



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

Meeting Briefing Packet

Working Group • Final Version • June 12, 2009

Halifax, NS • June 23-24, 2009



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Day 1 – Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Offices
Boardroom 3A, 1741 Brunswick Street

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

9:00 AM	Welcome, introductions, and overview and objectives for the meeting Justin Huston, GOMC Working Group Chair, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
9:10 AM PAGE 6 PAGE 12	Accept consent agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2009 meeting summary acceptance Committee and Subcommittee reports
9:15 AM PAGE 17	Climate Change Network Update - Status of Action Plan Activities <i>Gary Lines, Canadian Co-chair, Climate Change Committee and acting Climate Change Network Coordinator</i> Background: With the approaching deadline for a number of climate change activities itemized in the Action Plan, a review of the current situation as well as recommendations for ways ahead are proposed. Outcome/decision: Since each of the activities require collaboration with one or more of the Subcommittees, requesting decision on ways ahead for these specific activities from Working Group.
9:45 AM	State of the Environment Reporting update and next steps Jay Walmsley, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Justin Huston Background: A 2 nd draft of the scoping document developed by DFO on behalf of the Council will be distributed prior to the meeting. More thought has gone into Council's potential role in facilitating a SOE report for the Gulf of Maine. Outcome/decision: Working Group to develop recommendations to Councilors on the potential roles and implications for Council in facilitating a State of the Environment Report for the Gulf of Maine.
10:30 AM	Coffee break and light snack
11:00 AM PAGE 19	Council participation in RARGOM Symposium and update on BoFEP conference <i>Justin Huston and Peter Wells, Working Group member and BoFEP CoChair</i> Background: The 8 th BoFEP Science Workshop was held May 26-29 in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. ESIP chaired a session on environmental indicators and several GOMC members attended the conference. October 4-9, RARGOM is hosting the Gulf of Maine Symposium in St. Andrews, NB. GOMMI will be chairing a session on seafloor mapping for ecosystem based management. Outcome/decision: Working Group members will discuss Council's involvement in these two events and discuss attendance at the Gulf of Maine Symposium in concurrence with the October WG meeting.
11:30 AM	Update on Nova Scotia's State of the Coast Report <i>Justin Huston</i> Background: The Government of Nova Scotia will be releasing its State of the Coast report this summer, which provides an environmental and socio-economic overview of Nova Scotia's coastal areas and the status of six coastal issues considered management priorities by the provincial government. The State of the Coast report and subsequent public feedback will inform Nova Scotia's Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy, due for release in 2010. Outcome/decision: for information purposes
12:00 PM	Lunch (on your own)
1:30 PM POSTED ON- LINE	Preparation for Councilor TAPAS and funding decisions <i>Justin Huston, Cindy Krum, and Michele Tremblay</i> Background: Council decisions are required regarding the future of Council's key programs and core services. A second iteration of the detailed summaries of each core program areas has been completed for WG review: www.gulfofmaine.org/tapas (LOGIN: <i>your email address</i> , PASSWORD: <i>tapas</i>).



	Outcome/Desired Action: WG will make final revisions to the TAPAS sheets and will gain an in-depth understanding of the issues facing Council.
2:30	Coffee break and light snack
2:45	Preparation for Councilor TAPAS and funding decisions – <i>continued</i>
4:00 PM SENT VIA EMAIL	Review of 09/10 Budget for Council <i>Cindy Krum</i>
4:30 PM	Recess for the day
6:30 PM	Group Dinner Meet in the lobby of the Citadel Hotel

Day 2 – Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Environment Canada Offices, 15th Floor
45 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth

9:00 AM	Time for unfinished business from Day 1
9:30 AM	<p>Use and Influence of Marine Environmental Information: Continued Studies of Publications of Intergovernmental Groups such as the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment <i>Dr. Peter Wells, Dalhousie University and Working Group member</i></p> <p>Background: Our research addresses fundamental questions about the use and influence of scientific information produced by marine environmental governmental and intergovernmental groups. The GOMC recognizes that decision makers must have efficient access to data and information about the GOM. Production and communication of new information has been a GOMC priority, resulting in over 300 publications of various types, disseminated both in hard copy and since the late 1990s, available on gulfmaine.org. We are tracking the literature by several methods and are determining its use and influence at the policy and decision making levels of governments. An extensive bibliography of the publications has been assembled and the literature analyzed bibliometrically. The study is continuing with more in-depth analyses of use, especially with interviews of users around the GOM.</p> <p>Outcome/decision: The WG will be briefed on this study that is focusing in part on the GOMC publications. We will alert the group to our need for interviews of WG members, Council members, and others in the region. Advice as to who the others might be will be solicited. This study is linked to all major parts of the current GOMC Action Plan.</p>
10:00 AM	<p>Enhanced Measures for the Management of Shellfish Harvest Areas Adjacent to Waste Water Treatment Plants in Canada <i>Presenter to be determined</i></p> <p>Background: The Federal Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program (CSSP) is implementing enhanced measures for shellfish harvest areas adjacent to waste-water treatment plants (WWTPs). If WWTPs fail and potentially contaminate nearby harvest areas, it is critical that effective response measures are put in place to prevent affected shellfish from reaching domestic and international markets.</p> <p>Outcome/decision: for information purposes</p>
10:30 AM	<p>Atlantic Canada Regional Adaptation Collaborative <i>Kyla Milne, Climate Change Section, Nova Scotia Department of Environment</i></p> <p>Background: The four Atlantic Provinces will be undertaking a major project to research, develop and implement climate change adaptation tools throughout the region. In Nova Scotia, the project will focus largely on adaptation tools for coastal communities responding to climate change impacts such as flooding, erosion and other coastal hazards.</p> <p>Outcome/decision: for information purposes</p>
11:00 AM	Adjourn for lunch and prepare for Council panel discussion on the future of bi-national



	agreements in the Gulf of Maine
1:00 PM	Council Meeting begins Working Group members are encouraged to attend the panel discussion on options for bi-national agreements in the Gulf of Maine <i>See Council agenda for details</i>
3:30 PM	Council and Working Group tour of the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic 1675 Lower Water Street, Halifax http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mma
6:30 PM	Councilor reception Citadel Hotel, 1960 Brunswick Street, Halifax

**Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
Meeting Summary
NH Department of Environmental Services
Pease International Tradeport, NH
March 25-26th, 2009**

Working Group members present

John Catena, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Ted Diers, NH Department of Tim Hall, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Justin Huston, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Julia Knisel, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Gary Lines, Environment Canada; Linda Mercer, ME Department of Marine Resources; Hilary Neckles, US Geological Survey; Betsy Nicholson, Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Kathryn Parlee, Environment Canada; Ann Rodney, US Environmental Protection Agency; Susan Russell-Robinson; US Geological Survey, Department of Interior; Jack Schwartz, MA Division of Fisheries; and Jane Tims, NB Department of Environment.

Others present

Peter Alexander, Talking Conservation; Laurie Allen, National Wildlife Federation; Heather Breeze, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Michelle Chisholm, Administrative Assistant; Adrienne Harrison, Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Glen Herbert, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; David Keeley, GOMC Fund Development Coordinator, The Keeley Group; Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association; Slade Moore, Habitat Restoration Coordinator, GOMC/ME State Planning Office Coastal Program; Christine Tilburg, ESIP, Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment; Michele Tremblay, Council Coordinator; and Jay Walmsley, Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda (including Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative and Climate Change updates) was accepted.

Julia asked for an update on nominations for the GOM Visionary Awards, Susan Snow-Cotter Award and Longard Award. At this time, two nominations have been received.

Action : *Michele Tremblay will send out a reminder to Working Group. Management and Finance to flag as a follow up item .*

Welcome to Portsmouth

Ted Diers introduced Mayor Tom Ferrini, who welcomed the Working Group members, provided background on Portsmouth, and expressed his appreciation for the Council's work.

Marine Resources Plan for Southwest New Brunswick and NB Coastal Policy

BOFMRP.ca/links/information/input/reports

Action: Jane will email Michele T. the current report draft for her to post on www.gulfofmaine.org.

State of the Gulf report feasibility and support

Jay Walmsley, DFO, presented her State of the Environment Report (SOER) scoping document and raised several recommendations and discussion points:

- Recommend that Council take a leadership/champion role.
- One context document (fairly static—updated approximately every ten years) with up to thirteen theme papers.
- Focus initially on the 6 theme areas of ESIP, with perhaps a workshop or special WG session to agree on the specific theme paper topics.
- The theme papers could be contracted out to outside entities/contractors
- Use of “wiki” style SOE with moderator (to start)
- Web portal development and maintenance
- A estimated budget was presented (\$150-170k over 3 years) that includes in-kind services such as donation of services for theme papers

Discussion



Will this report gauge the effectiveness of governments' management? The goal is to report on the state of environmental conditions. Many of the jurisdictions are already doing this for their own areas but there does not appear to be a Gulf-wide holistic report. Many agencies are looking for performance measures for regulation and other processes. Each agency conducts its own process so a Gulf-wide SOER may not be used by individual jurisdictions. Can a Councilor really use this report to make change? It could eventually lead to support changes in mandate or legislation. Jurisdictions may be able to use the Gulf report as leverage to make changes where otherwise, they might not have the documentation or support. Could this report be done by a high profile organization such as a think tank or academic consortium? There is nothing wrong with the Council conducting this process or something happening because of an SOER. The organizations who have conducted their own processes have taken responsibility for not only its content but also the conditions reported in it. If a jurisdiction writes a report, it may be a "call to action" for its own state or provincial agency but it may not change a federal agency's mandate. However, Councilors may become empowered to influence policy or mandate.

The modular approach is good; it helps with keeping the SOER process manageable. Wikis seems to be a good resource and eventually may not require moderation but instead become self-managed.

From where will funding come? The GOMC doesn't have any funding and can't take on more work. If agencies provide funding and staff services, this effort would not detract from the GOMC's already strained resources. NOAA and DFO have made a commitment through the ecosystem overview, where existing information is already being collected. The next step for them would be to write a report so the GOMC SOER could be that next step. This information will be presented at the Transboundary Steering Committee April 2009 meeting in Boston. DFO is interested in conducting an SOER. Is the GOMC an appropriate body to conduct and broaden this effort Gulf-wide?

Action: NOAA, DFO, and others, including other federal agencies and provinces and states, will document what processes are in process, what resources are available from those entities, and what is needed so that the Council can determine its role and what it can contribute, so that the Council is prepared for this discussion and decisions at the June 2009 meeting. The Working Group chair will work with the Council Coordinator to convene conference calls to scope this process, prepare for the June 2009 discussions, and frame decisions for the Council.

Action: Working Group members will provide their comments on the SOER scoping document to Jay Walmsley.

NOAA Marine Spatial Planning Tool Demonstration

Betsy Nicholson and Adrienne Harrison provided MSP examples including MA Ocean Planning Fund, TNC-NOAA Northwest Atlantic Ecological regional assessment, ME Bay Management, ESSIM, and Cadastre marine information system. All of these tools need to be able to interact: the Public perception is that there are many tools and they are duplicative. Individual jurisdictions are filling this role so there may not be a value to the Council working on a Gulf-wide marine spatial planning tool. Advancing the efforts through sharing and collaboration might be a Council role. The Council's meetings could be a vehicle to better coordinate or make others aware of individual efforts.

Action: Presentation to be posted on the Gulf of Maine Council website.

Action: NOAA will bring to the next WG meeting copies of the Marine Managed areas : Best Practices for Boundary Making

Supporting Councilors to be more active in Council affairs

Discussion

The Council-activity ambassadors match should be based on interest and mandate. With diminishing contractor resources, the Council must find a strategy to engage and support Councilors participation. One Councilor reported that he had certain "hot button" issues and would come to Council meetings as a learner and a presenter. Otherwise, he may not want to invest his time. Should Council agendas include committee updates at every meeting? Should the Council be more involved in developing its own meeting agendas? Can the Council convene conference calls three months after each meeting to stay more engaged? Is this process going to be challenging because there are too many different levels at the Council table and this may not foster a peer interaction.

Parking lot issue: The Council might consider what it can do to attract and keep active its members.
Version 2, March 25, 2009

GOMC Activity	Potential Councilor Involvement and Ambassador Roles in 2009-2010	What would they do?
GOM Mapping Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pat Kurkul, (Pete Colosi?), Michael Murphy?, Rob Stephenson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> assist in articulating the need for seafloor maps and assist Coordinator—finish maps make connections at the federal level encourage use of maps
Habitat Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jennifer Smith, Mike Murphy, Priscilla Brooks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> help define committee purpose and recruit Canadian participants and foster leadership (need US and CA co-chairs)
Habitat Monitoring		
Habitat Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pat Kurkul and Kathleen Leyden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> assuring resources
Gulfwatch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greg Roach, John Annala, and Rob Stephenson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> help to ensure Gulfwatch remains active and vital
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jackie Olsen (Leger?), Roland Hache, Mel Cote, Don Hudson 	
Ecosystem Indicators Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priscilla Brooks, Lee Sochasky, Mel Cote 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> help to articulate the value and application of indicators of ecosystem health
Outreach, Public Relations, and Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jamie Geiger (Kyla Hastings) Carolyn Gravel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide outreach support services in creating and distributing releases and notices assist with the Sustainable Industry Awards initiative
Information Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Murphy 	
Secretariat operations and Council agenda development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Walls, Kathleen Leyden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> serve as Chairman of the Council engage Councilors between meetings or to help develop agendas
Fund development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Lamb, Jack Wiggin, Don Hudson, Lee Sochasky 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> work collaboratively with Fund Development contractor to develop funding approaches and identify funding opportunities
<i>Gulf of Maine Times</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don Hudson, Lee Sochasky, Greg Thompson 	
Action Plan Grants		
USGOMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don Hudson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perform duties of the President of the Association
Formal liaison with other organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Annala, Rob Stephenson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> represent Council interests with RARGOM and BoFEP 2009 annual conferences.
Industry collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carolyn Gravel Greg Thompson, Bonnie Hoit Hallett (DM Environment), Lee Sochasky 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> assist the SICC in the annual awards sustainable industries, working waterfronts

Councilors not directly or indirectly via his/her designee named in the above table:

Deerin Babb-Brott, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management
Douglas Grout, NH Fish and Game Department
George Lapointe, ME Department of Marine Resources
Jim MacKay, NB Department of Fisheries
David Morse, NS Department of Environment

Ways to engage Councilors

- Brief them on projects and committees and get them to step forward for those efforts

- Invited them to participate in conference calls
- Invite them to subscribe to committee and subcommittee listserves and be informed of efforts and provide support or resources, such as referrals or assigning staff

BoFEP and RARGOM Science events: GOMC participation and support

What Council funding or other support can be provided for these events? Can WG members speak with their respective Councilors and let them know that Rob Stephenson may be approaching them with requests to support the Gulf of Maine Symposium that RARGOM is conducting? RARGOM organizing committee members can also fulfill this role. Members of the Council should commit to being at the RARGOM event. A session on habitat restoration would be a productive way to have a presence at the event. Has GOMMI been invited to present? There is a natural link to the Symposium but GOMMI is financially challenged to even maintain its coordinating contractor. The same situation applies to ESIP but it may be able to support a session. There may be some interest from SICC on a resource development session but it may not be of scientific interest and travel approvals may be challenging. Can the Council take results from the BoFEP workshop, build on them, and move it forward at the RARGOM event? NROC is planning an ecosystem health workshop for either early summer or fall. There is a good opportunity to link this workshop with the RARGOM symposium. ESIP also expressed an interest in principle to participate in the RARGOM event; however, since funding for ESIP is not secured past June, they are unable to commit. One of the theme areas for the symposium will be focused on EBM policy and the chairs have already been selected.

Decision: WG members will work with Rob Stephenson and John Annala to increase Council presence and participation at the RARGOM symposium.

Action: Justin will speak with Rob Stephenson about having him connect with fellow Councilors Mel Cote (EPA) and Deerin Babb-Brott (MACZM) to discuss the possibility of linking the NROC ecosystem health workshop and the RARGOM symposium.

Action: Justin will speak with Rob about communicating potential funding asks to Council agencies to the respective WG members to ensure effective briefing to Councilors.

Action: Liz Hertz, Slade Moore, and the Habitat Restoration Subcommittee will discuss possibility of chairing a session on habitat restoration at the RARGOM symposium and will then speak with Rob and/or John.

Decision: The Council will have a presence at BOFEP through ESIP chairing a session on indicators, the participation of Al Hanson, Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee So-chair, numerous WG members attending the workshop and indirectly through funding from Council agencies. No funding is available from Council for BoFEP.

Restoration: Going beyond salt march and riverine habitat restoration

Background from briefing paper and getting the Gulf of Maine included in this initiative. Habitat restoration is a fund development priority. The proposed June 5, 2009 date may not be reasonable for a summit but could be a reasonable timeline for convening a Steering Committee meeting. Earmarks may be appropriate for starting an initiative but they may not be sustainable. David Keeley and Peter Alexander (with Michele Tremblay participating) led a call with the Canadian WG members on March 23, 2009 with Tracey Barbrick, Tim Hall, Anita Hamilton, Al Hansen, Gary Lines, and Kathryn Parlee to explore coordinating a US and Canadian collaborative effort. DFO is supportive of the Habitat Restoration Subcommittee's work and the Action Plan. The Great Lakes, California, Puget Sound, Gulf of Mexico, etc., are 100% bought in and are getting resources. New England is not getting the same attention from Washington because it doesn't seem to have agreed and worked together. The New England governors have signed on to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative so it is possible to build regional support.

How does the effort decide on priorities? For instance, what wastewater projects are necessary? Where can the best investment be made? Are nutrients a larger threat? How does one decide what issues to research without researching them to see if they are threats? It may be difficult to identify Gulf-wide priorities. There are very different issues for the US vs. Canada. For instance, habitat restoration may be stronger need in the US with conservation and protection and Canada. Does the GOMC's Action Plan provide this guidance? The business community and nonprofits will likely have their own offers and contributions with reports or plans that identify their priorities. Can the GOMC be a leader? This would be an opportunity for the Council to really make a difference and take a more holistic and higher level role.

What are the existing models for bi-national and other initiatives? The estuaries programs are the starting models. The Great Lakes is different because it has a treaty. Would establishing a Gulf of Maine office in the US at NOAA and the Health of the Oceans or Large Ocean Management Area in Canada at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans effort help the Gulf to create a Great Lakes-level initiative? The US

Environmental Protection Agency is working with Environment Canada on a statement of cooperation via a resolution (vs. a treaty). There should be an update ready to discuss at the June Council meeting. Lee Sochasky would be an excellent resource should the Council wish to move forward with this effort in a leadership role. Will the Council "own" this effort? Will it steer? Will it be a convener? The habitat restoration collaborative meeting is slated for June 5. The ME Coastal Program has allocated some funding for this effort but other funds will be necessary. The Great Waters Initiative meeting will be held in New Orleans June 10-11. The Council meeting is June 25. Peter Alexander reported that although he has been working as a volunteer and appreciates everyone's efforts but he does need to be paid to continue the work that he has started.

Action: Michele will create and populate from today's meeting a listserve of interested WG members to be kept in the loop and to be a resource for information/advice/support for the senior-level habitat restoration collaborative steering committee.

Action: John Catena, David Keeley, and Peter Alexander will work with a steering committee to develop a recommendation on how a collaborative would look and what it would accomplish, and what would be the impact to the Council, such as funding needs, re-allocating contractor resources, for the Working Group to bring forward to the Council at its June meeting. John, David, and Peter will prepare for Management and Finance by early May a briefing paper.

Planning for 2009-2010 Work Plan Priorities (TAPAS) and planning for 2009-2010 Council dues and options for supporting upcoming meeting costs

Justin reviewed all of the TAPAS sheets. The Secretariat Team will review the suggestions and comments made during this discussion and make changes, where appropriate, to the TAPAS data entry and PDF generations.

Several options were discussed including charging a registration fee for meeting participation. For instance, \$50 would help defray costs of many guests and observers that participate in Council meetings and events. This could generate significant revenue. For instance, for a meeting with 25 participants, this would generate \$1,250. Over a year, this would generate \$5,000. For larger meetings or Council meetings where there is a larger participation, there would be larger revenues. Some Working Group members' participation is not supported financially (they pay their own way). The Council Coordinator could generate invoices via PayPal when a participant registers for the meeting. The payment could be made via check or online with PayPal.

An alternative is for the host jurisdiction to pay all of the meeting venue and food costs. In this case, the Council would reduce to \$0 the meeting costs line item in its budget. This may discourage local participation. A solution would be to have the host jurisdiction cover the expenses and have participants pay admission with the host allowed a certain number of "free admissions."

Video conferencing can facilitate participation for those who cannot travel. This does come with a cost to the host so it will not save the GOMC. Some of the US and CA federal agencies have capabilities that they can provide gratis. Gathering in one location those who cannot physically go to a meeting is also important because it reduces the likelihood of distraction or walking away for long periods of time while it fosters participation. The GOMC will need to provide a draft agenda right away to facilitate travel request processing for the June meeting. This issue has to be elevated to the Council level for a long-term and sustainable decision.

Action: Justin and Michele will produce and distribute to the Councilors the TAPAS sheets with a conference call agenda and polling message. Greg Roach will convene the conference call where Councilors will discuss the current programs' and decide how they want to prioritize programs/ functions and allocate resources to them.

Action: Michele will work with Justin, Management and Finance, and Jim Cradock to consider and incorporate changes to the TAPAS data entry and PDF formats.

Action: Management and Finance will explore logistics for charging a meeting registration fee and/or having the host jurisdiction pay for all meeting costs. The MandF will present recommendation to the Working Group and Council in June.

Action: the Secretariat will draft a June agenda and distribute it to the WG and Council to facilitate travel requests well in advance of the June meeting.

2010 Council celebratory event development

Theresa Torrent-Ellis was not able to participate in this meeting but briefed Justin Huston, who led the discussion. She suggested linkage with the World Oceans Day event in Maine.

Decision: WG recommended to Council that the celebration be linked to Oceans Day and the June 2010 Council meeting be held in Portland, Maine.

Gulf of Maine Communication Strategy: Peter Alexander and Theresa Torrent-Ellis :

Discussion about how this strategy dovetails with GOMC objectives and how the Outreach Committee could spearhead the effort and provide momentum and a cost effective single point of contact for the initiative. Outreach committee would continue to be active and involved in this initiative.

Is the council to provide advice? Is the capacity there to do this currently? Theresa believes that the capacity is there and the outreach committee is anxious to take on a project. The budget that was outlined in this initiative and there is to be no money to be allocated to this initiative from the Council. Peter Alexander indicated that he will write proposals for this.

Decision: Working Group is comfortable with supporting this and Council should be brought up to date with what is going on as well.

Working Group to provide information in each of their own jurisdictions as to who they should contact within their own departments/agencies and jurisdictions.

Committee members that have already been involved. Only NH Seagrass and Betsy have been the only ones outside that have been approached on this

Sustainable Industries and Communities Committee Working Waterfronts draft of questionnaire for policy makers – Jane Tims:

Jane indicated that she is only a quarter of the way through of developing a questionnaire on assessing Working Waterfront Awareness. She ran through the steps to creating the questionnaire.

Jane will be completing the survey and then run it by the SICC committee.

Justin wondered if there could be two levels of audiences. Those in regulatory roles and those in other areas of government who make decisions. Two tiered type approach beginning with the very high level questions.

This can be set up as well, with a first question asking who you are and what level of decision making you have and can then be directed to an appropriate survey.

June meeting planning, request for agenda input, and biennial meeting scheduling update –

Suggestion at the Working Group meeting in Halifax in December to set out a meeting schedule in advance, and this will help with members to be able to plan their travel, etc.

October 7 & 8th the meeting was scheduled, this is during the RARGOM symposium and would require a change in location to St. Andrew's, NB.

June 22-25th in Halifax

October 7-8th to be moved to St. Andrew's to piggyback with RARGOM symposium

December 7-10th in NH

March 24-25 in ME

June 21-24 in NH

October 6th and 7th – MA

December 6-9th, ME

These are just placeholders, not carved in stone.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Ecosystem Indicator Partnership: Spring 2009 Progress

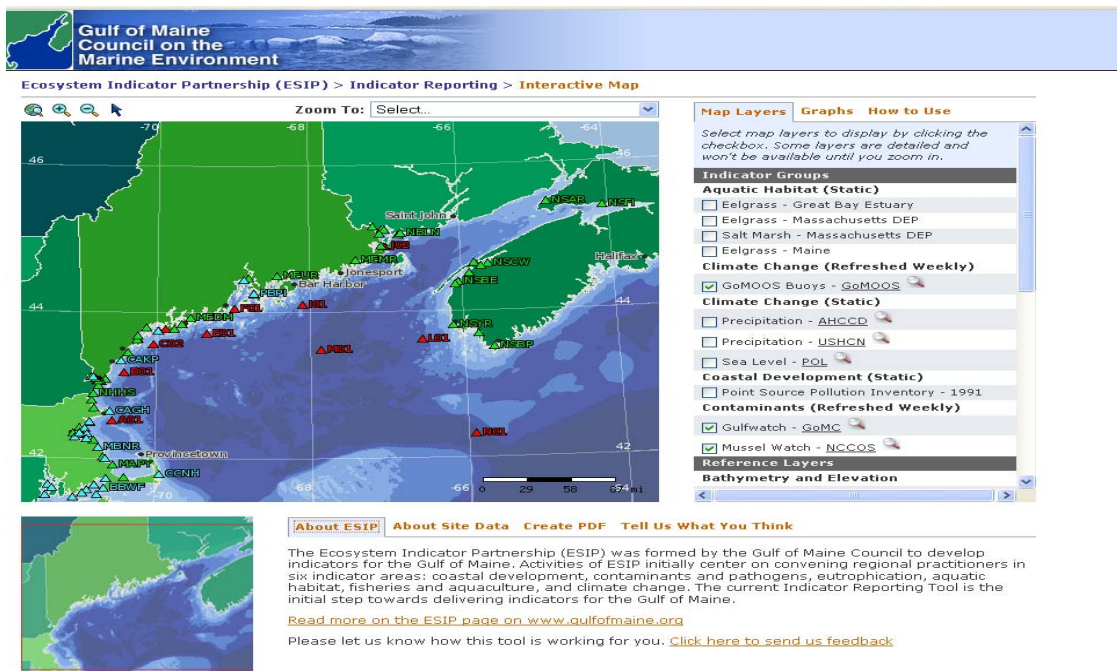
Background

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

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



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



Upcoming Activities

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

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

Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative

Since our reporting at the March 2009 Working Group meeting:

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



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

Funding Update

GOMMI Coordinator funding expires June 30th, 2009.

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

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

Gulfwatch Contaminants Monitoring Subcommittee Update

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

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

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

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

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

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

Climate Change Network Update: Status of Action Plan Activities

Background

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

These activities are:

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

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

Here is a summary of the actions to date:

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

Activity 1.6: Under contract the following deliverable was created,

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

Activity 1.17: Under contract the following deliverable was created,

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

Activity 1.18: Under contract the following deliverable was created,

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

Activity 1.20: No progress on activity this fiscal year.

Activity 1.21: No progress on activity this fiscal year.

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

Possible Next Steps

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

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

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

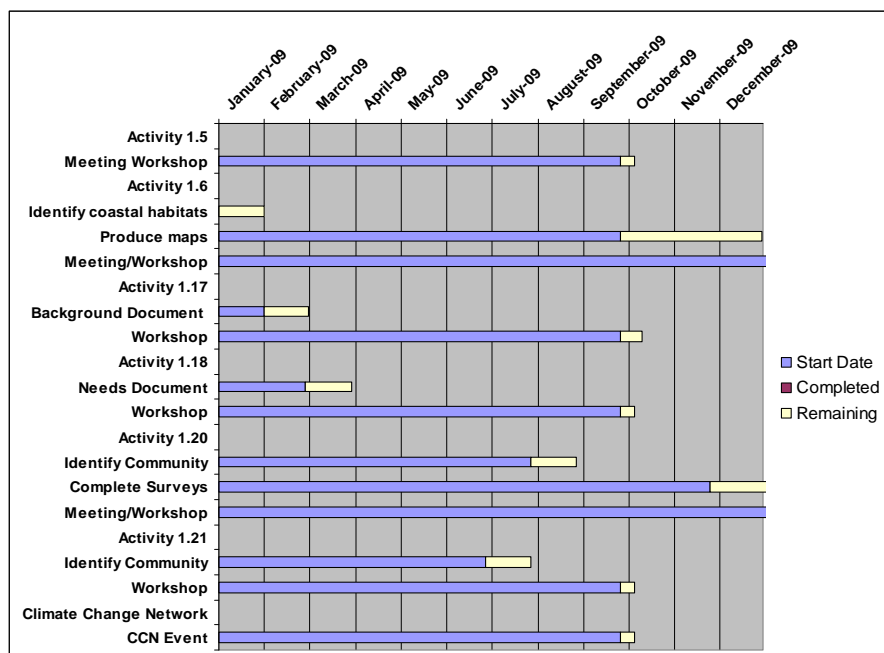
First 2 deliverables would cost approximately \$45K. The second 2 would total \$105K for an annual total of \$150K.

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

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

3. Updated Activity Schedule fro June 2009

The figure below highlights upcoming activity events and milestones.



Submitted by Gary Lines
12 June 2009

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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