



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

**Meeting Briefing Packet**

*Working Group • Final Version • February 25, 2004*

Walpole, ME • March 1-2, 2004



## **Table of Contents**

Working Group meeting agenda .....	2
December 2003 WG meeting decision and action items .....	4
December 2003 Council meeting decision and action items .....	6
Contractor status report .....	8
Gough project status .....	11
EPA Watershed initiative.....	12
Council engagement and meeting planning.....	13
Committee membership and jurisdiction membership gap analysis.....	14
Web Guild, Council archives, and library .....	16
Data Partnership memorandum of understanding.....	17
Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee.....	22
Habitat Conservation Sub-committee .....	23
Habitat Monitoring Sub-committee.....	25
Public Education and Participation Committee .....	26
Nature-based tourism.....	27
Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel .....	28
Coastal Development Forum .....	30
Seals as sentinels for the Gulf of Maine Ecosystem.....	31
Habitat Restoration Sub-committee .....	34
Sewage Management Task Force .....	35
Coastal and marine conservation .....	37



## Working Group meeting agenda

Monday, March 1, 2004

10:30 AM	<b>Gulf of Maine Summit Planning Committee meeting</b>
12:00 PM	<b>Lunch at the Darling Center (provided to those who reserved meal plans)</b>
12:30 PM	<b>Working lunch continues through... Benthic Habitats and Fishing in the Gulf of Maine</b> Les Watling, Professor in Oceanography, University of Maine, Darling Marine Center
1:30 PM	<b>Convene meeting with welcome and introductions</b> <i>Patricia Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour and GOMC Working Group Chair</i>
1:35 PM	<b>Approval of consent agenda</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. December 2003 WG meeting decision and action items – <i>Michele Tremblay, Council Coordinator</i></li> <li>2. December 2003 Council meeting decision and action items - <i>Michele Tremblay</i></li> <li>3. Contractor status report - <i>Cindy Krum</i></li> <li>4. Gough project status report - <i>Justin Huston, NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</i></li> <li>5. Status of GOMC response to EPA Watershed initiative – <i>Michele Tremblay</i></li> <li>6. Council engagement and meeting planning – <i>Pat Hinch and Michele Tremblay</i></li> <li>7. Committee membership and jurisdictional membership analysis - <i>Michele Tremblay</i></li> <li>8. Web Guild, Council archives, and library - <i>Seth Barker, ME Department of Marine Resources and Data Information and Management co-chair</i></li> <li>9. Committee and task force reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Data Partnership memorandum of understanding – <i>David Keeley</i></li> <li>▪ Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee – <i>Steve Jones, University of NH and Peter Wells, Environment Canada and Committee Co-chairs</i></li> <li>▪ Habitat Conservation Sub-committee - <i>Marianne Janowicz and Katie Lund, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management and Sub-committee Co-chairs</i></li> <li>▪ Habitat Monitoring Sub-committee – <i>Hilary Neckles, USGS and Reg Melanson, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service</i></li> <li>▪ Public Education and Participation Committee – <i>Perrin Cothran, Seacoast Science Center and Marilyn Webster, NS Department of Education and Committee Co-chairs</i></li> <li>▪ Nature-based tourism – <i>Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office and project lead</i></li> <li>▪ Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel – <i>Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management and Panel Co-chair</i></li> <li>▪ Sewage Management Task Force – <i>Peter Wells and Pat Hinch, Task Force Co-chairs</i></li> <li>▪ BoFEP strategic plan presentation and Council recommendation - <i>Peter Wells and Pat Hinch</i></li> <li>▪ Coastal development forum – <i>Justin Huston</i></li> </ul> </li> </ol>
1:45 PM	<b>Seals as sentinels for the Gulf of Maine Ecosystem</b> <i>Dr. Susan Shaw, Marine Environmental Research Institute</i>
2:15 PM	<b>Implementation of staffing recommendations/decisions from the Council</b> <i>Pat Hinch</i>
2:30 PM	<b>Developing an annual work plan for July 2004 to June 2005 - core programs and other activities and refining a schedule and budget</b> <i>The Finance Committee will lead this discussion</i>
3:30 PM	<b>Habitat Restoration Strategy</b> <i>Jon Kachmar, Habitat Restoration Coordinator Gulf of Maine Program</i>
4:15 PM	<b>Adjourn and time to enjoy the Darling Center and the local landscape or to conduct committee meetings</b>
6:30 PM	<b>Supper at the Darling Center (provided to those who reserved meal plans)</b>



**Tuesday, March 2, 2004**

7:30 AM	<b>Breakfast at the Darling Center (provided to those who reserved meal plans)</b>
8:30 AM	<b>Indicators workshop and next steps - contribute to fisheries, contaminants, and coastal development indicators “straw man”</b> <i>Peter Wells, Environment Canada and David Keeley</i>
9:30 AM	<b>Gulf of Maine Summit planning update and status of State of the Gulf report</b> Contribute to 2½ day agenda; discuss desired policy outcomes that would result in announcements, proclamations, and next steps and discuss report dissemination, post-event strategy, goals, and objectives <i>Joe Arbour, Department of Oceans and Fisheries for Canada and Susan Snow-Cotter and David Keeley for the US</i>
11:00 AM	<b>Time for items removed from consent agenda</b>
12:00 PM	<b>Lunch at the Darling Center (provided to those who reserved meal plans)</b>
1:00 PM	<b>Time for unfinished business</b>
1:30 PM 60 min.	<b>GOMC Action Plan implementation</b> <i>Coastal and Marine Conservation – recommendations of the Bay Management Task Force and MA Ocean Task Force</i> <i>Kathleen Leyden, ME Coastal Program and Susan Snow-Cotter</i>
15 min.	<b>Goal I</b> Review and recommendation of GOMMI work plan to be presented to Council in June 2004 - <i>Susan Snow-Cotter</i>
15 min.	<b>Goal II</b> Gulfwatch work plan implementation and contaminants - <i>Steve Jones and Peter Wells</i>
15 min.	Sewage implementation extension of task force membership and initiation of work plan - <i>Pat Hinch and Peter Wells</i>
00 min.	<b>Goal III</b> Development of regional sustainable tourism strategy - <i>Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office</i> (in consent agenda—no time currently allotted but listed here to cover all <i>Action Plan</i> goals)
3:15 PM	<b>Time for unfinished business</b>
3:35 PM	<b>Other business and announcements</b>
4:00 PM	<b>Adjourn</b>



## **December 2003 WG meeting decision and action items**

**NS Department of Environment and Labour, Halifax NS • December 2-3, 2003**

### **Working Group members in attendance**

Joe Arbour, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Paul Currier, NH Department of Environmental Services; Russell Henry, NB Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture; Pat Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour; Justin Huston, NS Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Reg Melanson, Environment Canada; Bill O'Beirne, National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration; Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office; Peter Wells, Environment Canada; and Paul Wilson, NB Department of Environment and Local Government.

### **Others in attendance**

Josh McLean, Council Administrative Assistant; Lorrie Roberts, NS Department of Environment and Labour; Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator; and Maxine Westhead, Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

### **Decision items**

1. The consent agenda approved with the exception of items 7, 9, 10, and 13 for which briefing notes were not submitted, item 14 was removed from the agenda for discussion on Wednesday at 3:00, and item 4 was also removed and will be discussed on Wednesday at 11:15 AM. Note: The Canadian Association's report with a balance of \$62,486.02 was presented at the WG meeting prior to consent agenda approval.
2. The recommendation for the indicators presentation to the GOMC will be for Councilors to work with their agency staff to prioritize indicators.
3. The Working Group, in concept, approved the Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee work plan.
4. The Working Group approved in concept, the budget recommendations to put forward to the Council.
5. The Working Group approved the indirect rate of 12.76% and the reserve account recommendations to put forward to the Council.

### **Action items**

1. Add Northeast Coastal Indicators Workshop website link to the GOMC website.
2. Send all FN&T contact and other information to the Council Coordinator.
3. The Council Coordinator will contact Steve Crawford to confirm his attendance at the March Working Group meeting and discuss with him committee membership and other involvement (e.g. panels, task forces).
4. The Working Group made the following recommendations as guidance for the Gulf of Maine Summit report a) The report should be in a generic format with a scientific focus that end-users (NGOs, resource managers) can use, b) be sure that small hard copy run is supported with expanded and annotated "living" web-based document, and c) the report will use the model from another report to be chosen by the Working Group. Peter Wells will notify Working Group members via the listserv that they may volunteer to review the report or assign others in their agencies to provide comments. Knowledge gaps should be identified in each chapter.
5. Peter Wells and Pat Hinch will update the Working Group on implementation of the Sewage Management Plan at the March WG meeting at the Darling Center in Maine.



6. Susan Snow-Cotter and David Keeley will prepare a GOMC response to the Oceans Commission recommendations when its report is released. The draft response will be distributed to the Working Group for its members' comments.
7. The Finance Committee will implement the budget recommendations approved in concept by the Working Group.
8. The Finance Committee will implement the indirect rate of 12.76% and the reserve account recommendations.
9. In preparation for the March meeting (early February), the Council Coordinator will request *Action Plan* progress reports. If progress reports are not received within a week, they will be asked to participate in a conference call where the participants will provide oral updates on the 51+ action items. The results of both reporting options will be included in the subsequent meeting briefing packet. Those not providing updates will not be eligible for funding.
10. If the Sustainable Tourism Task Force wishes to become a Council Committee, it should submit to the Council Coordinator a summary of work completed to date and a terms of reference of the committee's anticipated function for consideration by the Working Group.
11. The Council Coordinator will distribute the web-based *Reference Handbook* via the Working Group listserve prior to the March 2004 meeting. Working Group members will be invited to submit comments and/or participate in a one-hour meeting prior to the March 2004 meeting to discuss next steps in updating the *Handbook*.
12. David Keeley will work with Joe Arbour, Art McKay, and Lee Sochasky on forming a work plan and gaining gubernatorial support from at least Maine for nomination of the Gulf of Maine to the EPA Watershed Initiative. The Council coordinator will transmit to David Keeley the substance of the Working Group meeting discussion and the EPA materials.
13. Pat Hinch will incorporate the Working Groups comments in the documents. The Working Group recommends that the Council come back to the Working Group with position descriptions for a coordinator and for a coordinator and administrative assistant with funding recommendations based on the indirect rate availability with flexibility for using Secretariat dues.

*Submitted by Michele L. Tremblay*



## **December 2003 Council meeting decision and action items**

Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax, NS • December 5, 2003

### **Council members in attendance**

Joe Arbour for Faith Scattolon, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Byron James for David Nathan Alward, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture; Peter Colosi for Pat Kurkul, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service; Chris D'Entremont (later represented by Justin Huston), NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries; Shawn D'Entremont, Inshore Fisheries Limited (private sector NS); George Finney, Canadian Wildlife Service / Environment Canada; Priscilla Geigis for Ellen Roy Hertzfelder, MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; David Haney, Fleet Bank (private sector NH); Hermel Vienneau, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Kerry Morash, NS Department of Environment and Labour; Michael Nolin, NH Department of Environmental Services; Thomas Skinner, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Lee Sochasky, St. Croix International Waterway Commission (private sector NB), and Theresa Torrent-Ellis for Martha Freeman, ME State Planning Office.

### **Others in attendance**

Paul Currier, NH Department of Environmental Services; Graham Daborn, Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership; Russell Henry, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture; David Hartman (retired, NH Office of State Planning Coastal Program); Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada; Patricia Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour; Justin Huston, NS Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Diane Kent-Gillis, NS Department of Environment and Local Government; Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association; Josh McLean, Gulf of Maine Council Administrative Assistant; Reg Melanson, Environment Canada; Andi Rierden, *Gulf of Maine Times*; Lorrie Roberts, NS Department of Environment and Labour; Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Michele L. Tremblay, GOMC Coordinator; Maxine Westhead, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Peter Wells, Environment Canada; and Paul Wilson, NB Department of Environment and Local Government.

The Honorable Kerry Morash, Minister, NS Department of Environment and Labour and Council Chair, opened the meeting.

### **Decision items**

1. Consent agenda approved with the exceptions of items 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 12 for which briefing documents were not included in the meeting packet or were not complete.
2. The financial reports and audit of the US Gulf of Maine Association were accepted and placed in the Council records.
3. The financial reports of the Canadian Association were accepted and placed in the Council records.

### **Action items**

1. The Northeast Coastal Indicators steering group requests that agencies will provide their input on priorities for their leading management issues to David Keeley, ME State Planning Office, by the end of December 2003. This information will be used to guide development of the January 6-8, 2004 workshop.
2. The Gulf of Maine Summit Steering Committee will incorporate the comments and guidance that they received from the Council on the report workshop. The Council Coordinator will email the comments from the Council and Working Group meetings to David Keeley, Susan Snow-Cotter, Peter Wells, and Joe Arbour.
3. The *Reference Handbook* Task Force will consider the Council's suggestion to create and include an "executive summary"- or "at-a-glance"-style document for new Councilors. The document will include



information on the structure of the Council and explanations and procedures on implementing work and contacts for answers to questions.

4. The Transition Team will determine a scope of service(s) for Council coordinating staffing needs and will form a recommendation by the end of January 2004. By mid-February, the Transition Team will convene a conference call of the Council at which time it will make its decision on staffing structure.
5. The Council recommended that the Working Group work with the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem partnership to identify projects and programs of mutual interest which present opportunities for ongoing collaboration and Council funding support (this recommends a similar relationship to the one that Council has built with the Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine which is partially funded by Council).
6. The Council approved, in concept, the budget proposal as presented in the documents prepared by the Finance Committee and recommended by the Working Group.
7. The Council approved the indirect rate (12.76%) as proposed by the Finance Committee and recommended by the Working Group. The funds derived from the indirect rate will pay for administrative functions. The rate will be revised each year as part of the US Association's audit process. Should the indirect funds not be sufficient to cover the administrative functions, Secretariat dues will supplement these costs. The Council directs the Finance Committee to implement this action.
8. The Council approved the creation of a reserve account of \$60,000 US (one month's operating expenses) as proposed by the Finance Committee and recommended by the Working Group. The current year's unallocated \$5,369 US in Secretariat monies will be placed in the account. Unspent funds at the end of the fiscal year (following the US Association's audit) shall be assigned to a reserve account. The Council directs the Finance Committee to implement this action.
9. The Council recommended that some unallocated funds (between \$5,000-10,000) from the Canadian Association be given to Gulfwatch to pay for "catch-up" sample analysis.





## Contractor status report

The following chart is for Working Group Members' information regarding the core and multi-year funded projects contractor responsibilities (with the exception of NEANS and Habitat Restoration Partnership). The tasks and deliverables are edited lists from the Appendix A, Scope of Services in each contractor's contract. The Management Committee would like to ask for a mini-directive from the Working Group to oversee and the creation of "Scopes of Services" for contracts and the tracking of deliverables during the contract period. Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

### Contractor Deliverables Chart through June 30, 2004 • prepared February 2004

Project/Contractor	Tasks/Deliverables	Contract Period	Completion Date
Gulf of Maine Times/ Andi Rierden	Tasks: 1. Draft articles for two editions of the newspaper 2. Incorporate comments and finalize articles 3. Coordinate Layout and printing for each edition 4. Maintain mailing lists and distribute each edition 5. Maintain and coordinate management of the Times on the Gulf of Maine Council Web site 6. Supervise Contributing Writers Deliverable: 2 editions of the GoM Times	January 1, 2004 –June 30, 2004	June 2004
Gulfwatch/Steve Jones	1. Coordinate monitoring for 2003 Gulfwatch program 2. Summarize and integrate all procedures used; 3. Coordinate with other related research and monitoring activities; 4. Compile data and store in EDIMS; and Coordinate 2002 season report writing. Deliverable: Data report for 2002 Gulfwatch field season	October 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004	June 2004
Web and GoM Times Technical Web Support/Allan Gillis	Tasks for GoM Times may include: 1. Take out side columns, place article, and other links all on one page. 2. Place links allowing readers to email a copy of an article. 3. Answer Herbert Eisengruber (the print designer) questions regarding uploading editions. 4. Alert viewers that the "the GoM Times works best with newer versions of Explorer or Netscape." 5. Create a "subscribe to the Gulf of Maine Times" link on the front page. Tasks for Web Project may include: 1. People finder tune-up such as more efficient ways to enter new addresses and removing "title/role" as a mandatory category in the "add yourself" link from the home page. 2. Advising and emergency support such as projects dealing with server problems ("error found" "page not found" etc.) to fixing	September 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004	Ongoing



	“corrupted files” in the GoM Times mailing list and recovering missing addresses.		
Web Project Web Producer/Peter Taylor	1. Manage Web maintenance & development by the Web team and technical specialist; ensure consistency and quality of Web content; long-range planning for Web site; meetings with Web Advisory Group 2. Develop partnerships and coordinate development of 1) online database of publications and 2) interactive mapping capabilities	June 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004	ongoing
Environmental Monitoring Coordinator /Louise White	Tasks: 1. 9-year review of the Gulfwatch results and program 2. Monitoring Program inventory and Integrated Monitoring pilot 3. Participation in committee and Council-related activities Deliverables: 1. Draft integrated interpretative report on the first 9 years of the Gulfwatch program 2. Draft monitoring design and user framework for the 2005 – 2015 Gulfwatch program 3. Report on progress toward a pilot integrated contaminant monitoring program involving 5-10 of the existing Gulf-wide program. 4. Minutes for EQM committee meetings.	January 26, 2004 - June 30, 2004	June 2004
Public Education and Participation Committee (PEPC) Services /Karin Hansen	Tasks: 1. Serve as the public information officer of the Council 2. Coordinate bioregional education and Outreach for the PEPC Committee 3. Attend meetings/events to foster collaborations among like-minded groups 4. Assist with planning of Gulf of Maine Summit 5. Serve on the GOMC web site editing committee 6. Oversee Visibility Campaign Deliverables: 1. Write for the Times and write press releases when needed 2. Create a media and library contact database 3. Plan speaking engagements to showcase the Council using the Action Plan PowerPoint and display 4. Create the text for a teachers resource section on the web site 5. Create and distribute a survey to teachers to determine their resource needs and what they already have regarding the Gulf of Maine/Oversee Committee on this project. 6. Implement NGO Directory Marketing Plan	December 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004	Tasks: Ongoing  Deliverables 1. Ongoing 2. February 04 3. ongoing 4. March 04 5. April 04 6. March 04



<p>Science Translator/ Peter Taylor</p>	<p>1. RIPARIAN BUFFERS Coordinate and obtain input from advisory group of riparian experts Produce document that synthesizes riparian research from GOM region Implement online directory of research findings from GOM region</p> <p>2. MARINE HABITAT CONSERVATION STRATEGY Work with marine habitat conservation sub-committee to plan and produce marine habitat primer and to prioritize threats to marine habitats.</p> <p>3. SALT MARSH RESTORATION Assist in planning and production of habitat restoration Web portal</p> <p>4. Attend conferences, conference calls, and other meetings unrelated to above projects to scope future science translation activities.</p>	<p>June 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
<p>Science Translator/Ethan Nedeau</p>	<p>1. Compile Science Insight Articles –</p> <p>2. Create Climate Change Fact Sheet and Knowledge Base file on web site</p> <p>3. Layout GOMMI Strategic Plan</p> <p>4. Hold conference call for Sewage Fact Sheet</p> <p>5. Produce a 2-3 page narrative that describes the problem and rationale for an integrated regional monitoring approach/network</p> <p>6. Region’s research &amp; information needs – Analyze the results from a national survey of state CZM, NERRS, NEP, Floodplain and fishery managers and prepare a 3-5 page report that builds on the earlier focus group reports and describes the region’s science and information needs with specific attention to the Council’s priorities and their 2006-2010 Action Plan.</p> <p>7. Layout and design of indicators handouts.</p>		<p>February</p> <p>March</p> <p>April-May</p> <p>June</p>

*Submitted by Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association Executive Director*



## **Gough project status**

### **Issue**

- It is proposed that Peter Gough's donated paintings be sold through a raffle.

### **Key messages**

- The idea is to hold a raffle for the Gough paintings over a period of several months with the goal of raising U\$3,000-\$6,000 through the sale of U\$20-\$30 tickets.
- Tickets are proposed to be sold at GOMC events and meetings, through the Council web page, and by partnering with NGO's, businesses, etc.
- There may be issues with obtaining a multi-state/province lottery permit and we may therefore be required to hold the raffle in only one jurisdiction.
- Lisa McCuaig is currently working on logistics, including development of a marketing strategy.

### **Background**

- The raffle concept was suggested by the Goughs who have been successful with raffles in the past (i.e. it raised more money than a simple sale).
- Originally, the Council had recommended that the paintings be placed in the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia; however, they do not allow a second party to sell or rent pieces. The Goughs would prefer not to sell the paintings themselves directly as they will have to pay HST (sales tax).
- A private art gallery, Zwicker's, expressed interest in exhibiting the paintings, but asked for 50%-60% commission plus other expenses.
- Regardless of how the paintings are sold, the Council will retain rights to the photographic images of the paintings for reprint on note cards, tote bags, awards, etc.
- Proceeds of the sale(s) will be deposited into the Canada Assoc. account.

### **Discussion questions**

- None

### **Recommendations**

- Approve the raffle concept.
- Prior to implementation, the Management Committee will review and approve a final proposal put forth by Lisa McCuaig and Justin Huston

*Submitted by Justin Huston, NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries*



## **EPA Watershed initiative**

Lee Sochasky reviewed the imitative request for proposals and determined that the Saint Croix watershed was not a good candidate at this time. She recommended that the Council examine explore other watersheds and potential partners and projects.

Further information can be viewed at [http://www.epa.gov/epahome/headline\\_082202.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epahome/headline_082202.htm).

*Submitted by Michele L. Tremblay*



## **Council engagement and meeting planning**

At the December 2003 meeting, Councilors participated in a facilitated discussion to determine their meeting format preferences as well as issues that would better engage them in Council activities.

*Perspectives from individual Councilors include:*

- Forum with one-day “concentrated” semi-annual meetings
- Forum should be scheduled as part of Council semi-annual meetings
- The Council agendas should have a format that is flexible for discussions that develop from Council interest on issues
- Summarize the technical information for agency heads who might not be technically-oriented
- Provide international examples and information on issues

*Topics and issues of interest (with leads where there were volunteers) for meeting or forum agendas include:*

- Economic sustainability (David Haney)
- Adaptive management (Joe Arbour)
- Risk assessment and management
- Forum on invasive species (George Finney)
- Forum on emerging issues
- Marine biology technology update—who is doing what?
- Ecosystem health
- Presentations from private sector—tie-in environment and economics
- Environmental stewardship
- Prioritize meetings

*Other suggestions included:*

- Generate more press releases on Council meeting outcomes—host jurisdiction should provide support and assistance
- More media present at meetings and forums
- More time for social interaction among Councilors
- Arrange time for practical tours in the geographic area of the meeting
- “Prioritize meetings”
- Create a new Councilor briefing book
- Have Councilors send in “items of interest” to distribute to the entire Councilor prior to each meeting

### **Post-meeting update**

The Nova Scotia Secretariat Team has created placeholders in upcoming meeting agenda outlines for topics and issues identified by Councilors. It is challenging to build in a one-day forum and one-day agenda tours and social events. However, the Nova Scotia Secretariat Team has begun planning the June meeting and will endeavor to incorporate the Council’s preferences in the structure of the event.

The existing *Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Reference Handbook* is under revision and will serve much of the needed function identified by the Councilor.

### **Recommendations**

The Public Education and Predication Committee could be tapped to work with the Secretariat Team in drafting and distributing press releases. Host jurisdictions could provide assistance with media as well as tours and other events or resources to implement the Council’s suggestions. Leads for each topic or issue should be identified to begin building agenda discussion items or a forum.

*Submitted by Michele L. Tremblay, Councilor Coordinator*



## Committee membership and jurisdiction membership gap analysis

### *Analysis by jurisdiction and other classifications*

	MA	ME	NB	NH	NS	FED	Other	Totals by committee
<i>DIMC</i>	2	1	0	1	0	4	1	9
<i>EQMC</i>	2	3	1	1	3	8	7	25
<i>HC</i>	2	0	2	0	0	4	1	9
<i>HCSC</i>	3	1	3	0	0	1	1	9
<i>HMSC</i>	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
<i>HRSC</i>	0	1	3	2	1	12	12	31
<i>GOMMI</i>	1	1	0	0	0	3	2	7
<i>PEPC</i>	2	1	1	1	1	3	4	13
<i>Total</i>	12	8	10	5	5	37	28	105

### **Committee detail**

#### **Data Information and Management Committee**

<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/committees/dimc.asp>

MA	2
ME	1
NB	0
NH	1
NS	0
Federal	4
Other, academic, tribal, and NGO	1 (NGO/academic)

Note: the DIMC needs a Canadian co-chair.

#### **Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee**

[http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/committees/eq\\_monitoring.asp](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/committees/eq_monitoring.asp)

MA	2
ME	3
NB	1
NH	1
NS	3
Federal	8
Other, academic, tribal, and NGO	7 (5 academic and 2 NGO)

#### **Habitat Committee**

<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/committees/habitat.asp>

MA	2
ME	0
NB	2
NH	0
NS	0
Federal	4
Other, academic, tribal, and NGO	1 (informal: Council Coordinator support)

Note: this membership of this committee is driven not by jurisdictional quotas but by the co-chairship of the following four subcommittees.



**Habitat Conservation Subcommittee**

[http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/committees/habitat\\_conservation.asp](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/committees/habitat_conservation.asp)

MA	3
ME	1
NB	3
NH	0
NS	0
Federal	1
Other, academic, tribal, and NGO	1 (Council contractor)

**Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee**

[http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/committees/habitat\\_monitor.asp](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/committees/habitat_monitor.asp)

MA	0
ME	0
NB	0
NH	0
NS	0
Federal	2
Other, academic, tribal, and NGO	0

**Habitat Restoration Subcommittee**

[http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/committees/habitat\\_rest.asp](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/committees/habitat_rest.asp)

MA	0
ME	1
NB	3
NH	2
NS	1
Federal	12
Other, academic, tribal, and NGO	12 (1 Council contractor, 1 tribal, 1 private, 3 academic, 12 NGO)

**GOMMI (a Habitat Committee subcommittee)**

[http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/committees/habitat\\_mapping.asp](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/committees/habitat_mapping.asp)

MA	1
ME	1
NB	0
NH	0
NS	0
Federal	3
Other, academic, tribal, and NGO	2 (1 Council contractor, 1 academic)

Note: Seth Barker from MEDMR would make an excellent addition to this committee.

**Public Education and Participation Committee**

<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/committees/pepc.asp>

MA	2
ME	1
NB	1
NH	1
NS	1
Federal	3
Other, academic, tribal, and NGO	4 (1 each Council contractor, academic and 2 NGO)

*Submitted by Michele L. Tremblay*





## **Web Guild, Council archives, and library**

The Web Guild has continued to hold conference calls on a fairly regular basis to discuss procedures, new developments, and directions for the Council Web Site. The basis of the Guild is to provide input and support from the various contributors to the page and has proved to be an effective model. Peter Taylor as the Web Manager now has a core team. One of the routine functions of this team is to carefully review any changes to site content as they are made.

Most recent discussions have centered around further development of what has been called the "Library." This would in its simplest form would consist of a searchable publications database and better access to digital files. Peter Taylor has been working on design concepts and strategies for a research publication directory. The Web Guild considering how these and other Council initiative could be combined into a common database development effort with customized interfaces.

*Submitted by Seth Barker, Data Information and Management Co-chair*



## Data Partnership memorandum of understanding

- The Partnership is an open-ended, international, coordinated information system set up to provide for access to and integration of continuously updated and archived scientific data for research and management of the Gulf of Maine. Its overarching goal is to help create a truly integrated ocean observing system, linking oceanographic, biologic, geologic, and cultural data bases on the Gulf of Maine.
- Participants are organizations that monitor, observe, or make measurements of or relating to the Gulf of Maine and that supply the resulting data for research, operations, decision-making, or other purposes; or organizations that represent organizations that supply such data; or organizations whose missions include disseminating such data.
- The information system will be:
  - a. technically and institutionally capable of linking databases that are created and individually maintained by Participants and, where necessary and appropriate, to archive data sets;
  - b. region-wide in scale;
  - c. compatible with other regional, national, and international information systems;
  - d. accessible by individuals throughout the Gulf of Maine region and beyond; and
  - e. develop the web-based, visualization, and other information technologies needed for the seamless exchange and facile use of distributed and aggregated data on a dynamic basis.
- The Partnership is governed by the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU establishes a governing board consisting of a representative from each signatory.
- The host of the Partnership will be the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS).
- As of February 1, 2004, nine entities are signatories. The Gulf of Maine Census of Marine Life program, which includes the Gulf of Maine Biogeographic Information System (GMBIS), is providing initial funds for the Partnership to create a work plan. Future funding requirements will be determined by the Partnership.

### MOU text

The signers of this non-binding Memorandum of Understanding, being governmental agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental organizations, including academic, research, or other nonprofit entities, each of which is engaged in the collection of physical, biological, chemical, or geologic data on the Gulf of Maine, have decided that a coordinated effort is needed to enable users throughout the Gulf of Maine region and beyond to discover and put to use the vast and growing quantities of data in their respective databases. Through the coordinated access to the respective databases, the signers wish to advance a truly integrated ocean observing system in the Gulf of Maine, promote an understanding of the diversity and distribution of life in the Gulf of Maine, and contribute to integrated oceans management.

The signers of this MOU hereby express their intention to become Participants in the Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership (hereinafter called "Partnership").

### Paragraph 1 DEFINITIONS

1. Data: biological, oceanographic (including plankton and chemical), geological, human use and cultural resource data relating to the marine environment of the Gulf of Maine area.
2. Participant: an organization or individual within an organization that monitors, observes, or makes measurements of or relating to the Gulf of Maine and that supplies the resulting data for research, operations, decision-making, or other purposes; or an organization that represents organizations that supply such data; or an organization whose mission includes disseminating such data.



3. Portal: a network-accessible interface that allows coordinated access to multiple institutional data nodes that serve data and/or metadata. The portal must perform an aggregation function that enables search and discovery. It may also offer download capabilities by acting as a secondary server of primary data sources and may provide analytical and visualization tools. Where possible, a portal maintains a dynamic link to both the primary data (so that searches are up to date) and metadata (including data providers and such information on data standards and protocols that will allow users to assess the integrity and quality of data and databases).

4. Host: the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS), a nonprofit, 501c(3) corporation based in Portland, Maine.

## **Paragraph 2 UNDERSTANDINGS**

1. The Partnership is an open-ended, international, coordinated information system set up to provide for access to and integration of continuously updated and archived scientific data for research and management of the Gulf of Maine.

2. The Participants' involvement in this MOU is subject to the good will of and appropriations and allocations of funds by the appropriate authorities and to the applicable laws and regulations governing the Participants.

3. This MOU is not legally binding, nor does it impose an expectation of contravening the security or intellectual property policies of the Participants.

4. The Governing Board of the Partnership will strive to reach decisions by consensus whenever possible.

## **Paragraph 3 PURPOSE AND GOAL**

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the Partnership is to promote and coordinate the sharing, linking, electronic dissemination, and use of data on the Gulf of Maine region.

### 2. Goal

The goal of the Participants is to create and support an information system that:

- a. is technically and institutionally capable of linking databases that are created and individually maintained by Participants and, where necessary and appropriate, to archive data sets;
- b. is region-wide in scale;
- c. is compatible with other regional, national, and international information systems;
- d. is accessible by individuals throughout the Gulf of Maine region and beyond;
- e. develops the web-based, visualization, and other information technologies needed for the seamless exchange and facile use of distributed and aggregated data; and
- f. acknowledges and maintains the integrity of all data sources.

## **Paragraph 4 INVOLVEMENT OF PARTICIPANTS**

1. Each Participant, while maintaining control of its respective database or databases, will make its best efforts to:

- a. Participate actively in the formulation and implementation of the Partnership's work program;
- b. Promote the sharing of data under a common set of database and exchange protocols and standards;
- c. Form a node or nodes, accessible via the Partnership's information system, that will provide access to its data;
- d. Improve high-speed networking and computation infrastructures; and
- e. Provide for the training of data managers, technicians, and others in the goals and technical aspects of the Partnership's information system and to keep the data available to the Partnership's information system up to date.



2. Participants agree to make their best efforts to contribute to the necessary support of the Partnership, as established by the Governing Board. Participants will bear the costs of their own participation in the Partnership, including the costs of travel and attendance at meetings.

### **Paragraph 5 GOVERNING BOARD**

#### 1. Role and Purpose

The Governing Board will be the means by which the Participants will make collective decisions on all matters relating to the Partnership, which will then be put into effect by the Host and the Participants. No Participant will be expected to implement any decision that is contrary to its own rules and policies.

#### 2. Establishment

The Governing Board will come into existence at the first meeting of the Participants after establishment of the Partnership, subject to the provision of Paragraph 8, and for administrative purposes will be a program of the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System. It is understood that the Partnership is consistent with and will help promote the purposes of the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System.

#### 3. Composition

The Governing Board will consist of one representative from each Participant, who shall be named in writing by the Participant. The representative may serve until replaced by the Participant. Each representative may designate in writing one person who may participate in the meetings of the Governing Board in the representative's absence and may vote on behalf of the named representative.

#### 4. Voting

a. The Governing Board should strive to work by consensus whenever possible. Except where mandated in this MOU that a decision must be made by consensus, if consensus cannot be reached after reasonable attempts have been made, then approval by super-majority of those present and voting is required. A quorum is 50% of the Governing Board's members.

b. A super-majority vote is the affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting. "Present" can mean in person, by telephone, video conference, or other practical means determined in advance by the Governing Board.

#### 5. Responsibilities

The Governing Board may:

- a. Adopt an annual work program and budget for the Partnership.
- b. Adopt a schedule of suggested contributions to be made by Participants necessary to fund the annual budget.
- c. Adopt policies for the development, operation, and maintenance of the Partnership's information system.
- d. Monitor the performance of the Host.
- e. Provide for the addition of Participants and their data bases to the Partnership and its information system.
- f. Carry out the other functions conferred upon it by this Memorandum of Understanding, including any Annexes or modifications made thereto.
- g. Modify this Memorandum of Understanding and any Annexes thereto.

#### 6. Procedures

The Governing Board may establish such committees and rules of procedures, including the date of an annual meeting and meeting notice requirements, as are required for its proper functioning.

### **Paragraph 6 HOST**

#### 1. Role and Purpose

Provided that the necessary resources are received according to the Governing Board's annual work program, the Host of the Partnership will provide the location, one or more portals and other facilities, and



services agreed to in this Memorandum of Understanding and in the work program adopted by the Governing Board. The services may cover information technologies and equipment, staff management, financial management and similar services to implement and support the information system and Partnership.

2. Scope of Authority and Duties

- a. The Host will be accountable to the Governing Board for all matters pertaining to the Association.
- b. The Host will provide staff to organize, convene, provide technical assistance to, and follow up on the meetings of the Governing Board.
- c. The Host will prepare and submit to the Governing Board three months prior to the beginning of the Governing Board's annual meeting a work program and a proposed budget to implement the work program.
- d. The Host will endeavor to implement and, as appropriate, assist the Governing Board and Participants in implementing the adopted work program.
- e. The Host will maintain a separate account for funds raised to develop, operate, and maintain the Partnership, for collecting assessments approved by the Governing Board and placing the assessments into this account, and for holding in trust for the benefit of Participants any assets which may accrue to or be acquired for the Partnership.
- f. The Host may accept, on behalf of the Governing Board, grants, income, or other funds for the purposes set out in this Memorandum of Understanding.
- g. The Host shall be reimbursed expenses and costs reasonably and properly incurred, consistent with the adopted annual budget, in fulfilling its responsibilities as Host. The Host shall not commit to expenditures beyond the funds that are in the account maintained for the purposes of supporting the Partnership.

**Paragraph 7  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

1. Applicable Law

Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding should be read to alter the scope and application of intellectual property rights and responsibilities as determined under relevant laws and rules to which Participants are subject.

2. Access to Data

To the greatest extent possible, the Partnership's information system is foreseen as an open-access facility. All users, whether Participants or not, will have access to the databases affiliated with the Partnership's information system.

3. Attribution

The Partnership should seek to ensure that the source(s) of data is (are) acknowledged and that such attribution is maintained in any subsequent use of the data.

4. Access to Specific Data

Recognizing that it is an objective of the Partnership to make as much data as practicable available for use by the public, it is nevertheless the right and responsibility of the owners of databases to determine what data will be made available to the Partnership's information system and when such data will be made available.

5. Validity of Data

It should be a condition of access to and use of the Partnership's information system that, at the direction of a Participant providing the data, users acknowledge that the validity of the data in any databases affiliated with the Partnership's information system cannot be assured, or the range of error that may be associated with the data. The Partnership, at the direction of a Participant, should disclaim responsibility for the accuracy and reliability of the data as well as for the suitability of its application for any particular purpose.



**Paragraph 8  
ESTABLISHMENT OF PARTNERSHIP;  
ASSOCIATION AND DISSOCIATION OF PARTICIPANTS**

1. Establishment of the Partnership

The Partnership will come into existence on January 1, 2004, or when the Host and at least four other Participants have signed this MOU.

2. Association of Participants

Association with this MOU is open to any entity that meets the definition of a Participant. Such association becomes effective upon signature of this MOU.

3. Disassociation of Participants

Any Participant may disassociate itself from this MOU by advising the Governing Board in writing of its intention to do so and of the effective date. In the event of disassociation of a Participant, the Governing Board may agree by consensus to adjust the work program, budget, and/or suggested contributions to take account of such disassociation.

**SIGNATORIES**

(Open to any entity that meets the definition of Participant)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Northeast Fisheries Science Center, National<br>Marine Fisheries Service   | Coastal Services Center, NOAA                                     |
| Bedford Institute of Oceanography,<br>Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans<br>and<br>St. Andrews Biological Station,<br>Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans | Coastal Ocean Observation and Analysis, Univ.<br>of New Hampshire |
| Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System   | Woods Hole Field Center, USGS                                     |
| Maine Department of Marine Resources   | Gulf of Maine Area Program,<br>Census of Marine Life              |
|  | Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine<br>Environment                |
|  | Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary                         |



## **Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee**

### **Background**

The EQMC has been part of the Gulf of Maine Council since its inception. The major committee activity since 1991 has been to oversee the Gulfwatch mussel monitoring program. Gulfwatch is presently (3/2004) in its 13<sup>th</sup> year. Other recent work includes involvement with efforts to integrate environmental monitoring of contaminants throughout the Gulf of Maine. In this capacity the EQMC seeks to expand the existing Gulfwatch program by adding a wider scope of monitoring efforts, and networking with other related programs to maximize efforts, make efficient use of resources and share data. The focus at present is on toxic contaminants, especially mercury, sewage, and nitrogen, in line with the Council's Action Plan.

### **Planned Activities and Status**

- The 2003 field season was successful with mussels collected from all sites in each jurisdiction. The mussels have all been shucked, frozen, and transported/exchanged across the border to the analytical labs in Maine and New Brunswick.
- The EQMC held meetings in Orono, ME in June 2003 and at Huntsman Marine Lab in St. Andrews, NB in November 2003.
- The analytical results for the 2001 season have finally been received from the laboratories, with the final data arriving 2/23/04. The results for the 2002 field season analyses are supposed to be received within the next month.
- The committee has made a commitment to enhance our outreach and public education efforts. In that regard, there is now a fact sheet on Gulfwatch, the GOMC web site has a vastly improved EQM committee and Gulfwatch presence, and we have made presentations about Gulfwatch at several academic, management, and scientific meetings.
- The EQMC membership has been involved in a variety of meetings, including recent Gulf of Maine specific meetings on indicator development and monitoring.
- The EQMC has designed a plan and schedule to complete a review of the 1<sup>st</sup> 9 years of the Gulfwatch monitoring results and program.
- Subgroups of the committee are making progress on writing papers on several specific topics based on Gulfwatch results.
- Several regional experts have been approached and asked if they would be interested in joining the EQMC.

### **Future Activities**

- The major goal is to complete the review of the 1<sup>st</sup> 9 years of the Gulfwatch monitoring program. The review of the results will guide the design of a modified long-term program.
- The other major goal is to expand Gulfwatch to include closely related activities that can be included as part of the ongoing program. In addition, efforts are being made to network with related programs to mutually enhance monitoring efforts in the GOM.
- A bibliography of references on contaminants and monitoring in the Gulf of Maine has been initiated through Peter Wells.
- Several abstracts have been submitted by EQMC members for presentations at upcoming regional and international scientific meetings.

*Submitted by Steve Jones and Peter Wells, Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee co-chairs*



## **Habitat Conservation Sub-committee**

*Project: Inventory of tools for marine habitat conservation in the Gulf of Maine*

### **Background**

The inventory focuses on projects and organizations that have an active or long-term commitment to habitat conservation in the Gulf. This project is an information gathering exercise to help the subcommittee activities and gaps related to habitat conservation in the Gulf of Maine. Detailed information for each entry was obtained using an Internet search. The Conservation Law Foundation committed an intern's time to work with subcommittee to compile the short summaries/links needed for the website.

Subcommittee co-chairs are working with the GOM Science Translator (Peter Taylor) to incorporate this product into the Web Guild. The inventory entries will be linked through the Web Guild's publication database and will be a useful information clearinghouse for the public to learn about ongoing marine habitat conservation activities in the GOM.

This project fits the following Goals and strategies of the Action Plan:

- Goal 1 A Strategy to increase awareness (3)
- Goal 1 A Strategy to improve management (4)

*Project: Expand the "Primer of Massachusetts Major Marine Habitat Types" to the Gulf of Maine*

### **Background**

The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management's *Primer of Massachusetts Major Marine Habitat Types* provides a general introduction and overview to marine and coastal habitats in the state including: eelgrass beds, salt marsh, kelp beds, rocky habitats, sandy substrate, muddy substrate, shellfish beds, and water column habitats. The distribution, ecological functions, economic and recreational values, threats, and management considerations are given for each habitat type. Ultimately, this product will be a full color guidebook to explain the location, distribution, and characteristics of each habitat.

MA CZM has proposed to work with the subcommittee to expand this project to the GOM. The subcommittee will establish a scientific advisory panel with scientists and managers from other states and provinces within the Gulf. This panel will consult with project leads to incorporate additional habitat types, review the information, and begin prioritizing the documented impacts to use in Project #3 (see below). Subcommittee co-chairs and Peter Taylor will coordinate the advisory panel. The information will be available as a draft for the Fall 2004 Gulf of Maine Summit.

This project fits the following Goals and strategies of the Action Plan:

- Goal 1 A Strategy to increase awareness (3)
- Goal 1 A Strategy to improve management (6)

*Project: Assess the Impacts of Human Activities to Coastal and Marine Habitats in the Gulf of Maine.*

### **Background**

This project will compile new information and synthesize existing reports to evaluate human activities and their impacts to marine habitats in the GOM. The information will be presented for discussion at the Fall 2004 Gulf of Maine Summit where needs, opportunities, challenges, and next steps will be discussed.

Peter Taylor has shown interest in working with the subcommittee and the advisory panel (described in Project #2) on this project. He will interview some regional ecologists to compile their well-educated opinions on the most important threats to marine habitats in the Gulf of Maine. He is also proposing to gather quantitative information to support the choices. The result would be a "top ten list" of threats in this region.

A scope for this project has been submitted to the MPA Center, which has shown interest in standardizing the methods with similar projects throughout the country and providing funding. If MPA Center funding is secured, the goal is to have consultant compile new and existing information on priority habitat stressors. The consultant will produce summaries for each threat: 1) what is the threat?; 2) what is the extent of impacts that have occurred and are occurring?; 3) what future impacts are likely?; 4) what are the implications for the GOM ecosystem?; and 6) what are some options to resolve the problem?





Draft summaries will be available at the 2004 Summit for discussion. These papers will include: 1) how habitats are threatened, 2) related research, 3) management (including legal and regulatory authorities and tools), and 4) potential mitigation measures.

This project fits the following Goals and strategies of the Action Plan:

Goal 1 A Strategy to increase awareness(3)

Goal 1 A Strategy to improve management (6)

### **Discussion/Questions**

What existing studies should be targeted? (i.e., GOM “stressors” conference, 1995)

*Submitted by Marianne Janowicz and Katie Lund, Habitat Conservation Sub-committee co-chairs*



## **Habitat Monitoring Sub-committee**

The Sub-committee met 6-6:30 PM, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004, Durham, NH with Hilary Neckles, Reg Melanson, Michele Tremblay, David Burdick, Barb Buckland, Fred Short, Lee Doggett, Mike Doan, Tom Shyka, Ann Pembroke, Michele Dionne, Blaine Kopp, and Jan Smith in attendance.

### **Summary of actions to date**

The Gulf of Maine Council has established the need for several working subcommittees to help implement the Council's Action Plan. Active subcommittees include Habitat Restoration, Mapping, and Conservation. The Restoration subcommittee has been very successful: \$500,000 in grants was distributed internationally in the Gulf of Maine. Although monitoring is recognized as an important component in the restoration projects, the Council sees habitat monitoring outside of the restoration arena as an important data need for improved resource management in the Gulf. Thus, the Council has appointed subcommittee Co-Chairs Hilary Neckles, USGS, Augusta ME and Reg Melanson, Environment Canada, Sackville, NB to assemble a subcommittee with the aid of a small steering committee.

The steering committee met via conference call and selected two habitat types for an initial monitoring focus: salt marsh intertidal and nearshore subtidal. The steering committee was to provide names and contact information of potential subcommittee members to Hilary. Finally, the steering committee suggested we hold a meeting concurrent with the Northeast Coastal Indicators Workshop to recruit workshop participants to serve on the subcommittee.

The Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee has two immediate goals: 1) develop a plan to begin work addressed by the Habitat breakout group of the Northeast Coastal Indicators Workshop; and 2) identify and obtain funding to support the work. It was pointed out that if the indicators for this initial effort overlapped with the interests of breakout groups focused on other issues (e.g. eutrophication, fisheries, land use), the plan would be viewed more favorably. Also, the plan should highlight our stewardship ethic and long-term commitment for monitoring and managing coastal resources.

The commitment of the subcommittee members would be 1-2 meeting in person and 2 conference call meetings per year. The live meetings would likely take advantage of other regional gatherings (e.g., the Gulf of Maine Summit in October 2004). Several hours of work pre- and post-meetings may also be required to accomplish our goals.

Hilary has contacted by e-mail those who submitted their contact information at this meeting to confirm interest in serving on the subcommittee. Ideally, people would commit to serve on the subcommittee for at least two years to ensure continuity and momentum toward achieving regional habitat monitoring goals. All in attendance agreed to participate on the committee.

### **Plans**

Convene a conference call meeting in the spring to further efforts initiated at the January workshop, Aquatic Habitats group. Hold a group meeting in the fall, possible in coordination with the Gulf of Maine Summit.

*Submitted by Hilary Neckles and Reg Melanson, Habitat Monitoring Sub-committee co-chairs*



## **Public Education and Participation Committee**

PEPC hired Karin Hansen of Brunswick Maine as the new Education and Marketing Coordinator. She brings to PEPC a wealth of experience. Currently Karin is working to move forward five core projects. She has begun working with the Summit Coordinator on a media outreach campaign, is developing with Peter Taylor a media room for our website and is developing a list of background articles on projects which the Council has funded through the action grants as part one of the Visibility Campaign. In addition she has been working with Pat Hinch and Peter Taylor to develop an NGO survey of accomplishments which will utilize our NGO database.

Future projects which she has begun working towards include partnering with Gulf of Maine Educators Association and others to coordinate our education resources for a possible educator's corner or section on our website and future grant funding through organizations such as NSF. And, based on the Action Plan progress report she contacted Jon Kachmar to begin moving to completion the habitat fact sheets. The fact sheets are in second draft stage and just need to be completed and inserted in upcoming issues of the Times and possibly as an outreach piece.

Perrin Cothran and Marilyn Webster have agreed to assist as PEPC co-chairs. At this time we have decided that Karin will continue with Theresa Torrent-Ellis as her supervisor. Theresa will be assisting Perrin and Marilyn in reporting to the Council as well. In this way we are bringing in new members and giving them the support they need to build their knowledge of the Council and the Committee.

*Submitted by Theresa Torrent-Ellis, PEPC member*



## **Nature-based tourism**

Following the approval of the Council in December a Sustainable Tourism/Geotourism Task Force has been formed with participants from each of the jurisdictions and from the list developed through the October workshop. This group will be meeting in St Andrews on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. There are plans for a workshop at the pre Summit event and for a Geotourism Fair to be held during the Summit. The group will also be drafting recommendations for the Council on how best to assist in marketing sustainable tourism practices and developing standards that can be recognized in each of the jurisdictions workshop report. These standards would meet the sustainable tourism objectives which were defined in the workshop report as follows.

- 1. Accept and operate within the finite limits of natural and social resources.**  
*-Facilities, infrastructure & activities protect ecological integrity by minimizing energy use, resource consumption, waste production, habitat degradation and wildlife disturbance.*
- 2. Support environmental conservation and management.**  
*-Operators and visitors enhance local conservation and community development programs (either through monetary contributions or direct action).*
- 3. Enhance environmental research, education and stewardship.**  
*-Products have an education emphasis and participants have a desire to learn about and conserve the natural and cultural environments they visit.*
- 4. Catalyze economic development and diversification.**  
*-Tourism development facilitates sound, continuous sustainable economic growth that meets the needs and aspirations of both present and future generations.*
- 5. Maximize stakeholder participation in planning processes.**  
*-Individuals, communities, agencies and/or organizations affected by tourism development are actively engaged in community-based visioning, planning and management processes.*
- 6. Steward and enhance cultural resources and heritage.**  
*-Products support and highlight local character and tradition, and enhance community pride.*
- 7. Enhance and support local and regional quality of life.**  
*-Businesses employ local people, use local supplies/services and improve local facilities/infrastructure.*
- 8. Emphasize quality, not quantity.**  
*-Travel is in the spirit of appreciation, participation, and sensitivity. Success is measured in terms of visitor/resident satisfaction, length of stay/amount of money spent and community benefits.*

*Submitted by Theresa Torrent-Ellis, project lead*



## Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel

Hosted and coordinated by the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel began its work in the fall of 2001. From November 26 through 27, thirty-five representatives from government, nonprofit, and private business gathered at the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, New Hampshire. <sup>1</sup>Co-chaired by Susan Snow-Cotter, Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management and Tim Sinnott, NY Department of Environmental Conservation, the first meeting included overviews of federal and regional Aquatic Nuisance Species Programs, analysis of membership, and exploration of Panel and committee structure. Meetings have been well-attended with 25-50 participants at each event. In its first year, the Panel created a logo and drafted a Committee Structure and an Operation Framework and is currently finalizing its bylaws.

Michele L. Tremblay, nature source communications, and a contractor from the Ecology Action Centre are currently filling the Panel's staffing needs. A database of Panelists and other interested individuals has been created to manage membership. To facilitate communications, listserves have been created for the Panel and its committees. The Panel listserve is open to the public (with subscription information posted on the Panel's website) and is used to share news of events, exchange information, and facilitate discussion of ANS issues. It is expected that Panel membership will continue to evolve. It has been challenging to identify and recruit some interests represented by private business. The Panel agreed that it could best utilize private industry by involving and informing them through requests for review and comment on proposals and on emerging issues. Advisory task groups may be formed to facilitate this participation.

In addition to providing a forum for updates and discussions, Panel meetings have included two regular features. One is a training module on topics including communications and working more effectively with the media and a session on working with legislators. "Spotlight on Species" features a different marine or aquatic plant or animal with experts making presentations and answering questions. Water Chestnut and the Green Crab have been featured to date. The "Spotlight on Species" in December 2003 will feature *Codium* also known as "Dead man's fingers."

Each month, the NEANS Panel publishes the *NEANS Panel ANS Resource Digest*. The *Digest* features news, descriptions of new papers and research, events, and other ANS resources. The *Digest* is distributed to the Panel's public listserve and to other regional panels and is posted on the Panel's website.

The Panel produced a PowerPoint presentation about the Panel and ANS issues. It can be shown in its entirety or elements may be excerpted and incorporated into other presentations. The presentation was shown at several events including workshops and conferences in Hawaii, Boston, and New York.

Two temporary workgroups were formed to guide the development of the Panel website and database. The website can be viewed at [www.northeastans.org](http://www.northeastans.org) with "pointers" from the alternative domains of NEANS.org and NEANSPanel.org. In addition to hosting the MarineID database (please see the next paragraph for further information on the database), the website serves as a clearinghouse for Panel activities. In addition to providing timely information about the Panel and ANS issues, the website contains meeting documents and resources including links to images and outreach guidance.

The Panel has contracted with the Marine Invertebrate Diversity Initiative (MIDI) to create the online database, "MarineID." The NEANS Panel is working with agencies, nonprofits, researchers, and others to identify appropriate data to populate the database. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology funded, in part, a proposal to the to develop the species database. With support from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the project is slated for completion at the end of 2003 and will be housed on the NEANS Panel website.

This past year, several of the Committees worked with contracted interns to help implement the actions in their work plans. The Communications, Education, and Outreach committee produced an ANS fact sheet. It is available in hard copy or on the NEANS Panel website. The Committee also produced a *Hydrilla* Watch Card and a traveling display for the NEANS Panel. The CEO organized a media event at the May 2003 Panel meeting and worked with the Science and Technology Committee on researching priority species and collating public information for the

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<sup>1</sup> John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection was elected co-chair, replacing Tim in December 2003.



Panel website. The Policy and Legislation Committee continues to update its ANS legislative matrix that inventories laws, rules, and other ANS policies. The Science and Technology Committee continued its work on creating and populating the MarineID database and the “Rapid Response to Aquatic Species in the Northeast: Developing an Early Detection and Eradication Protocol” workshop (please see below for further information). The newly-formed Ballast Water Committee is gathering membership and drafting a work plan. In October, it conducted a ballast water exchange workshop in Nova Scotia. The NEANS Panel Committee work plans can be found on the Panel website.

In May 2003, the panel conducted a workshop, “Rapid Response to Aquatic Species in the Northeast: Developing an Early Detection and Eradication Protocol” (workshop proceedings are on the NEANS Panel website). The workshop was funded by a grant from NOAA Sea Grant. Over fifty participants met for two days to discuss a protocol. Implementation of the workshop recommendations is ongoing.

The next Panel meeting will be held December 11 and 12, 2003 at the Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby, Connecticut. The Panel meetings held to date include:

- November 26 and 27, 2001 at the Seacoast Science Center, Rye, New Hampshire;
- May 7 and 8, 2002 at the Quality Inn and Suites, Brattleboro, Vermont;
- December 16 and 17, 2002 at the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts; and
- May 21 and 22, 2003 at the Bluenose Inn, Bar Harbor, Maine.

This report is for informational purposes—no action or decision requested at this time.

*Submitted by Michele L. Tremblay, NEANS Panel Program Manager*



## Coastal Development Forum

### Issue

In June, Council will be seeking recommendations on how to move forward from the December coastal development forum, in particular what new roles it might play in addressing regional coastal development issues.

### Key messages

- In December, Council was presented with an overview of the Coastal Development Forum and potential actions it might take in the future.
- Key conclusions from the forum were:
  - 1) The Council needs to consider a fundamental question: should it remain solely a source of data and information, or should it provide knowledge and wisdom (e.g. documenting coastal management practices in each jurisdiction vs. developing a GOMC code of practice for coastal management in the region).
  - 2) There is a need for greater communication and integration with municipal governments when planning and managing coastal development.
  - 3) The Council is in a unique position to champion proactive approaches to coastal management.

### Background

- The forum was held at Saint Mary's University prior to the December Council Meeting in Halifax.
- Approximately 60 people participated in the forum, representing federal, provincial, and municipal levels of government, academia, NGOs, and community groups.
- The forum focused on how states and provinces in the Gulf of Maine region are responding to challenges posed by coastal development, and the potential barriers and opportunities for integrated coastal management within and across jurisdictions.

### Discussion questions

- None

### Recommendations

- Over the next three months, Justin Huston will frame a discussion piece for Working Group and Council around potential projects and actions it could take to a) improve municipal capacity and involvement in coastal management, and b) encourage proactive approaches to coastal management in the region.
- At the June meeting, the Working Group should discuss Council's potential advocacy role in regard to (but not necessarily limited to) coastal development.

*Submitted by Justin Huston, NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries*



## Seals as sentinels for the Gulf of Maine Ecosystem



While the Gulfwatch Program has provided long-term data about tissue concentrations in low trophic level organisms (*i.e.*, blue mussels), at present, there is little understanding of the extent of contamination and potential impacts on species at the top of the food chain. Harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina concolor*) are widely distributed in the temperate nearshore waters of the Gulf of Maine and are useful sentinels of food chain contamination because they occupy a high trophic level, are long-lived, and accumulate high concentrations of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and heavy metals including mercury. A large body of data suggests that environmental contaminants, particularly the PCBs, have adversely affected reproduction, endocrine function, and immune function in seals inhabiting industrial coastal regions. The sensitivity of harbor seals to the effects of environmental contaminants first gained widespread attention in 1988 when chemical immune suppression by PCBs was implicated in the virus-related deaths of 20,000 harbor seals in northwestern Europe.

A monitoring effort initiated by MERI in 2001 has generated two years of data on levels and effects of toxic contaminants in harbor seals and gray seals along the US Atlantic coast. The data indicate that harbor seals in the Gulf of Maine accumulate relatively high levels of POPs and mercury, levels that place them at risk for adverse health effects. The data also suggest the possibility of spatial differences in the distribution and patterns of contaminants (“chemical footprints”) in seal tissues.

In 2003, the GOMC awarded MERI an Action Grant to plan the expansion of this program into Downeast Maine and Atlantic Canada (Bay of Fundy). The planning phase will be completed in April 2004. The present proposal is for a pilot project beginning in May 2004 to monitor a wide range of organics and metals in tissues of wild (free-ranging) and stranded harbor seals at selected locations. The pilot project can demonstrate the feasibility of ongoing monitoring and serve as a fundamental and valuable next step toward understanding risks associated with contamination of the Gulf of Maine environment. The goal of the extended program is to monitor contaminants of concern and health parameters in enough animals over time to provide long-term data for the whole Gulf of Maine. The overall outcome will be the establishment of baseline information about the accumulation of toxic contaminants in a high trophic level sentinel species in the Gulf of Maine that will complement information generated in blue mussels by the Gulfwatch program. Because of their high trophic status, harbor seals ultimately provide information on chemicals which present the greatest risk to consumers at the top of the food chain, including humans.

This project addresses **Goal 2** of the GOMCME Action Plan: **Protect Human Health and Ecosystem Integrity, Objective “a”**: increase awareness and improve management of priority contaminants, including mercury, particularly **Action 36**: “Help to develop and implement a regional marine research plan ...”, and **Action 37**: “Create an expanded environmental quality monitoring strategy that integrates and builds on existing programs such as Gulfwatch”.

*Submitted by Susan D. Shaw, Dr. PH, Marine Environmental Research Institute (MERI), Center for Marine Studies, Blue Hill, ME*

### Gulf of Maine Action Plan Implementation Project Description

**Title:** Monitoring Toxic Contaminants in Gulf of Maine Seals

#### Council Action Plan:

Goal 2 – Human Health and Ecosystem Integrity/ Contaminants  
Strategy 2-1 Increase awareness and action

**Project Description:** The presence of toxic contaminants in the Gulf of Maine ecosystem is a transboundary issue with many poorly understood ramifications. While the Gulfwatch Program has provided long-term data about tissue concentrations in low trophic level organisms (*i.e.*, blue mussels), at present, there is little understanding of the extent of contamination and potential impacts on species at the top of the food chain. Harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina concolor*) are widely distributed in the temperate





nearshore waters of the Gulf of Maine and are useful sentinels of food chain contamination because they occupy a high trophic level, are long-lived, and accumulate high concentrations of organic chemicals such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and heavy metals including mercury. While contaminant-related health impacts are difficult to assess, a body of data suggests that environmental contaminants, particularly the PCBs, have adversely affected reproduction, endocrine function, and immune function in seals inhabiting industrial coastal regions. The sensitivity of harbor seals to the effects of environmental contaminants first gained widespread attention in 1988 when chemical immune suppression by PCBs was implicated in the virus-related deaths of 20,000 harbor seals in northwestern Europe.

There are approximately 99,340 harbor seals inhabiting New England waters and more than 3,500 harbor seals (min. estimate) in the Bay of Fundy. Considered relatively non-migratory, with maximum daily foraging ranges of approximately 50 km, harbor seals exhibit strong site fidelity to pupping, breeding, and moulting haul-out sites. In autumn and early winter, a general southward movement occurs from the Bay of Fundy to southern Gulf waters; the majority of seals moving into southern waters are subadults and juveniles. A northward movement to Maine and eastern Canada occurs prior to the pupping season which takes place from mid-May through June along the Maine coast. Although the overall population has steadily increased since the early 1980s, population growth rates (pup production) have sharply declined in southern Maine and on Sable I., NS, in recent years.

This project builds on an existing MERI program that has generated two years of data on levels and effects of toxic contaminants in harbor seals and gray seals along the US Atlantic coast. The data indicate that harbor seals in the Gulf of Maine accumulate relatively high levels of organic contaminants and mercury, levels that place them at risk for adverse health effects. The proposal is for a pilot project to expand this program into Downeast Maine and Atlantic Canada (Bay of Fundy) beginning in late spring 2004. The objective is to monitor a wide range of organics and metals in tissues of wild (free-ranging) and stranded seals at locations throughout the Gulf. In addition, biomarkers of immune and endocrine function will be monitored in free-ranging seals as measures of health status that may be linked with contaminant loads.

Building on the model Gulfwatch (Musselwatch) program, the pilot project can demonstrate the feasibility of ongoing monitoring and serve as a fundamental and valuable next step toward understanding risks associated with contamination of the Gulf of Maine environment. The goal of the extended program is to monitor contaminants of concern and health parameters in enough animals over time to provide long-term data for the whole Gulf of Maine. Monitoring of contaminants and contaminant-related effects in Gulf of Maine harbor seals is important for 1) managers and policymakers concerned with the extent of contamination in the Gulf of Maine food web; 2) wildlife managers concerned about population- or species level impacts; 3) officials charged with remediation and clean-up efforts; and 4) public health officials concerned with the health of human consumer groups that rely heavily on fish consumption, such as sport fishers and native American groups.

**Outcomes/Results:** The overall outcome will be the establishment of baseline information about the accumulation of toxic contaminants in a high trophic level sentinel species in the Gulf of Maine that will complement information generated in blue mussels by the Gulfwatch program. Because of their high trophic status, harbor seals ultimately provide information on chemicals which present the greatest risk to consumers at the top of the food chain, including humans.

Information generated by the project will be made available to resource managers and policymakers in the form of hard copies and web available reports, and through meetings with key managers/agencies and presentations at regional meetings, forums, and conferences. Updates on the project will be made available to managers and the public through the *Gulf of Maine Times* newspaper as well as the GOMC and MERI websites.

**Planning Phase:** The GOMC awarded MERI an Action Grant (\$10K) to support the planning phase of this project from July 2003 – April 2004. Completed products include: a network of US-Canadian partners and collaborators; study design and sampling protocols; a database for QA/QC; identified funding sources; and an extensive public outreach plan. By the end of April, we will have trained all field personnel and finalized plans for the fieldwork.



**Partners:** US collaborators include: University of New England, Dept. of Biology (Ono); College of the Atlantic/Allied Whale (Seton, Todd), Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge (Wells), and the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife/Downeast Division (Schaeffer). Canadian collaborators include: UNB, Dept. of Biology, St. John (Terhune); Atlantic Veterinary College, Dept. of Pathology, PEI (Daoust); DFO/Species at Risk/Marine Mammal Division, Dartmouth (Conway, Weber), and the eastern Canadian Animal Distress Network. Other potential partners include: members of the GOMC Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee (EQMC), NOAA/NMFS, Environment Canada, Atlantic Coastal Action Programme (ACAP), Dalhousie University, Grand Manan Whale and Seabird Research Station, and University of Connecticut/Environmental Research Institute (ERI). The Marine Environmental Research Institute (MERI) will guide and administer this project.

**Annual Funding/Budget**

For a one year pilot project, the total project cost is \$182,305. Funding in the amount of \$63,880 (35% of the total cost) is requested from the GOMC to cover the costs of the following:

<u>Expenses</u> –	
Coordinator	\$26,880
Sample collection, shipping, travel	3,000
Laboratory analysis (n=40)	26,000
Administration, report writing, distribution	<u>8,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$63,880 (US – year one)</b>

Income – The balance of funding for the pilot project (\$118,425) is being sought from state, provincial, and federal agencies (NOAA, EPA), and private foundations. MERI is committing in-kind funding in the amount of \$15,000 as well as additional institutional resources to support and sustain the program. Additional in-kind funding will be sought from participating institutions and groups.

**Schedule:** The pilot project including one sampling period will take one year. A preliminary schedule of activities includes:

Spring 2004	Finalize design, hire Coordinator
Summer-Fall 2004	Conduct seal monitoring for 2004 season
Winter 2004-2005	Deliver seal tissues to analytical laboratories
Spring 2005	Compile analytical results for 2004 season
Summer 2005	Interpret and summarize results for 2004 program

*Submitted for the EQMC by Susan D. Shaw, Dr. PH, Marine Environmental Research Institute (MERI), Center for Marine Studies, Blue Hill, ME*



## **Habitat Restoration Sub-committee**

**IMPORTANT:** Please download the following Adobe Acrobat documents from the GOMC website page where you found this document

- Gulf of Maine Habitat Restoration Strategy
- Maine's Salt Marshes: Their Functions, Values, and Restoration



## **Sewage Management Task Force**

### **Background**

Sewage is a major issue in the GOM/Bay of Fundy, given the continued inputs of untreated, partially treated and treated municipal effluents, and the pervasive effects of non-point inputs e.g. closure of shellfish beds in many locations, especially in the Bay of Fundy. Hence, sewage is a priority in the Action Plan, under Goal 2. A successful sewage management workshop was held in April 2002, the Proceedings of which are now completed, and distributed. An implementation plan was developed from the recommendations of the workshop by P. Hinch and P. Wells, and several talks have been given on how to proceed, the last one by P. Hinch at the June 2003 GOMC meeting in Hyannis.

Five items in the implementation plan were approved by the Working Group in June 2003 to initiate action. These were to:

- 1) Produce an updated technical review of human health and ecological health risks and impacts of sewage/municipal effluents, with emphasis on the GOM and Bay of Fundy.
- 2) Identify and apply suitable sensitive indicators, both in Gulfwatch and other monitoring programs, that facilitate detection of sublethal effects of sewage and importantly, recovery of ecosystems from sewage pollution after it is treated.
- 3) Prepare a summary report of public education programs/materials offered within each jurisdiction on this issue.
- 4) Develop a fact sheet on highlights of the regional Sewage Management Workshop and its recommendations re sewage management (from report (Hinch, P.R., et al., 2002).
- 5) Develop (components of) an educational program and prepare a fact sheet on the socio-economic and environmental impacts of sewage discharges and the role of the public in proper maintenance of on-site systems and in water conservation. (Place fact sheets on the GOMC website. Emphasize improved management needs throughout the fact sheet).

In September 2003, the Working Group approved:

- 6) The expansion of the Task Force to more formally engage agencies/scientists/experts throughout the Gulf region that have a mandate/interest in sewage risks and management and who are willing assist in implementing the plan. Once formed, this group will develop terms of reference, scope each project item, assess resource requirements, and the capacity for in-kind support/contributions from member agencies.
- 7) Production of an article for the GOM Times.

### **Status**

- 1) Environment Canada is developing item #1 into a request for funding under its 2004-2005 budget.
- 2) Work on indicators continues with ongoing discussions of results of the Northeast Indicators workshop and through the upcoming Summit in October 2004. These discussions will ultimately assist the Council to identify and apply appropriate indicators of sewage impact and ecosystem recovery to include in monitoring programs.
- 3) PEPC is asked to incorporate a revised version of this task into its workplan for 2004-2005. The revised task is to provide a list of publications produced by agencies which have a mandate in sewage management in each of the five Gulf jurisdictions, and to place this list on the existing sewage GOM webpage with a link to the actual documents. Collectively this information would be a valued information tool for decision makers, educators, and the general public.
- 4) Ethan Nedeau has offered to draft the factsheet from the Workshop recommendations.
- 5) Factsheet components of this task are incorporated into Item #1 above. Published educational materials would include information on the role of the public in proper maintenance of on-site systems and in water conservation so this component would be captured under Item #3 above.
- 6) This item is progressing slowly. We need to identify people (1 Cdn, 1 US) within the GOM willing to champion this issue and to lead the sewage implementation plan.
- 7) Andi Rierden has indicated that she is willing to produce an article on sewage risk and management in the GOM for the *Gulf of Maine Times*.



### **Next steps**

- 1) Incorporation of the sewage implementation plan into the workplan of the EQ Monitoring Committee Contaminants group. Pat Hinch has been asked by NSDEL to continue to assist the coordination of the sewage implementation plan and to inform departmental staff of progress.
- 2) Continue to seek opportunities to partner with member and outside agencies as appropriate to continue work on the implementation plan. Determine whether to approach the issue as sewage alone or sewage within the context of municipal effluents.
- 3) The Task Force will submit a request for Council funding for Item #1 in partnership with EC.
- 4) Request a presentation by Environment Canada to the Working Group and Council, following the release of the Canadian National Sewage Strategy.

### **Recommendation**

WG approval of next steps.

*Prepared by Peter Wells and Pat Hinch, Sewage Task Force Co-chairs*



## **Coastal and marine conservation**

### **Recommendations of the Bay Management Task Force and MA Ocean Task Force**

#### *Bay Management Task Force*

In recent years, there has been increasing interest from residents of several of Maine's coastal communities in a "bay management" approach to aquaculture siting; that is, a proactive approach to facility siting and planning based on an analysis of ecological carrying capacity, competing uses, and community values. This interest was reflected in several bills introduced during the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the Maine's 121<sup>st</sup> Legislature, and in individual projects that are underway along Maine's coast by local conservation and stewardship organizations. In May of 2003, a legislative resolve established the Governor's Task Force on the Planning and Siting of Marine Aquaculture in Maine, and directed the Task Force to examine, among numerous other issues, the topic of bay management. The Task Force completed its work at the end of January 2004 and various changes to Maine's aquaculture leasing law are being debated this winter in the Legislature. This brief presentation to the Working Group will summarize Maine's investigation into bay management and discuss the challenges and opportunities inherent in the use of this planning approach.

*Submitted by Kathleen Leyden, ME State Planning Office*

#### *Massachusetts Ocean Management Initiative*

The Massachusetts Ocean Management Initiative is working to establish a more proactive process for managing ocean resources within state waters; provide a seamless ecosystem approach by working with the federal government to improve management of ocean resources in federal waters; and review, revise, and strengthen administrative, regulatory, and statutory provisions and policies to address environmental, planning, and public trust issues in both state and federal waters. A Task Force, staffed by Coastal Zone Management, was appointed in June 2003 to develop recommendations to advance this Initiative. Susan will describe the Task Force recommendations that will be released on March 23, 2004.

*Submitted by Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management*