



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

**Meeting Briefing Packet**

*Working Group • Final Version • November 26, 2008*

Halifax, Nova Scotia • December 2-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008



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## Working Group meeting agenda

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

1:00 PM	Welcome, introductions, and overview of objectives for the meeting <i>Justin Huston, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and 2008-2009 Working Group Chair</i>
1:15 PM PAGE 6  Page 7  SEPARATE EMAIL  PAGE 8  PAGE 11  PAGE 12  PAGE 13	<p><b>Accept consent agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>DFO Maritimes Ecosystem Approach to Management Framework</b> <i>Tim Hall, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Maritime</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Canada-US Ecosystem Overview Report: update on joint report (DFO-NOAA) being developed under the Transboundary Steering Committee</b> <i>Tim Hall, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Maritime Region</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Development communication</b> <i>David Keeley, Development Coordinator, The Keeley Group</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Secretariat Team and Management and Finance revised Terms of Reference acceptance</b> <i>Justin Huston, NSDFA</i></li> <li>▪ <b>US Multipurpose Marine Cadastre as a Marine Spatial Planning Tool</b> <i>Adrienne Harrison, NOAA</i></li> <li>▪ <b>NROC October Meeting Results and Future Collaboration with the GOMC</b> <i>Adrienne Harrison, NOAA</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Committee and Subcommittee reports</b></li> </ul>
1:20 PM	<p><b>Climate Change Network Update - Status of Action Plan Activities</b> <i>Gary Lines, Climate Change Committee Co-chair and acting Climate Change Network Coordinator</i></p> <p><b>Background:</b> With the approaching deadline for a number of climate change activities itemized in the Action Plan, a review of the current situation as well as recommendations for ways ahead are proposed.</p> <p><b>Outcome/decision:</b> Since each of the activities require collaboration with one or more of the Subcommittees, requesting decision on ways ahead for these specific activities from Working Group.</p>
1:50 PM SENT UNDER SEPARATE EMAIL	<p><b>Budget update</b> <i>Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association</i></p> <p><b>Background:</b> The Working Group has requested periodic updates on the new budget structure.</p> <p><b>Outcome/decision:</b> Working Group members are informed of decisions facing their Councilor</p>
2:15 PM	<p><b>Integration of efforts in the Gulf of Maine: Internal and external options for Council consideration</b> <i>Justin Huston, NSDFA</i></p> <p><b>Background:</b> At its October meeting, the Working Group discussed various ways to advance Council's interest in integrating efforts in the Gulf of Maine. Discussion focused on both external and internal options to help facilitate better integration. External options include increased collaboration with the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premier's Oceans Working Committee, and strategic planning with regional entities focused on ocean observing and data accessibility. Internal options include further refining Council's focus and organizational structure, and improving communication and collaboration between committees and subcommittees.</p> <p><b>Outcome/decision:</b> The WG will further discuss and refine options for Council deliberation.</p>
3:00 PM	<b>Break</b>



<p>3:30 PM PAGE 17</p>	<p><b>Develop a public-private consensus on actions to improve GOM ecosystem &amp; human health: Sober second-thoughts on the SOE and summit process</b> <i>Justin Huston, NSDFA Theresa Torrent-Ellis, Maine State Planning</i></p> <p><b>Background:</b> In June 2008 the Council approved, resources permitting, moving forward with a Gulf of Maine event in 2010 that takes action on key issues identified in a State of the Gulf report, the Action Plan, and ESIP indicators. The event is also to be a celebration of twenty years of regional collaboration. The Council tasked the Secretariat Team to move these tasks forward. Since June the WG identified potential steering committee members and a \$45,000 Foundation funding proposal was submitted. A list of prospective committee members is drafted and an invitation packet is completed (e.g., a letter of invitation, a 2-page prospectus and the Terms of Reference.) .</p> <p><u>Secretariat Team Issues:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Secretariat Team does not have the capacity/time to get the steering committee into place. The Ad-hoc SOE Reporting Steering Committee should be requested to form the steering committee. (Membership included Annala, Brooks, Stephenson, Nicholson, Trowbridge, Russell-Robinson, Smith, etc.).</li> <li>▪ The Terms of Reference calls for the Council to designate US and CA co-chairs. This will establish leadership for the Steering Committee and the initiative.</li> <li>▪ Council needs to be crystal clear with prospective committee members that the Steering Committee is responsible for determining the scope of this initiative (e.g., SOE report, conference, etc.) and that Council is not providing funding. Further, that the Committee should consider establishing a spring “go-no go” deadline.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outcome/decision:</b> Recommendations to Council including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Request Ad-hoc Group to work to form the steering committee;</li> <li>2. Request Council to electronically approve co-chairs in early winter;</li> <li>3. Request Council to affirm that this is a partnership initiative and that the Steering Committee is responsible for it. (e.g., it is not a Council lead effort, rather the Council is a partner with other public, non-profit and for-profit organizations.)</li> </ol>
<p>5:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Recess for the day</b></p>
<p>6:30 PM</p>	<p><b>Meeting in lobby for group supper(s)</b></p>



**Wednesday, December 3, 2008**

8:30 AM	<p><b>COINAtlantic and GOMC: Opportunities for Collaboration</b>  <i>Paul Boudreau, COINAtlantic Project Manager</i>  <b>Background:</b> In October the Working Group discussed learning more about how COINAtlantic, the Council, and other groups and projects can collaborate on facilitating access to available on-line data and information  <b>Outcomes/decisions:</b> The Working Group will better understand how it can interact and more efficiently collaborate with COINAtlantic and other initiatives. Improved visibility and access to the Gulf of Maine information within Atlantic Canada.</p>
9:30 AM	<p><b>Update on WWF-Canada information products in support of conservation planning</b>  <i>Jennifer Smith, WWF-Canada</i>  <b>Outcome/decision:</b> WG members are more aware of some information products that have been completed and may be of use to Council committees and to individual agencies.</p>
10:00 AM  SEE WORK PLAN DOCUMENT	<p><b>Work Planning and Fund Development</b>  <i>Justin Huston, NSDFA; Michele Tremblay, Council Coordinator, Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Assoc.</i>  <b>Background:</b> The Council's annual work plan is very ambitious and there are many budget, leadership, and other changes that have occurred since June 2008. For the past several years, the Council has relied on a work planning process to identify committee activities and funding needs.  <b>Outcome/decision:</b> The Working Group will discuss what needs to change to make the annual work planning process more efficient and effective.</p>
12:00 PM	<p><b>Lunch on your own</b></p>
1:30 PM	<p><b>Developing recommendations to implement the Council's Evaluation Methodology</b>  <i>Justin Huston, NSDFA; Adrienne Harrison, NOAA; and Ann Rodney, EPA</i>  <b>Background:</b> As discussed at the Council meetings in June 2008 the Evaluation Team (Ann, Betsy/Adrienne, Sacheen, Michele, Jane, Cindy, David) has worked with a consultant to identify evaluation priorities and to develop a methodology for the Council to apply to projects/activities.  <b>Outcome/decision:</b> The Working Group will develop recommendations to Council on implementing the evaluation methodology in 2009-2010.</p>
2:30	<p><b>Reviewing what the Council and Working Group needs to do and how best to get this work done: Council and Working Group meeting schedules</b>  <i>Justin Huston, NSDFA; Michele Tremblay, Council Coordinator</i>  <b>Background:</b> Presently, the WG meets four times a year and the Council meets twice a year. Given the current fiscal and capacity challenges facing participating jurisdictions and organizations, it is timely to revisit the Terms of Reference and consider the most efficient ways to get the work done, including how often meetings should be convened.</p>
3:00 PM	<p><b>State of Nova Scotia Coast Report</b>  <i>Justin Huston, NSDFA</i>  <b>Background:</b> Efforts are currently underway to produce a State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report which will be released publicly in the Spring. The project is being coordinated by the Provincial Oceans Network and was jointly funded between the Government of Nova Scotia and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The report will focus on six priority areas: coastal development, coastal water quality, working waterfronts, public coastal access, sensitive ecosystems, and sea-level rise and storm events. The report and public feedback will be used by Nova Scotia to draft its Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy, scheduled for completion in 2010.  <b>Outcome/decision:</b> WG members will have a better understanding of coastal management efforts underway in Nova Scotia and how they link with Council activities.</p>
3:30 PM	<p><b>Other business and time for items removed from consent agenda</b></p>
4:00 PM	<p>Adjourn</p>
6:00 PM	<p>Taste of Nova Scotia: Minister's Reception at the Citadel Hotel, Halifax, NS</p>



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NS Dept. of Fisheries & Aquaculture, 1741 Brunswick St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,

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## **DFO Maritimes Region: Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Management**

### **Background**

In the fall of 2007, The Maritimes Region of DFO struck an internal working group that was tasked with the development of a consistent approach to ecosystem-based management across its operational sectors. Faced with a plethora of related initiatives, guidelines, projects and activities it was recognized that there was potential for mixed messaging to clients and partners as well as missed opportunities for collaborative efforts.

The working group consisting of representatives from Science, Fisheries Management and Oceans, Habitat and Species at Risk met throughout the winter and in June, 2008 presented a draft framework for operationalizing an integrated Ecosystem Approach to Management (EAM) to DFO regional management. The framework was based on work begun by Science and Fisheries Management in adopting an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, but began to consider the cumulative impacts of other activities, as well as the governance and socio-economic objectives being pursued through DFO's Integrated Management program. The framework is built on the concept of developing objectives and strategies to address the impacts of various activities on important ecosystem attributes that are implemented through various management plans.

### **Possible activities and next steps**

The working group will continue its work and has the following primary objectives for the remainder of this fiscal year:

- Compile a chronology of related activities and examples of implementation of an ecosystem approach to management
- Complete a "desk-top" pilot in an offshore and coastal environment to determine the effectiveness of the framework
- Fully develop the framework to include a full suite of governance and socio-economic objectives that is integrated with DFO's Integrated Management program.
- Develop communications materials to explain the approach to staff and to external clients and partners.

### **Action or outcomes requested**

1. DFO Maritimes will continue to keep the Working Group fully apprised of progress and share lessons learned.
2. Once complete the framework will serve as the model for the planning and management activities carried out by DFO Maritimes.

*Submitted by Tim Hall, DFO Maritimes, Working Group Representative*



## **Developing an Ecosystem Overview for the Gulf of Maine**

### **Background**

One of the components of the Government of Canada's Health of the Oceans Initiative was to advance collaborative activities in the Gulf of Maine. Under the direction of the Canada / U.S. Transboundary Steering Committee, co-chaired by DFO Maritimes and the Northeast Region, NOAA Fisheries Service an initiative was begun in 2007 to jointly develop an ecosystem overview report for the Gulf of Maine. This report will be based upon the best current knowledge available to Canadian and US scientists, and can serve as a background document for planning and management activities in both countries.

An ad-hoc Oceans Working Group co-chaired by Tim Hall (BIO) and Michael Fogarty (Woods Hole) is charged with the development of this document. An initial Table of Contents and format was agreed upon in the Spring of 2008 and work has begun on the initial compilation of data.

### **Possible activities and next steps**

The working group will continue its work and has the following primary objectives for the remainder of this fiscal year:

- Internal data sources are being identified in both Canada and the US and preliminary information is being compiled.
- A contract will be let by DFO Maritimes to research data gaps and complete the writing of the report.
- The report will be tabled before the Canada / US Transboundary Steering Committee and be peer-reviewed through the Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee (TRAC) process.

### **Action or outcomes requested**

3. DFO Maritimes will continue to keep the Working Group fully apprised of progress.

*Submitted by Tim Hall, DFO Maritimes, Working Group Representative*





**Secretariat Team**

***Terms of Reference • REVISED DRAFT 10.31.08***

**Purpose**

The Secretariat Team serves the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC), Working Group, and Management and Finance. Its purpose is to provide oversight, accountability, and implementation of the Action Plan and its work plan items with specific attention to the three Action Plan Goal committees and their subcommittees. The Secretariat Team develops options to facilitate the smooth operation of the organization and its Action Plan committees and subcommittees

**Organization**

- a. **Membership:** The Secretariat Team consists of a representative from the immediate past, current, and future jurisdictions to serve as the Secretariat. The Council may appoint additional members by consensus of its members.
- b. **Chair:** The Working Group Chair facilitates the Secretariat Team's calls, meetings, and processes.
- c. **Meetings:** The Secretariat Team is expected to conduct the majority of its business through telecommunications and email. It may meet as needed and agreed upon by its membership.
- d. **Decisions:** The Team has limited decision-making abilities. It may take action on matters directed to its attention. Decisions will be made by consensus. The Secretariat Team will forward its decisions as recommendations to the body that requested its involvement.
- e. **Support:** The Council Coordinator, US Gulf of Maine Association Executive Director, Administrative Assistant, and the Development Coordinator provide support to the Secretariat Team and participate in its discussions.

## Management and Finance

### ***Terms of Reference • REVISED DRAFT 10.31.08***

#### **Purpose**

Management and Finance (MandF) serves the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment by managing and reporting on the Council's operations, contracting, and finances along with the service committees of Outreach (including the *Gulf of Maine Times*), Information Management, and Program Evaluation.

It facilitates inter-committee coordination, establishes and monitors implementation of Council procedures (e.g., Reference Handbook, etc.), and coordinates internal policy. It organizes Council and Working Group meetings as needed including the development of agendas and reporting out of the results. It seeks to secure funding in support of approved Council initiatives and projects.

- Personnel – MandF is responsible to the Council for all contractor/personnel decisions. In doing so it will delegate appropriate authority to the committees, ensure they have adequate support to perform this work and will make recommendations to the Council as needed. It will work through Secretariat Team recommendations as relates to the three Action Plan goal committees and their subcommittees.
- Finance and Budget – MandF prepares the annual budget for Council and Working Group review and then oversees its implementation. (It can amend the budget if the changes do not cumulatively exceed 10% of the approved budget.)

#### **Membership**

Management and Finance is composed of a representative designated by each state and province, one provincial member at-large, and one federal representative from each country. The current Working Group chair serves as MandF Chair.



## Support

The Council Coordinator, Development Coordinator, Administrative Assistant, 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 may assist as needed and contracted.

## Decisions

Decisions will be made by consensus.



## **U.S. Multipurpose Marine Cadastre as a Marine Spatial Planning Tool**

The Multipurpose Marine Cadastre (MMC) is a marine information system for the outer continental shelf (OCS) and state waters that supports decision making related to alternative energy uses and resource management. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requested the Mineral Management Service (MMS) and NOAA develop a decision-support tool for ocean energy facility siting. NOAA Coastal Services Center has provided technical services to MMS by developing the framework for the MMC. MMS has provided funding and lessons learned from past ocean energy project proposals.

The Energy Policy Act identified core data sets as critical for alternative energy decision-making including marine cadastral information such as spatial extent, usage, rights, restrictions, and responsibilities; as well as other regionally-specific data needed to support planning, management, and conservation of marine spaces. These core data sets are being developed at a national scale to be included in the MMC. The MMC makes data available in three formats, including an ArcIMS web-based platform, an ArcReader (lightweight ArcGIS), and a GoogleEarth application. The data layers can also be downloaded for additional desktop analysis.

The MMC is online and available for partners to view. The MMC project team is in the process of developing case studies describing applications of the MMC to alternative energy siting and permitting processes.

There is obvious applicability of such a marine spatial planning tool in the U.S. Northeast, particularly with state-led ocean management initiatives such as those underway in MA and RI. CSC has engaged both individual states and the NROC Energy Committee in MMC demonstrations to more specifically identify how this federal dataset and viewer can assist spatial planning efforts at state and regional scales.

We have also been made aware of the Canadian COIN Atlantic Marine Cadastre Prototype, and are interested in exploring linkages between these tools and possible Gulf of Maine ecosystem applications.

Additional information on the MMC can be found at [www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg/html/multipurpose.html](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg/html/multipurpose.html).

*Submitted by Adrienne Harrison and Betsy Nicholson, NOAA Coastal Services Center, NROC Executive Committee members*

## **Northeast Regional Ocean Council October Meeting Results and Future Collaboration with the GOM Council**

At the October 2008 working group meeting, NROC representatives requested that GOMC identify opportunities for collaboration in 2009 beginning with the activities outlined by NROC committees. Based on this discussion and the current GOMC action plan, the working group chair provided NROC with a letter confirming GOMC support for activities with shared interests.

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, NROC approved draft work plans that included activities of interest to the GOMC:

Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health priority activities –

1. Marine spatial management workshop
2. Vision of regional ocean governance workshop
3. Expanding the Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership to southern New England
4. EBM legal standards workshop (COMPASS led)

Coastal Hazards Resilience priority activities –

1. Regional inventory of hazards data and tools
2. Dialogue and workshops on regional approaches for building hazard resilience

Ocean Energy Planning and Management priority activities –

1. Inventory of near and offshore energy projects (proposed and existing)
2. Regional ocean energy framework (i.e., data and science needs for energy siting decisions)
3. Develop voluntary guidelines for assessing environmental and economic impacts, use conflicts, and safety concerns of energy projects

Cross Committee Activities -

1. Regional economics report describing return on coastal and ocean investments.
2. Social network analysis for the region around specific issue of interest (will inform GOMC-led “integration” discussions)

In addition, NROC discussed its role in regional climate adaptation planning, and plans to assist NE states develop adaptation strategies (NOAA and ME co-leads). NROC will also be developing a statement on climate change that describes NROC as a coordinating body for regional climate activities and adaptation planning.

### **Possible activities and next steps**

The three NROC committees will continue to refine these activities, develop an implementation plan, and cultivate funding sources.

- Explore linkages between GOMC products (e.g. ESIP or climate committee) and NROC’s planned activities outlined above.
- Prepare a statement on specific GOMC contributions to NROC issue areas and role in the region.
- Continue dialogue on collaboration between GOMC and NROC.

*Submitted by Adrienne Harrison and Betsy Nicholson, NOAA Coastal Services Center, NROC Executive Committee members*

## Sustainable Industries and Communities Committee

At its June 08 meeting, Council accepted SICC's recommendations to limit its work to three distinct projects:

1) Increasing industry awareness about Council

- A 2-page flyer was created and has been posted to the SICC page on the Council's website:
- Members of Council and WG will be encouraged to download and print copies to distribute at industry related events that they attend as part of their work.

2) Industry sustainability award

- The first award will be granted in June 2009 in Halifax.

Gulf of Maine Sustainable Industry Award

In recognition of demonstrated innovation and leadership in sustainability.

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

Nominations are sought from the following sectors:

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

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

3) Working Waterfronts

- A slide deck is being developed by Jane Timms, NB Environment, for Council and for decision-makers in their respective jurisdictions about the important role that working waterfronts play in the sustainability of coastal communities, the challenges they are facing, and examples best practices and lessons learned which can help to support working waterfronts.
- Based on feedback from the October WG meeting, SICC will work to revise the presentation and determine how best to utilize the presentation to advance the working waterfront issue.

Current status of SICC

- SICC has not been active for much of the last year due to: 1) its co-chairs being unable to dedicate significant time to their co-chair responsibilities; 2) and lack of funded projects to keep the group active.
- Discussion at the October Working Group meeting focused on ways to strengthen SICC membership and leadership.
- Since that meeting, Jane Timms, NB Environment, has indicated that a new coastal planner being hired will have time dedicated to help chair the committee.
- SICC's priorities over the next several months will be to advance the three projects and work to strengthen its membership.

*Submitted by: Justin Huston, SICC Canadian co-chair*



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## **Ecosystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP): Progress and Plans**



### **Background**

In 2006, the Council formed a cross-cutting subcommittee to determine priority indicators for the Gulf of Maine. Activities were to center upon six subcommittees or focus areas: aquatic habitats, climate change, contaminants, coastal development, eutrophication, and fisheries/aquaculture. ESIP has been successful at identifying the initial priority indicators (total = 23) for these focus areas (indicators are listed on the ESIP homepage along with a data interaction figure [www.gulfofmaine.org/esip](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/esip)).

### **Progress**

With the help of the Steering Committee, ESIP has drafted an introductory fact sheet that will be released in early 2009. This fact sheet serves several purposes:

- Background information on ESIP
- Announcement of priority indicators
- Discussion of ESIP Monitoring Map and encourage the inclusion of new monitoring sites
- Discussion of ESIP Indicator Reporting Tool as a means of assessing indicator trends

In addition, in the past 6 months, ESIP has presented at several meetings and released articles in newsletters including:

- Presentation to members of the Southern Maine Planning Commission (August 18)
- Presentation to NH GIS Board (September 24)
- Presentation to New England Estuarine Research Society (October 17)
- Contributed article to Ebb and Flow newsletter (November)
- Presentation to the US Fish and Wildlife Service New England Ecosystems teams (November 14)

### **Plans**

ESIP plans on releasing fact sheets discussing trends in climate change indicators and eutrophication indicators in the coming year. These fact sheets will also be used in conjunction with workshops proposed planned within the five States and Provinces.

### **Funding**

Many Letters of Intent and proposals have been submitted in the past six months (examples: Environmental Trust Fund, Massachusetts Environmental Trust, NOAA SARP). At the time of this report, announcement of grantees has not been made. ESIP currently has the guaranteed funds to reach **the end of March 2008**. New round of Environment Canada funds anticipated to support work during the spring months.

*Submitted by Susan Russell-Robinson, Kathryn Parlee, and Christine Tilburg (Russell-Robinson and Parlee: co-chairs, Tilburg, Program Manager)*





## **Contaminants Monitoring Subcommittee Update**

The Gulfwatch Program completed the 2008 field season. Samples from all five jurisdictions have been collected, processed, and delivered to their respective laboratories for analysis. Other tasks underway include the review, compilation and production of the 2007 data report, final editing of the 2006 data report, and the revised 12 year program report (as recommended by the Council's Peer Review Panel). Gulfwatch data from 1993-2006 for all contaminants have been compiled in a draft database and served to the GOMC server. Downloadable Gulfwatch reports from 1991 to 2000 were added to the Gulfwatch Program web page. Planning for the future funding and content for the Gulfwatch program over the next three years continues. Receipt of current year funding from Environment Canada is pending. The Subcommittee reviewed a statement of basis that provides a description of the current program, offers program goals and prospectus on development, and outlines what the program would entail over the next three years (as recommended by the Peer Review Panel) in order to secure outside funding and/or integration with other jurisdictional programs in order to conduct the Gulfwatch contaminant monitoring program; the only bi-national marine contaminant monitoring program for the US and Canada. The statement of basis was provided to the Working Group Chair with copy to the Council's Fund Development Coordinator to serve as a guide for the design of a business plan and an aid with locating and securing funding for the program's future. Gulfwatch will be without sufficient funds to operate after March 31, 2009.

*Submitted by Jack Schwartz*

## Assessing the health of the Gulf of Maine and taking action to sustain our common heritage

(Draft Prospectus)

### Synopsis

Public, non-profit and for-profit interests will coalesce to produce a scientifically rigorous, gulf-wide synthesis of how bio-physical and socio-economic conditions are changing and identify the long-term implications of these changes for people working and living around the Gulf. They will then come together in the fall of 2010 to devise strategies that will accelerate action on the most pressing issues.

### Assessing the health of the Gulf of Maine

Environmental, economic and social conditions in and around the Gulf of Maine are changing. Over the past 20-years important responses, ranging from bi-national actions to local initiatives, have improved water quality, conserved land and restored coastal habitats, and enabled citizens to be better stewards of the environment around them. These are but a few of the hundreds of examples of the progressive work that is underway. This work needs to be celebrated and these efforts need to be re-doubled.

At the same time there is no scientifically rigorous, gulf-wide synthesis of how bio-physical and socio-economic conditions are changing, the respective status and trends, and the long-term implications of these changes for people working and living around the Gulf.<sup>1</sup> Important efforts are underway to catalogue our collective understanding (e.g., NOAA/DFO Ecosystem Overview and Assessment, TNC Northwest

Statement of Need -- Steeped in maritime history, the Gulf's vibrant ocean environment and marine-based economies are central to the well-being of its citizens. Our marine and coastal waters provide a rich variety of services that our citizens value and rely on. These include food, energy, recreation, transportation, jobs, climate regulation, storm damage protection, scientific research, and scenic, cultural and historic resources.

For 20-years we have worked together on our shared issues and concerns in the Gulf of Maine. We have made good progress and should celebrate this Canadian – US collaboration. During this time there were an increasing number of proposals for existing uses of our coastal ocean waters and for new uses that we did not envision. These existing and new uses include: sand and gravel mining, gas pipelines, harbor/port development, offshore wind and tidal energy facilities, liquefied natural gas terminals, aquaculture and desalinization plants. Together they pose opportunities and challenges. They raise questions about how to balance intensified development pressure on the marine ecosystem while also taking advantage of the opportunities that the ocean offers for energy and food production, recreation and commercial transportation.

In the coming decades, climate change will likely have a substantial effect on our coastal and marine ecosystems and related human economies and traditions. Climate change and sea level rise will alter the frequency, intensity and duration of storms, droughts and floods exacerbating beach erosion, inundation and loss of critical wetlands, and ground water problems. Coastal property damage will also impact our recreation and tourism sectors. Combined saltier, warmer, more acidic marine waters will influence the metabolism, reproduction and distribution of marine species, potentially altering ecosystems and the economies of those who depend on them, such as commercial fishers, aquaculturalists, and lobstermen.

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<sup>1</sup> There are many fine examples of reports that address areas of the Gulf (e.g., State of the Estuary, National Coastal Assessment, etc.) and selected issues (e.g., *Tides of Change Across the Gulf: An environmental report on the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy*, Mussel-Watch Status and Trends, etc.) that need to be drawn on.



Atlantic Bioregional Assessment, GOMC Ecosystem Indicator Partnership, etc.). This type of work, combined with current monitoring efforts, make a synthesis possible within a reasonable timeframe and budget.

Taking action to sustain our common heritage

In 2010 a 2-3 day international conference will be convened to develop consensus on actions to address some of the gulf’s leading issues. The event will:

- Promote awareness about the Gulf’s most pressing economic, social and environmental issues;
- Accelerate “solution-based” dialogue among the Gulf’s citizenry, non-profits, for-profits and governments and advance regional responses to our shared values and concerns about the Gulf of Maine;
- Stimulate sharing of creative approaches and lesson-learned from within the region and from away; and
- Celebrate Canadian-US accomplishments in managing this shared ecosystem.

Examples of subthemes that may emerge at the conference are how to grow the capacity of current organizations to be more effective, address conflicting uses of marine space, decision-support tools managers need, research and monitoring priorities, ocean literacy, and shared messaging/communications to target audiences.

Audience – Our work will engage public, non-profit and private sector coastal and ocean managers and decision-makers that are proficient in the issues and are able to make commitments for action.

Logistics

1. Budget – There are a wide array of options pertaining to the development and production of a “state of the environment” type report. In addition, the scope of the conference, venue, number of attendees, and associated expenses are highly variable. For planning purposes the following is proposed:

<u>Assessing the health of the Gulf of Maine</u>	\$200,000
(Contractors to research and write the report, web site, production and dissemination)	
<u>Taking action to sustain our common heritage</u>	\$ 50,000
(Logistics, travel assistance fund, coordination & management, venue, etc.)	

2. Funding – All funds for the report and conference, less conference registration fees, will be raised from public, non-profit and private sources.

3. Initial timeline

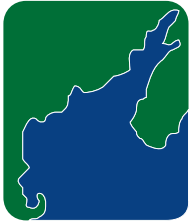
Project steering committee formed (see attached TOR)	December 2008
Finalize report outline and associated logistics	February 2009
Secure funds for report & contractual services	May 2009
Produce report	March 2010
Convene conference	Fall 2010
Conduct follow-up	Winter 2010



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

**Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment**  
Working Group Meeting • Halifax, NS • December 2-3rd, 2008  
NS Dept. of Fisheries & Aquaculture, 1741 Brunswick St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,

Meeting briefing packet • **Final Version** • November 26, 2008



# Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

*Draft letter of invitation to prospective steering committee members*

## **Maine**

Department of Marine Resources  
State Planning Office

## **Massachusetts**

Office of Coastal Zone Management

## **New Brunswick**

Department of Environment  
Department of Agriculture and  
Aquaculture

## **New Hampshire**

Department of Environmental  
Services

## **Nova Scotia**

Department of Environment  
Fisheries and Aquaculture

## **Federal Partners**

Environment Canada  
Fisheries and Oceans, Canada  
Department of Interior  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration  
Environmental Protection Agency

## **Council Coordinator**

Michele L. Tremblay  
PO Box 3019  
Boscawen NH 03303  
603.796.2615 • 796.2600 fax  
[gulfofmaine.org](http://gulfofmaine.org)  
[info@gulfofmaine.org](mailto:info@gulfofmaine.org)

Dear:

I am pleased to invite you to serve on an international steering committee that the Council is forming to undertake several important tasks. The first is to produce a scientifically rigorous synthesis of how bio-physical and socio-economic conditions in the Gulf of Maine are changing. We will then identify the long-term implications of these changes on ecosystem services for people working and living around the Gulf. We anticipate that 2009 will be dedicated to these two tasks. These materials will provide the basis for a solutions-based conference in the fall of 2010 at which we will gain consensus (e.g., CA-US, public-private, etc.) and commitments to take action on a few of the Gulf's most pressing economic and environmental issues.

As described in the attached *Terms of Reference* our primary audiences are public, non-profit and private sector coastal and ocean managers and decision-makers that are proficient in the issues and are able to make commitments for action. We know it will also be very important to engage the science community and interested citizens as they have much to contribute.

While what we are proposing is quite ambitious we are heartened by the depth of existing materials (e.g., marine research, ecosystem assessments, public opinion research, etc.) and the array of organizations working on these matters that we will draw on. Through a highly collaborative and action/outcome oriented process we are convinced that together we can make some very important contributions to the discussions about key issues facing the Gulf of Maine.

I have asked David Keeley, the Council's Development Coordinator, to call on you to discuss this initiative and learn of your interest in participating. In the meantime I have attached a draft prospectus that provides some additional information. Thank you for considering our offer to serve on the steering committee.

Sincerely,

Greg Roach, Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Council Chair 2008-2009

## Prospective Steering Committee Members

### Considerations for choosing members:

- Balanced sector involvement (see four categories below) and CA/US representation
- Pivotal organizations that lend credibility to the effort
- Representatives from an “organization of organizations”
- Engage a few GOMC councilors (for appearance and ownership)

#### 1. Business Community (Marine-based for-profit, etc.)

Name	Organization	CA	US	Comments
David Getchell (or Susan Swanson (Ex. Dir)	Maine (or Mass) Marine Trades Assoc		X	<a href="http://www.mainemarinetrades.com/">http://www.mainemarinetrades.com/</a> <a href="http://www.boatma.com/mmtaabout.html">www.boatma.com/mmtaabout.html</a>
Tom Skinner	LNG law firm		X	Former GOM Councilor
John Risley (Christine Penny)	Clearwater Foods	X		Seafood industry
Carolyn Gravel	Shipping Federation of CA	X		Councilor
	Recreation/Tourism			
	Commercial fishing			
Jamey Smith	NB Salmon Growers Association	X		

#### 2. Non-profit organizations

Name	Organization	CA	US	Comments
David Rockefeller, Pres. (or Henry Becton, Dan Pingaro, Executive Director)	Sailors for the Sea		X	Betsy can assist with recruitment
Michael Butler, Ex. Dir (or Paul Boudreau)	ACZISC	X		“foster cooperation in Atlantic Canada with regards to integrated coastal and ocean management (ICOM), coastal



				mapping and geomatics”
Arthur Bull (or a person from one of their six marine resource centres)	Saltwater Network	X	X	“support community-based marine management around the Gulf of Maine”
Phillip Conkling (or Peter Ralston, Rob Snyder)	Island Institute		X	Produced a Gulf of Maine atlas in the 1990’s
Suzy Ryan, Chair & Census for Marine Life (Pam DiBona – staff)	New England Ocean Science Education Collaborative (NEOSEC)		X	A NSF collaboration of 30+ institutions from across the region, including museums and aquaria, universities, and research institutions
Sally Yozel	The Nature Conservancy		X	NW Atlantic Marine Bioregional Assessment
Jennifer Smith	World Wildlife Fund	X		Councilor
John Annala	GOM Research Institute		X	Councilor
Marc Butler	Ecology Action Center	X		
Craig Pendleton	Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance			“restore and enhance an enduring marine system supporting a healthy diversity and an abundance of marine life and human uses”

**3. Academic/educational**

Name	Organization	CA	US	Comments
Graham Dabourn	Acadia University	X		
Judy McDowell	NE Sea Grant Programs		X	Request designee to serve (Judy Pederson, MIT)
Andy Rosenberg	UNH/COMPASS		X	

**4. Public/Government** (Federal, provincial, state, local)

Name	Organization	CA	US	Comments
Rob Stephenson	DFO	X		Councilor
Mike Fogerty (or Betsy Nicholson)	NOAA		X	DFO/NMFS Ecosystem Overview



Possible Advisors (concept is to recruit people of stature to lend credibility & help with fundraising – specific role yet to be defined)

Name	Affiliation	CA	US	Comments
Linda Greenlaw	Marine author		X	<a href="http://www.lindagreenlawbooks.com/">http://www.lindagreenlawbooks.com/</a>
Angus King	Former Maine Governor		X	
John Leefe	Former NS councilor	X		



## **US Gulf of Maine Association**

PO Box 2246

South Portland, ME 04106

### **Inkind Donations Form**

**Description**

**Time in hours**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Value in Dollars**

Travel (taxi, tolls, gas, hotel, flight etc)	_____
Meals	_____
Facility Rental	_____
Office Supplies	_____
Telephone	_____
Printing & Copying	_____
Postage	_____
Other (please describe) _____	_____

**Organization Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State & Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Name** \_\_\_\_\_