as a core service. Without the commitment of the Council there is a chance that each edition to the GOMT may be its last.

**Action:** *The Council came to consensus that the Gulf of Maine Time should be added to the Council's core services.*

**Action:** *The Council Twitter and Facebook pages will be reactivated.*



### **Atlantic Regional Adaptation Collaborative**

Diane presented an overview of the New Brunswick Regional Adaptation Collaborative. Atlantic communities are already experiencing the effects of climate change and this is expected to intensify in the future. Communities will need tools to make informed decisions and policies to strengthen their resiliency. The Atlantic Regional Adaptation Collaborative is a cooperative undertaking of the four Atlantic Provinces, with funding from Natural Resources Canada, designed to build supportive frameworks and resources to help incorporate adaptation into policy, planning, and operations. The collaborative started with the 2004/2005 Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment identifying climate change as a nation issue. That was followed by the Council of Federations identifying the issue of climate change during their meetings between 2006 and 2008. At the Council of Atlantic Environment Ministers meeting in January of 2008 the Ministers agreed to develop an adaptation strategy for Atlantic Canada. The key issues identified were: sea level rise; coastal flooding; coastal erosion; inland flooding; seawater intrusion; and negative impacts upon infrastructure. The purpose of the collaborative was to develop a framework for comprehensive integrated and long term planning for climate adaptation in the Atlantic Region with three key result areas -- Identify climate risks in Atlantic Canada, climate proofing designs, and regional collaboration on areas of common issues. The priority sectors identified were coastal areas, inland waters and related infrastructure. The collaborative is preparing to sign Contribution Agreement in NRCan with a projected start date for projects for 2010. Diane discussed several of the projects in the works including the Dykeland Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Project, a Sea Level Rise and Erosion Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, a Groundwater Quality and Quantity Assessment, and an Inland Flooding Risk and Vulnerability Assessment. The goals of the collaborative are to develop model by-laws on adaptation for municipalities; proposed changes to municipal land use plans; recommended adaptation options and policy; recommended changes to infrastructure design standards; recommended changes to municipal emergency management plans and an Atlantic climate change adaptation toolkit; and build the capacity of professional engineers, planners and municipal officials by supporting learning experiences on adaptation. Other climate change adaptation projects are being developed by the Insurance Bureau of Canada; Canadian Institute of Planners; and the North Shore MicMac District Council.

### **Joint Council and Foundation Session**

Peter Lamb gave an overview of some of the concerns and realizations that foundations have had in recent years. Peter indicated that funders have identified that marine issues are so much more complex than terrestrial issues and that funders are always interested in learning how to gain access to an issue. David used the Action Plan as context for how Council activities can help bridge this gap through ecologically sustainable development, ecosystem based planning and management, environment protection through precaution, and public information and participation. Some of the key issues facing the Gulf of Maine include: habitat conservation restoration; managing competing issues and their cumulative impacts on coastal and ocean environment; mitigating and adaptation to a changing climate; connecting people with their environments, enabling them to be good stewards, and creating the political will to act; and coastal community economic and social vibrancy. The Council can be a resource to funders through bi-national public/private partnership with technical, communication, outreach\behavior change, and science expertise; through building the capacity of non-profit organizations to restore coastal habitats; and through Council participation at June 2010 World Ocean Day, specifically with recognizing/celebrating achievements.

Peter reported out on the results of the preceding funders meeting at the Clean Air-Cool Planet offices. (Organizations participating included Davis Conservation Foundation, Fundy Community Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, and Sewall Foundation.) They received a briefing on the Council, reviewed notes from a June 2009 funder's session, discussed the marine funders meeting last winter, explore common interests, and discussed ways the Council can serve as a technical resource and convener. Peter asked the group what they thought were the key issues in the Gulf of Maine. Some of the responses included: climate change; restoration of ecosystem function and resilience; marine fisheries resources; red tide / water quality and how much does nitrogen loading and climate change exacerbate this problem; balancing the political and economic value of working to improve environmental health; lack of political mandates to move projects; restoration and protection of habitat need to include deep water habitats in the Gulf of Maine; consistency in restoration projects on what values are restored; integrated management; and convey ideas and the "science" to the public so that they can understand them.

### **June meeting plans and closing remarks**

**Action: Mike will chair the June 2010 meeting in Portland Maine.**

**Action: Awards will now be during the winter Working Group and Council meeting, nomination forms will be e-mailed out in a few months.**

*Prepared by Matt Wood, NH Department of Environmental Services and Administrative Assistant for the Council*

## Climate Change Committee: Event and Activities Status

### Outline

- Climate Change Network Event held October 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Engagement on producing Theme Papers for SOER.
- Regional Adaptation Collaborative
- Review of importance of Network to Environment Canada priorities.

### Climate Change Network Event:

At the last Gulf of Maine WG Meetings, a summary of the Climate Change Network Event was presented as a briefing note.

A summary of the Meeting and the presentations are still planned to be posted on the CCN website. Thanks are due to Adrienne Harrison and Ellen Mecray for the development and wrap-up of proceedings.

Future events were strongly recommended but funding such events through efforts of Environment Canada may be difficult. While EC is supportive of these events and any movement on the topic of climate change in general is seen as positive, it is unlikely that new money will be available over the next few years to fund either events or network development.

### Theme Papers for SOER

The Climate Change Network fully supports efforts to write, review and complete climate change Theme Papers for the State of the Environment Report (SOER). Expertise is available to provide reviews of papers. As well, Environment Canada has provided funding (fiscal 2009-2010) for the production of one of the proposed papers.

### Regional Adaptation Collaborative

In August of 2008, Atlantic Canada's proposal to collaborate on over 50 projects related to adaptation to coastal impacts was accepted by Natural Resources Canada's Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program, thereby establishing a Regional Adaptation Collaborative (RAC). Funding for the RAC will soon be ratified and be approximately \$3M Cdn, to be matched by cash and in-kind partners including the four provinces and private sector. The Climate Change Network maintains a close relationship with a number of the same partners and will follow the numerous projects and their results as they roll out over the next 2 years. Synergies with projects in New England will continue to be explored including potential funding opportunities.

### Environment Canada Priorities

Environment Canada Atlantic has reviewed current Gulf of Maine priorities and, with regard to climate change issues, agrees with any proposed direction that incorporates climate change information on a regional level into the decision making process.

This means that emphasis on climate change impacts on the marine environment is important and should continue. However more attention should be paid to the impacts to coastal environments and the watersheds that feed them.

### Proposed Next Steps

1. Continue efforts to finance Network activities.
2. Start planning for next CCN event next fall.

*Submitted by Gary Lines  
17 March 2010*

## Gulf of Maine Times: Progress Report on Securing Financial Support

Background – In 2009-10 the Council focused its fund development efforts for the *Gulf of Maine Times* on soliciting annual contributions (e.g., recurring support) from agencies and non-profit organizations that share a communications interest in objective, science-based reporting about issues in the Gulf of Maine.

- Three levels of sponsorship were created (see below) as well as a 1-page prospectus (see page two of this brief).
- Possible sponsors were identified and 20+ were sent a sponsors package. Phone calls were then placed within 5-7 days to present the concept and respond to questions. Frequently several calls and emails were exchanged before the prospective sponsor could make a decision. USGOMA then processed invoices to collect the funds.
- The *Gulf of Times* web site was then amended to enable a rotating banner that proudly identifies our sponsors.

### Levels of sponsorship

**Contributor -- \$500:** In recognition of your support at this level we will include your organization's logo on the "Sponsor Page" of the Gulf of Maine Times' website for one year, and include a link to your own website that brings visitors to your site. Contributors are encouraged to offer story ideas to the editor and may serve as a resource for the editor.

**Supporter -- \$1,000:** In addition to the benefits listed above, we will include your logo, a 2-3 sentence description of your organization and a link to your website in the "Sponsors' Banner" on the home page of the Gulf of Maine Times website. (The banner is shared on a rotating basis by all sponsors at this level (or above), ensuring that everyone is guaranteed visible, front-page coverage.)

**Donor -- >\$2,000:** At this level of sponsorship you will get all the benefits listed above, plus you will have space in each edition for a 300-word article written and submitted your organization that is relevant to the Gulf of Maine. The organization may also provide short press releases that will be edited into articles for the Times monthly updates. (Placement is subject to editorial approval)

Status – Six organizations have now provided nearly \$25,000. Six organizations declined to be a sponsor, three are considering the idea and three have said they will be a sponsor but have yet to act. We have a list of 10+ other organizations that have yet to be contacted. In addition, in May non-government organizations that are members of the Council were asked to consider how the communications interests of their respective organizations aligned with the *Times* and whether they could become a sponsor.

### **Your trusted source of information about the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy is in jeopardy**



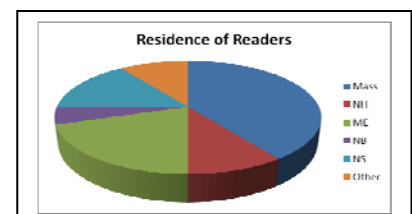
### Our Request

For over fifteen years the bi-national Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment has produced the *Gulf of Maine Times* as a service free of charge. The *Times* is an unbiased source of information about research and happenings in the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy. It helps people understand, appreciate and preserve the diverse and complex Gulf of Maine watershed and marine environment. However the federal grant the Council used to produce the *Times* is gone and this quarterly newspaper is in jeopardy.

Your constituents, the people living and working in the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy watershed, look to your organization, the Council and others for unbiased information. **Today we are asking you to join with other organizations to make sure the *Times* continues to be a trusted source of information. With a small annual contribution from your organization and many others, important connections across our region will be maintained.**

### The Situation

- A unique and quality product -- The *Times* has proven to be an objective, factual newspaper that is distributed to over 12,000 readers throughout the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy watershed and beyond. They are involved in legislation, policy, enforcement, industry, commerce, education,





conservation, science, recreation, and health. A talented part-time editor and gulf-wide editorial board assures it covers the breadth of environmental, economic and social issues of concern to people living and working in the watershed. (Less than 5% of the content is about the Council.)

- Costs to produce the *Times* – For the past decade the Council produced four hardcopy editions of the *Times* each year and posted it on line as well. It costs \$15,000/online edition and monthly e-zones for an editor, writers, web site and project management. To print and mail the hardcopy it is an additional \$12,000/edition. Our immediate goal is to raise \$60,000 to produce four on line editions a year. (We would like to reinstate a hard-copy newspaper at some point.)
- Sources of support – The Council is asking individual readers to contribute and it has received more than fifty donations in the past few months. The Council is committed to securing one-half the production costs through its own network. With this solicitation the Council is asking regional partners (e.g., regional organizations, non-profits, academia, industry, etc.) to join the Council in sustaining the *Times* as a trusted source of information.

Why step up

The people living and working in the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy watershed are our shared constituents. While there are many newsletters there is no other newspaper focusing on this ecosystem. Working together on this communications tool we can do something that we can not do alone. In doing so contributors will receive visibility and advance their communication objectives.

Please take action

With a small annual contribution important connections across our region will be maintained. We are asking you to make an annual contribution according to your ability. Some organizations have already expressed an interest in providing amounts ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. Please take a minute to discuss possible options with David Keeley at the Council (207) 549-3598 or [david@thekeeleygroup.com](mailto:david@thekeeleygroup.com). **Let's keep the *Times* as an objective source of information about the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy.**

## Regional Climate Change Project Proposal Ideas

**Background:** The Gulf of Maine Council's Climate Change Network and the Northeast Regional Ocean Council's Coastal Resiliency Committee are collaborating in the development of several climate change adaptation funding proposals that would benefit the region extending from Long Island Sound to the Bay of Fundy. The organizations are interested in projects that will take 12-18 months to complete, are \$50-\$250,000 in value, meet multiple jurisdictional needs, benefit from a regional approach, and build on existing efforts. Our audiences for these projects are decision-makers and coastal managers. The basis of the projects ideas described below were synthesized from recent state, provincial and federal climate change forums, meetings, user needs assessments and reports.

**Adaptation** involves making adjustments in our decisions, activities, and thinking in response to observed or expected changes in climate, with the goal of moderating harm and taking advantage of new opportunities that may be presented by these changes

**Current Situation:** In April and May 2010 over twenty climate change experts from throughout the Gulf of Maine region reviewed and contributed suggestions to the initial synthesis. Their consensus priority project recommendations are:

| Priority Ideas for Projects (see highlights below) |   |
|--|---|
| ➤  | Promote climate change exchange                     |
| ➤  | Expand StormSmart Coast                             |
| ➤  | Enable community infrastructure assessments         |
| ➤  | Offer municipal guidelines                          |
| ➤  | Summarize adaptation policies                       |
| ➤  | Disseminate and use LiDAR tools                     |
| ➤  | Develop climate change regional monitoring strategy |



**Category 1: Growing the capacity of local and provincial/state leaders to more effectively respond to climate change**

Local, provincial/state and non-profit leaders from Long Island Sound to the Bay of Fundy are developing and applying creative climate change adaptation strategies – often in isolation of each other. At the national level CEQ is poised to release a national adaptation strategy. There are a number of ways we might accelerate the learning and implementation of effective adaptation responses. Examples include:

- a. Promote climate change “exchange” – Develop and effectively disseminate a routine e-correspondence tool for coastal managers (e.g., local, state, provincial and federal representatives, non-profits, legislative staff, etc.) engaged in climate change issues. Use existing communications tools (e.g., Gulf of Maine Times, monthly e-newsletters, etc.) and integrate/adapt existing materials (e.g., CZMA Climate Change, Coastal Hazards E-News from NOAA, etc.) **(Priority Idea)**

*Next steps*

- *Solicit state, provincial and federal climate change managers to learn where they get their information, priority needs, perceived gaps, and recommended delivery methods (e.g., frequency, detail, sources, etc.);*
- *Compile directory of leading climate change sources of information pertinent to the region;*
- *Commence immediately circulating these sources to existing outlets (e.g., Gulf of Maine Times, State CZ newsletters, etc.) for re-distribution;*
- *Develop new materials responsive to climate change managers needs & disseminate;*

*Partners to engage*

*Northeast Federal Partners, Environment Canada, NRCAN, ICLIE, NESCAUM, Regional Adaptation Collaborative*

- b. Expand StormSmart web presence – several states are in the midst of providing community-level decision-makers, via the StormSmart Coasts Network, with information to better prepare and recover from natural disasters such as storms and sea-level rise. <http://stormsmartcoasts.org/> Parallel Provincial materials are being organized. The region’s ocean observing assets can also make important contributions. Collectively these efforts need to be augmented and sustained. **(Priority Idea)**

*Next steps*

- *Enable the New England states that have yet to complete content for their state pages/sites to finish this work;*
- *Speak further with Wes about incremental improvements to individual New England state pages/sites (e.g., 6-month update process for the states to keep pages “fresh”; create a listserve for interested parties to join and send documents, updates, etc. A listserve moderator can then upload information to the website if relevant; actively promote the site to target audiences via the CSC magazine, Coastal Connections and other methods;*
- *Learn from the NB and NS members of the Regional Adaptation Collaborative about their comparable web development projects and needs and assess next steps (They have confirmed their interest in StormSmart.);*

*Partners to engage*

*NOAA/CSC, State coastal hazard leaders (e.g., floodplain & emergency management programs, coastal management, geological survey, etc.), ICLIE, RAC*

- c. Support networking of climate change professionals -- support mechanism to coordinate and communicate data and decisions across sectors; foster communication and coordinated policy recommendations; achieve broad consistency in the region about the common elements for adaptation planning strategies, etc.
- d. Organize annual climate change networking event -- A content rich, annual event that brings practitioners together to discuss accomplishments, share approaches and strategize collaborative ideas for the coming year. Possible participants include state/provincial climate adaptation officials, NEIWPCC, NESCAUM, GOMC, NROC, ICELI (local government), regional fish & wildlife staff, forestry experts, transportation officials, academia and federal partners.
- e. Offer adaptation workshop(s) – compile existing workshop materials and results (e.g., fall 2010 NOAA/NESCAUM, ICELI, etc.) and offer additional opportunities for natural resource management professionals, including state/provincial and local resource managers, planners, and program administrators to be more informed about climate change. Workshops would target foundational and process content and skills to support integration of climate adaptation planning in communities and planning processes. (Topics include comprehending the science, governance -integrating climate adaptation, engaging stakeholders for the long-term, communications -considering perceptions and applying principles, risk assessment - understanding methods and interpreting results, adaptation planning -identifying and prioritizing actions, adaptation implementation and monitoring - considering changing conditions)

- f. Develop shared messaging and communication: develop materials to engage communities, local officials, legislatures, Governors/Premiers and media that communicate climate literacy and the benefits of taking actions today, even in the midst of a tough economic climate. Understand current attitudes and awareness of the target audience (e.g., 2010 Clean Air – Cool Planet report). Commence work by engaging environmental agency education staff to document lessons-learned.

**Category 2: Terrestrial projects that prepare for and increase resilience to the most likely foreseeable impacts of climate change**

The coastal zone has a unique set of challenges and opportunities associated with climate change adaptation planning. For example, anticipated rise in sea level is a primary concern in planning how the region's coast could become more resilient. However the effects of higher sea surface levels will be compounded by the increase in significant storm events. Increases in precipitation that result in greater storm-water runoff have a coastal impact because most of the additional runoff reaches the major rivers that flow through and into estuaries and wetlands, bringing with it sediments and pollutants. These climate effects drive beaches, dunes, marshes, and wetlands "inland". In many places they are unable to migrate to new locations and we risk losing the benefits of systems that provide protection for our communities and vital natural resources.

- A. Enable community infrastructure assessment: Enable communities to prepare climate change assessments that support comprehensive planning and capital improvements. Initially this would involve developing criteria for assessing natural communities and infrastructure for response and resilience to likely climate impacts, including a mechanism for evaluating vulnerability. Look for the intersection of water utilities and transportation corridors. These should recognize the unique ecological, social, and economic qualities of different areas of the coast, and should be used to guide investments in infrastructure repair, protection, and land conservation and restoration.

**(Priority Idea)**

*Next steps*

- *Conduct literature review for criteria used to assess natural communities and infrastructure for their response and resilience to likely climate impacts;*
- *Engage New England and Maritime hazard and municipal planning managers to understand their needs and likely applications of the criteria (see recent NS Climate Change Centre needs assessment);*
- *Adapt criteria and/or develop new criteria as needed;*
- *Work with managers to implement on pilot basis, evaluate and expand effort.*

*Partners to engage*

*State coastal hazard leaders (e.g., floodplain & emergency management programs, coastal management, geological survey, climate change program leaders, etc.), NESCAUM, RAC, professional associations (e.g., engineers, architects, planners, etc.)*

- B. Organize municipal guidelines: Assemble and present materials for protective zoning/regulation and conservation in coastal areas that allow for the movement of natural areas and species in response to anticipated climate effects. Present metrics to identify priority locations based on best scientific forecasts of highest risk of loss from sea level rise and related impacts, and promote opportunities for state/provincial and local partnerships to develop creative approaches to respond to anticipated climate effects. **(Priority Idea)**

*Next steps*

- *Conduct a literature review of protective zoning/regulation and conservation in coastal areas that allow for the movement of natural areas and species in response to anticipated climate effects and assess effectiveness. Draw on current Canadian Institute of Planners work on a planning guide, the earlier Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network manual for Canadian municipalities; pending NOAA/OCRM Planning Guide for State Managers; etc.*
- *Develop 1-2 pilot projects in the region that are exposed to the highest risk of loss from sea level rise and related impacts. Implement and evaluate results.*

*Partners to engage*

*Leaders from a few areas in the region that are exposed to the highest risk of loss from sea level rise and related impacts; respective federal, state and provincial hazards managers; chapters of Associations of Planners;*

- C. Summarize adaptation policies: Prepare a regional white-paper/briefing that identifies a range of municipal adaptation policies and standards for publically-owned properties, infrastructure and investments in the coastal zone. This could include guidelines that smaller communities and rural areas could use to evaluate current and projected hazards vulnerability and emergency preparedness. **(Priority Idea)**

*Next steps*





- *Conduct a literature review of municipal adaptation policies and standards for publically-owned properties, infrastructure and investments in the coastal zone and related evaluations;*
- *Produce synthesis of applicable policies and standards for the region;*
- *Disseminate and promote their use/application*

*Partners to engage*

*NE Federal partners, RAC, state hazards managers,*

**D. Produce LiDAR products and maps:** In 2010 a \$1.4M ARRA funded collaborative light detection and ranging (LiDAR) program was launched by the New England states in cooperation with USGS, FEMA and other federal partners to develop 2-meter point-spaced LiDAR files at +/- 15-cm vertical resolution (and metadata) for the New England coastal region to better inform shoreline management decision-making. Once the data are collected (projected "leaves-off" fall 2010) and processed (likely delivery in June 2011) the real work begins (e.g., maps produced, priority products/interpretations prepared for coastal managers, etc.) It can then be used to create inundation and sea level rise scenario maps using Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps or standardized digital flood zones; delineate current and future resources areas, especially salt marshes; use first return DEMs to calculate canopy coverage and development footprints; etc. (These same data can be used in a variety of other ways -- map wildlife habitat, predict erosion, model suitability of potential wind energy sites, choose locations of cell towers or wireless broadband equipment, and predict forest types.) **(Priority Idea)**

*Next steps*

- *The New England states develop a strategy (e.g., applications/uses, methods, timeline and funding plan, etc.) for "data crunching, derivative map and tool generation, etc." for the most vulnerable regions in New England (e.g., beaches, low marsh areas, bluffs, etc.).*

*Partners to engage*

*LiDAR project participants and end-users (e.g., towns, COGs, planning commissions, watershed associations, utility districts, nonprofits, etc.)*

- E. Municipal technical assistance:** Strengthen municipal land use ordinances, building codes, and community capacity to respond climate change. Examples of this work includes amending local ordinances, bylaws, hazard mitigation plans, emergency planning, design standards and codes to go beyond the minimum; developing informative materials about the rationale/need for municipal amendments that address sea level rise and coastal inundation; and scaling down regional inundation materials to the local scale & convening regional workshops; etc.
- F. Make vulnerable municipal infrastructure more storm resilient:** Assist municipalities adapt shoreline municipal infrastructure to be more storm resilient through design, site planning, engineering and permitting. Examples of this work includes adapting existing shoreline stabilization structures, flood-proofing, address highly erodible bluffs that have associated municipal infrastructure, incorporate soft/green solutions; reengineer sewer lines, elevate structures, relocate frequently damaged roads, raise manholes, elevate outfalls, sand dune enhancements to improve buffering, architectural and design changes to reduce flood impacts, etc.
- G. Document priority thresholds:** Assemble regional experts to assess and report-out on where the thresholds of key natural systems in the region are at risk of disruption and critical data gaps. Exceeding these have the potential to cause abrupt ecosystem changes that are able to produce significant risks/hazards. Examples of these thresholds could be:
- ocean acidification for sensitive marine organisms;
  - terrestrial plant and animal species sensitive to temperature and precipitation;
  - warming that creates new opportunities for human diseases that were previously inhibited by our cold climate.
- H. Habitat restoration & climate change considerations:** engage regional partners (e.g., NOAA, TNC, etc.) in developing regional climate change criteria for evaluating habitat restoration projects (e.g., whether to fund a project, how to design a project, how to set project restoration goals that fully consider a changing climate and establish achievable baselines, etc.). The goal could be to about what standards to address (e.g. 2 or 3 sea level rise scenarios for marshes; higher coastal floodplains for roads, bridges, higher tidal flow through culverts, infrastructure elevation or capacity for stormwater, etc.).
- I. Wastewater facility adaptation:** Engage the engineering and architect community in developing materials specific to publically-owned wastewater treatment facilities (POTW's) that assist such facilities to consider the effects of changing precipitation and/or sea level rise on their infrastructure, and support decisions needed for capital planning, disaster mitigation, etc.

- J. Prepare Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan: Based on the 2007 Portland/Vancouver Urban Area Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan initiative (and their lessons-learned) select a priority area (e.g., inter-state, complex metropolitan area, etc.) and develop a definition for critical infrastructure specific to the area; identify private and public critical infrastructure that meet the regionally specific definition; develop a method to prioritize the region's critical infrastructure; and identify existing standards for protection of each critical infrastructure sector that can be used for public- and private-sector planning. (Convene a series of "interdependencies workshops" (e.g., dams, utilities and energy providers; transportation, shipping and military; etc.) to not only look at what was the most critical infrastructure within the region but also how they related to each other.)
- K. Inventory vulnerable natural areas: Identify (1) undeveloped low-lying coastal areas for wetland migration through up-dated mapping and evaluation of coastal marshes, dune systems, and other wetland types having the capacity to buffer against storm events; and (2) undeveloped up-lands that protect these systems and offer potential for eventual inland migration of these systems. The inventory should identify potential areas of loss and gain, including economic, ecological, and cultural value, and design and/or enhance robust monitoring systems to track change and vulnerability over time. Identify landscapes to which tidal wetlands are likely to migrate in response to SLR.
- L. Health considerations: As data on climate-related health impacts are gathered and assessed, information for health providers and the public will need to be revised and made available. A focus may be on vulnerable populations (e.g., elders, children, indigenous people, disabled/handicapped people, low income groups, refugees/migrants) and communities of special concern when viewed through the lens of climate.

### **Category 3: Marine environment responses**

The marine environment has a profound effect on the region's climate, weather, quality of life for wildlife and humans, and economy. Impacts with the likelihood of most significant impact to the ocean are:

- Changes in ocean circulation patterns, especially open ocean current changes that have an impact on the transport of deep cold waters into the Gulf from the Atlantic;
- Changes in seawater chemistry, including nutrient levels and acidification;
- Changes in amount of freshwater delivery to the Gulf from melting ice in the Arctic, which would impact stratification and in turn productivity;
- Changes in seawater temperature, which may differ between in-shore and open ocean; and
- Changes in off-shore wind patterns, a matter of importance in light of current efforts to utilize wind energy.
- changes in near-shore wind patterns are intensifying hypoxia in LIS and will affect long-shore sediment transport patterns (and thus the efficacy of existing erosion control structures).

Given the extreme complexity of ocean chemistry, it is not yet clear just what changes such as acidification, calcification, or nutrient transport and availability will have on the marine ecosystem and the species it supports. These are already stressed by other human impacts, especially storm-water runoff, which may be exacerbated by climate change. The entire marine food-web is expected to undergo changes in both plant and animal species, including the increased risk of invasive species, with corresponding changes to the region's ocean fishery.

- A. Develop a regional monitoring strategy for key marine climate change indicators: Secure seed-funds to prepare and promote federal implementation of a Gulf of Maine to Long Island Sound sustained climate change monitoring framework that coordinates the acquisition and exchange of scientific knowledge. This effort would determine what is required to initiate and maintain a suite of monitoring programs in the marine environment. (LISS and CT DEP/UConn are developing a sentinel monitoring strategy for climate change.) For the estuarine and marine ecosystems, climate change affects the physical and chemical properties of Gulf of Maine waters, which in turn alters physiological processes, food webs, and distribution and migration patterns of marine organisms. Robust monitoring programs are needed to monitor atmospheric and water properties, circulation patterns, distribution and abundance of marine organisms (phytoplankton to marine mammals and sea birds, including invasive species), changes to habitats, impact on the economic and social systems, etc. (Examples of current initiatives to draw on include the Gulf of Maine Monitoring Inventory & ESIP Monitoring Map, the emerging Gulf of Maine Restoration and Conservation Initiative, the Massachusetts Ocean Plan, NOAA ocean acidification implementation report, and the Long Island Sound Study.) **(Priority Idea)**

#### *Next steps*

- *Form ad-hoc steering committee of bi-national climate change and monitoring experts to scope the content and cost of a regional monitoring strategy for key marine climate change indicators;*
- *Prepare a seed-funding grant to assess existing monitoring programs, develop the scope of the monitoring strategy and prepare implementation recommendations*

*Partners to engage*





*RARGOM, BoFEP, the region's climate change leaders (e.g., state/provincial climate change program managers, NOAA/OAR, etc.)*

## Partial list of Donations to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and Wish List for Needed Council Products and Products

June 1, 2010

This document is a first draft and contains a first table that attempts to recognize the many contributions that agencies and other Gulf of Maine Council participants have made to continue and enhance the GOMC's programs. The listed contributions are beyond Working Group member and committee/subcommittee participation and donations other than dues. Please provide to Michele Tremblay and Cindy Krum any of the defined contributions that are not listed. A revision will be drafted and distributed after the March Working Group meeting.

There is a second table that provides opportunities for GOMC participants to provide their support for discrete products and services. Please contact Cindy or Michele if you wish to take advantage of any of these opportunities.

This is a draft list. If any donation was inadvertently not included, please email Michele L. Tremblay at [info@GulfofMaine.org](mailto:info@GulfofMaine.org). Note: Numbers may be different from numbers in the Council's budgets due to indirect rates, exchange rates and other factors.

### 2009-2010 donations

| Program/Project  | Donating agencies, organizations, and individuals                                   | Amount Donated from July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010 | Annualize amount donated/ needed |
|--|---|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>Outreach</b>  |   |  |                                  |
| <i>Gulf of Maine Times</i>   | Maine Coastal Program, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, NH Charitable Foundation | \$25,880   | \$49,600                         |
| Constant Contact marketing services                                | US Geological Survey and individual donations                                       |  |                                  |
| <i>E-Zone</i> technical and mailing list maintenance Services      | Maine Coastal Program   | 200 / month                                      | 2,400                            |
| Assistant Editor of the <i>Gulf of Maine Times</i> , Cathy Coletti | NH Department of Environmental Services   | 3,500  | 3,500                            |
| Individual donations   |   | 2,200  | N/A                              |
| <b>Gulfwatch</b>   |   |  |                                  |
| Program Management and 2009 organics and metals analysis           | Environment Canada  | 40,000   | 47,400                           |
| <b>Information Technology</b>                                      |   |  |                                  |
| Data Exchange Network  | NH Department of Environmental Services   | 19,202   | N/A                              |
| Restoration Project services                                       | NOAA/NMFS   | 4,420  | 4,000                            |
| Ocean Data Partnership   | NH Department of Environmental Services (staff)                                     | 5,000  | 5,000                            |
| <b>Secretariat</b>   |   |  |                                  |



|   |  |                |         |
|---|--|----------------|---------|
| GOMC 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary / World Ocean Day celebration | Maine Coastal Program  | 5,000          | N/A     |
| Wall of Achievements  | MA Office of Coastal Zone Management (intern)  | 3,840          | 3,840   |
| 2009 GOMC Awards Ceremony                                       | naturesource communications, Normandeau Associates, Woodard and Curren, and VH, Inc.   | 900            | 900     |
| Administrative services   | NH Department of Environmental Services  | 20,000         | 20,000  |
| Conference call services  | NOAA   | 1,800          | 1,800   |
| <b>Ecosystem Indicator Partnership</b>                          |  |                |         |
| ESIP Program Manager project-based work                         | United States Geological Survey; Environment Canada; Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans; US Environmental Protection Agency | 67,270         | 80,350  |
| Conference call services  | United States Geological Survey  | 4,000          | 4,000   |
| <b>Habitat Restoration/Conservation</b>                         |  |                |         |
| Habitat Restoration Partnership grants and coordination         | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service  | 430,000        | 400,000 |
| Coordination match  | Maine Community Foundation; New Hampshire Charitable Foundation  | 3,459          | 40,000  |
| Conservation and Restoration strategy                           | Maine Community Foundation; New Hampshire Charitable Foundation  | 34,041         | N/A     |
| Conference call services  | Maine Coastal Program; NOAA NMFS   | 2,000          | 2,000   |
| <b>State of the Gulf of Maine reporting</b>                     |  |                |         |
| Project coordination  | Department of Oceans and Fisheries, Environment Canada, and MA Office of Coastal Zone Management                                     | To date 58,000 | 56,000  |
| Invasive species theme paper                                    | MA Office of Coastal Zone Management   | To date 8,000  | 8,000   |

**2010-2011 wish list for Needed Council Services and Products**

| <b>Program/Project / What is needed</b>                            | <b>Donated by whom</b>  | <b>Pricing</b>   | <b>Annual Amount Needed</b> |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Outreach</b>  |                         |                  |                             |
| <i>Gulf of Maine Times</i>   | Your agency's name here | \$12,400 / issue | \$49,600                    |
| Constant Contact   | Your agency's name here | 350              | 350                         |
| Marketing services, E-zone, technical and mailing list maintenance | Your agency's name here | 200 / month      | 2,400                       |
| <b>Gulfwatch</b>   |                         |                  |                             |
| Program management   | Your agency's name here | 18,000           | 20,000                      |



|  |                         |   |        |
|--|-------------------------|---|--------|
| 2009 data report   | Your agency's name here | 4,500   | 4,500  |
| 2010 Data Report   | Your agency's name here | 4,500   | 4,500  |
| organics analysis  | Your agency's name here | 14,175 (2009 #s)  | 16,900 |
| Metal analysis   | Your agency's name here | 8,804 (2009#s)  | 10,500 |
| <b>Information Technology</b>  |                         |   |        |
| Core website maintenance   | Your agency's name here | 1,700 / month   | 20,400 |
| Restoration Project services   | Your agency's name here | 4,000   | 4,000  |
| <b>Ecosystem Indicator Partnership</b>   |                         |   |        |
| ESIP Program Manager   | Your agency's name here | 6,695 / month   | 80,350 |
| <b>Habitat Restoration/Conservation</b>  |                         |   |        |
| Habitat Restoration Project Coordination match   | Your agency's name here | 3,540 month   | 42,500 |
| <b>Secretariat and Other</b>   |                         |   |        |
| Major sponsorships of the GOMC 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary and World Ocean Day in June 2010 | Your agency's name here | At least ten at 500 each to match the Maine Coastal Program's 5,000 | 5,000  |
| <i>Gulf of Maine Habitat Primer</i> printing   | Your agency's name here | 2,500 copies  | 8,000  |
| <i>American Eels: Restoring a vanishing resource in the Gulf of Maine</i>                    | Your agency's name here | 2,500   | 3,000  |
| <i>Action Plan</i> production, printing, and distribution                                    | Your agency's name here | #2,500 copies of the 36 page document plus insert postcard          | 18,000 |
| Reprinting Gulf of Maine Watershed Poster with bathymetry images                             | Your agency's name here |   | 3,000  |

*Prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator and Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association*

## 2009 – 2010 Fund Development Report

### Context for Development Initiative

1. Council fund development priorities (Climate Change, ESIP, GOM Times, IT, and Habitat Restoration)
2. Tough economic conditions and highly competitive funding environment
3. Team effort of Working Group, Committees and contractors working to secure funds for Council tasks
4. 7% reduction in GOMC support for fund development activities in 2009-2010 period
5. Pursued new development approaches (funded ESIP coordinator to develop project concepts, solicited GOMT sponsors to make annual contributions, partnered with NROC to scope shared climate change projects, engaged six NE states on joint Congressional request)

### Level of Effort, Results and Next Steps

#### Climate Change Adaptation

- Effort – Engaged NROC; compiled provincial, state and federal policy, planning and management needs; interviewed regional experts; identified priority projects and potential partners; created list of top funding prospects
- Result – Created partnership with NROC
- Next steps – Prepare funding proposals

#### Ecosystem Indicator Partnership

- Effort – Submitted \$175,000 proposal; ESIP coordinator scope expanded to create two project concepts; identified funding prospects
- Result – Have two solid project ideas
- Next steps – Prepare funding proposals

#### GOM Times

- Effort – Requested subscribers to register on-line, solicited individuals to be donors, developed appeal and engaged 12 organizations to become ongoing sponsors; worked to increase circulation/readership; increased web site functionality; partnered with Huntsman Marine Science Center on \$26,000 proposal - \$15,000 for the Times (grant decision pending)
- Results – Raised \$16,500 from NHCF, Northeast Consortium, DFO, Chewonki Foundation & Cox Trust; have pledges of \$6,000 from NE Aquarium, Census for Marine Life, Mass Ocean Partnership, and NERACCOOS;
- Next Steps – Engage additional organizations to become ongoing contributors

#### Information Technology

- Effort – Prepared funding proposals that contained IT support tasks
- Results – Raised \$3,500 for IT
- Next steps – Continue to include IT in proposals

### Total Funds Raised – All Sources

#### Grants & Cash Donations

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Gulf of Maine Times          | \$16,500 |
| Information Technology       | \$3,500  |
| Habitat Restoration Strategy | \$76,000 |
| Restoration Coordinator      | \$5,000  |

### 2009-2010 Return on Investment

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| July 2009 – May 2010      |           |
| Successful grants         | \$100,000 |
| Funds Pledged             | \$31,000  |
| Fund Development Expenses | \$27,032  |

### Habitat Restoration Coordinator & Strategy

- Effort – Prepared three successful funding proposals (MCF, NHCF, Cox Trust); created Canadian approach to assess restoration & conservation needs & strategy to secure \$25,000 pledge to support effort;
- Results – Raised \$5,000 for restoration coordinator position; raised \$76,000 to prepare US Restoration and Conservation Plan;
- Next steps – Complete plan by 9/10; write proposals to maintain momentum

### US Federal Appropriation Initiative

- Effort – Partnered with NROC on \$70M regional request to Congress - \$10M/GOM state; created content & materials; secured four Governors' letters and 3 Legislative Resolves; engaged Hill staff; supported state representatives; etc.
- Results – Request is pending as well as authorizing strategies
- Next steps – Continue to engage Hill staff & members of Congress

### Cultivate foundations

- Effort – Engage foundation community in Council activities; organize, convene and report-out on December Funders' Forum
- Results – Increased knowledge of 10+ foundations about the Council and its work
- Next steps – organize Council - foundation events

## 2010-2011 Gulf Maine Council Budget

**Contractors for the Gulf of Maine Council included in July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011 Budgets.** All funds are secured unless shown in *Italics*. Contracts will only be written with secured funds

| <b>Contractor</b>                              | <b>Contract End Date</b> | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Funds</b>   |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| Krum Steele Consulting (Cindy Krum)            | 06/30/2011               | <b>U.S. Association Executive Director</b>   | Indirect/ Reserve  |
| Lori Hallett                                   | 06/30/2011               | <b>U.S. Association Finance Assistant</b>  | Indirect/ Reserve  |
| The Keeley Group (David Keeley)                | 12/31/2010               | <b>Core Services Fund Development/Support for Action Plan/Additional projects</b>                                | Dues<br><i>ME SPO</i><br>JB Cox Fund                           |
| The Keeley Group (naruresource communications) | 12/31/2010               | <b>Core Services Council Coordination/Support for Action Plan</b>  | Dues<br>Reserve/Indirect<br><i>ME SPO</i>                      |
| The Keeley Group (Jim Craddock)                | 12/31/2010               | <b>Core Services Information Technology Support, Programming and Systems Administration /Additional projects</b> | Dues<br>NMFS<br>JB Cox Fund                                    |
| The Keeley Group (Nancy Griffin)               | 12/31/2010               | <b>Core Services Gulf of Maine Times Editor</b>  | JB Cox Fund<br>Donations<br>USGS<br>DFO<br>NH Charitable Found |
| Biological Conservation (Slade Moore)          | 06/30/2011               | <b>Habitat Restoration Project Coordinator</b>   | NMFS<br><i>ME DOT</i><br>Dues<br>JB Cox Fund                   |
| UNH (Steve Jones)                              | 03/31/2011               | <b>Gulfwatch Program Coordination</b>  | <i>EC</i>  |
| Lawrence LeBlanc                               | 03/31/2011               | <b>Gulfwatch 2009 Data Report</b>  | <i>EC</i>  |
| Christine Tilburg                              | 01/25/2011               | <b>ESIP Program Manager</b>  | USGS<br><i>EC</i><br><i>DFO</i>                                |
| Talking Conservation (Peter Alexander)         | 10/15/2010               | <b>Coordination and Product Production -New England Cross-border Conservation Initiative</b>                     | JB Cox Fund  |
| Waterview Consulting (Peter Taylor)            | 10/15/2010               | <b>Conservation and Restoration Strategy-writing and design</b>  | JB Cox Fund  |

\*\* Final 6 month contract will be done once unsecured portion of Dues are received.

## Release of the State of the Environment Report / Media / Press Event

The State of the Gulf of Maine Report will be officially launched on June 9, 2010. It is available at: [www.gulfofmaine.org/stateofthegulf](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/stateofthegulf).

The report is a modular, living document made up of a context document and a series of theme papers. The context document provides an overview of the Gulf of Maine particularly for those readers who are not familiar with the region. The theme papers provide a more in-depth look at important issues within the Gulf, based on priority areas identified by the Council.



By June 4, *The Gulf of the Maine in Context* (context document) and three of a possible fourteen theme papers will be available on the website. The rest will be developed incrementally during 2010 and 2011. After that they will be regularly updated at time intervals appropriate to each issue. Theme papers for the June 9 launch are:

- Climate Change and its Effect on Humans;
- Climate Change and its Effect on Ecosystems, Habitats and Biota, and
- Emerging Issues.

Two other papers will be available for posting in June/July:

- Invasive Species, and
- Coastal Ecosystems and Habitats.

### **Review Process**

The review process for each paper consisted of the following steps: 1) Technical and peer review coordinated by the Editorial Committee; 2) Management and Finance Committee review; 3) Council Advisory Committee review, and 4) Publication protocol review.

The Editorial Committee consists of:

- Jay Walmsley, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Editor-in-Chief)
- Justin Huston, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture,
- Michele Tremblay, Council Co-ordinator,
- Liz Hertz, Maine State Planning Office,
- Diane Gould, US EPA,
- Paul Currier, NH Department of Environmental Services.

The Council Advisory Committee consists of:

- Tim Hall, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Mike Walls, NH Department of Environmental Services
- Priscilla Brooks, Conservation Law Foundation
- Don Hudson, The Chewonki Foundation
- Stephen Perkins, US Environmental Protection Agency
- Russ Henry, Province of New Brunswick
- Peter Colossi, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service

### **Acknowledgements**

Thank you to everyone who participated in document review. The timelines were short and we appreciate the quick responses.

Thank you also to the following agencies for funding/in-kind support:

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Environment Canada
- US Geological Survey
- Maine State Planning Office
- Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
- National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA.

### **Next Steps**

- We are looking for interested parties to author or support the development of the next set of theme papers.
- Layout is being undertaken by Peter Taylor, Waterview Consulting at \$1 500 for each theme paper. A more sustainable approach to formatting the papers may need to be sought.

*Submitted by Jay Walmsley and Tim Hall, June 2010*

## **Discussion on new Council Member Agencies**

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment  
Terms of Reference • June 7, 2006

### **Scope**

The Governments of Maine, Massachusetts, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, and Nova Scotia established the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment through "An Agreement on Conservation of the Marine Environment of the Gulf of Maine" (1989 and amended in June, 1992). The Council discusses and acts on issues that require or significantly benefit from a coordinated regional response. The Agreement directs the Council to:

- Coordinate conservation of the Gulf's ecosystem - establish long-term, cooperative environmental management strategies for the states, provinces and federal agencies;
- Promote sustainable development - promote the sustainable development and management of the Gulf's marine and coastal resources,
- Promote public awareness - improve stewardship of the Gulf by engaging decision-makers and the public in the development of progressive responses to leading management issues
- Expand our knowledge base - improve management of the Gulf by promoting mapping, monitoring, data/information management, and research on the structure of the Gulf ecosystem as well as the effects of pollution, habitat loss, and other stresses.

### **Role**

The Council has three primary roles:

- a) Facilitators of integrated watershed, coastal and ocean management – The Council fosters an ecosystem-based management approach. It works to ensure decision-makers possess the necessary information to manage human effects on the ecosystem, to preserve ecological integrity and to sustain economically and socially healthy human communities.
- b) Enable the region's governments be more effective stewards – By working together in a regional forum the states, provinces and federal agencies learn from each other, try new approaches and as a result are better stewards of the resources they are legally responsible for.
- c) Sustain strong partnerships – The Council works to be an effective partner and build the capacity of local and regional organizations that are addressing issues of regional concern.

### **Membership**

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

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

### **Responsibilities**

Each Councilor is expected to actively participate in the development and execution of Council meeting agendas including follow-up actions. In addition, Councilors are proponents of regional responses and actively pursue methods to advance the Council's 5-year Action Plan and annual work plan tasks while in their home jurisdiction.

### **Leadership**

Responsibility to chair the Council rotates on an annual basis among the states and provinces. During that year the host jurisdiction serves as the Secretariat.

### **Meetings**

The Council meets at least semi-annually to conduct business at a location and at a time to be determined by the Council. The Chair of the Council, or his/her designee, will moderate the meeting.

### **Committees**

The Council may establish committees as it deems necessary to fulfill its mandate.

### **Communication**

The Council routinely apprises the Premiers, Governors, and others about Council activities and prepares an annual report that documents its accomplishments and remaining challenges.

### **Support**

The Council Coordinator, Policy and Development Coordinator, and the Executive Director of the US Gulf of Maine Association provide the necessary staff support. In addition, other Council contractors, agency representatives, and committee co-chairs assist as needed.

### **Decisions**

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

## **Coastal Marine Spatial Planning Overview and Linkages in the Gulf of Maine**

### **The Maritime Provinces Regional Committee for Coastal and Ocean Management (RCCOM)**

#### **Purpose**

The Maritimes Provinces Regional Committee for Coastal and Oceans Management (RCCOM) is the senior executive forum for Federal and Provincial Governments to provide oversight to the planning and management processes related to integrated oceans and coastal management in the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

The role of the RCCOM is to provide:

- Oversight, monitoring and performance assessment of integrated oceans and coastal planning and management processes.
- Formal and executive-level government involvement and endorsement of the development and implementation of integrated oceans and coastal management plans, and coordination of related planning processes.
- Coordinate decision making at the intergovernmental and interdepartmental levels on oceans and coastal management issues.
- Support strategic oversight for management and regulatory matters for integrated oceans management and planning processes within the Maritimes Provinces;

The RCCOM will provide strategic oversight to mandated decision-making processes for implementation through the relevant government departments, agencies and boards. The RCCOM will recognize the shared responsibility for oceans management in the Maritime Provinces of Canada. The RCCOM will be guided by principles that are accepted and respected within all levels of Canadian jurisdiction. The following principles will be used:

- **Collaboration:** working together with all oceans-related sectors.
- **Commitment:** committing to the process and the deliverables.
- **Transparency:** the processes used will be open and transparent.
- **Intradepartmental Communications:** participants will provide regular progress reports back to their respective department.
- **Efficiency:** the process will respect and strengthen existing processes and avoid creating overlap and duplication in facilitating cooperation and collaboration with respect to oceans management.
- **Consensus:** the process will adopt a consensus approach for reaching committee decisions.

### **The RCCOM Coordinating Committee (RCCOM CC)**

The RCCOM Coordinating Committee will be responsible for operational and strategic-level coordination and support to integrated Coastal and Ocean Management (ICOM) processes in the Maritime Provinces. In particular, this task will involve:

- Coordinating overall Maritime federal / provincial communication on ICOM;
- Facilitate collaboration and consistency in the overarching goals of ICOM initiatives;
- Coordinating and supporting regional ICOM activities and processes;
- Liaison with other similar federal and provincial coordinating forums;
- Promoting collaboration between Federal / Provincial Departments;





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June 9, 2010**  
Briefing Packet • Version 1

- Providing strategic-level direction and support to ICOM Working Groups;
- Coordinating workshops, learning events and other capacity-building processes as needed;
  - Coordinating the RCCOM Secretariat's responsibilities to RCCOM.

*Submitted by Tim Hall, DFO Maritimes and Russell Henry, NB Department of Fisheries and the Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture – Co-Chairs RCCOM CC*