



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

Working Group Briefing Packet
Version 3 • March 9, 2007
Boston, MA • March 29-30, 2007



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Working Group Agenda

Thursday, March 29, 2007, Mariners House, 11 North Square, Boston, MA

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|----------|--|
| 9:00 AM | Management and Finance meeting Agenda to be distributed to MandF members |
| 10:00 AM | Welcome, introductions, and expected outcomes of the meeting <i>Russ Henry, NB Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture</i> |
| 10:15 AM | Approval of consent agenda <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, Draft Working Group Meeting Decision and Action Items, Delta Fredericton, Fredericton NB December 12-13, 2006 2. Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, Draft Council Meeting Decision and Action Items, Delta Fredericton, Fredericton NB December 14, 2006 3. Sustainable Industries and Communities Committee 4. Anticipated on-going Contractors for the Gulf of Maine Council as of March 15, 2007 5. Climate Change Network Task Force – Update Activities 6. Working Group Chair <i>DRAFT Terms of Reference</i> 7. New Gulf of Maine Council representatives 8. EQMC-GW Activities |
| 10:30 AM | Follow-up to EBM workshop – actionable items <i>David Keeley, GOMC; Kate Killerlain Morrison, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; and Betsy Nicholson, NOAA</i> <p>Background/purpose: The Council/COMPASS workshop will be held at UNH the two days preceding the WG meeting. One result of the meeting will be a list/narrative of actionable items to accelerate EBM implementation in the GOM.</p> <p>Desired decision or other outcome: Review of actionable items suitable for Council implementation and concurrence on issues/questions related to possible Council follow-up</p> |
| 11:30 AM | Presentation: Better Management through local control: enabling local officials to effectively manage coastal floodplains <i>Wesley Shaw, NOAA Coastal Management Fellow, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management</i> |
| 12:00 PM | Lunch (on your own in the Mariners House) |
| 1:00 PM | Development priorities for the 18-month Work Plan <i>David Keeley</i> <p>Background/purpose: Secretariat Team will present recommendations on how to proceed in securing the funds, including jurisdictional buy-in, required in the 18-month Work Plan for “priority and signature activities.” Also review 2008 “doomsday scenario” of no new funds.</p> <p>Desired decision or other outcome: WG input on recommendations, identification of responsible parties and timeframes, and concurrence on approach to securing the missing funding</p> |
| 3:00 PM | Engaging Council partners via strategic alliances <i>David Keeley</i> <p>Background/purpose: The Working Group will develop recommendations on priority strategic alliances that should be pursued via a formal inter-organizational agreement, the desired results of those Agreements, the process for developing them and respective timeframes.</p> <p>Desired decision or other outcome: WG recommendations and concurrence on approach, timeframes, and responsible parties.</p> |
| 3:45 PM | Break |
| 4:00 PM | Gulf of Maine Council - Bay of Fundy Agreement <i>Peter Wells, Oceans One and Pat Hinch NS Department of Environment and Labour</i> <p>Background/purpose: An initial overview of the proposed GOMC-BOFEP Agreement was provided to the Working Group and Council in December 2006. At that time, the Council agreed in principle to the Agreement and requested that the final document be presented in June for Council approval. The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview and draft copy of the GOMC-BoFEP Agreement for Working Group review and comment</p> <p>Desired decision/outcome: Request for WG input on the document and approval to take forward to Council in June for signature.</p> |



| | |
|---------|---|
| 4:15 PM | <p>Habitat Monitoring Data System and other Council IT Projects <i>Hilary Neckles, co-chair, Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee; Seth Barker, Co-chair, Information Management; and Peter Taylor, GOMC</i> Background: this past year, a pilot was funded through internal grants that allows entry of data and viewing of a habitat monitoring database. This, along with a number of other GOMC-sponsored IT projects will be featured. Desired outcome: WG members will be introduced to newly developed tools and will help further the discussion of needs that can be met by the GOMC.</p> |
| 5:00 | Adjourn for the day |

Friday March 30, 2006

| | |
|----------|--|
| 8:30 AM | <p>Gulfwatch Tools for Managers – Seeking WG Input on Possible Tools <i>Karin Hansen and David Keeley, GOMC</i> Background/purpose: Work has commenced on identifying tools that managers would find useful in applying Gulfwatch data to policy, planning, and permitting decisions. This information will be presented to the WG and comments will be solicited on their added insights. Desired decision or other outcome: Proposed tools will be presented for comment and discussion by the WG.</p> |
| 9:00 AM | <p>Increasing annual dues/contributions - preliminary recommendations David Keeley Background/purpose: the Council directed the WG to develop recommendations on a proposal to increase the dues/annual contributions. Desired decision or other outcome: Seek WG policy advice on the increase, timing and methods</p> |
| 10:00 AM | <p>Implementation of the AP Marketing Strategy Karin Hansen and David Keeley Background/purpose: In December, the Council approved a 6-9 month marketing strategy that called on Councilors and WG members to distribute the Plan and cultivate support for the 18-month work plan. Desired decision or other outcome: Review accomplishments, make refinements to the strategy, and chart a course for the next 3-6 months.</p> |
| 10:45 AM | <p>Developing recommendations to ESIP Committee <i>Jason Naug, Department of Fisheries and Oceans</i> Background/purpose: Introduce Christine Tilburg, new ESIP Program Manager. Update on status of GeoConnections grant efforts and completion of 18-Month Work Plan tasks (including Climate Network Workshop in June 2007) Desired decision or other outcome: WG recommendations for members in several revitalized indicator subcommittees</p> |
| 11:15 AM | <p>Presentation: Results from a 2006 Survey for March Dieback in coastal Massachusetts: Is it a Threat for the Gulf of Maine? Jan Smith, Executive Director, Massachusetts Bays Program</p> |
| 12:00 | Lunch (on your own in the Mariners House) |
| 1:00 PM | <p>Input to representatives attending 3/31 Biodiversity meeting <i>Theresa Torrent-Ellis</i> Background/Purpose – in December the WG requested additional information about the role of the Biodiversity Project in other regions and how it might fit with GOMC efforts Desired decision or other outcome: WG advise to those attending Saturday meeting of the GOM Biodiversity Project</p> |
| 1:30 PM | GOMC annual awards program proposal |
| 1:40 PM | Time for items removed from consent agenda |
| 2:00 PM | Working Group meetings adjourns |
| 2:00 PM | Management and Finance wrap-up meeting- agenda TBD |



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

**Working Group Meeting
March 29-30, 2007**
Briefing Packet as of March 19, 2007

3:00 PM

Secretariat Team – next steps

Draft Working Group Meeting Decision and Action Items

**Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
Delta Fredericton, Fredericton NB December 12-13, 2006**

Working Group members in attendance

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

Others in attendance

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

Russ Henry, Working Group Chair, reviewed the Working Group agenda and chaired the Working Group meeting.

Decisions

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

Actions

1. The Management & Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 13th to discuss funding issues in the 18-month Work Plan.
2. Steve, Cindy, Christian and Peter will meet to confirm how much funding is required to conduct the sampling/analyses for Gulfwatch.
3. Cindy will revise the financial document per the recommendations of the Working Group.
4. The Management & Finance Committee will meet prior to the December 14th Council meeting to review financials in preparation for presentation to Council.
5. Activities 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 under current contractor support should include contractor support and Outreach. Cindy will add this.



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

*Prepared by Susan Howe
GoMC Administrative Assistant*

Draft Council Meeting Decision and Action Items

**Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
Delta Fredericton, Fredericton NB December 14, 2006**

Council members in attendance

Peter Colosi, NOAA, NMFS; Hon. Rick Doucet, Minister, NB Dept. of Fisheries; Hon. Roland Haché, Minister, NB Dept. of Environment; Byron James, Council Chair, Deputy Minister, Dept. of Agriculture & Aquaculture/Dept. of Fisheries; Marvin Moriarty, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Dept. of Interior; Jackie Olsen, Environment Canada; Carol Ann Rose, DFO, Maritimes Region; Lee Sochasky, St Croix International Waterway Commission

Others in attendance

Joe Arbour, DFO; Andrew Breau, NB Dept. of Agriculture & Aquaculture; Ed Christoffers, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Mel Coté for Linda Murphy, EPA; Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association; Ernest Fage, NS Fisheries and Aquaculture; Caroline Gravel, Shipping Federation of Canada; George Haines for Hon. Roland Haché, NB Dept. of Environment; Russ Henry, Working Group Chair, NB Dept. of Agriculture & Aquaculture; Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada; Patricia Hinch for Mark Parent, NS Dept. of Environment and Labour; Elizabeth Hertz for Martha Freeman, ME State Planning Office; Susan Howe, GoMC Administrative Assistant; Don Hudson, Chewonki Foundation; Justin Huston, NS Fisheries and Aquaculture; Marianne Janowicz, NB Dept. of Environment; Diane Kent Gillis, NB Dept. of Environment; David Keeley, GoMC Policy Coordinator; Kate Killertain Morrison for Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Coastal Zone Management; Christian Krahforst, MA Coastal Zone Management Program; Linda Mercer for George LaPointe, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources; Betsy Nicholson, NOAA/National Ocean Service; Greg Roach for Ronald Chisholm, NS Dept. of Fisheries & Aquaculture; Susan Russell-Robinson, DOI/USGS; Harry Stuart for Thomas S. Burack, NH Dept. of Environmental Services; Jane Tims, NB Dept. of Environment; Michele L. Tremblay, GoMC Council Coordinator; Peter Wells, Dalhousie University, Environment Canada (retired); Eric Williams, NH Dept. of Environmental Services

Byron James, Council Chair, reviewed the Council agenda and chaired the Council meeting.

Decisions

1. The indirect rate of 15.42 was approved by Council during the joint US and Canada budget discussion meeting, December 14, 2006. This indirect rate will go into affect December 15, 2006.
2. There were no additions or deletions were required for the Council Action Agenda and the Consent Agenda was approved by Council.
3. The Marketing Strategy for the 2007-2012 Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Action Plan was approved by Council.
4. Council approved a Dedication in memory of Susan Snow-Cotter which will be included in the 2007-2012 GoMC Action Plan.
5. The 18-month Work Plan was approved by Council.
6. The allocation of funding (which outlines 18 activities totaling \$203,000) is approved by Council in "principle" only. A report will be presented to Council in June outlining what has been completed and how it was accomplished. The dollars may change slightly (upon further review by the M&F Committee) for the 18 activities. The expectation is that Council will be briefed on any new information/changes that may arise.
7. Council approved the Fundraising Strategy. The Fundraising Strategy will be addressed with a uniform approach using the seven fundraising options as presented during this meeting.
8. Council's support for Ecosystem-based Approaches in the Action Plan. Council affirmed that both the COMPASS Ecosystem-based management workshop and the Northeast Oceans Congress play a significant role in accomplishing task 1.10 in the 18-month Work Plan.
9. Council committed providing web support for regional EBM initiatives.
10. Council encouraged Management & Finance Committee to further consider committing policy contractor support for workshop planning (included in task 1.10).
11. The Oceans Network Terms of Reference was removed from the Council agenda. This item requires further review by the Working Group with further recommendations to Council in June.
12. Approval of amendment to GoMC Terms of Reference - Reference to First Nations representative. Council agreed to defer this item to CAG and the Working Group. This will be included as an agenda item for the next CAG call to provide guidance to the Working Group. The Working Group will review the two First Nations representative scenario verses a one First Nations representative. The Working Group will work to clarify the proposed process of how one or two First Nations representatives would be identified.



13. Council approved the amendment to the Working Group Terms of Reference which states that both committee co-chairs may attend Working Group meetings.
14. Council approved the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) agreement “in principle” with the understanding that the revised agreement will be brought forward to Council for approval in June 2007 without reference to a specific funding amount. In addition, other strategic alliances will be considered that advance implementation of the Action Plan.

Actions

1. Council requested that the Working Group formulate recommendations for securing resources to implement the five-year Action Plan and present back to Council.
2. Cindy will update the Allocation of Funding spreadsheet for the 18-month Work Plan once the current internal grant round is complete and invoices have been paid.
3. New Gulf of Maine Councilor Representatives (CA/US Science Reps). By the end of February 2007 the Working Group was asked to forward senior science representative candidate names to Michele Tremblay in order to work towards confirming new councilor positions. Note: Canada and US each have the opportunity to have two private sector councilor seats.

*Prepared by Susan Howe
GoMC Administrative Assistant*

Sustainable Industries and Communities Committee

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

Industry engagement and collaboration

- An RFP has been drafted to hire a contractor to undertake this project [see attached Draft RFP].
- \$20,000 was allocated for this work by Council in December 2006 under the 18-month Work Plan.
- Following MC approval, the RFP will be released April 5th and close May 4th, with the aim of commencing work on May 21st. A final report and presentation of recommendations will be delivered to Council in December 2007.

Industry sustainability award

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

Gulf of Maine Sustainable Industry Award

In recognition of demonstrated innovation and leadership in sustainability.

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

Nominations are sought from the following sectors:

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

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

Working Waterfronts

The third priority action is assessing awareness of working waterfronts (Action 3.3, pg 83). This action will be evaluated by the new Council Evaluator (May 2007) to determine performance measures and monitoring methods to best assess awareness of working waterfronts among coastal lawmakers. The SICC will work with the Council Evaluator in to undertake the assessment work by Spring 2008.

Membership

The SICC has agreed to not actively seek new members at this time, adding new members as needs/opportunities arise or as directed by Council.

Current membership:

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

Submitted by: Justin Huston and Elizabeth Hertz



Anticipated on-going Contractors for the Gulf of Maine Council as of March 15, 2007

Note: All contract end dates are June 30, 2007
Unless stated otherwise below

| Contractor | Contract End Date | Position | Funds |
|---|--------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Cindy Krum | | U.S. Association Executive Director | Indirect rate |
| Lori Hallett | | U.S. Association Finance Assistant | Indirect rate |
| Michele Tremblay | | Council Coordinator | Indirect rate, dues |
| Vacant | | Council Administrative Assistant | Indirect rate, dues |
| David Keeley | | Policy Development/Fund Development | NOAADues |
| Michele Tremblay | | ANS Program Manager | ANS Grants |
| Maine State Planning Office (Jon Kachmar) | | Habitat Restoration Project Coordinator | NMFS, NOAA Grant |
| Karin Hansen | | PEPC Services | NOAA Grants |
| Ethan Nedeau | | Science Translation | Mix |
| Peter Taylor | | Science Translation/Web Producer | NOAA MA Ciceet |
| UNH (Steve Jones) | | Gulfwatch Program Coordination | NOAA Grants |
| Greg Klassen | | Environmental Monitoring Coordinator | NOAA Grants |
| Lori Valigra | | Gulf of Maine Times Editor | NOAA |
| Sara Ellis | March 31, 2007 | GOMMI | Davis NOAA |
| Steve Jones | August 31, 2007 | Monitoring | NOAA NHDES |
| Jim Cradock | | Web | NOAA |
| Christine Tilburg | | Indicators Coordinator | NOAA GeoConn EPA |

Climate Change Network Task Force – Update Activities

Since last meeting with the GoM Working Group in December 2006, Task Force co-Chairs, Mr. Gary Lines, Science Manager with the Climate Change Section, Environment Canada, and Mr. Bill Burtis, Communications Lead, Clean Air-Cool Planet have been working with partners to complete on-going work. Here's an update...

Work Plan Activities

As a result of significant work on the GoM Work Plan by all parties in the Working Group, specific activities related to climate change issues were identified and itemized.

Goal 1 – Coastal and marine habitats are in a healthy, productive and resilient condition

Climate Change Activities

- Prepare regional criteria to identify coastal habitats at risk from sea level rise, extreme precipitation and other climate change impacts and integrate into restoration decision-making
- Compile and disseminate information on coastal habitats and watersheds at risk due to climate change
- Enhance climate change knowledgebase (e.g., compile programs, best practices, etc.)
- Investigate and propose regional climate change adaptation strategies

Initiate the Climate Change Network and Coordinate Climate Change Action Plan Activities for Year 1 & 2

The Task Force has taken preliminary steps to initiate work on these activities. Staff has been hired within Environment Canada Atlantic to focus on the early deliverables of the first 2 activities listed. As well, this individual will take on the responsibility of coordinating the Climate Change Network in the short-term.

The Task Force is also planning to launch the Climate Change Network as part of the GoM Council/Working Group Meetings in June. Initial invitations to this event have already been sent and the first registrations are arriving. As part of this event presentations on the latest IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, given by lead authors, will be the keynotes of this event. As well, the event will include an ESIP Meeting to discuss the potential interplay of climate change indicators and other ecosystem indicators.

With the launch of the Climate Change Network, work of the Task Force will officially be completed.

Future Activities

The Climate Change Network intends to proceed with several significant pieces of work over the next 1 to 3 years.

1. Deliver on the activities as described in the work plans as approved by GOMC in the Action Plan 2006-11.
2. Continue Indicator work as it pertains to commitments with ESIP.
3. Expand the Climate Change Network through continued contact with climate change proponents in the Gulf of Maine.

Submitted by Gary Lines

New Gulf of Maine Councilor representatives

Background

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment approved new Terms of Reference at its June 2006 meeting. In addition to adding a second non-government / private sector Councilor from each jurisdiction (previously, each State and Province had one private sector member), the new Terms of Reference provide for two new important memberships: scientific community and First Nations/Tribes/Aboriginals (FN/TA).

Excerpted from the current/newly accepted Terms of Reference:

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

- a. A **senior representative of the scientific community from each country that resides in the watershed**; and
- b. A **member of the tribal community** selected from names solicited by the Council."

Update: Currently, Justin Huston is working with Michele Tremblay to address the concerns about this new membership raised at the December Council meeting.

Non-governmental Councilors

The new Council Terms of Reference call for two non-governmental representatives from each jurisdiction. Working Group members are working with their agencies and Governors' and Premiers' offices to identify two non-governmental representatives from each jurisdiction.

Update: Michele Tremblay has contacted the jurisdictions via email and telephone calls to offer assistance in the process of identifying and securing two non-governmental representatives from each jurisdiction. The issue has also been discussed during Management and Finance calls.

Science Councilors

Working Group members have submitted several names for consideration. The Working Group and Council should submit before December 31, 2006 any further lists of names so that candidates can be contacted and two Council representatives selected from them.

Update: the following suggestions have been submitted to the Council Coordinator

| Canada | US |
|---|--|
| Dr. Kelly Munkittrick University of NB Saint John NB | John Annala Gulf of Maine Research Institute Portland, ME |
| Dr. Gerhard Pohle Hunstman Marine Science Center St. Andrews NB | Mike Fogarty NOAA Fisheries Woods Hole, MA |
| Dr. Robert L. Stephenson St. Andrews Biological Station St. Andrews NB | Verna Delauer University of NH Durham, NH |
| Chair or other scientific representative Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership | Bob Steneck University of Maine Darling Center Walpole ME |
| | Cameron Wake University of NH Durham, NH |

International Chair or other scientific representative
Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine



Next steps

- Justin Huston will work with Michele Tremblay to create a process to identify and address issues relative to the FNTA Councilor with the goal of having the new FNTA Councilor at the June 2007 meeting (if possible).
- Each jurisdiction will work to identify two non-governmental Councilors, work with the respective Governors and Premiers to appoint the new Councilor, and provide the Council Coordinator with notification of the appointment. The jurisdictions' collective goal is to have these non-governmental Councilors at the June 2007 meeting.
- Two task groups, one from Canada and one from the US will work to review the list of nominations to date and identify any other appropriate candidates. The two task groups will each then select one candidate as the senior science representatives to the Gulf of Maine Council with the goal of having these new science Councilors at the June 2007 meeting.

The Council Coordinator stands ready to assist with all three of these processes and looks forward to hearing from process and jurisdictional leaders.

Prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator



EQMC-GW Activities

- 1. Coordinator position** The Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee (EQMC) began to recruit a coordinator in October 2006 and hired a full-time coordinator which began work for the Council on 1 December, 2006. The delay in hiring the coordinator (initially expected to begin work in July 2006) was due, in part, to the recruitment of a new U.S. co-chair and the subsequent undertaking of co-chair duties which included the formation of a search committee for the EQMC coordinator. The coordinator position is currently shared among the EQMC and the Habitat Monitoring Sub Committee.
- 2. Programmatic Review** Review the 9-year Gulfwatch (GW) and 2002-2004 GW data reports and begin formulating, through consultation with EQMC committee, plans for peer-reviewed publications and products directed for audiences that include the public, managers, legislators, and educators. As of December, 2006, the Coordinator has assisted the EQMC to finalize 9-year review (9YR) and the 2002-2004 data report for submission to the GOMC for review process (with RARGOM). The coordinator provided an extensive review of the 9YR which resulted in an extensive, enhanced redraft of the original 9YR. The 9YR was submitted to the Council in February, along with a 2002-2004 Gulfwatch data report, for a formal review of the Gulfwatch Program. The coordinator will assist the Program Coordinator in the coordination of EQMC responses to the external review and in the materials for presentation to the GOMC to be completed by June, 2007.
- 3. Archiving GW data and reports** The coordinator has begun the development of a "GW: library, which includes the archiving of Gulfwatch reports and data. Specifically, enter corrected and completed Gulfwatch data into the GOMC/Gulfwatch site and into the GoMOOS site. Data reports, technical documents and relevant manuscripts are currently being obtained and assembled into electronic format to be made available for general access. The coordinator has contacted and has been working in collaboration with Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership. The initial phase of the "library" is expected to be completed and presented to the EQMC at their spring meeting in May, 2007. Work is underway collating the GW data from samples collected by the GW Program in 2005.
- 4. EQMC and HMSC Meeting Logistics** The Coordinator attended the Dec. 2006 EQMC and Working Group meetings in Fredericton, NB in Dec. 2006. The Coordinator provided the minutes from the EQMC Dec. 2006 meeting and facilitated a discussion on the 9YR. The Coordinator has begun canvassing the EQMC members for the spring meeting, and coordinated the logistics for the HMSC as well. Tentatively, both committees are planning on meeting in the 2nd week of May, 2007 in Orono, ME.
- 5. Technical/Peer-review manuscripts** Work is expected to commence after the EQMC spring meeting in May 2007 to assist lead authors to develop concepts and a draft for publication of a technical paper based on the existing Gulfwatch data.
- 6. Data Review and QA/QC:** Review GW data in its entirety and update and correct data on the GoMOOS Gulfwatch web site- February 2007 and ongoing.
- 7. Integration of Council Monitoring Activities.** Starting with the EQMC and HMSC, strategizing with committees to integrate and coordinate monitoring-related activities of the EQM and HM committees, beginning with the Spring 2007 meeting and continuing through June 2007. Develop strategic framework by July 31, 2007.

Strategies to Secure Funds for *Priority and Signature Activities*

Lacking Full Funding in the 01/01/07 – 06/30/08 GOMC Workplan (18 months)

All dollars stated in USD

| Goal #1 – Coastal and marine habitats are in a healthy, productive and resilient condition | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|--|
| Title | Budget 18 mo. | Available 18 mo. | Shortfall @6/30/08 | Lead | Task(s) Needing Funding | Strategies/Next Step |
| Prepare regional criteria to identify coastal habitats at risk from sea level rise, extreme precipitation and other climate change impacts (1.5) | \$30,000 | \$10,000 | \$20,000 | Gary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contractor (GIS Services) (\$5K) ▪ Contractor – Workshop planning and convening (\$10K) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jon/Gary work with HRSC to solidify work or tasks to be done 2. Gary/Bill identify possible funding sources for tasks |
| Compile and disseminate information on coastal habitats and watersheds at risk due to climate change (1.6) | \$15,000 | \$5,000 | \$10,000 | Gary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contractor (GIS services) \$5,000 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gary/Bill to define next steps |
| Implement the Council's Strategy for GOM Ecosystem Indicators and State of the Environment Reporting (1.8) | \$201,614 | \$185,084 | \$16,530 | Susan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May, 07 to July 08 ESIP coordinator <p>Note: \$9,000 of web services included in other council priorities web section below.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify specific tasks the Coordinator will perform that external funders would be interested in supporting 2. ESIP partners make contributions |
| Develop framework for ecosystem characterization (1.10) | \$30,000 | \$5,000 | \$25,000 | Betsy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare follow-up materials | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with SIMOR co-chairs to secure funding. Also target private foundations and partner up with TNC and others doing similar characterization work. |
| Complete documentation of existing Canadian coastal/marine managed areas (1.11) | \$35,000 | \$5,000 | \$30,000 | Marianne & Jason | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Produce manual of Canadian marine managed areas and habitats ▪ Merge Canadian and US materials | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HCSC prepares work plan & identifies Canadian funding sources |
| Support Gulf of Maine Mapping | \$67,104 | \$48,205 | \$18,900 | Megan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GOMMI coordinator & | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GOMMI to define tasks |

| | | | | | | |
|--|----------|---------|-----------|----------|--|---|
| Initiative (1.12) | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all other (time period??) Web portion of 1.12 included below | requiring funding |
| Facilitate communication about sub-tidal habitat classification methodologies (1.13) | \$20,000 | \$4,000 | \$16,000 | Marianne | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor to build on Mass. activities and compile & assess methodologies Convene experts Council provides the technical review and regional applicability assessment | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> HCSC develops work plan and schedule HCSC identifies funding sources |
| TOTAL | | | \$136,430 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | 3. |

| Goal 2 – Improve environmental conditions in the Gulf of Maine to support ecosystem and human health | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Title | Budget 18 mo | Available 18 mo | Shortfall @6/3/08 | Lead | Task(s) Needing Funding | Strategies |
| Based on recommendations from the scientific review, conduct Gulfwatch program (2.2) | \$265,190 | \$252,316 | \$12,874 | Christian, Peter, Hilary & Pat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental monitoring coordinator | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> CMSC & HMSC identify tasks EMC will perform that others may want to pay for |

| Goal 3: Gulf of Maine coastal communities are vibrant and have marine-dependent industries that are healthy and globally competitive | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|--|--|
| Title | Budget 18 mo | Available 18 mo | Shortfall @6/30/08 | Lead | Task(s) Needing Funding | Strategies |
| Assess working waterfront awareness (3.3) | \$6,000 | 0 | \$6,000 | Justin & Liz | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor to assemble baseline data | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify project outcomes Work w/evaluator |

| Other Council Priorities | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------|----------------------------------|--|
| Title | Budget 18 mo. | Available 18 mo | 2008 Shortfall | Lead | Task(s) Needing Funding | Strategies |
| Gulf of Maine Times | 121,000 | 94,522 | 26,478 | Theresa | Based on 4 printed issues | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If the Council wants to produce quarterly, printed Times, need to come up with a strategy |
| Outreach | 80,412 | 71,399 | \$9,024 | Theresa | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify additional WP tasks in projects that are not funded by the internal allocations that need |



| | | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|------------------|----------|--|--|
| | | | | | | outreach services |
| Web Support (1.8) (1.12) (3.2) & (1.2) | 75,391 | 67,324 | \$8,067 | Seth | | 1. Identify additional WP tasks in projects that are not funded by the internal allocations that need outreach services or support with dues |
| Policy | 59,180 | 41,694 | \$17,486 | WG Chair | | 1. Identify policy tasks that others may want to pay for including dues |
| Science Translation | 86,967 | 83,163 | 3,804 | Ted | | |
| TOTAL | | | \$64,859 | | | |
| SHORTFALL TOTAL FOR ENTIRE TABLE | | | \$220,163 | | | |

Priority/ Signature activities that have no funding and need task forces before they seek funding are:

1.7 - Identify coastal and marine policies and programs and their role in enabling an ecosystem-based approach; including an evaluation of the cumulative effects that these programs and policies have on ecosystem services.

1.9 - Identify and assess the long-term economic, social and ecological implications of projected coastal development patterns in the region

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

Date: 15/03/2007

Engaging Council partners via strategic alliances

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

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

Given this history of collaboration the Council embraces using strategic alliances to advance its objectives as stated in the Action Plan and corresponding work plan.

CURRENT STATUS: BoFEP has approached the Council with a proposal to enter into a new Agreement. RARGOM, the Northeast Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) and the Ocean Data Partnership (ODP) have all recently expressed a similar interest in a formal agreement that advances the priorities of all parties.

Given this confluence of events it is timely to create a consistent approach to forming and sustaining strategic alliances.

OPTIONS: The possible content of an Agreement is highly variable and dependent on the needs of the parties. The range of content extends from non-binding statements of shared principles, to consultative arrangements, to performance-based agreements that bind the parties to specific deliverables. Agreements could call for governance changes and shared board representation. Further, the Agreements could cover a period of less than a year to renewable, multi-year commitments.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Working Group should commence by reviewing the Action Plan and 18-month work plan to determine what activities could be significantly accelerated through an Agreement. Next it would identify and contact those organizations with shared interests and that are able to advance work on an issue. Of particular interest is what resources (e.g., cash, in-kind, profile/credibility, etc.) those organizations could bring to bear to advance activities in the 18-month work plan AND the capacity of those organizations to collaborate with the Council. The request to these organizations¹ could suggest specific activities or ask them to draw on the 18-month work plan and identify the activities they want to work on.

This consultative process should occur in April-May and preliminary results presented to the Council in June.

¹ BoFEP, GoMOOS, NERACOOS, CML, RARGOM, NEPs, NERRs, ACAP, ODP, COMPASS

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership – GOMC REVISED AGREEMENT

MAR 14, 2007 (Hinch/Wells – D2)

**Contribution Agreement
between**

The Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership
(represented by the BOFEP Management Committee)

and

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
(represented by the Council Chair)

The Parties to this Agreement are:

a) The Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership, (hereinafter called BoFEP), is dedicated to fostering the well-being of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem within the Gulf of Maine. BOFEP is representative of the coastal, marine, watershed scientific, government, academic, and non-government communities that have interests in integrated ecological management, conservation, and sustainable management of Bay of Fundy's natural ecosystems, wildlife and living resources (Appendix A).

b) The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (hereinafter called GOMC), is a US-Canadian partnership, established by Governors and Premiers of States and Provinces bordering the Gulf of Maine, to coordinate work on trans-boundary environmental management concerns and to promote activities that sustain the ecosystems of the Gulf of Maine (Appendix B).

Whereas:

Each party to this Agreement has its own distinct mission and operates independently, but together they share similar purposes, goals and objectives and a common interest in the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy (Appendices A and B);

The integrated and sustainable environmental management of the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy is of crucial importance to both parties;

The GOMC and BoFEP wish to continue the formal linkage between the two organizations;

This Agreement reconfirms a special relationship and partnership between the two organizations, enhancing the opportunities for cooperation, and sharing capacity and knowledge, related to projects of mutual interest on the GOM/BoF;

The Agreement facilitates BoFEP in implementing aspects of its annual work plans that directly relate to and reflect the goals and objectives of the 2007-2012 GOMC Action Plan: the action plan has 3 components - Protect and Restore Coastal and Marine Habitats, Protect Human Health and Ecosystem Integrity, and Encourage Sustainable Maritime Activities. The Agreement facilitates BoFEP in two ways: a) applying for funding under the specific GOMC work plan element(s) that are of mutual interest and for which BoFEP has both capacity and knowledge to undertake, and b) competing for funding under the GOMC action plan process, internal grants program and others as available.

The Agreement facilitates the GOMC in making further linkages to the Bay of Fundy and the activities of BoFEP that contribute to the goals of the GOMC action plan, and interests of its members.

1. Purpose and Expected Results

The purpose of the Agreement is for the GOMC to facilitate the relationship with BoFEP, and vice-versa, thereby supporting project initiatives of mutual interest that directly relate to activities described in the GOMC Action Plan Grants, the GOMC 2007-2012 Action Plan, and associated annual work plans of both groups. The results of this



cooperative arrangement will be measurable progress on issues influencing the environmental health and sustainability of the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy.

2. Activities to be Undertaken

2.1 Projects:

a) BoFEP will review the GOMC's work plans and identify specific projects that could be conducted by BoFEP partners, thereby fulfilling the objectives of the work plan and helping to achieve the long-term goals of the council as stated in their action plan.

b) BoFEP will make applications a) for projects under the GOMC work plan where BoFEP has both the capacity and knowledge to undertake these projects; and b) for projects in response to the RFPs as advertised by the Council e.g. internal grants, action plan grant process, or other competitive processes.

2.2 New issues: BoFEP will remain aware of emerging issues in the GOM/BoF, notify the GOMC WG accordingly, and assist the Council in responding to new issues.

2.3 Opportunities: BoFEP will remain aware of policy initiatives and opportunities from a Canadian perspective, and communicate these to the Council..

3. Financial Arrangements

Details pertaining to the transfer of any funds, methods of payments, invoices, requests for payment, management of accounts, and financial statements will be included in each specific contract, by project, established between the two parties, GOMC and BoFEP.

4. Intellectual Property

Any intellectual property rights arising from each project will be vested with both BoFEP and GOMC, enabling each party to produce, publish, translate, reproduce, adapt, broadcast or use at no cost, any work subject to such intellectual property rights, with the knowledge and permission of the parties involved.

5. Access to Information

Data and information arising from projects outlined in this Agreement shall be deemed to be in the public realm and therefore freely available upon reasonable notice.

6. Public Acknowledgement

Any information released or announced to the public concerning the subject matter of this Agreement shall adequately acknowledge the contribution made by the GOMC and BoFEP. The logos of GOMC and BoFEP shall be placed in a prominent place within all published materials, as deemed suitable.

7. Revision of Agreement

This Agreement may be modified by mutual consent of the parties and such consent will be in writing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties executed this Agreement on the 30th day of June, 2007. Herein after, deemed to be the effective date of this Agreement.

**FOR THE BAY OF FUNDY
ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP**

**FOR THE GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL ON
THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

Dr. Barry Jones
Chair, Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership

Byron James
Chair, Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

Date

Date

Appendix A:

(Adapted from the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership Strategic Plan)

The purpose of BoFEP is to foster the well-being of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem. to promote integrated ecological management and coastal management based on a holistic understanding tot the Bay of Fundy ecosystem and to facilitate co-operation among individuals and groups seeking to ensure sustainable development of Bay of Fundy resources. encourage communication and cooperation among all those who share an interest in the well being of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem.

The mission of BOFEP is to: promote the ecological integrity, vitality, biodiversity and productivity of the Bay of Fundy ecosystem, in support of the social well-being and economic sustainability of its coastal communities and facilitate and enhance communication and co-operation among all citizens interested in understanding, sustainably using and conserving the resources, habitats and ecological processes of the Bay of Fundy.

The operating principles of BoFEP are:

Conservation, protection and management of Bay of Fundy resources and their habitats should be ecosystem-based and reflect an **holistic understanding** of ecosystem structure, processes and interactions.

Resource development and other coastal zone activities should be based on **ecologically sound integrated coastal planning and management**.

Coastal planning and management should be transparent and open to participation by resource users, coastal communities, industries, scientists, governments, managers and all other individuals and groups with interests in the Bay of Fundy ecosystem.

Effective communication and active co-operation among all citizens with an interest in the Bay of Fundy, and linkages with groups and programs that share similar objectives are vital to this enterprise.

The goal of BoFEP is to foster wise conservation and management of the Bay's natural resources and habitats, by encouraging cooperative activities on issues facing the Bay, monitoring the state of the ecosystem and disseminating information.

Appendix B

(Summarized from the Operating Guidelines of the Council on the Marine Environment)

The purpose of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is to sustain and improve the Gulf's ecosystem through cooperative efforts.

The mission of the Council is to maintain and enhance marine environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine and to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations.

The following principles help guide the Council and participating agencies in their decisions involving the Gulf of Maine ecosystem. Each principle is congruent with international protocols, as well as state, provincial, and national legislation in Canada and the United States.

Ecologically sustainable development

The Council seeks to meet the region's current social, cultural, and environmental needs without compromising the needs of future generations. Working in partnership with others, it strives to sustain ecological processes and enhance the region's quality of life.

Ecosystem-based planning and management

The Council supports collaborative management that integrates economics and ecological values and objectives, emphasizing natural rather than political boundaries.

Environmental protection through precaution

The Council supports conservation of the coastal and marine environment, and urges its members to proceed with caution when scientific information is incomplete to avoid environmental degradation.



Public information and participation-based planning and management

The Council is committed to a participatory process that informs and engages the public in setting priorities, forming policies, and pursuing efforts to conserve the Gulf's environment.

The goals of the Council are:

-Coordinate conservation of the Gulf's ecosystem: establish a long-term, cooperative environmental management strategy and promote a framework to unite the protection efforts and responsibilities of the bordering states and provinces.

-Promote sustainable development: promote the sustainable development and management of the Gulf's marine and coastal resources;

-Promote public awareness: Improve stewardship of the Gulf by increasing awareness about its resources, management issues, and ways the public can become involved; and

-Foster marine research: Improve management of the Gulf by promoting research on the structure and function of the Gulf ecosystem as well as the effects of pollution, habitat loss, and other stresses.

Appendix C (BoFEP work plans FY 06-07 to be included, when available)

Habitat Monitoring Data System and other Council IT Projects

Background:

In 2006, the Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee (HMSC), Data and Information Management Committee (DIMC), and Science Translation Project joined forces with funds from the GOMC Internal Grants to develop a pilot web-based Regional Habitat Monitoring Data System (HMDS). The data system enables sharing, integration, and use of coastal habitat monitoring data from around the Gulf of Maine. The system includes a user-friendly, standardized data entry mechanism; secure data storage; and synthesis and dynamic display of coastal and estuarine habitat monitoring results. The site enables monitoring programs to enter and access centralized data, while also facilitating simultaneous use of information from multiple sources. Coastal managers can access the information to paint a clearer picture of habitat conditions and trends by creating reports and viewing the data on maps and graphs.

The data-display page at <http://www.gomoos.org/gomc/map> is available to all web users. Data providers using the Gulf of Maine Salt Marsh Monitoring Protocol can register and enter salt marsh vegetation data via the login page, <http://www.gomoos.org/gomc>. The system also includes capabilities to import and display seagrass vegetation data collected and entered via the global seagrass monitoring program SeagrassNet.

The Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS) was the lead database and application developer on the project. Additional partners consisted of K2Science LLC, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, University of New Hampshire, US Geological Survey, and Maine Department of Marine Resources.

This pilot serves as a compelling example of the potentials offered by partnering and of the rapid development that can take place when projects build on earlier work. It also shows the need for developing strong long term relationships. Requirements to maintain and further develop HMDS and several GOMC IT (Internet Technology) projects will be discussed.

Current Situation:

The contract to GoMOOS for their lead role in development of the HMDS data system includes their hosting and maintenance of the database for two years as a proof-of-concept. After mid-2008, additional support will be required for continued hosting and maintenance of the data system.

The pilot data system was limited by funding to include salt marsh and seagrass vegetation data only. The Gulf of Maine Salt Marsh Monitoring Protocol and the SeagrassNet Protocol each include additional data (e.g. hydrology, salinity, soils, nekton, birds) that are currently not accommodated by the pilot system. The system was intentionally designed to be flexible to facilitate future expansion to other data types (beyond vegetation) and other habitats and integration with other data displays. Partners will be sought to contribute to expansion of the data system.

Options:

Maintenance and hosting of pilot system: Options are to partner with GoMOOS for this service as currently maintained or move the system to a separate server with existing GOMC relationship.

Expansion: Funding is needed to expand the system. Options include seeking sole funding or multiple partners.

Recommended Actions:

Maintenance and hosting of pilot: *Continue partnership with GoMOOS for hosting and maintenance.* This offers multiple benefits, including efficiency (GoMOOS did the programming and consequently knows the system inside-out already, which could be a huge benefit with trouble shooting as more users are added); integration with other GOMC data (GoMOOS already hosts Gulfwatch data); and strengthening existing partner relationship and developing synergism between GoMOOS and the Council for expansion of data systems. GoMOOS is hesitant to put a dollar cost on hosting beyond initial contract period because much can change in the next year. Tom Gale (IT chief) stated, "It is safe to say that we expect that our interest in the strategic value of our relationship with the GoMC would weigh



heavily into any costs that we charged you at that point. Our hope would be that between now and then that we would be able to identify funding sources for the expansion of the system that would cover the hosting as well. We could certainly give you a firm quote sufficiently far in advance of the end of the two year hosting contract so that you would have time to assess your options at that point."

Expansion: Assist with identifying potential multiple partners, both within and external to the Council, to contribute to expansion of data system.

Considerations beyond the HMDS:

The GOMC will continue to strengthen the IT development path that has been taken and assure adequate support to meet on-going needs. We presently have an excellent team working on a wide range of IT projects to meet GOMC needs and supply tools to a larger audience. We need to be innovative to assure IT future needs are adequately supported and to provide new options for continued development. Options that include the HMDS and other key GOMC T projects will be discussed.

Submitted by: Hilary Neckles for HMSC with additions by Seth Barker for DIMC

Development of Gulfwatch tools that managers need

Background/Context for Activity

The Gulf of Maine Council has funded the Gulfwatch Program since 1993 to document the status and trends of contaminants (in blue mussels) in the Gulf of Maine. In 2004 the Council worked in collaboration with the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS) to move ten years of Gulfwatch data from paper files to a relational database (www.gomoos.org/chameleon/gulfwatch/). This web-based mapping tool allows managers to plot and create maps of contaminants. In 2007 the Council is supporting a peer review of the data that may call for program design & direction changes.

The Council's 18-month work plan calls for the development of web-based tools that are response to coastal managers needs. The following is the sequence of tasks for this activity.

Step One – Develop coastal managers user profile

- Characterize coastal managers responsibilities/activities, their organizations (government, non-profit and for profit) that are working at and/or require a gulf-wide perspective to make coastal management decisions (e.g., water, air and land quality permitting/licensing, fisheries and wildlife management, policy development, advocacy, etc) and the decisions they make on a daily basis.

Step Two -- Identify target audience

- Provide the user profile to the Working Group and Council committee members and request them to identify applicable individuals (and contact information) in their jurisdiction.

Step Three – Assess applicable regional and national programs

- Identify regional and national programs that operate monitoring programs and disseminate their data (and information) via the web to their user community. Examples include the National Coastal Assessment, GoMEX Program, the National Status and Trends Program, Great Lakes Information Network, California's Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, etc.
- Assess the tools (web mapping, databases structures, graphing, etc.) these programs use to disseminate their data and information that might be applicable to coastal managers and their use of Gulfwatch data. Develop a brief compendium of these tools to inspire Gulf of Maine coastal managers about the possibilities.

Step Four – Compile anecdotes on coastal managers use of Gulfwatch data

- Request GOM Council participants (e.g., Working Group, Contaminants Monitoring Subcommittee, Gulfwatch Subcommittee, etc.) to provide examples of how coastal managers have used data from the Gulfwatch Program
- Assess uses of the data to provide basis of the survey
- Characterize how coastal managers want to receive data and information (drawing directly from the recent CSC survey of coastal managers that describes their views)

Step Five – Prepare and conduct survey of coastal managers

- Prepare a 10-minute telephone survey with three parts
- Prepare introductory email and distribute to target audience (Step #2 above) (Include mention of GOMC/GoMOOS Gulfwatch mapping tool)
- Implement survey, assess results and prepare 2-3 page report summarizing findings

Step 6 - Selection and implementation of tool(s)

- Develop a list of tools that meet a range of needs and wide audience
- Develop a list of tools that have important functionality but are limited in scope (these could become tool box components).
- Evaluate feasibility of candidate tools
- Develop details of project management

Next Steps

At this time the Working Group needs to review the coastal managers user profile (step #1) and identify coastal managers in their respective jurisdiction (step #2). Karin Hansen has requested this input and WG members need to provide contact information for these managers.

At the Working Group meeting staff will review the results of step #3 and contribute their insights as to useful tools.



Re: Development of tools for coastal managers that enable them to use Gulfwatch data

The first step in devising tools that coastal managers need to better access and use Gulfwatch data in new and creative ways is to define more precisely who our target audience is. The following attempts to describe what a coastal manager is.

Profile of a coastal manager (for the purposes of this mini-project)

- Characterize coastal manager's responsibilities/activities and the decisions they make on a daily basis.
 - water, air and land quality permitting/licensing and enforcement
 - fisheries and wildlife planning & management (e.g., wildlife refuge, stock assessments, etc.)
 - policy development (e.g., development of new statutes and programs),
- Describe the organizations they work for
 - Federal, provincial, state, and municipal government (e.g., NOAA, Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, EC, DFO engaged in migratory fish and bird issues, air quality/deposition; FDA, EC and marine resource agencies related to shellfish; communities working on major outfalls such as the NH water quality combined sewage disposal effort, Halifax harbor sewage management effort, Mass Water Resources Authority, etc.)
 - Environmental non-governmental organizations and place-based programs (ACAP, NEP, NERRs,);
 - For profit (e.g., business activities that may impact the marine environment) that have staff or consultants processing permit applications
- Refine the target audience by identifying those that are working at and/or require a gulf-wide perspective to make coastal management decisions
 - Government agencies acting on permits and licenses that have a greater than local effect and thus need to integrate a gulf-wide perspective into their decision-making (e.g., major sewage outfalls;
 - Government resource managers working on migratory bird, fish, and mammal issues (e.g., shad movements, Right whale migrations, top pelagics, etc.)
 - Government agencies making decisions related to area-based management in the Gulf of Maine, e.g., ocean zoning; siting of marine protected areas
 - Government agencies evaluating regional ecosystem conditions as part of ecosystem-based management process
 - Non-government organizations working to reduce pollution impacts in the Gulf of Maine, e.g, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership

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

Date: 15/03/2007

Increasing the stability of the Council – rationale for a dues increase

ISSUE: Expenses for the Council's annual core operating activities are increasing. In addition some of these activities (e.g., external policy development) are supported with grants and others (e.g., secretariat expenses) are supported by indirect. This approach of using indirect and grants makes these activities vulnerable to inconsistent funding.

BACKGROUND: At their December 2006 the Council requested the Working Group to develop options for a dues increase and to present these options in June. This request was based in part on the absence of a new 2007 influx of support from NOAA via the Congressional earmark.

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

CURRENT STATUS: Presently each jurisdiction pays \$15,000/year (US) and Canadian federal agencies each provide an annual contribution of \$7,000. (US federal agencies have commonly provided project specific funding in lieu of annual contributions.) Presently these funds total \$89,000 and are used to support Secretariat operations (e.g., coordinator, administrative assistant, meeting expenses, fund development, etc.).

In addition, the Council develops and applies an annual indirect grant rate, calculated by the auditor, to all funding it receives in support of specific projects in its annual work plan (e.g., monitoring, outreach, restoration, etc.). Presently these funds are used to support USGOMA operations (e.g., executive director, finance assistant, auditor, etc.) and some Council activities (e.g., secretariat running expenses). (The level of USGOMA activity that is required to manage the Council's annual work plan (e.g., negotiate and manage contracts, manage financial accounts, etc.) depends on the volume of funding and number of contracts.)

In summary, the funding received through the dues/annual assessments, grants and indirect funds support the Council's core operating costs.

OPTIONS: The crux of the issue is the balance the Council seeks in terms of support for Council core support tasks between dues, grants and indirect. Questions for the Working Group to consider as it explores the options responsive to the Council's request include:

1. What activities are appropriately funded with dues/annual assessments, what is the possible range of services and what are their costs?
Response: The safest approach is to solely use dues to fund those routine activities that enable the Council to perform its duties and that no other organization is likely to fund. These include the Council coordinator, administrative assistant, associated meeting expenses, web/technology support, external policy development, and fundraising. (Each of these items could be funded with a modest level of support or greater funding.) The alternative is the status quo – a blend of dues, indirect and grants.
2. What are the USGOMA costs for managing grant funding and how do they differ from Council annual operating costs?
Response: Presently it costs \$105,000 /year to manage the activities of the USGOMA. The USGOMA exists solely to serve the Council and all expenses incurred are related directly to the activities required to manage its affairs. (Conversely, if the USGOMA received no project funding and we hired few contractors it would have minimal expenses.)
3. Should the Council allocate a portion of the dues/assessments to matching/leveraging other funding?
Response: Quite often external funders will request or require funds to match/compliment their investment in a particular task. If the Council internally raises funds through dues in excess of its core expenses it could use these funds to leverage external commitments.
4. What do the jurisdictions need to receive in return for their increased investment in core support of the Council?



Response: *The jurisdictions need to routinely see some inherent value in the Council's core activities to justify making cash or commitments of in-kind services. (At the present dues structure it is rarely a question of whether a jurisdiction has the funding but rather what it will get for its investment with the Council vs. elsewhere.)*

Increased support will provide internal coordination of Council activities, meeting support and associated logistics, a dynamic and current web site, formulation and pursuit of external policy issues, and financial development (e.g., preparation of funding proposals in support of the annual work plan).

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Working Group should discuss, amend as needed and present the following recommendations to the Council:

- A. **Determine Core Support and amount required** – The Council should identify the following as core support and should use dues and/or annual assessments to fund them. (The dollar amounts are appropriate levels of investment for the period July 2007 to June 2008.)
 Council coordinator – 1/2 time (\$46,960), administrative assistant – 1/2 time (\$19,480), associated meeting and other Secretariat expenses (\$14,500), web/technology support (\$ 44,160), external policy development – 1/3 time (\$ 37,640), and fundraising – 1/6 time (\$ 18,760).
 These activities total \$167,000 for contractor support and \$14,500 for meeting and other expenses.
- B. **Sources and amount of support** – Now that the Action Plan is finalized the Council should extend offers of participation on the Council to other provincial, state and federal agencies that are working on issues contained in the Plan. Examples include Natural Resources Canada, Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, etc. By increasing the number of participating agencies the Council will expand the base of support.

Described below is one funding scenario for a phased dues approach.

| Source | Present (USD) ² | Proposed | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | July 2007 | July 2008 |
| State & Provincial Government | \$15,000 x 5 | \$18,000 x 5 | \$20,000 x 5 |
| Federal Governments | \$7,000 x 2 (EC/DFO) | \$10,000 x 5 (CA &US) | \$15,000 x 6 (CA & US) |
| Total | \$89,000 | \$140,000 | \$190,000 |

² With a stronger Canadian dollar the net effect of an increased annual assessment on the Provinces, EC and DFO will be dampened.

Action Plan Marketing Campaign Update and Moving Forward

Update

On January 31, 2007 the Action Plan Marketing Campaign kicked-off with the release of the plan at the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy awards celebration in Halifax, NS. Over 70 people attended and the plan was released by Mark Parent, Minister of Environment and Labour. The next morning press announcements were distributed by the Council, the communications offices of Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture, New Brunswick Department of Fisheries, New Hampshire DES and Maine Coastal Program.

CBC Fredericton conducted an interview with Peter Wells, the audio transcript is on the Council website, and David Keeley was interviewed by NH Public Radio.

Additionally, announcements posted on listservs and e-newsletters such as NOAA *Fishnews*, ACZISC news, the Council NGO directory and the Coastal Society news. *The Gulf of Maine Times* mailed on February 12 and features an article on the Action Plan.

In early February, the hard copies of the Action Plan and marketing postcards distributed to jurisdictional offices as well as a sample cover letter to personalize the mailings. Mailings have been completed in Maine and New Hampshire.

The PEP Committee created an Action Plan PowerPoint presentation. It is available on the website to download and can be tailored to specific jurisdictions or agencies.

Current Situation and Actions Needed

Our marketing campaign is proceeding on schedule and doing well. The marketing tools are in place - the website is up and running, jurisdictions have hard copies, postcards and the PowerPoint. We now need to focus our efforts on completing the mailings and conducting outreach.

A few examples of recent and upcoming outreach efforts-

David Keeley and Kathleen Leyden will travel to Monterey, CA in April for the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative. The meeting of national experts will discuss legislative options to address the regional ocean governance issues identified in the Pew and US Commission reports. Larry Hildebrand has presented the plan to Environment Canada's Regional Senior Management Committee. Peter Wells and Justin Houston distributed the plan at a Land Based Activities meeting in Halifax. Theresa Torrent-Ellis distributed the plan and postcards and talked to folks at the three-day Fisherman's Forum in Rockland, Maine. David Keeley has briefed NOS Administrator Jack Dunnigan in Washington, DC and thanked him for TA offered by CSC on the logic model process.

What other opportunities are coming up over the next three months? What organizations are already on your lists to contact related to activities in the current work plan? Each jurisdiction has a number of highly effective NGOs and many of them are already Council partners. Are they already receiving a mailing and should they be contacted for an Action Plan presentation?

What would we like to see as outcomes of our marketing efforts and what steps need to happen to get there? What additional tools can PEPC offer to assist all of you in this important phase of the campaign?

Prepared by Karin Hansen and Theresa Torrent-Ellis

Ecosystem Indicator Partnership Subcommittees

Summary: (as of March 8, 2007)

| Subcommittee | Canadian Chair | US Chair | Active Canadian Members | Active US Members |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Aquatic Habitats | | Hillary Neckles | 4 | 20 |
| Climate Change | Gary Lines | | 3 | 9 |
| Coastal Development | | | 4 | 13 |
| Contaminants | | | 3 | 11 |
| Eutrophication | | | 3 | 3 |
| Fisheries/Aquaculture | | Jason Link | 2 | 12 |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Steering Committee (* co-chairs) (R -current reps to Working Group)</p> <p>Barb Buckland Diane Gould David Keeley Wendy Leo Gary Lines Gary Matlock* Jason Naug* R Hillary Neckles Kathryn Parlee* Susan Russell-Robinson *R Charles Strobel * Peter Wells</p> | <p>ESIP Program Manager</p> <p>Christine Tilburg ctilburg@securspeed.us</p> | <p>Aquatic Habitats Susan Adamowicz Robert Buchsbaum Barb Buckland David Burdick Todd Callaghan Heather Deese Michele Dionne Lee Doggett Susan Farady Al Hanson Brad Haskell Kats Haya Beverly Johnson Emily Klein Ray Konisky Kate Magness Hilary Neckles Jack Schwartz Fred Short Rabindra Singh Kate Smuckler Marilyn ten Brink Michele Tremblay</p> | <p>Climate Change Al Hanson Beverly Johnson Emily Klein Peter Larsen Gary Lines Kate Magness Steve Perrin Marilyn ten Brink Charles Tilburg Julie Turcotte Cameron Wake Hal Walker</p> |
| <p>Coastal Development Bruce Carlisle Nadine Gauvin Al Hanson Brad Haskell Greg Hellyer David Keeley Kate Killerlain Morrison Emily Klein Kathleen Leyden Kate Magness Elizabeth Mills Pam Morgan Steve Perrin Daniel Savard</p> | <p>Contaminants Todd Callaghan Adria Elskus Nadine Gauvin Diane Gould Kats Haya Steve Jones Christian Krahforst Wendy Leo Kate Magness Keith Matassa Jack Schwartz Charles Strobel Marilyn ten Brink Peter Wells</p> | <p>Eutrophication Todd Callaghan Nadine Gauvin Eric Luiker Kate Magness John Roff Marilyn ten Brink</p> | <p>Fisheries/Aquaculture Diane Cowan Brad Haskell Kats Haya Christopher Heinig Emily Kline Jason Link Kate Magness Gary Matlock Linda Mercer Kathy Mills Chato Osio Paul Rago Jack Schwartz Julie Turcotte</p> |

ESIP (Ecosystem Indicator Partnership) Progress and Transition

Personnel: Christine Tilburg was selected as the new ESIP Program Manager and began work on February 8, 2007. Christine has been working on deliverables according to the Geoconnections timeline, assisting in the plans for the Climate Change Network/ESIP meeting in June, and working on the ESIP organization of subcommittees.



Geoconnections: ESIP and GoMOOS personnel have had 2 meetings in 2007 to discuss deliverables and work with the Geoconnections project (meetings were held 3/1 and 3/16). Database discovery was completed and databases were prioritized based on several factors including length of data record and spatial extent. The technical requirements document was drafted and a RFP was released for the Phase III work (Canadian vendor for web services).

ESIP Organization: ESIP subcommittee membership continues to grow as new members were invited at a recent RARGOM meeting. However, several subcommittees are in need of additional members. Also critical is the need for subcommittee chairs in the following indicator groups: Eutrophication, Contaminants, and Coastal Development. Work in these three subcommittees is expected to increase following the scheduled New Brunswick meeting in June. ESIP is requesting that Working Group members recommend individuals to chair the 3 revitalized subcommittees listed above.