



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

Working Group Briefing Packet

Final Version • June 7, 2007

St. Andrews, NB • June 12-13, 2007

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Working Group agenda

**Tuesday, June 12, 2007, Algonquin Fairmont, St. Andrews, NB
Van Horne Ballroom**

9:00 AM	<p>Welcome, introductions, and review of agenda and outcomes <i>Russell Henry, NB DAA Senior Policy Advisor and Working Group Chair</i></p>
9:15 AM	<p>Consent Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ March meeting summary (p.9) ▪ Committee and Subcommittee reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee Report (p. 16) b) Sustainable industries and communities committee (p.17) c) Sewage Management Task Force (p. 18) d) Outreach Committee report (p.20) e) GOMC Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership Agreement (p. 21) f) Habitat Restoration Committee (p.28) ▪ Securing resources to implement the Action Plan – May 2007 proposal synopsis(p.31) and budget(p. 32) ▪
9:30 AM	<p>Consideration of Foundation Representatives for Private Sector Council Seats <i>Kate Killerlain Morrison</i></p> <p>Background: throughout the history of the Council, it's proven difficult to secure private sector members that are willing to provide both a particular expertise and financial contribution to Council activities. Over the past two years in the US portion of the Gulf of Maine private foundations have expressed interest in facilitating science and convening dialogues around new approaches to marine environmental management.</p> <p>Desired decision or other outcome: The Working Group will make a recommendation that the Council target private foundation representatives to fill private sector seats (both outstanding and when changes are needed).</p>
9:50 AM	<p>Ecosystem Indicator Partnership Update <i>Susan Russell-Robinson, USGS and Christine Tilburg, Coordinator, ESIP</i></p> <p>Background/purpose: Discuss ESIP work on GeoConnections project for web tools. Recap of the activities of the past 6 months including results from the June 11 ESIP Workshop and Climate Change Network Launch. Discussion of anticipated results for the next 6 months. (p.33)</p> <p>Desired decision or other outcome: ESIP will identify funding needs for identifying and importing databases into GeoConnex web tools, customer evaluation of interactive web sites, and maintenance of CICEET monitoring map present on ESIP web page. Prepare working group recommendation to the Council.</p>
10:20 AM	<p>Break</p>
10:35 AM	<p>Advancing ecosystem-based approaches in the Gulf of Maine <i>Rob Stephenson, DFO/St. Andrews Marine Laboratory and David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator</i></p> <p>Background: A foundation of the Council's Action Plan is that the region needs to further develop and implement ecosystem-based approaches to management. In March 2007 government and non-government stakeholders were convened by COMPASS to identify actionable items for the region to pursue. They have recommended the Council facilitate a visioning initiative for the ecosystem that addresses both the conceptual and operational objectives for implementing EBM. (p.34-38)</p> <p>Desired decisions/outcomes: Recommend process for the Council participation in designing a 9-month process and suggestions on the conceptual and operational content.</p>
12:00 PM	<p>Lunch (on your own)</p>

1:15 PM	<p>Engaging Council Partners via Strategic Alliances <i>Russell Henry, Working Group Chair and David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator</i> Background: One method to accelerate implementation of the Action Plan is for the Council to formally engage and secure the support of other organizations through partnerships/alliances. The Working Group developed recommendations in March on how to proceed.(p.39-41) Desired decisions/outcome: WG recommendation for Council approval of an internal process to create agreements, identification of priority alliances, and action on the draft GOMC resolve in support of BoFEP.</p>
1:45 PM	<p>Action Plan Implementation – A Sponsoring Partners Proposal <i>David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator</i> Background: To effectively implement the Action Plan the Council needs to involve others. The Working Group and Council Advisory Group have explored the idea of engaging other nonprofits and businesses through a sponsoring partners program. The purpose would be to increase external support for Action Plan implementation via the Council's Action Plan Grant Program. Meeting Packet materials: Briefing memorandum on the concept, scope, and recommendations for a sponsoring partners program (p.42) Desired decision/outcome: Council direction on whether and how to proceed in developing such a program.</p>
2:15 PM	<p>Jurisdictional Buy-in to the 18-month Work Plan – status and needs <i>David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator</i> Background: InDecember the Council identified jurisdictional commitments and requested further discussion on this topic, in the context of AP implementation, at the June meeting. Some progress has occurred on implementing the 18-month Work Plan and it is timely to ask Councilors how they can augment this progress. (Separate Document) Desired decisions/outcome: Working Group members review 12/06 commitments of resources (e.g., time, money and/or products/materials that substantively contribute to tasks).</p>
2:30 PM	<p>Committee structure, membership, and issues <i>Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator and Committee Chairs</i> Background: The Council approved a new organizational chart and Terms of References for the Council, Council Advisory Group, Working Group, Management and Finance, and Secretariat Team at its June 2006 meeting. Work has commenced to implement this new chart, secure co-chairs, and augment committee and subcommittee memberships. Desired decision or other outcome: An understanding of current structure and address Committee and subcommittee memberships.</p>
3:00 PM	<p>Break</p>
3:15 PM	<p>Fund Development: Increasing the stability of the Council—options to amend the dues/contributions structure <i>Jane Tims, NB Manager Integrated Planning Section and David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator</i> Background: At the December meeting the Council directed the Working Group to consider a dues/contribution increase and to report back at the June meeting with options. The Working Group has developed options.(p.44-46) Desired decision or other outcome: Whether to amend dues/contribution structure; if so, how to change it and when. Agreement on core activities for Secretariat and Budget recommendation for the Council's approval.</p>
3:50 PM	<p>Overview of the Susan Snow-Cotter Award <i>Kate Killerrain Morrison</i> Background: The Working Group has discussed ways to maintain a living legacy for Susan and to recognize outstanding individuals. (p.47) Desired decision or other outcome: Working Group recommendation to the Council.</p>

4:05 PM	<p>Implementing the Musquash MPA <i>Maxine Westhead, DFO Marine Environmental Quality</i> Background: The Musquash MPA in coastal New Brunswick was designated by DFO as a marine protected area in 2007. (A presentation on the project was made to the WG in 2005.) Desired decision or other outcome: Understand Canadian approach to marine protected areas and management structures to support it.</p>
4:35PM	<p>Integrated Ecosystem Assessments – update from DFO/NOAA <i>Jason Naug (DFO) and Betsy Nicholson (NOAA)</i> Background: At the December 2006 meeting DFO reviewed their work with NOAA to develop an Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Report for the Gulf of Maine and indicated a report on governance mechanisms in the GOM would be distributed to the WG after the meeting.(p.48) Desired decision or other outcome: To understand DFO plans, through Phase II funding of the Ocean Action Plan, to support GOMC priorities.</p>
5:00PM	<p>Adjourn for the day</p>

**Wednesday, June 13, 2007, Algonquin Fairmont, St. Andrews, NB
Van Horne Ballroom**

8:30 AM	<p>Action Plan Implementation Status Background: The Council approved the Plan in December 2006 and an 18-month Work Plan. They also allocated either full or partial funding to support some of the activities in the Work Plan. (p.50-51) Desired decisions/outcomes: Discuss and act on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Status of Outreach Strategy & next steps (Karin) b) Uses/application of the Premiers/Governors Proclamation (Karin) c) Dynamic AP reporting -- internal and external (Michele) d) Work Plan progress (past six-months) and development (next 12-months) (Cindy and David) e) Securing Funding – Status and next steps (David) f) Action Plan Grants (Michele) g) Program Evaluation (Ann & Team)
10:30 AM	<p>Engaging the Premiers and Governors 1. Report from May 2007 Northeast Regional Oceans Congress Meeting <i>Kate Killerlain Morrison, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management and Betsy Nicholson, NOAA</i> Background: On May 24th NROC convened the NE Regional Ocean Congress to refine priorities and to gather input for recommendations to the NEGC.(p.53) Desired decisions/outcomes: To discuss meeting results and what recommendation should be made to Council about ongoing involvement in a regional entity with a larger geography.</p> <p>2. Council report to NEGC/ECP on Action Plan contents and implementation <i>Russ Henry and David Keeley</i> Background: One element of the 2006 Council and WG self-evaluation was the ongoing need to reinforce the connection with the Premiers and Governors. (p.55) Desired decisions/outcomes: Develop recommendations to Council on what to present and how at the June NEGC/ECP meeting in Prince Edward Island.</p>
11:30 AM	<p>2007-2008 Council and Working Group meeting scheduling <i>Kate Killerlain Morrison, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management and Working Group Chair 2007-2008 and Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator</i> (p.56)</p>
11:45 AM	<p>Science Reps <i>Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator</i> Recommendation for approval to council (p.57)</p>
12:00 PM	<p>Removed Consent Agenda items and parked items</p>
12:15 PM	<p>Meeting adjourns</p>
12:15 PM	<p>Lunch (on your own)</p>
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM	<p>Forum (Van Horne Ballroom)</p>
6:00 PM	<p>Awards Reception (On rooftop of the Algonquin Hotel)</p>

INDUSTRY PANEL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE GULF OF MAINE

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

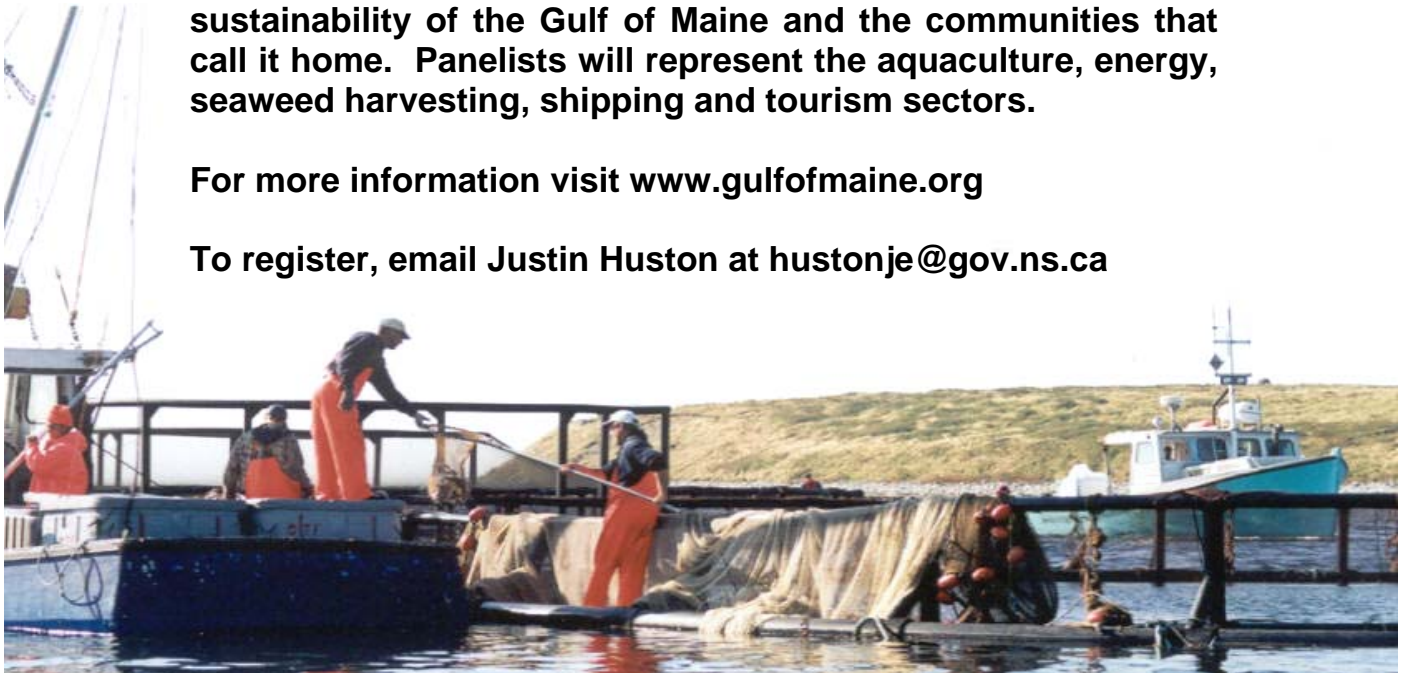


The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is hosting a public panel of industry representatives to discuss current and future sustainability efforts in the Gulf of Maine.

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

For more information visit www.gulfofmaine.org

To register, email Justin Huston at hustonje@gov.ns.ca



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

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

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

Time: 1:30 to 4:00 pm

To register, please email Justin Huston at hustonje@gov.ns.ca.

Draft” Working Group Meeting Summary

Tuesday, December 12, 2006, Grand Ballroom D, Delta Fredericton, Fredericton NB

Working Group members in attendance

Al Hansen, Environment Canada; Russ Henry, NB Dept. of Agriculture & Aquaculture; Liz Hertz, ME State Planning Office; Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada; Pat Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour; Justin Huston, NS Fisheries and Aquaculture; Marianne Janowicz, NB Department of Environment; Greg Klassen, GoMC Environmental Monitoring Coordinator; Christian Krahforst, MA Bay National Estuary Program; Linda Mercer, ME Dept of Marine Resources; Gary Lines, Environment Canada; Kate Killerrain Morrison, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Jason Naug, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans; Hilary Neckles, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center; Betsy Nicholson, NOAA; Susan Russell-Robinson, US Geologic Survey; Jack Schwartz, MA Division of Marine Fisheries; Jane Tims, NB Department of Environment; Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME Coastal Program, State Planning Office; Peter Wells, Environment Canada/Dalhousie & Acadia University; Eric Williams, NH Department of Environmental Services

Others in attendance

Susan Howe, GoMC Administrative Assistant; David Keeley, GoMC Policy and Development Coordinator; Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association Executive Director; Kyle McKenzie, Environment Canada; Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator

Summary of Decision and Action Items

Decisions

1. The Working Group approved the Consent Agenda.
2. Working Group will advise Council that Activity 1.7 in the 18-month Work Plan would be supported by a newly constituted Council Oceans Network and will be placed as a low priority.
3. The Working Group needs to understand Council's issues regarding the 18-month Work Plan and formulate a strategy to address them.
4. Working Group will provide guidance to the M&F Committee for reviewing the numbers in the 18-month Work Plan.
5. Recommendation by Working Group to Council with respect to the increase of dues/annual contributions. The consequence of not increasing the dues is some activities will not be funded. We have not raised our dues in over ten years and we need to increase the dues to help cover our shortfall. Dues increase alone will not cover the shortfall but will help.
6. Forming the GoM National Program office. The Working Group will present the concept of *Forming the Gulf of Maine National Program Office* during the US Association meeting on Thursday, December 14th at 8:00 a.m. A briefing document will be circulated to Council.
7. Peter Wells will give a short presentation to Council as a “concept to approve” the BoFEP agreement less the commitment of actual resources. He will speak to Council regarding the revisions that will be made to this agreement. Peter will advise Council that this concept was presented at the December Working Group meeting, was well received and that other strategic alliances should be developed. The revisions to the BoFEP agreement will be reviewed by the Secretariat Team for approval.
8. Working Group will recommend to Council that we identify a list of strategic alliances. This will be accomplished at the March Working Group meeting. The list and recommendations will be presented to Council in June.
9. The Action Plan will be presented to Council for approval on December 14th.

Actions

1. The Management & Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 13th to discuss funding issues in the 18-month Work Plan.
2. Steve, Cindy, Christian and Peter will meet to confirm how much funding is required to conduct the sampling/analyses for Gulfwatch.
3. Cindy will revise the financial document per the recommendations of the Working Group.
4. The Management & Finance Committee will meet prior to the December 14th Council meeting to review financials in preparation for presentation to Council.

5. Activities 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 under current contractor support should include contractor support and Outreach. Cindy will add this.
6. The Management & Finance Committee will meet again after the December 14th Council meeting to review the budgets further.
7. Biodiversity Project is requesting GoMC involvement as one of the stakeholders of their initiative. Further review is required by the Secretariat Team.
8. Working Group will provide a recommendation to Council for approval of the revision to the Working Group Terms of Reference.
9. Working Group will provide a recommendation to Council for approval of the Secretariat Terms of Reference.
10. Working Group will provide a recommendation to Council for approval of the revision to GoMC Terms of Reference.
11. Submissions for US/CA science representatives will be provided by the Working Group to the Council Coordinator by the end of February 2007.
12. Between now and the March Working Group meeting, Working Group will start a dialogue with the groups we would like to align with. At the March Working Group meeting, we will look at the information we have gathered and consider presenting the strategy and action items to Council in June.
13. Council's Support for Ecosystem-based Approaches - Recommendations to Council by the Working Group. Offer two questions to Council: 1. General buy in for the March workshop in partnership with COMPASS. 2. Ask Council to host a webpage to house information about the workshop that requires minimal updates to the webpage. Ocean Network Terms of Reference. Present Terms of Reference to Council for discussion followed by further discussion by the Council Advisory Group; Present further findings back to Council in June 2007.

Welcome and Introductions

Russ Henry welcomed the Working Group members and introduced new members. Christian Krahforst, Contaminants Subcommittee Co-chair and Hilary Neckles, HMSC Co-chair introduced Dr. Greg Klassen to the Working Group. Greg has been selected to fill the new position of Environmental Monitoring Coordinator in support of CMSC and HMSC. Greg offered his gratitude for being successful in this competition. He advised that he will make a very positive contribution but requires your help. Hilary Neckles advised the Working Group that we need to think about Greg as an integrative body. ESIP and GoMC should be working together closely.

Expected Outcomes

Russ Henry presented a list of expected outcomes for the Working Group meeting

Work Plan

- Finish discussion; wording; formatting
- Ready to recommend approval by Council
- Have a refined presentation for Council meeting
- Revise/clarify expectations; are they realistic?
- Review and build a consensus on high priorities, the linkages are clear to all
- Build trust/enhance communications
- Develop a preliminary awareness of staff requirements and contractor roles to implement (scope of services)
- Some understanding of structure required

Budgets

- Develop common simple language to understand our budget requirements (simplify the seemingly complicated)
- Know what we have for budget
- Know what we really need for budgets
- Know where the money is coming from
- Review jurisdictional information under three categories: new money, staff lead, staff support
- Understand the funding process for project/program approval

- Prepare for presentation to Council

Challenges for moving forward

- The three Goals are abstract
- Develop a structure to manage the activities to reach the goals
- Establish core funding to support basic administrative functions
- Address Logic Model vs. Committee focus approaches to our planning
- Clearly understand the role of Council
- Reality is: What Council is prepared to take action on will define their role. *The ultimate test of intent is action.*
- Create and deliver realistic expectations

Approval of Consent agenda

Decision: *The Working Group approved the Consent Agenda.*

Implementation of the 18-month Work Plan

Purpose and actions requested – David Keeley

1. Approve the Work Plan and recommend Working Group approval to Council.
2. Understand what resources we have to implement this Work Plan (e.g. unspent NOAA funds, internal grant funds, unexpended internal grant money from last round)
3. What each Jurisdiction and Federal agency is able to bring: Category 1 - cash; Category 2 - staff support who are prepared to work on activities; Category 3 – the time of individuals who are a part of an advisory committee for activities
4. Develop 18-month strategy to find the resources we need. We have to build our momentum and confidence that we are going to accomplish this.

There are still core items that are funded under NOAA (NOAA '06 money). Part of the question is, what we have for money and what do we need for money.

Action: *The Management & Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 13th to discuss funding issues.*

Decisions:

1. *Recommendation by Working Group to Council - advise Council that Activity 1.7 requires formation of the Council Ocean Network and would place as a lower priority.*
2. *Working Group needs to understand Council concerns about the work plan and come up with Working Group strategy to address them.*

Approach for the Working Group discussion – David Keeley

1. Need to have a roundtable and learn from each of you, what your jurisdictions will be able to contribute in the three categories. In this discussion, we want to focus on two categories: Category 1. - Cash; Category 2 - In kind. For Category 3 - Serve on a committee, etc., we need to record this but we need to focus on cash and in kind.
2. Review Cindy's material - Proposed Allocation of Funds.

We have produced three sheets. These are for the jurisdictions to identify their contributions of cash and in kind. Jurisdictions can indicate with a colored post-it note (there is a color for jurisdiction) what item they are offering to support. We need to first understand the Jurisdictional buy-in. Then, we need to look at Cindy's spreadsheet and decide how to move forward. Finally, we need to start the discussion of how we'll find the difference - the funds we need.

Assisting the Council - Allocate Resources to Priority & Signature Activities/Action Plan Funding - Cindy Krum

- Activity 1.1 has \$0 allocation. NFMS provides funds for that program and for a portion of Jon's position. Cindy recommends we put money in here to cover a portion of Jon's position which is approximately \$15,000-20,000. Further discussion is required, however Cindy asked the Working Group to make this change on their spreadsheet for now.
- Activity 1.8 should be \$88,000 instead of \$66,000.
- The proposed Internal Grants amounts; these are estimates for now.
- Move \$7,000 from Activity 1.7 to Activity 1.8.
- Activity 1.3 is decreased to \$5,000; the additional \$5,000 could go to Activity 1.8 or Activity 1.1.

- Portion of the current contractor for Activity 1.3 would go to science translation – layout and design (\$1,500) and education and outreach (\$3,500).
- EC funds are approximately \$42,000 (U.S) which is included in the \$200,000 available funds.
- Support for Activity 1.5 and Activity 1.6 comes from the EC funds.

Allocation of Funds - Working Group Feedback

- Kyle MacKenzie commented that EC is hoping to fund the climate change position themselves through to June '08. Of the \$42,000 only use \$10,000 now and then EC hopes to have an additional \$20,000-\$30,000 after April 1st. Therefore, the remaining \$32,000 from EC can be used for other activities.
- Activity 2.2. Steve has informed Cindy that \$20,000 less is required for analyses in '06. Peter Wells had new information to share and therefore disagreed with Steve's recommendation and advised that we need to redo our samples (as of the Gulfwatch meeting on December 11, 2006). This is due to the metal in the analyses. The analytical needs are more not less.
- Activity 2.5 Sewage was not there because it was not identified as a priority and signature activity by Council in June.
- David Keeley advised that there are some things people would like to see move up and *others to push back down*.

Action: Steve, Cindy, Christian and Peter will meet to confirm how much money is required to do the sampling/analyses for Gulfwatch.

Recommendations by Working Group on removing tasks, money, pushing up or pushing down activities on the priority list

Goal 1

- Activity 1.7 - take money out and put in Activity 1.8
- Activity 1.9 - this is a new group/new thing – recommendation to take money out
- Activity 1.12 GOMMI - recommendation to move up above grey line in priority and change from \$7,000 to \$35,000
- Activity 1.23 – Metrics should be moved up

Goal 2

- Activity 2.1 - Leave \$16,000 in
- Activity 2.2 - 2006-2007 sampling season plus redo of 2003 - would cost approximately \$95,000 for sample analyses
- Activity 2.5 - Pat Hinch recommended that we put this back in - \$19,500. Could this cost be reduced? Dept. is giving 30% of Pat's time for this activity and thus could serve as coordinator with support from Greg.

Goal 3

- Activity 3.3 – Justin recommended that money could come out which could bring budget down to \$26,000
- Jane Tims. M&F Committee should go through the numbers and determine what items can come out. For example, NB has always taken care of travel for award recipients so \$2,000 could come out
- Liz Hertz. For Activities 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 under current contractor support includes contractor support and PEPC. *Action: Cindy will add this in*
- Theresa Torrent-Ellis recommended that issues of cost needs to go back to committees for review and then come back before Council.

Decision: Working Group will provide guidance to the M&F Committee in order to review the numbers.

Actions:

1. *Cindy will revise financial document, M&F will then meet and review for preparation to present to Council. M&F Committee will meet again after Council to review further.*
2. *For Activities 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 under current contractor support include contractor support and PEPC. Cindy will add this.*

Securing Resources to Implement the 18-month Work Plan - Proposal to increase of dues - Working Group Guidance

Justin Huston

- Need to do word smithing under core activities
- Exchange rate has improved for the Canadians – so cost of dues contributions is better than in the past
- Why are the Feds paying less for dues than the provinces?

Marianne Janowicz

- What percentage do the dues cover? cover 70% of the first three bullets of the document entitled *Securing Resources to Implement the 18-month Work Plan*

Larry Hildebrand

- DFO and EC x 2 – needs articulation and explicit discussion
- 2007 and 2008 x 5 – NOAA, Dept. of Interior, EPA

Michele L. Tremblay

- Council has wanted to increase its capacity. Changes to Administrative and Council Coordinator has made more efficient use of funds.

Kate Killerlain Morrison

- Not paying policy piece out of dues and web maintenance = \$66,000

David Keeley

- Byron's best pitch is we are about to adopt a five year plan. Seems timely to consider a dues increase.

Nova Scotia

Uncomfortable agency for increasing dues

Massachusetts

Uncomfortable agency for increasing dues

New Hampshire

Eric Williams - not likely to support increase of dues

Jane Tims

- What options can we provide here? travel? NGO's? meals? accommodations? awards? Note - We have \$11,300 US\$ to cover meeting costs for the Secretariat year.
- Why look at Federal Government differently? They are equal members in GOMC TOR.

Decision: Recommendation by Working Group to Council. Consequences of not increasing the dues – some activities will not be funded. We have not raised our dues in over ten years. We need to raise the dues to cover our shortfall.

Forming the Gulf of Maine National Program Office

David reviewed this document and advised that it is fourth bullet on the Council agenda - A Funding strategy the Council might consider.

Decision: Present the concept of Forming the Gulf of Maine National Program Office at the US Association meeting on Thursday, December 14th at 8:00 a.m. Concurrence this should be an activity of the US members in consultation with full Council. The briefing document will be circulated at the Council meeting.

“Draft” Working Group Meeting Summary

Wednesday, December 13, 2006, Grand Ballroom D, Delta Fredericton, Fredericton NB

Recap of Day 1 Working Group meeting – Russ Henry

Work Plan

- Jurisdictional buy-in

- Long, good discussions
- Minimum new monies were committed (not willing to commit due to new budgets in progress)
- Good willingness to contribute
- Few leads were identified to coordinate the activities

Budgets

- Not totally clear on budgets yet
- Monies for Secretariat - \$90,000 minimum per year
- We have \$200,000 of flexible funds to allocate for the 18-month Work Plan
- Not sure how contractors fit into the picture
- We still have some critical financial decisions to make

Key suggestions

- Maintain existing programs before hiring new contract staff
- Sewage is a make or break for NS Dept. LE
- M&F still needs to make recommendations to Council
- Need decision re. contractors for ESIP now

Conclusions

- A huge task
- Need a willingness and spirit to work together
- Need to be frank and speak freely (but managed by the Chair)

Review of *Rough Estimates* document – Cindy Krum

- \$94,000 covers G&A, Secretariat and US association
- \$28,000 covers part of David's contract
- \$828,000 covers existing contractors, GoMT, web. All of these can be geared towards the Action Plan. The \$200,000 is imbedded in this and is the only flexible money we have.

Southwest New Brunswick Marine Resources Planning Initiative

Jane Tims introduced Susan Farquharson, Chairperson of the Southwest New Brunswick Marine Resources Planning Initiative. Susan Farquharson presented the Southwest New Brunswick Marine Resources Planning; A New Approach to Marine Resources Management. Susan advised that this is not a new approach to other areas of the world. The purpose of this initiative is to develop and implement a comprehensive management plan for the use of the marine resources and marine space in the Southwest New Brunswick section of the Bay of Fundy. To guide all levels of government in making decisions in respect to their existing legislative mandates.

Presentation on Biodiversity Project - Outreach and Marketing Strategies

Theresa Torrent Ellis provided an overview of Biodiversity and introduced Peter Alexander. The purpose/action requested is for the GoMC to be one of the stakeholders of this initiative and to be the host of their first stakeholder meeting which we hope to have in tandem with the March Working Group meeting in Boston. The presentation is also to provide increased awareness of the Gulf of Maine as a unique and valuable resource.

Action: Further consideration is required by the Secretariat Team regarding the Biodiversity project.

Petitcodiac Causeway EIA

Jane Tims introduced Serge Gagnon, NB Department of Environment. Serge provided an update to the Working Group (for information purposes) on the outcome of the Petitcodiac Causeway EIA. A decision is expected at the end of November.

Background/Overview (taken from handout provided by Serge Gagnon)

On April 30, 2002, the Department of Supply & Services (DSS) registered Modifications to the Petitcodiac River Causeway project for review under Schedule A of the NB Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation. The Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada similarly determined that a federal

environmental review would be undertaken in accordance with the *Canadian Environmental Association Act (CEAA)*. The two reviews have been harmonized as much as possible and the federal and provincial decisions are intended to be made in parallel. The principal purpose of the project is to provide a long term solution to fulfill fish passage objectives for the Petitcodiac River Causeway.

Working Group Terms of Reference

Proposed change in membership: change one co-chair designation to two co-chair designation to committee and subcommittees

Decision: *Bring forward to Council for approval of the co-chair designation. Further discussion is required by the Working Group regarding the decision making process outlined in the Working Group TOR.*

Secretariat Terms of Reference

Decision: *Recommendation from the Working Group - The Secretariat Terms of Reference will go forward to Council for approval.*

Gulf of Maine Council (GOMC) on the Marine Environment Terms of Reference

Decision: *Recommendation by the Working Group to Council for approval of the revision to the GoMC Terms of Reference*

Develop options to recruit US/CA science representatives to GOMC

Action: *Recommendations for US/CA science representatives will be provided by the Working Group to the Council Coordinator by the end of February 2007.*

Gulf of Maine Council-Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) Agreement

Approval of the BoFEP in principle and carry forward for presentation and approval by Council.

Decisions:

1. *Peter Wells will give a short presentation to Council as a "concept to approve" the BoFEP agreement. He will speak to Council regarding the revisions that will be made to this agreement (e.g., removal of specific request for funding). The revisions will be reviewed by the Secretariat Team. Peter will advise Council that this concept was presented at the Dec. 12-13 WG meeting and it was well received.*
2. *Working Group recommended that we identify a number of strategic alliances. A list of organizations will be formulated for review at the March Working Group meeting with a plan to present recommendations to Council in June 2007.*

Actions:

1. *Strategic Alliances. Between now and March Working Group start a dialogue with these groups. At March meeting look at the information we have gathered and present recommendations and action items to Council in June.*

Council's Support for Ecosystem-based Approaches – Implementing the Action Plan

Decisions: *Recommendations to Council by the Working Group.*

1. Ecosystem-based Approaches. *Present issues to Council. Offer two questions to Council: 1. General buy in for the approach and the March 2007 workshop. 2. Ask Council to host a webpage to house information about the workshop with minimal number of updates to the webpage.*
2. Ocean Network Terms of Reference. *Present TOR to Council for discussion; followed by further discussion by the Council Advisory Group; Present further findings back to Council in June 2007.*

Presenting the Action Plan to Council

Note: No press event for the Action Plan until January until we have items coordinated (press events/releases etc.).

Decision: *Liz will present the highlights of the Action Plan to Council on December 14.*

Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee Report June 4, 2007

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

Respectfully submitted,

Hilary Neckles, US co-chair

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

Sustainable Industries and Communities Committee

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

Industry engagement and collaboration

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

Industry sustainability award

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

Gulf of Maine Sustainable Industry Award

In recognition of demonstrated innovation and leadership in sustainability.

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

Nominations are sought from the following sectors:

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

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

Working Waterfronts

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

Membership

Current membership:

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

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

Sewage Management Task Force

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

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

II. Resource information

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

Status:

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

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

Outreach Committee Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gulf of Maine Council - Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership Agreement

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

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

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

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

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

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

Work completed from 2005 - 2006 (under contract)

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

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

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

Work completed 2004-2005 (under contract)

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

http://www.bofep.org/Publications/barrierGIS/BOFwebsite/vanProosdij_Dobek2005finalreport.pdf

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

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

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

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

The agreement requires that BoFEP:

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

Workshop/GOMC related activities:

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

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

Communications:

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

Reports

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

Presentations

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

Publications

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

BoFEP Science Workshop Series:

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

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

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

Communications:

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

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

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

Reports

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

Publications

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

Working Group Activities

Minas Basin Working Group:

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

Salt Marsh and Rehabilitation Working Group:

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

Sublittoral Ecology and habitat Conservation Working Group:

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

Corophium and Mudflat Ecology Working Group:

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

Defining Stress and Cumulative Effects Working Group:

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

Fundy Biosphere Working Group:

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

Upper Bay of Integrated Fisheries Management Working Group:

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

Fundy Informatics Working Group

- recently formed to identify ways to facilitate the dissemination of, and efficient online access to, existing scientific and other information about the Bay of Fundy and coordinate its efforts with

similar informatics initiatives of the Gulf of Maine Council to avoid duplication and ensure that projects are functionally integrated as much as possible.

- developing a number of projects designed to facilitate online access to information about the Bay of Fundy including BoFEPs various publications, bibliographies and working group reports. Made a presentation to the March 2006 GOM Working Group meeting in Halifax to introduce the Working Group, report on activities, and begin to explore opportunities for collaboration.

Eel Grass Working Group:

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

Other activities:

Ecosystem Status reporting

- BoFEP members continued to work with both DFO and GOMC on the development of a framework for periodic State of the Bay of Fundy reporting. DFO was working on Ecosystem Overview and Assessment reports (EOA) and the GOMC, on indicators and reporting under ESIP (Ecosystem Indicators Partnership). BoFEP contributed substantially to developing a working framework for describing stressors and effects on the Fundy environment for the EOA reports (Section 8). There is continued input through conference calls, meetings and reviews of documents both for the development of the Strategy for Gulf of Maine indicators and State of Environment reports.
- BoFEP also provided ESIP with considerable reference material on indicators to permit the development of the strategic document together with its framework for linking indicators, monitoring, reporting and management actions.
- BoFEP members continue to work on several initiatives resulting from the 2004 Summit process including working on the Contaminants Working Group of ESIP and keeping current with the science of monitoring, the choice of suitable indicators and the process of developing state of the environment reports.

Gulf of Maine Summer Institute

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

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

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

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

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

- BOFEP and GOMC maintain open communications and exchange information on issues of concern throughout the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy coastal, marine and watershed;
- BOFEP website is cross linked to the Gulf of Maine Council website;
- BOFEP displays and information materials have been on exhibit at the GOM Summit (Oct. 2004), GOM Visionary awards ceremony (Jan.2005, 2006, 2007), GOM WG meetings (March 2005, June 2005, June 2006) and Council meetings (June 2005, June 2006).



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

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

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

Recommended action: For information only.

Prepared by: Patricia Hinch, NSEL

Date: June 4, 2007

Habitat Restoration Subcommittee

GOMC/NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership

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

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

GOM Barrier Removal Monitoring Workshop

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

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

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

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

Restoration Subcommittee Efforts

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



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Council Working Group Meeting

June 12, 2007

Meeting briefing packet • **Final Version** • June 7, 2007

well as printed copies from the Maine State Planning Office. The salt marsh restoration primer is nearing completion and will be available on the website soon, as well as printed versions once funds are raised.

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



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Project Synopsis

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

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

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

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

Budget Summary (\$U.S.)

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

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



Ecosystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP) Briefing

Working Group: June 12-13, 2007

Where we stand: ESIP has grown to approximately 80 members from 42 different Canadian and U.S. organizations. Although we are still trying to determine a chair for 2 of the 6 indicator subcommittees (eutrophication and coastal development), significant progress has been made in bringing new members into the actions and tasks outlined in the Gulf of Maine Council Action Plan..

What we've accomplished during the last 3 months: ESIP and the Climate Change Network held a joint meeting on June 11, 2007, in New Brunswick. The meeting served two purposes: (1) To launch the Climate Change Network and (2) to determine the potential effects that climate change might have on the various indicators that the ESIP subcommittees are discussing. Several documents were put out before the meeting including the Terms of Reference for the ESIP subcommittees and a Climate Change Background document written by Gary Lines, Kyle McKenzie, and Chantal Gagnon. Speakers at the meeting included Bill Burtis, Greg Flato (International Panel on Climate Change), and Real Daigle.

The meeting also was used as a vehicle for discussing where each of the ESIP subcommittees is in the process of determining priority indicators. The group worked in plenary session to foster cross-subcommittee discussion so that each subcommittee is aware of indicators that could potentially be shared between two or more topic areas.

Funding needs for future work: ESIP has made good progress towards developing a nutrients and contaminant web tool for coastal managers through the GeoConnections work which is to be completed in January 2008. However, for the tool to be most useful to the community at large, it is important to bring the indicators from the other subcommittee work (coastal development, climate change, aquatic habitats, and fisheries/aquaculture) into the map. Funding is required to update the tool with this data.

In addition, the ESIP Monitoring Map [<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/esip/>] has undergone some significant changes in the past month and a half. It is important to secure funding to continue updating this map and adding in other monitoring locations and metadata as they become available.

Finally, at this point ESIP believes it is critical to conduct user-needs assessments and to make presentations of the ESIP products at local environmental policy agencies. These short presentations would focus on the mapping tools (both the ESIP monitoring map and the GeoConnections map) and serve as an introduction on how to use the tools and as a means of obtaining feedback from users.



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

Summary of Meeting Goals and Outcomes

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

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

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

The goals of the meeting were to:

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Identifying spatial and temporal scales for an EBM approach

The Integration of Science and Management

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

Action Item 5 – A Common Vision for EBM in the Gulf of Maine¹

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

Goal:

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

Objectives

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

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

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

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

Who

Potential Lead Individuals/Entities

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

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



- Susan Farady – The Ocean Conservancy

Initial Work Group Members

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

Council Ocean Network Terms of Reference

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

Purpose

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

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

Organization

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



Engaging Council partners via strategic alliances

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

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

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATIONS: In June the Council should:

- Discuss and finalize the policy guidance on how to approach strategic alliances and partnerships (attached);
- Assess the list of organizations² the Working Group believes can accelerate progress on activities in the 18-month work plan & direct the Working Group to prepare and negotiate at least one Agreement by December 1, 2007; and
- Amend and approve a Resolve of Support from the Council to the BoFEP (see attached)

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

June 1, 2007
Draft – Not for distribution or citation

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

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

Develop Partnerships	Monitor Performance	Evaluate Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify desired goals, objectives, results and/or deliverables consistent with the <i>Action Plan</i> and annual work plan ▪ Address intellectual property concerns (e.g., federal and other funder access and distribution requirements) ▪ Assess costs and benefits³ ▪ Determine appropriate mechanism ▪ Understand motives and assess ability of partners to perform ▪ Identify termination and evaluation criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parties periodically assess attainment of interim results & report on them ▪ Dialogue is open and frank about progress toward shared objectives ▪ Adapt as required to strengthen partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess informal and formal results, outputs, and outcomes ▪ Determine effect on <i>Action Plan</i> mid- and long-term outcomes ▪ Determine if Agreement should be amended, other parties added, renewed or terminated

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

Draft – June 3, 2007
June 5, 2007

Statement of Support for the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signed this ____ day of June 2007

Council Chairman, Byron James
NB Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture

Date: June 1, 2007

Broadening the funding base to implement the Action Plan

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

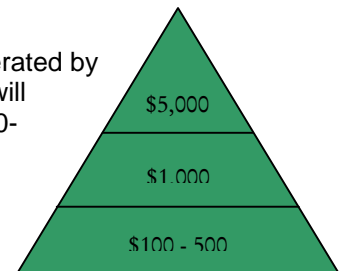
BACKGROUND: The Council has adopted an ambitious 5-year Plan that proposes a series of outcomes that many individuals and organizations around the Gulf support. It is timely for the Council to cultivate the external relationships necessary for these organizations to bring their shared human and financial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

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

This effort would have two purposes:

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

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



CAG suggests the following key program elements:

- The Council will need to be clear with donors about the benefits for them to participate (e.g., public recognition, charitable donation, etc.);
- Contributing sponsors make a charitable donation and receive a statement from the Council that they can use when filing their taxes. The goal is that these will be annual, renewable gifts provided the donor concurs there is real value in how the gift was used;
- The charitable donations are placed within the Council's Action Plan Grant Program and distributed on a competitive basis to support implementation of the Action Plan⁴;
- The Council, in administering the program, has sole control of how the funds are expended;
- The Council will continue to operate the program in an open and transparent manner with rigorous, public reporting of results;

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Council should address the following items:

1. Use of the funds and benefit to donors – Discuss the suggestion of using the funds to support local and regional groups addressing priorities through the Action Plan Grant Program and brainstorm the benefits to donors.
2. Identify possible lead gifts – Between June and December Councillors identify and work with the development contractor to secure 2-3 lead gifts (e.g., private phase).

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



3. Launch program – Between December and June Councillors on a peer-to-peer basis engage 10-15 non-profit organizations, Foundations and businesses identified by the Council. The goal is to announce the first ten sponsors at the June 2008 meeting with a kick-off event by a Governor and Premier.

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

Date: June 1, 2007

Annual dues & contribution levels and uses of these funds

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In addition, the Council develops and applies an annual indirect grant rate, calculated by the auditor, to all external funding it receives. In the 1990's the Council has designated the USGOMA as its primary business office

Summary – Status Quo for July 2007 to June 2008

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



and indirect funds are used to support its expenses (e.g., executive director, finance assistant, auditor, etc.) and some Council activities that benefit all aspects of the organization (e.g., ½ of total secretariat expenses). (The annual cost of the USGOMA/business office is tied to the work the Council directs it to do through the annual work plan (e.g., negotiate and manage contracts, manage financial accounts, etc.) It has no other functions).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Determine Core Council Activities – The Council should discuss and agree on what are the core Council services. (see above suggestion from CAG as a starting point)

B. Commence Planning for a Dues/Contribution Increase – The Council should direct the Council Advisory Group to:

- Identify efficiencies and consider ways to reduce costs for core Council activities;
- Explore a dues/contribution increase and implementation strategy for the period July 2008 to June 2009 to support core Council activities;
- Continue to investigate other sources of funds (e.g., federal grants, non-government, other agencies with coastal/ocean mandates, etc.) to support core activities and develop recommendations;
- Develop a policy that provides flexibility to allocate dues/contributions opportunistically (i.e., in the event other funds are available to support a portion of the core activities these funds could match and otherwise leverage external funding, etc.)



Dues Budget Report

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

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

* The Canadian Dues listed above represent the following jurisdictions:

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

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



Development of Susan Snow-Cotter Council Award

Summary

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

Proposed Award Name

Susan A. Snow-Cotter Leadership Award

Proposed Award Text

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

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

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

Additional Criteria (not listed on actual award):

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

Proposed Process

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



Canada/US Steering Committee Work in the Gulf of Maine

Briefing Note for Gulf of Maine Council Meeting – June 12, 2007

Background:

- The Canada-US Bi-lateral Steering Committee (SC) was established in 1995 to promote a collaborative approach to the management of Georges Bank groundfish resources in the Gulf of Maine, stemming from the 1986 Hague Line decision. Scientific collaboration was formalized in 1998 with the creation of the *Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee (TRAC)*, which jointly assesses cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder stocks. In 2000, the *Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC)* was established, which provides the forum for recommending CA and US quota allocation to the SC. The SC recently broadened its scope to include additional working groups related to integrated marine management:
 - *Species at Risk Working Group (2003)*
 - *Habitat Working Group (2004)*
 - *ad-hoc Oceans Working Group (2005)*.

Oceans Working Group:

- The Oceans Working Group has agreed to develop a Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Report (EOAR) for the Gulf of Maine to characterize the ecosystem and advance ecosystem-based management in the area.
- Group is now Co-Chaired by Dave Duggan (DFO – OCMD) and Mike Fogarty (NOAA – NMFS)
- Completed to date: An annotated bibliography of key overview reports to populate DFO's standard EOAR Table of Contents and guidance on how to develop this report jointly between two countries. This was presented and discussed at a March 2007 working group meeting in Woods Hole.

Habitat Working Group:

- The Habitat working group are exploring mechanisms to enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing as it relates to habitat issues and habitat management in the Gulf of Maine.
- Group is now Co-Chaired by Ted Potter (DFO – HMD) and Peter Colosi (NOAA – NMFS)
- Current work has focussed on exploring the use of benthic habitat classification schemes to assist in habitat management issues. A recent working session was held in March 07 to examine the Kostylev model as a tool for habitat management. There was general agreement that it has considerable potential for application and the working group will continue to examine it.

Governance Report for Gulf of Maine:

- DFO have recently had completed a report entitled, *Overview of Current Governance in the Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine: Transboundary Collaborative Arrangements and Initiatives*. This report was a deliverable under a joint workplan between NOAA and DFO signed in 2006. The next step will be to hold a workshop to engage in further dialogue about this report and how it may be used to advance work in the Gulf of Maine.

Linkages between Can/US Work and GOMC:



- There are obvious linkages between the efforts of the Can/US Steering Committee work and the Gulf of Maine Council (as detailed in Action Plan and Workplan). It will be important to ensure that all parties are aware of each others work so that efforts can be complimentary and not duplicative.
- Some links include:

<i>GOMC Workplan Item</i>	<i>Can/US Work</i>
1.7 Identify coastal and marine policies and programs and their role in enabling and ecosystem based approach	Overview of Current Governance in the Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine Report
1.10 Develop a framework for ecosystem characterization that integrates existing chemical, physical, and biological knowledge as well as human uses	BOF/GOM Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Report
1.13 Facilitate communication about subtidal habitat classification methodologies in the Gulf of Maine and work toward a consistent approach	Exploration and validation of Kostylev benthic classification model by Habitat Working Group
1.19 Support and enable interactions among existing programs involved in implementing an ecosystem-based approach to management and policy.	Overview of Current Governance in the Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine Report
2.1 Develop and disseminate tools for managers to use Gulfwatch data and analyses through partnerships with other regional efforts	Overview of Current Governance in the Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine Report

Securing Funds for Gulf of Maine Council Priorities

Ingredients for Success

While there are many factors that contribute to the success of the Council in securing the resources necessary to implement the 5-year Plan the following seem most pronounced:

- *A compelling idea consistent with the Action Plan* – The 18-month Work Plan identifies 31 specific activities.
- *A motivated person and/or team* – Every good idea for a funding proposal needs a champion familiar with the content and willing to make the time to secure the resources.
- *Access our network of people and resources* – The Council has a network (e.g., agencies, non-profits, friends) willing to consider thoughtful proposals. We need to access these people to pursue project ideas.
- *Capitalize on our inherent asset* – The government agencies that comprise the Council have an incredible level of resources at their disposal. The most strategic proposals seek sustained funding (e.g., institutionalize an initiative, host jurisdiction, etc.) versus one-time funding proposals.

Fund Development Strategies

Source	Uses of funds	Lead	Comments
Annual Dues & Contributions	Support core services	CAG and M&F	Report out at 12/07 meeting
Contributing Sponsors Program	Action Plan Grants	M&F w/support from Councilors	Lead contributions by 12/07
October 2007 US Appropriation	Signature and project activities	State Councilors	NROC letter submitted in 3/07
US GOM Program Office	Signature and project activities	US GOMA	Outline completed
Ocean Action Plan – Phase II	Signature and project activities	EC, DFO & Provinces	
Strategic Alliances with Partners	TBD	M&F, CAG	
Grants > \$50,000 (3-5 submitted)	TBD	Activity Leads & David	
Grants < \$50,000	TBD	Activity Leads, WG	
Jurisdictional Buy-in	TBD	WG and Committee members	
Other			

Maximizing use of the 2007 Premiers/Governors Proclamation

OPINION AND RECOMMENDATION “Advice to Working Group and Management committee”

Date: April 15, 2007

ISSUE: What things can the Council do to maximize the use/benefit of the pending Premiers/Governors Proclamation in support of the Action Plan?

BACKGROUND: As described below the 2006 Council self-assessment called for strengthening linkages between the Council and the Premiers/Governors.

Council Issues/Problems	Examples	Possible Responses Offered in Surveys
Linkage to Governors and Premiers – the linkage between the Governors/Premiers is weak and council members are not fully engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council member participation is spotty ▪ Inconsistent Councillor support & allocation of resources ▪ Limited public relations with jurisdictions ▪ Hard to measure our progress on issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better track progress, make outcomes measurable, disseminate routine communication products (e.g., Annual Report, e-news, etc.), & raise profile/make a name for the Council ▪ Make opportunities happen & engage the media ▪ Pursue “signature activities” & cogent statements of what Council does ▪ Make economic-environmental linkage clear ▪ Convene G/P once a year at summer meeting

CURRENT STATUS: In April we collected the quotes, photos and signatures to accompany the GOMC proclamation (originally this was to be included in the Action Plan).

OPTIONS:

1. Prepare press releases from each Premiers and Governors office that highlights the Proclamation with a locally relevant hook. (Perhaps tied to some current provincial/state legislative initiative, etc.)
2. Organize press conferences for each Premier and Governor at a coastal location with an associated theme related to their quote. (Could be staged at a pre-planned upcoming event – the new industry awards program offers an opportunity.)
3. Organize special event (e.g., theme session on oceans, etc.) or press conference at the June 2007 NEGC/ECP meeting that connects in with NROC/OWC work.
4. Councillors explore ways to use the Proclamation to garner support for coastal and marine programs within their jurisdiction/agency.
5. Council uses Proclamation shamelessly to garner support from foundation community.
6. Display a “banner” on the Council’s opening web page conveying strong support from the Premiers/Governors, (this could be frequently updated with highlights of successes or projects from around the region)..



7. Create a Premiers/Governors web page on the Council's site. Place this material there and routinely show alignment of the Proclamation with emerging state/provincial and federal efforts. (Make it a place to show their commitment to the issues in the Plan and more broadly to ocean and coastal issues.
8. Parley the Proclamation into tangible support – use it as a stepping stone.
9. Create a GOM Times article around the Proclamation and interview each Premier and Governor as a part of the article.
10. Twice a year prepare and release an article in the respective jurisdiction (e.g., ten articles/year) highlighting an issue in the Action Plan and supporting work in that jurisdiction that the Governor/Premier is supporting.
11. Distribute the Proclamation when the 2007 Action Plan Grant Program recipients are announced. (Consider having the Premiers and Governors release the Grant announcements.)
12. The Council works to ensure we do the three items in the “Therefore”
 - address these priorities in their annual work plans and budgets;
 - routinely report on its progress so that the region's residents are informed of our successes and challenges.
13. Distribute to partners we want to cultivate along with other materials.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Management and Finance should consider how it can make the most of the Proclamation.

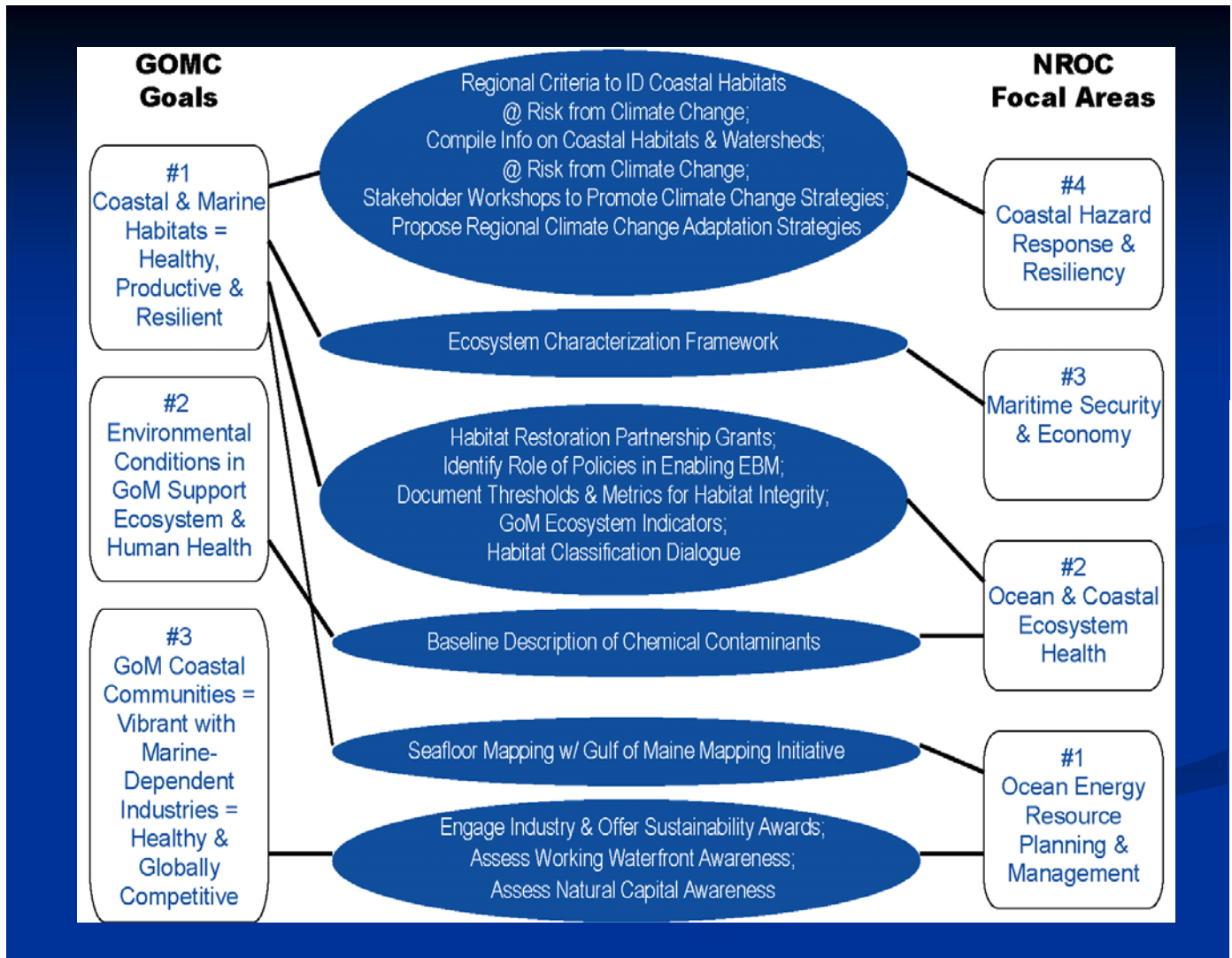
Northeast Regional Ocean Council Holds 2007 Ocean Congress

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

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

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

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





Reporting to the Governors and Premiers

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

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

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

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

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

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



2007-2008 Council and Working Group meeting scheduling

Background

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

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

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

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

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

Action requested

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

Submitted by Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator



Senior Science councilor nominees as of April 1, 2007

Canada

Dr. Kelly Munkittrick

University of NB
Saint John NB

Dr. Gerhard Pohle

Hunstman Marine Science Center
St. Andrews NB

Dr. Robert L. Stephenson

St. Andrews Biological Station
St. Andrews NB

Chair or other scientific representative

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership

US

John Annala

Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Portland, ME

Mike Fogarty

NOAA Fisheries
Woods Hole, MA

Verna Delauer

University of NH
Durham, NH

Bob Steneck

University of Maine Darling Center
Walpole ME

Cameron Wake

University of NH
Durham, NH

Sandy Sage

Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences

Research Coordinator

National Estuarine Research Reserve
Wells, ME or Great Bay, NH)

Lou Incze

Gulf of Maine Census for Marine Life

International Chair or other scientific representative

Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine