



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

Working Group Meeting Briefing Packet

Version 1 • March 11, 2008

Halifax, NS • March 25-26, 2008

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Working Group Meeting **Draft** Agenda

Tuesday, March 25, 2008, NS Department of Environment and Labour, Halifax, NS

8:30 AM	<p>Welcome, Introductions, and Remarks <i>Julia Knisel (MA Office of Coastal Zone Management), GOMC Working Group Chair</i></p>
8:40 AM PAGE 8	<p>Approval of Consent Agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. December 2007 WG meeting decision and action items - <i>Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator</i> 2. NROC - <i>Adrienne Harrison (NOAA)</i> 3. Update on 2008-09 Fund Development Priorities - <i>David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator</i> 4. <i>Gulf of Maine Times</i> proposed table of contents for the Business Plan - <i>David Keeley</i> 5. Science Translation – <i>Peter Taylor</i> 6. Committee and Subcommittee Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 1 (Habitat): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat Conservation - <i>Marianne Janowicz (NB Department of Environment) and Kate Killerlain Morrison (The Nature Conservancy), Subcommittee Co-chairs</i> ▪ Habitat Monitoring - <i>Hilary Neckles (US Geological Survey) and Al Hanson (Canadian Wildlife Service), Subcommittee Co-chairs</i> ▪ Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative - <i>Megan Tyrell, GOMMI Co-chair</i> Crosscutting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Climate Change Network - <i>Gary Lines (Environment Canada) and Bill Burtis (Clean Air - Cool Planet), Committee Co-chairs</i> ▪ Ecosystem Indicator Partnership - <i>Susan Russell-Robinson (Department of the Interior), and Anita Hamilton, (Department of Fisheries and Oceans), Committee Co-chairs</i>
8:45 AM PAGE 22	<p>GOMC Administration and Operations: Part I, Organization Chart and Policies <i>Julia Knisel</i></p> <p>Organization Chart: Council approved Committee and Subcommittee changes in December, but requested further input from the Council Advisory Group and WG on the structure. <i>Desired Outcome:</i> WG recommendations on the organization chart to the Council for discussion and approval at June meeting.</p> <p>Publications Protocol: Some Committee and Subcommittee documents are not being reviewed by the WG or Council to meet distribution and other requirements of the publications protocol (1996, 1997). <i>Desired Outcome:</i> Compliance with current protocol and approval of revisions based on the 2005 draft including editorial review.</p>
10:15 AM	<p>Break</p>
10:30 AM PAGE 28	<p>GOMC Administration and Operations: Part 2, Contracts for Core Services <i>Julia Knisel and Justin Huston NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture)</i></p> <p>A framework for the allocation of dues and annual contributions (option F) was approved by the WG and Council in December. As a result, new scopes are required for core contractors. <i>Desired Outcome:</i> WG approval of RFP for 2008-2010 core services.</p>
12:30 PM	<p>Bagged lunch during presentations</p>
1:00 PM	<p>Nova Scotia's Water Resources Management Strategy <i>Jessica Patterson (NS Department of Environment and Labour)</i></p> <p>Nova Scotia's recent Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act committed the Province to having a comprehensive water management strategy in place by 2010. This presentation provides an overview of the contents of the strategy as well as the overall process undertaken to deliver the strategy. <i>Desired Outcome:</i> Informational.</p>



<p>1:15 PM</p>	<p>Update on Nova Scotia's Coastal Management Framework <i>Justin Huston, (NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture)</i> In February 2008, Nova Scotia adopted a Coastal Management Framework to ensure a more coordinated and strategic approach to coastal management. In addition to identifying the Province's high-level priorities and goals for coastal management, the Framework outlines a series of strategic activities that will accelerate action on priority coastal issues over the next two years. <i>Desired Outcome:</i> Informational.</p>
<p>1:30 PM PAGE 33</p> <p>PLEASE ALSO DOWNLOAD SEPARATE DOCUMENT FROM WEBSITE</p>	<p>Gulfwatch: Peer Review and Assessment of Data Applications by the Management Community <i>Peter Wells, GCMSC Co-Chair</i> The Council recently received a Council-funded peer review of the Gulfwatch Program. RARGOM conducted the program review (e.g., Are the reported findings justified? Are the analytical and statistical methods used sound? Are there better data analysis methods that should be included? Is there other information that can be discerned from the results?). RARGOM also reviewed the future design and direction of the program (e.g., Are the sampling frequency, number of samples, and spatial array justified? Are the targeted analytes appropriate? Will the design provide results that will answer critical management and scientific questions that reflect the hypotheses of the program? Are the three original monitoring goals being met through the current program and if not, where are the deficiencies?) In addition, the Council assessed managers' uses of Gulfwatch data and new tools to disseminate the data. <i>Desired Outcome:</i> WG recommendation to Council whether to continue to administer Gulfwatch or not. If so, WG identifies how the data can be better translated into information and provided to resource managers in the Gulf of Maine.</p> <p>Part 1: Presentation of Gulfwatch Peer Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How was the peer review done, what was its scope, and who was involved? ▪ What did it say? ▪ What is the Subcommittee's response to the review and how should the program be amended? What are the implications of these changes? <p>Part 2: Users Needs Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What was the Outreach Committee's Gulfwatch project supposed to do? ▪ What did it uncover in regards to users of Gulfwatch data and results? ▪ What recommendations are offered?
<p>3:00 PM</p>	<p>Environmental Information on the Gulf of Maine: Impact on Decision Making <i>Peter Wells and Ruth Cordes</i> The study on the use of GOMC publications in decision and policy making is continuing at Dalhousie University in a research project funded by Canada's SSHRC. The study complements the current GOMC action plan, with its emphasis on habitat conservation, information translation, environmental quality, and sustainable development. Approaching its 20th anniversary, the Council will benefit from knowing how its work has been utilized by managers, policy makers and other decision makers across sectors (public to industry) for the conservation and protection of the Gulf. <i>Desired Outcome:</i> Heightened awareness of the project for the Council and its committees especially those dealing with information; Further engagement with the appropriate committees; Consideration for a presentation to the Council in June; Alerting potential participants in research (e.g., interviews, web statistics); Seeking additional sponsors for graduate students engaged in the study.</p>
<p>3:30 PM PAGE 42</p>	<p>Maintaining Web Resources <i>Jennifer Hackett (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) and Paul Currier (NH Department of Environmental Services), Information Management Committee Co-Chairs</i> Many committees and subcommittees are developing web-based products, but a long-term strategy for web hosting is not in place. <i>Desired Outcome:</i> WG recommendation to Information Management Committee regarding a plan for hosting web-based products including priorities.</p>



3:45 PM PAGE 44	<p>ESIP Proposed Workshops, Communications Plan, and Progress <i>Susan Russell-Robinson (USGS) and Anita Hamilton (DFO)</i> Shortly, ESIP will release the Indicator Reporting tool (funded by GeoConnections grant) and fourteen proposed indicators from four of the six subcommittees. As a next step from the Action Plan, ESIP is developing a communication strategy for lawmakers (funded by Environment Canada) and planning workshops throughout the region in late Spring 2008. <i>Desired Outcome:</i> ESIP needs guidance from WG on how best to work with lawmakers and where to site spring workshops in each province and state. ESIP would like the WG to participate in designing non-monetary recognition of the subcommittee chairs (for May 8, 2008 ESIP meeting to be held in Boston, MA).</p>
4:15 PM	Unfinished Business/Consent Agenda Items
5:00 PM	Adjourn
6:00 PM	Dinner (meet in hotel lobby)



Wednesday, March 26, 2008, Courtyard by Marriott, 5120 Salter Street, Halifax

<p>8:00 AM PAGE 45</p>	<p>Ecosystem-Based Management</p> <p>Part 1: Council's Role in EBM <i>David Keeley</i> In December, the Council made suggestions regarding the EBM framework and toolkit. <i>Framework:</i> Council would like to stay involved in EBM and needs to bring US and Canadian efforts together. We want to do this in partnership with MOPF and COMPASS. Acting in our role as a convener, we should organize a meeting of EBM practitioners, such as what was done in 2005. Questions of meeting content, funding, timeframe (spring), and partnering with the COMPASS work group in convening the meeting so the whole role doesn't fall on the Council all emerged. <i>Toolkit:</i> Inventory existing efforts, create a glossary, refine needs assessment, build partnerships, and consider funding needs. <i>Desired Outcome:</i> WG recommendations on how to convene EBM practitioners and Council's role in the EBM Toolkit</p> <p>Part 2: Possible Roles of The Nature Conservancy's EcoRegional Marine Assessment in an EBM Framework <i>Kate Killerlain Morrison, Sally Yozell (The Nature Conservancy)</i> A core element of an EBM framework is the compilation and assessment of existing information. TNC's EcoRegional Marine Assessment, which includes the Gulf of Maine, can help the Council and its partners pursue the framework. <i>Desired Outcome:</i> WG becomes familiar with TNC's EcoRegional Marine Assessment, and understands the types of data and information TNC is soliciting and the decision-support tools that will come out of the effort. WG will be able to participate in providing data sets and will be able to brief Councilors to consider formal partnerships with TNC on this effort such as through the GOM Ocean Data Partnership.</p>
<p>10:15 AM PAGE 50</p>	<p>Proposed Gulf of Maine Science Symposium <i>Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada</i></p>
<p>10:30 AM</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>10:45 AM</p>	<p>Coastal and Oceans Information Network Atlantic (COINAtlantic): Initiation of the Development and Implementation of a WebPortal in Support of Integrated Coastal and Oceans Management <i>Paul Boudreau (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) and Mike Butler</i> COINAtlantic will be a portal to data, information and applications, in support of decision-making by coastal and ocean managers and users. Deliverables include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A web-accessible COINAtlantic user interface (access tool), ▪ New Web Mapping Services (WMS) and Web Feature Services (WFS) maintained and delivered to the Internet by the 'closest to source' data provider organization, and ▪ New specialized internet services or enhanced existing internet services that will increase the usability of the web mapping applications. <p>The scope and completeness of the data and information and the functionality of its applications will evolve to meet users' requirements. COINAtlantic will enable access to the data and information layers of data providers using OGC services and will direct users to other access methods. The increased usage of these data and information layers, promoted by COINAtlantic, will assist data providers with further development and maintenance of their respective data layers and access services. COINAtlantic will also enhance and expand the network of data providers and users that has been developed and nurtured by the ACZISC. <i>Desired Outcome:</i> Engagement of GOMC as collaborators and users.</p>
<p>11: 15 AM PAGE 54</p>	<p>Emerging Plans for the 2009 GOM Summit <i>Theresa Torrent-Ellis (ME State Planning Office)</i> The direction of the SOE report and summit will be discussed. <i>Desired Outcome:</i> Scope of reporting and possible summit locations will be finalized or narrowed down in order to present the recommendations to Council at the June meeting. WG recommendation on the content, format, outcomes, and budget for the Summit</p>



11:30 AM PAGE 56	<p>Ocean Initiatives Integration Meeting: March 27, 2008 <i>Dave Duggan (DFO), Julia Knisel (MA CZM); and Justin Huston (NS DFA)</i> As part of the <i>Joint Workplan Concerning the Implementation of Ocean Action Plans and Moving Towards Ecosystems Approaches to Management of Coastal and Oceans Resources</i> between DFO and NOAA, DFO committed to a follow-up meeting to examine linkages between the various existing collaborative mechanisms identified in the document; <i>Overview of Current Governance in The Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine: Transboundary Collaborative Arrangements and Initiatives</i>. Council also agreed to convene a meeting to advance efficiencies and improve integration of ocean initiatives in the Gulf of Maine region. <i>Desired Outcome:</i> WG recommendations for meeting.</p>
12:00 PM	Unfinished Business/Consent Agenda Items
12:30 PM	Adjourn

December 2007 WG meeting decision and action items

US Environmental Protection Agency, Boston, MA • December 4– 5, 2007

Working Group members in attendance

David Duggan, Department of Fisheries and Oceans CA; Adrienne Harrison, NOAA CSC; Russell Henry, NB Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture; Liz Hertz, ME State Planning Office; Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada; Justin Huston, NS Department of Fisheries and Agriculture; Eric Hutchins, NOAA Habitat Conservation; Kate Killerlain Morrison, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Julia Knisel, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management and Working Group Chair; Christian Krahforst, MA Bays National Estuaries Program; Ann Rodney, US EPA; Jack Schwartz, MA Division of Marine Fisheries; Theresa Torrent-Ellis; MCP ME State Planning.

Others in attendance

John Coon, UNH; Mel Côté, US EPA; Meg Gresh, GOMC; Anita Hamilton, Department of Fisheries and Oceans CA; Karin Hansen, GOMC Outreach Committee; Jon Kachmar, ME Coastal Program/GOMC Restoration Subcommittee; David Keeley, GOMC Policy and Development Coordinator; Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association; Beth Lambert, MA Riverways Program; Regina Lyons, US EPA; Barry MacPhee, PEI Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Stephanie Moura, MA Ocean Partnership Fund; Rob Stephenson, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Paul Ticco, NOAA/NMSP; Christine Tilburg, GOMC ESIP; Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator; Lori Valigra, Gulf of Maine Times.

Decision Items:

1. The Working Group will recommend Dues Allocation Option F to the Council with the understanding that it is a framework for allocating dues; Management and Finance has some flexibility with the numbers. All of the contracts specified in Option F will be re-scoped before the new fiscal year.
2. The Working Group will present the draft Work Plan to the Council. Items may be added to the Plan if they come with funding and fit within the Action Plan.
3. The Working Group recommends to Council that strategies 1 (Increased support from Council agencies) and 3 (Engage businesses that have a demonstrated interest in Council priorities) are the preferred options for fund development; however, further discussion is required by Working Group and Council.

Action Items:

1. Dave Duggan and Anita Hamilton will email a request to the Working Group for recommendations of six to ten coastal zone management individuals from the US and Canada who should be invited to the governance meeting that DFO will convene.
2. The Evaluation Team will proceed with the decision to use the Habitat Restoration Partnership Program as a pilot. The contract managers for the Outreach, Science Translation, and Habitat Restoration contractors will clarify who will be responsible for helping with this project and how much time it would take them.
3. The Working Group will recommend to the Council that as it moves forward with its activities, its efforts need to focus on increasing the Council's visibility with industry.
4. Management and Finance will discuss on its next call the State of the Environment reporting and who will be the lead for the report and summit.
5. Theresa Torrent-Ellis will draft and submit to Management and Finance a list of responsibilities for a State of the Environment summit.
6. Christine Tilburg will upload the ESIP presentation to the ESIP webpage.
7. Liz Hertz will send to Stephanie Moura information that the State of Maine developed on cumulative impact.
8. The Working Group will inform the Council that it may wish to contact leaders in EBM to facilitate the Council's convening a forum in collaboration with COMPASS and to clarify the audience for the forum.



9. The *Gulf of Maine Times* contractor will produce a button or widget that anyone can place on their website as a link to the paper.
10. Gulf of Maine Council jurisdictions will be contacted and asked to provide bridge funding for the *Gulf of Maine Times*.
11. The results of the *Gulf of Maine Times* business plan production will be presented at the June meeting.
12. The *Gulf of Maine Times* readership survey will be completed and distributed as quickly as possible, regardless of funding.
13. All further issues of the *Gulf of Maine Times* will have a front-and-center graphic that encourages readers to access the online version.

Submitted by Meg Gresh, Administrative Assistant

Northeast Regional Ocean Council:

The Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) was created by the six New England Governors in August 2005. NROC is comprised of both state and federal members - two representatives from each of the six New England states and one representative from six federal agencies with missions supporting NROC priorities. The 2008 state and federal co-chairs are Brian Thompson from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and David Russ from the Department of Interior – USGS, respectively.

NROC seeks to act as the overarching coordinator of priority issues identified by regional entities, and to raise the awareness of these regional priorities through actions taken with NROC's federal and state partners and the New England governors. NROC has identified four priority issue areas for the region and has designated a state and federal lead to develop work plans for each issue:

- Ocean & Ecosystem Health, lead by MA Coastal Zone Management and US EPA
- Ocean Energy Planning & Management, lead by RI Bays, Rivers, and Watersheds Coordination Team and US Coast Guard
- Coastal Hazard Response & Resiliency, lead by CT Department of Environmental Protection, DOI-USGS, and NOAA
- Maritime Security, lead by US Coast Guard

NROC has approved a 2008 Action Plan and is currently developing a work plan to address the suggested actions, one of which is to facilitate the development of more detailed issue area work plans. Each issue area committee is charged with soliciting committee members and developing a draft work plan for Council review. The work plans generated by the issue area committees will provide the future content of the 2009 work plan.

NROC has submitted a funding request, along with an annual report of accomplishments, to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Commerce, Justice, Science and related agencies. If funded, the appropriations would be allocated as implementation funds for the 2009 work plan.

The next NROC Council meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2008 at the USGS field center in Northborough, MA. Documents discussed in this briefing are generally available on the NROC website at www.mass.gov/czm/nroc. Meeting materials will also be posted here two weeks prior to the May meeting.

Submitted by Adrienne Harrison, NOAA, Member of the NROC Executive Committee



Fund Development Priorities

Submitted by David Keeley and Cindy Krum

Council Designated Available Funds/Fund Development Priorities
Consent Agenda
Draft – Work in Progress

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

Work Plan # and activity name	Description	Lead	Funding/Source • Available • Needed (in bold)	Prospects/Sources	Status
1.1 Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct restoration program Post results to Restoration Portal 	JC, JK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$500,000 (NOAA/NMFS) \$ 10,300 (Coordinators time – Have 43,000 NMFS III Yr 1; 7,700 NMFS II Yr 3; 5,000 (MESPO); \$4,000 (NHDES); \$10,000 (Maine Yankee Settlement) \$ 21,750 (EC – G&C) \$ 103,360 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States/Provinces - based on historic program benefit of grants received 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circulate allocation of proposed states/provinces contributions based on historic benefit of program grants to states/provinces in jurisdiction
1.8 EISP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create indicators Gather data and develop web tools Disseminate tools to users 	SRR, AH, CT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ 0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12/02 EPA RFP GeoConnections NOAA/COS/OCRM Government Intern NOAA/CSC EPA RA Discretionary funds NHDES – data dis. NOAA/Coast Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$39K proposal submitted to EPA \$150K Stage 1 LOI accepted by GeoConnections Explore SOE funding option with Mallock & Kennedy Scope contaminants and climate change data search EISP partners assist with data discovery Fall proposal for 2-year Coastal Fellow
1.12 GOMMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate mapping & outreach 	LM, SE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ 10,000 (NOAA 06 Internal Allocation carry over) \$ 31,700 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EC – O&M 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring NOAA options @ UNH & WHOI
2.2 Gulfwatch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct Gulfwatch Program 	CK, PW, BA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ 0 \$65,000 (does not include Environmental Monitoring Coordinator) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EC – O&M 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring \$65K EC lab costs & contracting from O&M Extend current NOAA funds through 9/30/08 EC funds – how can we do 2008 sample analysis before March 2009? Currently contracting for 07 samples?
Crosscutting Tasks					
GOM Times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce 3 editions, print, distribute 	TTE, LV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$15,000 (Dues-Indirect) \$11,700 EC – G&C \$10,000 CICEET (Business plan dev) \$53,300 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplemental agency contributions Ideas from business plan (sponsors, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow through – DFO, EC, EPA, NSF, MSP, others for supplement Pursue funding ideas from Business Plan (Foundations, sponsors, etc.)
Action Plan Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer grants program 	JK, DK, MT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ 0 \$120,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundations & business community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documenting grant outcomes for 2005-07 (EPA) Organizing foundations meeting in spring to consider options
Website-IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain basic site DES Network Exchange Collaboration 	PC, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$19,000 (DES project funds) \$20,000 (Dues-Indirect) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">



	Grant Project		\$ 6,500 (non-project specific tasks)		
Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide basic Council communication services 	TTE, KH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$25,104 (EC - G&C and NOAA 06) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to develop scope for coming year
GOMC Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Coordination Meeting Expenses & Awards Administrative Support 	JH, MT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$40,000 (Dues - coordinator) \$7,000 (Dues - meeting expenses) \$110,40 (NS Fisheries and Aquaculture In-kind Admin Support) \$7 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to develop coordinator scope for coming year Assess unmet needs within available funding
Fund Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Committees to write proposals, cultivate sponsors and raise funds, GOMMI - Congressional request 	JK, MT, DK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$18,000 (Dues - indirect) \$ 6,000 (Davis Grant - GOMMI) \$7 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to develop scope for GOMMI Congressional outreach strategy Assess unmet needs within available funding
Policy Council Advisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide program development services and strategic planning advice 	JK, DK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$70,000 (Dues) \$10,000 (EC - G&C) for 2009 Summit dev. ? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to develop scope for coming year Assess unmet needs within available funding
US Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage nonprofit organization; manage finances, contracts and grants 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$97,889 Covered by indirect 		

Summary of dues allocation drawn from 1207 WG meeting Option F: GOMT (\$15,000); Web-IT (\$20,000); Coordinator (\$40,000); Meeting Expenses (\$7,000); Fund Development (\$18,000); Policy (\$20,000) = \$120,000. (Note: indirect funds would be subtracted from these amounts)

¹ This grant would provide funds for the ESIP Program Manager, web support for ESIP tools, science translation for ESIP products and outreach for ESIP marketing strategy and roll-out

Record of Development Accomplishments: 2007 - 2008

Contract staff, the Working Group and Committee members have prepared funding proposals and solicited funding directly. All of this was done in a team setting with multiple contributions of time and talent from many people. Credit goes to all that were involved.

1. \$1.1M request to Congress (via six-state Governors request) for AP Implementation (Unsuccessful)
2. \$944,770 competitive proposal to NOAA for AP Implementation (Unsuccessful)
3. \$3,000 from the Coastal States Organization to support science thresholds task 1.23. (Funded work directly)
4. \$6,337 from DOI/USGS to print and distribute the salt marsh and eelgrass primer. Contributor was Susan Russell Robinson
5. \$100,000 (in-kind) proposal for 2-year Coastal Fellow to work on climate change through the Coastal Services Center. Contributors included Ted Diers and Julia Knisel. (Unsuccessful)
6. \$10,000 (in-kind) from the Environmental Law Institute to interview coastal managers and provide assessment of cumulative impacts of coastal permitting plus gap analysis as one element of the Council's EBM initiative.
7. \$39,000 from EPA to support ESIP for program manager, web, science translation & outreach. Contributors included Susan Russell Robinson, Anita Hamilton and Christine Tilburg (Pending)
8. \$20,000 from NB Environmental Trust Fund to support climate change/water quality pilot project in NB. Contributors included Kyle McKenzie and Jane Tims. (Pending)
9. \$5,000 (in-kind) from EPA to document 2005-2007 Action Plan Grant outcomes for use in developing proposal to foundation community for program funding. Contributors included Mel Cote, Ann Rodney, Michele Tremblay, and Cindy Krum.
10. \$150,000 from GeoConnections to support ESIP coastal development tasks. Contributors included Susan Russell Robinson, Anita Hamilton and Christine Tilburg (Stage One approved)
11. \$7,500 from CICEET to support business plan for the Gulf of Maine Times. Contributors included Lori and Theresa.
12. \$79,000 from Environment Canada to support ESIP/SOE reporting, communications, Gulfwatch and climate change. Contributor included Larry Hildebrand and Kathryn Parlee.
13. \$10,000 (in-kind) from DFO to support regional ocean initiatives facilitated meeting and follow-up. Contributors included Dave Duggan and Anita Hamilton.
14. \$30,000 from Maine Yankee settlement to support habitat restoration coordinator. Contributors included Liz Hertz and Jon Kachmar.
15. \$5,000 from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to support Gulf of Maine Times business plan development.

Errors and Omissions – whenever a list is made things are left off inadvertently. This list is only indicative of what has been done. Apologies if funding proposals or contributors are omitted.

Submitted by David Keeley

Positioning the Gulf of Maine Times for the Next Ten Years: an approach for developing a business plan

Background

The Gulf of Maine Council has published the Gulf of Maine Times for nearly 15-years. It is an issue-oriented, non-advocacy newspaper produced 3-4 times a year. It is distributed free of charge to over 10,000 hard copy readers and to hundreds of electronic subscribers.

Current Situation

In December, 2007 the Council directed the Outreach Committee to prepare a business plan that responds to the following issues:

1. Purpose – It is timely to assess the current and future purpose of the Times and its role in assisting the Council attain the knowledge outcomes in the 2007-2012 Action Plan. Also to be considered are what creative approaches should be explored to collaborate with others in meeting this shared interest?
2. Audience -- During the lifespan of the Times the way people access the news has changed significantly (e.g., paper to electrons). We need to update the profile of our audiences and determine what the most effective ways are to meet our readers evolving demands? Further, thousands of copies of the Times are disseminated but there is limited quantitative data about reader satisfaction and how effective the Times is in increasing knowledge about the Gulf of Maine.
3. Production and logistics – Is the current content, length and frequency of the Times optimal? How can circulation be substantially increased via electronic outlets? Is there a need for a quarterly paper plus a more frequently updated and released electronic version?
4. Evaluation – What mechanisms should be adopted to periodically evaluate reader and funder satisfaction?
5. Financing – The cost for preparing, producing and disseminating the paper have steadily increased raising questions about its financial sustainability. What are the best financial models going forward?

Approach to preparing a Business Plan

The Council, its Outreach Committee and the Times editorial staff need to own the results of the Business Plan. Consequently they need to perform much of the work in preparing the Plan. They will secure communications/business planning consulting assistance that will guide the development, research and writing of the Plan.

Given the priority the Council has placed on this issue and outstanding questions of future funding this “abbreviated” Business Plan needs to be presented to the Council at their June 27th meeting. Consequently the following schedule is proposed.

March - April – A project steering committee (e.g., members of the Outreach Committee, staff and GOMT editor) will solicit competitive proposals from three qualified communications/business planning professionals to assist them in preparing an abbreviated business plan.

April – June – The Steering Committee and consultant prepare the Plan (see attached Table of Contents) via:

- Consultation with the Council and others on the purpose of the Times;
- Assess existing user needs and satisfaction information;
- Engage communications experts (e.g., weekly papers, magazines, electronic journals, etc.) pro-bono on associated production and logistical issues;
- Explore financing options and provide recommendations

June 27th – Steering Committee and consultant present Business Plan to Council for adoption and implementation. (This presentation and associated materials will constitute the final products of the project.)

Funding

The Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (\$10,000) and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (\$5,000) will support the costs of a communications/business planning professional. (Other funders are currently being solicited.) The Council will provide contributed services (e.g., Outreach Coordinator, Outreach Committee members, GOMT editor, etc.) and document in-kind services from communications experts during the course of the project.

Business Planning and Communication Issues

1. Purpose
 - Current purpose of the Times
 - Future needs of the Council & the region
 - Identify/profile current and future readers (see Action Plan)¹
 - Options to partner with other non-profits that have shared interests

2. Production and Logistics
 - Content
 - Frequency of production (# of issues/year)
 - Length
 - Electronic and print
 - Desired growth rates of readers and annual targets
 - Costs to produce and efficiencies
 - List/subscriber management

1

Premiers and governors -- The region's governors and premiers, their staff, and regional organizations that they have formed.

Coastal lawmakers -- Legislators and elected officials at the federal, state, and provincial levels who have financial and legislative responsibility for coastal and marine issues.

Coastal decision makers -- Senior management in agencies, non-profits, and businesses.

Coastal managers -- Policy and science representatives in agencies, non-profits, and businesses.

Academics -- University scientists and other scholarly researchers.

Gulf residents and visitors -- People who live, work, and play in the Gulf of Maine region.

Marine-dependent industries Businesses, individuals, and organizations that derive most of their income from activities tied to the marine environment.

Science community -- Individuals and organizations involved in research, monitoring, ocean observing, and assessment.



3. Evaluation
 - Obtaining reader feedback, metrics and measuring satisfaction
 - Determining sponsor satisfaction
4. Financing
 - Core support from the Gulf of Maine Council
 - Soliciting reader support (create and support Friends of the GOMT)
 - Sponsorships (government, corporations, foundations, non-profits, etc.) and associated logistics

Science Translation Project: annual update

Background

This briefing note provides an update on the Gulf of Maine Council's Science Translation Project, www.gulfofmaine.org/science_translation. The Science Translation Project supports the Council's activities by accelerating the transfer of science to management.

A few highlights of Science Translation activities during the past year:

- Stream Barrier Removal Monitoring Guide
Activity 1.3 in GOMC Work Plan
80-page book produced for Habitat Restoration Subcommittee.
- Gulf of Maine Times article on dam removal
Activity 1.3 in GOMC Work Plan
- Habitat Classification in the Gulf of Maine
Activity 1.13 in GOMC Work Plan
15-page booklet produced for Habitat Conservation Subcommittee.
- Salt Marshes in the Gulf of Maine
Activity 1.16 in GOMC Work Plan
42-page booklet produced for the Habitat Restoration and Habitat Monitoring Subcommittees.
- Ecosystem-based Management Toolkit Survey and Work Group
Activity 1.19 in GOMC Work Plan
- Gulf of Maine Times article on ecosystem-based management
Activity 1.19 in GOMC Work Plan
- Gulf of Maine Times article on sewage management and on-site residential septic systems
Activity 2.5 in GOMC Work Plan

Submitted by Peter Taylor, GOMC Science Translator



Habitat Conservation Subcommittee Update

Background

From December 2007- March 2008, the Habitat Conservation SubCommittee has moved forward on the following three items it was charged with in the current Action Plan:

- (1) **Marine Managed Areas Inventory-** After multiple attempts to obtain Marine Managed Areas Inventory data from the NOAA MPA Center, this project has been put on hold. Data currently exists for Massachusetts, but NOAA does not yet have data for New Hampshire and Maine as the SubCommittee Co-Chairs believed. Due to budget cuts and staff changes at the NOAA MPA Center, our requests for this data took substantial time and we have been told that additional data may be available in July 2008. DFO has done some work on the Atlas Inventory for Nova Scotia and the New Brunswick Department of Environment is doing the work on the NB side of the Bay. The NB work is expected to be completed by June.
- (2) **Marine Habitat Classification Report-** Report was finalized and distributed to SubCommittee and broader audience. It is also available at the Council website as a downloadable PDF, as no publications budget was available for this report.
- (3) **Gulf of Maine Habitat Classification Workshop-** SubCommittee Co-Chairs are developing a straw proposal for a workshop to discuss habitat classification reports published by the Council as well as the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management. Current members of the workshop planning committee include: Province of New Brunswick, The Nature Conservancy (Massachusetts and Rhode Island marine staff), and World Wildlife Fund-Canada. As this workshop currently has no funds available, there is no tentative date for the event.

Possible activities and next steps

- Working Group members that are interested in developing workshop objectives and agenda for the Gulf of Maine Habitat Classification Workshop should contact Kate Killerlain Morrison or Marianne Janowicz.
- Working group members with information on spatial data sets (shapefiles, etc) for marine managed areas in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick should contact Marianne Janowicz.

Submitted by Kate Killerlain Morrison and Marianne Janowicz, Co-chairs, Habitat Conservation Subcommittee



Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee

Activities

At the March 2007 Working Group meeting we presented a pilot online Regional Habitat Monitoring Data System (RHMDS) to permit regional integration and synthesis of salt marsh and seagrass vegetation monitoring data. Work this year is focused on populating the system with existing data and further developing the system to accommodate other data types (beyond just vegetation) that are currently being collected following regional protocols.

- Al Hanson delivered an invited presentation on Gulf of Maine habitat monitoring at the Musquash MPA Ecosystem Framework and Monitoring Workshop, December 2007, St. Andrews, NB. There was strong support for all monitoring at Musquash to contribute to regional and global understanding of natural resources through the use of standardized monitoring protocols and reporting tools.
- Hilary Neckles delivered an invited presentation to the USGS National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) eastern node managers at USGS Headquarters, Reston, VA, March 2008. The presentation focused on the HMSC habitat monitoring framework and the RHMDS, and was a follow-up action to the “sticky note” exercise at the Bar Harbor WG meeting on potential sources of support for Work Plan activities. There was strong interest in the RHMDS in general and suggestions for additional partners, but given the current budget climate NBII support for development is unlikely at this time.
- Greg Klassen, Environmental Monitoring Coordinator serving HMSC and EQMC, resigned as a GOMC contractor.

Next steps

Co-chairs will continue to seek support for database development needed to complete the RHMDS.

Submitted by Hilary Neckles, US Geological Survey, and Al Hanson, Environment Canada, Co-chairs, Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee

Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative Update

Background

In December 2005, GOMMI contracted a part-time Coordinator to support the Steering Committee. Over the following two years, the Coordinator's main projects were:

- facilitating a Two-Year Planning Workshop;
- fundraising for, and coordinating, a pilot benthic habitat mapping project on Cashes Ledge;
- writing and distributing an electronic newsletter to the regional seafloor mapping community (~500 recipients);
- developing a web tool showing existing mapping efforts in the US and Canada (with support from MA CZM's GIS specialist and the Council's Web Producer);
- broadening support for GOMMI (Steering Committee now includes all 3 New England states, US and Canadian federal agencies, and academia)
- exploring a partnership with UNH's Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping/Joint Hydrographic Center (CCOM/JHC);
- increasing public outreach and education via presentations and the web site;
- writing grants (six grant proposals submitted: \$370k requested; \$37k awarded to GOMMI-related projects);
- developing a legislative outreach strategy (with guidance from the Council's Policy & Development Coordinator)

In December 2007, the Coordinator announced her resignation from GOMMI (effective April 2008). The Steering Committee met by conference call in January and agreed to hire a new part-time Coordinator. The new 6-month contract would start in April 2008, using the balance of funds already awarded to GOMMI (~\$24,000). The position announcement was posted on the Council's website, and elsewhere, in February.

The Coordinator, Committee Chair, and Working Group Contract Manager are in the process of developing a Davis Conservation Foundation proposal for an April submittal to continue GOMMI's work plan.

Possible activities and next steps

The new Coordinator will help implement Phase IV of GOMMI's Strategic Plan through the following tasks:

1. Strengthen ties with other entities involved with seafloor mapping in the Gulf of Maine and beyond (e.g. CCOM/JHC, NOAA's Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping Program, NOAA's Office of Coast Survey, GOM Census of Marine Life, GOM Ocean Data Partnership, etc.)
2. Create an informational brochure with updates on the status of GOM seafloor mapping and explaining GOMMI's role in coordinating several recent projects.
3. Maintain a database of relevant mapping activities in the Gulf of Maine, including goals, description, and points of contact. Facilitate data and information sharing between GOMMI and others involved in seafloor map production as well as map users.
4. Work with GOMMI's Steering Committee and other Council contractors to describe the program and its objectives to interested parties.
5. Publish GOMMI's newsletter and represent GOMMI at regional meetings.
6. Coordinate periodic GOMMI conference calls and track progress on action items.
7. Explore a cost-sharing strategy for project coordination by seeking financial support through federal grants, private foundations, and state and federal agency contributions.

Submitted by Linda Mercer (ME Department of Marine Resources), Megan Tyrrell (Northeast Fisheries Science Center) and Sara Ellis (GOMMI Coordinator)

Climate Change Network: integrating climate change impacts and habitat restoration

Background

As part of the 2007-2012 Gulf of Maine Council Action Plan, the Climate Change Network has been working towards completion of Activity 1.5, which is designated as high priority. This activity involves preparation of regional criteria to identify coastal habitats at risk from climate change impacts, and to integrate these criteria into future restoration decision making.

During the summer of 2007 a background document was drafted to outline climate change impacts on habitat restoration within the Gulf of Maine region. First, a list was compiled of the various coastal ecosystems found within the Gulf of Maine. Then, each ecosystem was analyzed to identify which impacts of climate change would be most likely to have an effect on that ecosystem. For example, rising sea levels may inundate a coastal wetland, and increasing water temperatures may affect certain fish species. Finally, the document describes how these climate change impacts should be considered during all steps of the habitat restoration process. By planning for these potential impacts, habitat restoration projects can be modified accordingly and have a better chance of achieving the desired result.

Possible activities and next steps

In February 2008 the background document was sent to members of the Habitat Restoration Subcommittee for their review. Their feedback will be helpful in shaping the final draft of the document which is set to be completed by the end of March 2008. It is hoped that the completed document will be of use to the committee so that they may incorporate the information presented into their future plans. Habitat Restoration Subcommittee members who have not yet responded are asked to do so immediately.

Following completion of the background document, the Climate Change Network will be working towards creating a more inclusive and explicit list of coastal habitats at risk from climate change. This list will then be used to create more specific recommendations on how to modify habitat restoration plans to accommodate climate change. The final deliverable is expected to be completed by the end of May 2008.

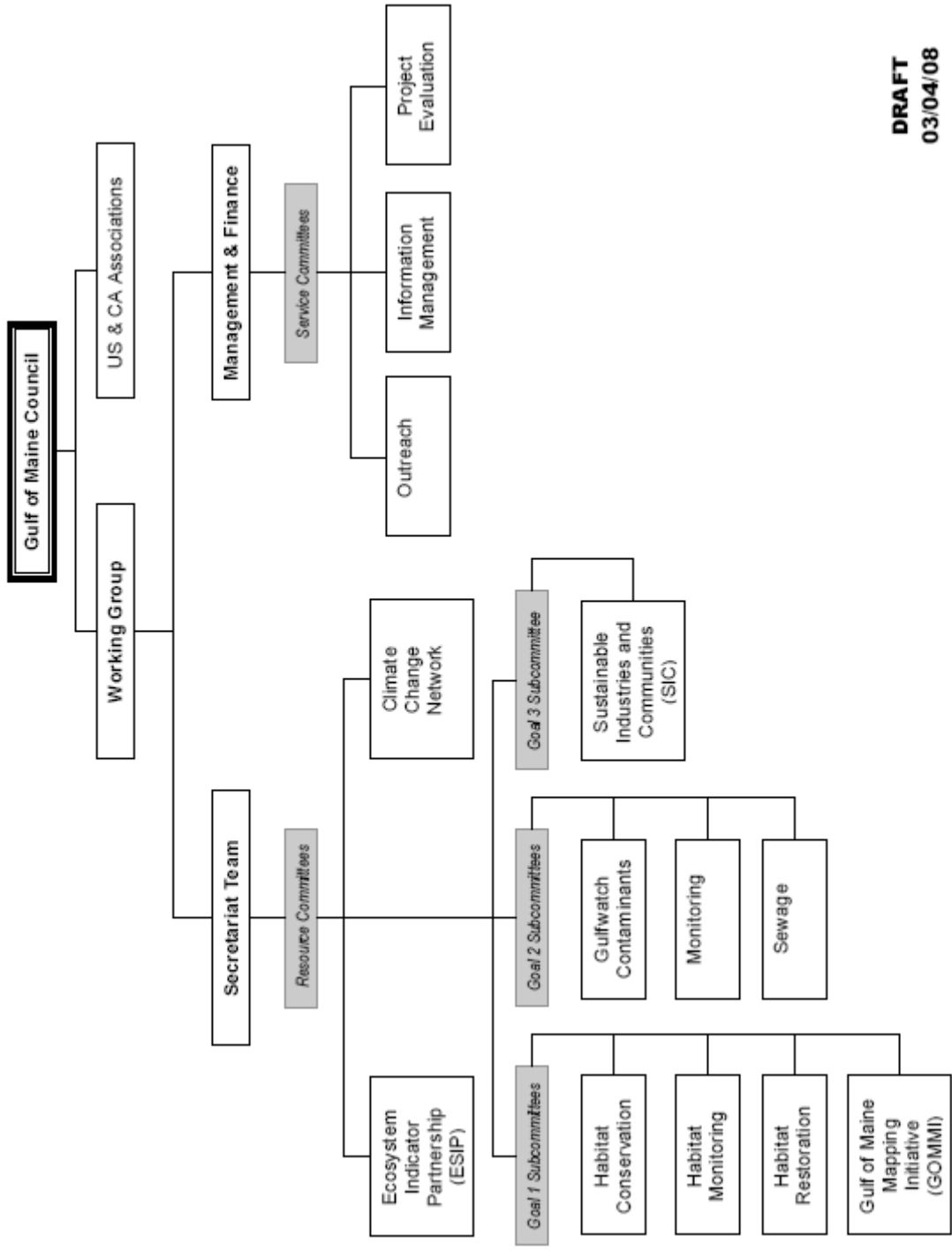
The Climate Change Network has also created a newsletter called *Climate Change Network News*. This newsletter was first published in October 2007 and contains current climate change information that is relevant to the Gulf of Maine community, including news, current research, and upcoming events. The March 2008 edition of the newsletter will be released in the coming weeks. Publication will continue on a monthly or bimonthly basis as long as material is available and interest continues.

Submitted by Gary Lines, Environment Canada and Bill Burtis, Clean Air-Cool Planet, Co-chairs, Climate Change Committee



Organization Chart

Submitted by Julia Knisel



DRAFT
03/04/08



Self Assessment – Issues and Responses

Submitted by David Keeley

Self-assessment – Issues and Responses

The Council, Working Group and Committees provided their self-assessment on the way we are organized and offered insights on how to improve the way we do our business¹. This is a synthesis of that material. Implementation of the improvements will be phased-in between June 2006 and June 2007 based on the ranking assigned to each item. (see Ranking Scheme at end of document)

This color indicates something we need to work on during the coming year. This color indicates we have done what was called for.

Council Issues/Problems	Examples	Possible Responses Offered in Surveys	Rank
<p>Focus on minutia to detriment of policy – as the Council's scope and level of available resources grew there were not commensurate increases in the mechanisms to manage the work. One result is quality Council and WG time is dedicated to details that can be better addressed elsewhere</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council & WG discuss detailed budgets Scope of Consent Agenda items is too broad/wrong level Interim programmatic discussions are brought to Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevate discussions, share creative approaches, be action-oriented, and focus on issues requiring regional response Make meetings productive w/sense of importance Consolidate decision-making on programmatic, personnel and budget issues with accountability within Management and Finance 	<p>1</p> <p>3</p> <p>1</p>
<p>Linkage to Governors and Premiers – the linkage between the Governors/Premiers is weak and council members are not fully engaged</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council member participation is spotty Inconsistent Councilor support & allocation of resources Limited public relations with jurisdictions Hard to measure our progress on issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better track progress, make outcomes measurable, disseminate routine communication products (e.g., Annual Report, e-news, etc.), & raise profile/make a name for the Council Make opportunities happen & engage the media Pursue "signature activities"² & distribute cogent statements of what Council does Make economic-environmental linkage clear Address G/P once a year at summer meeting Clarify expectations and expand size of Council 	<p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>
<p>Expand participation – some important partners with coastal and marine mandates in 5-year Plan are</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited participation by business, NGO & science community Perceived as inward looking/closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure key agencies are participating Engage others back home on Council issues 	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p>

¹ Coon Council survey 11/05, Working Group via Survey Monkey fall 2005, committee survey 2004, 39% of the WG and Committee members that responded to the survey indicated "they were satisfied with the current present structure". 50% indicated that "current project and contract management is successful".

² Support planning, research and activities that address land-based impacts on the marine environment; issue state of the environment reports, indicators and report-cards/regional score card; communicate on gulf-wide issues with common language; sustainable development activities; data and information management; biennial research/state of the knowledge conference or annual managers conference; ecosystem restoration; annual awards for progressive businesses; personnel exchange;



<p>not participating</p> <p>Better support Council decision-making – meetings are process-oriented and materials can better enable consensus decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GOMC meetings focus on process vs. actions Connect briefing materials with options Limited new member orientation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better support/train GOMC members to be active Engage Councilors in designing meetings with themes (avoid scattershot) & lead by them Better serve member needs (e.g., PR, projects, etc.) 	<p>3</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p>
<p>WG/Committee Issues & Problems</p> <p>“Side of the desk/collateral duties” – few people have the policy direction to make their work on implementing the Council’s 5-year Plan a priority.</p> <p>Volunteer commitment – it is difficult to hold people that volunteer their time accountable to produce materials and meet schedules.</p> <p>Coordination – internal coordination is insufficient among all entities of the Council and externally with our partners and media</p> <p>Flatten organizational structure – the organization’s committee structure is not efficient, too expansive and under-supported.</p>	<p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty in securing approval to participate at home & at meetings Competing needs at home take precedence Timely completion of annual work plans is unusual Multiple habitat efforts are not sufficiently coordinated Interaction between WG & Committees Plethora of committees, task forces and panels with unclear mandates 	<p>Possible Responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase GOMC staff capacity and make operation more professional Improve contract management by allocating more of these tasks to paid contractors Use WG/Committee members for policy and strategic assessment, and move daily management tasks to paid staff and Management & Finance Create support systems for volunteers Develop integrated annual work plans Invest in enhanced staff support to make linkages Promote interaction through joint staff & committee meetings Support “roundtable discussions” for sharing Provide staff support to all committee co-chairs Consolidate committee structure Make committees more efficient/productive Aggressively recruit diverse committee members 	<p>2</p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p>
<p>Policy Issues/Problems</p> <p>Scope – the policy scope has expanded but limited resources adversely affect the quality of the work (e.g., inch-deep and a mile-wide). Some Council activities do not require or significantly benefit from a regional response.</p> <p>Follow-through – the degree of</p>	<p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inability to say no to a good idea Get involved in sub-regional issues Products without advance distribution 	<p>Possible Responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharpen Council statement of purpose Create 5-year Plan tasks that contribute to state & provincial decision-making Pursue fewer issues and provide greater resources Evaluate user application and report on products 	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p>



follow-through and application/use of Council products is mixed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> plan Councilors unable to say how products were used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure jurisdictional commitment exists before pursuing a project 	2
Jurisdictional priorities – need to make a more overt linkage between Council and jurisdictional coastal/marine priorities and actively report on progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appearance GOMC tasks are “more work” vs. complimentary to mandates Limited support for regional agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show relevance of Council mission to agency mandates Annually report-out on linkages & enable participants to communicate results 	1 3

Funding Issues/Problems	Examples	Possible Responses	
Build capacity – the Council relies on partnerships to implement the 5-year Plan but under-invests in building the capacity of key partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Summit recommendation is to build capacity & enable others to perform Perception of taking credit for others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus funding on capacity building tasks Support NGO participation in GOMC tasks Invest in partnerships that leverage funds and results Enable GPAC-like efforts 	3 3 2 3
Diversify funding sources – over reliance on a single US funding source makes the Council’s work too vulnerable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US governments provides over 90% of the resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose products relevant to Canadian funding agencies Require significant match to secure GOMC funds Make GOMC agenda relevant (e.g., tangible deliverables, etc.) to others w/funds Better access existing competitive funding sources (e.g., NBETF, Foundations, etc.) for large-scope initiatives Grow senior management commitment – resources will follow 	2 2 1 3 1

1 = Urgent – to be initiated immediately

2 = Timely and Important – to be acted on in next 6 months

3 = Important – to be acted on later in the year

GOMC Publications Protocol

3/13/08 DRAFT (based on 2005 revisions)

All publications and other external communications and educational materials produced or sponsored by the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC) or either of its US or Canadian Gulf of Maine Associations must adhere to this protocol. It has been developed to ensure consistency in presentation and organizational identity of quality documents that are professional in both content and appearance. This protocol does not apply to recipients of GOMC grants; however, grant recipients do need to credit GOMC for funding.

GOMC Logo

- All materials must display the official GOMC logo.
- The logo can be downloaded from the GOMC website (www.gulfofmaine.org/logo) and is available in green/blue and grayscale.



- Size and placement of the logo shall be established by the project manager.
- When appropriate, logos of other sponsoring/contributing agencies or organizations should be included. This decision is to be made by the project manager.

Mission Statement

- All materials shall include the GOMC mission statement.
- "The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment was established in 1989 by the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts to foster cooperative actions within the Gulf watershed. Its mission is to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations."
- It should be prominent and located near the GOMC logo.
- The project manager will establish the text option and its placement. Here are some guidelines:
 - Recommended font style and size are Veranda (Microsoft Verdana) 8 points or larger.
 - Text should stand alone – it should not be integrated with other text in a paragraph.
 - It should NOT go in a preface, acknowledgements, or footnote.
 - Inside title page of a multiple-page report is recommended.
 - Anywhere on a fact sheet or short document, as determined by the layout person, as long as it is prominent and near the logo.

Funding Statement

- All materials must include the following text:

"This (publication) was made possible through the support of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and a grant from (the agencies that provided funding)."

Credits

- All materials must acknowledge authors, editors, researchers, photographers, and artists.

Date

- All materials must include the month and year of publication. For workshop or conference reports and proceedings, this is the date that the publication was finished and made available. The date when the workshop or conference was held should go in the preface, executive summary, or introduction. If there are deemed to be valid reasons, an exemption from this requirement may be provided by the project manager.

Editorial Review

- Project managers are required to develop a review plan that includes:
 - Technical review by committee or subcommittee,
 - Secretariat Team review of statements or conclusions with possible policy implications,
 - US or Canadian Gulf of Maine Association review of funding statement to ensure that all funding agencies have been appropriately credited, and
 - Outreach Committee review of logo, mission statement, credits, and date.
- Committee or subcommittee co-chairs must inform Secretariat Team when review has been completed.
- Secretariat Team will provide final approval.

Distribution

- Project proposal must contain a distribution plan with associated funding requirements, which must be approved by the Working Group.
- Print copies of all materials should be distributed to the following:
 - US and Canadian Gulf of Maine Associations (two copies each),
 - GOMC Central Registry, Maine State Planning Office (one copy), and
 - US National Library, <http://www.loc.gov/index.html> (one copy), and
 - Canadian National Library, <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index.html> (one copy).

Electronic Access

- All materials must be produced in a format that is compatible with the GOMC website.
- Documents should be either in HTML or Adobe PDF format.
- Images should be in JPG or GIF format.
- Databases and spreadsheets should be in MS Excel, MS Access, or tab-delimited ASCII format.
- Production costs to meet this requirement should be included in the distribution plan.

ISBN Use

- GOMC will provide ISBNs for approved publications of 4 or more pages.
- ISBNs may not be used for pamphlets, brochures, or white papers.

Submitted by Julia Knisel, MA Coastal Zone Management

DRAFT Request for Proposals: Gulf of Maine Council Core Services (3/13/08)

CONTACT: Julia Knisel
MA Office of Coastal Zone Management
251 Causeway St., Suite 800
Boston, MA 02114-2136
julia.knisel@state.ma.us
(617) 626-1191

DUE DATE: May 15, 2008

ANNUAL BUDGET: \$114,000

DURATION: July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2010
(extension possible based on performance and funding)

MANAGER: US Gulf of Maine Association

LOCATION: Gulf of Maine watershed

SUBMISSION: Submit electronic proposal and cover letter to Julia Knisel
by May 15, 2008 at 5 PM ET

GENERAL SCOPE:

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment was established in 1989 by the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts to foster cooperative actions within the Gulf watershed. Its mission is to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations. The Council is seeking support for core services, which include internal coordination and meeting facilitation, fund development, outreach, and information technology support. The US Gulf of Maine Association will manage the contract. The Council Chair and Working Group Chair (here in referred to as "Secretariat") will provide supervisory support.

DETAILED DUTIES:

1. Internal Coordination and Meeting Facilitation 30%

General

- Create, maintain, and update People Finder and listserves according to changes in membership of Council, Working Group, Management and Finance, Secretariat Team, committees, and subcommittees.
- Maintain online Reference Handbook.
- In coordination with co-chairs, supervise contractors of Committees and Subcommittees.
- Provide conference call line and make reservations for Management and Finance, Secretariat Team, committees, and subcommittees.

Council

- Prepare and electronically distribute briefing packets for two (2) Council meetings.
- Provide facilitation support to the Council Chair at two (2) Council meetings.

Working Group

- Prepare and electronically distribute briefing packets for four (4) Working Group meetings.
- Provide facilitation support to the Working Group Chair at four (4) Working Group meetings.

Committees and Subcommittees

- Provide ongoing assistance to committees and subcommittees.
- Collect annual Work Plans from committee and subcommittees.
- Track action items, assignments, and deadlines of Work Plan.
- Track events and publication lists for inclusion in Annual Report.
- Facilitate communication between committees and subcommittees (i.e. serves as a resource to identify areas and topics of interest in common with other committees for development as an element of a contract or as a joint committee project; facilitates discussions with committee members on issues of concern).

2. Outreach 25%

Gulf of Maine Times

- Produce one paper issue and corresponding Web edition of the Gulf of Maine Times (Times).
- Produce up to two additional paper issues and corresponding Web editions of the Times if supplemental funding is acquired.
- Outreach Committee determines editorial policy, style, and other details required to produce the Times.
- Create a production schedule for each issue and circulate it to the US Association Executive Director, Secretariat, Outreach Committee Co-chairs, assistant editor, designer, reader, database coordinator, production house, and any other individuals involved in the production, distribution, circulation, and payment process.
- In coordination with Outreach Committee and assistant editor, identify and assign articles for each issue.
- Circulate the list of articles to the Times' editorial board and advisor for comments.
- Work with writers for timely delivery of complete and accurate articles and art work.
- Send articles for review to Times' editorial board and Outreach Committee Co-Chairs. Editorial board members will review the articles for accuracy, flow, balance and readability, and return comments via email. Review comments and determine any necessary article changes.
- Work with assistant editor to edit and proofread at various stages during the production of the paper and Web version.
- Create a layout and provide copy, photos, and other materials necessary for designer to complete the layout electronically and get it to the printer in a timely fashion.
- Work closely with the designer and the printing house to assure timely and accurate production, publication, and distribution of the newspaper.
- Update and maintain the Times mailing lists and upload and send to contracted printer for each printing.
- Propose annual budget and help facilitate financial operations for the Times.

Marketing Coordination

- Provide marketing and communications services to the Council, Working Group, Committees, and Subcommittees.
- Develop and maintain an overall Marketing and Distribution Strategy for Council publications and products.



- Prepare and distribute press releases, Constant Contact graphic announcements, and postings of Council publications, events and opportunities.
- Maintain current lists of media outlets and regional contacts.
- Update and maintain the NGO database list and other member lists within Constant Contact software.
- Maintain the media room on the Council website.

3. Information Technology Support 25%

- Maintain basic web services for Council administration.
- Respond to questions, defect reports, and requests regarding Web site, mailing lists, databases, and server.
- Provide support for the Council's dedicated server.
- Secure dedicated server with most up-to-date software updates implemented. In the event the dedicated server is going to be offline for maintenance, work with Information Management Committee Co-chairs on scheduling and notification.
- Provide backups as needed of Council Web sites, databases, and non-RDBMS data on CD or DVD.
- Maintain online tools to administer Habitat Restoration Grants.
- Maintain the Ecosystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP) Monitoring Map online.
- Work on other information technology projects if supplemental funding is acquired. This will include meeting by teleconference or in person to help in the development of project specifications and to provide advice on best options within the Council information technology infrastructure.

4. Fund Development 20%

- In coordination with the Council, Working Group, Committees, and Subcommittees, secure funding to supplement core services and activities.

Submitted by Julia Knisel

DRAFT Secretariat Administrative Support Services (3/13/08)

Council

- Solicit agenda items from Council and work with Working Group Chair to develop agendas for two (2) Council meetings.
- Attend two (2) Council meetings and record meeting summary including action and decision items.
- Electronically distribute draft meeting summary and action items for comments within one week of Council meetings.
- Incorporate comments and electronically distribute final meeting summary and action items.

Working Group

- Solicit agenda items from Working Group and work with Working Group Chair to develop agendas for four (4) Working Group meetings.
- Attend four (4) Working Group meetings and record meeting summary including action and decision items.
- Electronically distribute draft meeting summary and action items for comments within one week of Working Group meetings.
- Incorporate comments and electronically distribute final meeting summary and action items.

Management and Finance

- Poll members for conference call availability.
- Solicit agenda items from Management and Finance members and work with Working Group Chair to develop agendas for approximately fifteen (15) Management and Finance calls.
- Electronically distribute call briefing materials at least two days prior to each call.
- Attend approximately fifteen (15) calls and record call summary including action and decision items.
- Electronically distribute draft call summary for comments.
- Incorporate comments and electronically distribute final call summary.

Secretariat Team

- Poll members for conference call availability.
- Solicit agenda items from Secretariat Team members and work with Working Group Chair to develop agendas for approximately fifteen (15) Secretariat Team calls.
- Electronically distribute call briefing materials at least two days prior to each call.
- Attend approximately fifteen (15) calls and record call summary including action and decision items.
- Electronically distribute draft call summary for comments.
- Incorporate comments and electronically distribute final call summary.

Meeting and Awards Program Logistics**

- In coordination with Working Group Chair, provide meeting logistics services for four (4) Working Group and two (2) Council meetings including forums, workshops, and conferences held in conjunction with the meetings. Services include:
 - Reserve hotel or other facility meeting space,
 - Reserve hotel room block,
 - Arrange catering,
 - Provide laptop and projector,
 - Manage meeting attendance RSVPs, and
 - Provide directions to Council and Working Group members.



- In coordination with Outreach Committee and Secretariat Team, conduct annual Council awards program. Services include:
 - Draft and post request for nominations (February),
 - Print and frame awards (May)
 - Maintain invitation list and develop invitations, and
 - Coordinate event (May/June).

*** Secretariat = \$6,000 reduction in dues to cover meeting and framing expenses.*

Submitted by Julia Knisel

Gulfwatch: Assessing Users of the Gulfwatch data

Background/Context of Activity

The Gulf of Maine Council has funded the Gulfwatch Program since 1993 to document the status and trends of contaminants in the Gulf of Maine. A leading purpose of the program was to provide quality data to environmental managers around the gulf to assist in decision-making.

In 2004 the Council collaborated with the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS) to move ten years of Gulfwatch data from paper files into a relational database. The web-based mapping tool allows managers to plot and create maps of contaminants. The Gulfwatch Committee also compiled anecdotes describing how managers are using the Gulfwatch data (see attachment 2 below).

In 2006 the Council funded a project (Activity #2.1 in the Action Plan and 18-month work plan) to accelerate the development and dissemination of tools for managers to use Gulfwatch data and analyses through partnerships with other regional efforts. Karin Hansen and Peter Taylor were tasked to perform the following. (Others that participated in this effort included Barb Buckland, David Keeley, Tom Shyka, and Tom Gale)

Task #1 - Document user needs to Gulfwatch data and analysis -- Conduct 40-50 phone interviews, working from a list of the target audience provided by the Working Group, to:

- Document awareness of the Gulfwatch Program and the data that is available data
- Record how they have used the data;
- Describe additional data applicable to Gulfwatch type monitoring that would be a priority to the managers (Note: this information will be of value to GW peer review too.);
- Describe the daily management responsibilities of these managers that relate to the application of Gulfwatch data to their work;
- Identify possible tools, products and services that the Council might provide to the managers (e.g., local assessments of environmental conditions based on Gulfwatch data, web-based graphing & mapping, etc.) as well as communications materials to make them known to the intended users;
- Describe how these tools, products and services could be used by managers;

Task #2 - Commence work on priority tools, products and services – Based on managers input a contractor team (e.g., science, web development, communications, etc.) will commence work on those priority tools, products and services.

Activity Narrative

The project committee compiled a user profile (see below). The user profile was sent to the Working Group and committee members with a request to identify individuals within their jurisdictions that fit the profile and would thus be users of Gulfwatch data. Not only did no one provide names of potential users but many stated that they did not know if anyone used Gulfwatch data.

Working Group and Committee members provided the following type of feedback-

“Gulf watch is an extremely valuable program and one that is probably very underutilized.” “As to the list for the questionnaire, I suggest that the committee be given the job of getting it together.” “I can’t think of anyone that uses Gulfwatch data.” “I really don’t know anything about the Gulfwatch web tools.”

We were unable to gather a participants list from Working Group members. We decided that it was impossible to conduct the phone surveys due to lack of participation. We changed course and planned to conduct on-line focus groups using Live Meeting software.

Environment Canada was willing to share their license to the software and we conducted a training session for committee members. The project steering committee created a list of potential users.

The committee decided to hand-pick possible participants from their own lists of contacts. A short list of twelve possible participants was provided but we were again unable to gather enough participants and decided to cancel the focus groups.

The committee did assess and create a list of applicable programs that operate monitoring programs and disseminate their data via the web. But, due to lack of participation it was impossible to gather any examples of how coastal managers use data from the Gulfwatch Program.

Although the committee could not get commitments from anyone to participate in a survey or focus group, we did manage to gather some anecdotal information from a few of the people we asked to participate. We asked the twelve possible focus group participants the following questions-

- *Have you ever used the Gulfwatch Interactive Mapping Tool?*
- *What other similar web sites do you use to accomplish comparable tasks?*
- *What do you like and dislike about these sites?*

In general it was almost impossible to get people to discuss Gulfwatch and the overwhelming comment was that they did not use the database. The few additional comments that were received are as follows-

“We incorporate review of Gulfwatch data in our shellfish area classification work (sanitary surveys, triennial updates of sanitary surveys, etc.). This is especially true if our shoreline surveys indicate potential contamination from poisonous/deleterious substances. I expect to continue to use the data in this way, esp. to identify trends that may be of concern. “

“I have never used the site. I do not use similar web sites.”

“I use Gulfwatch data to track trends in toxic contaminants in NH’s estuaries. To a lesser extent, I use the data to evaluate whether shellfish harvesting should be allowed in an area. I anticipate using the data in much the same way in the future. It would be helpful if we could translate the mussel tissue data into toxic contaminant concentrations in ambient water, which could be evaluated by state water quality standards.”

“I do not use the website. I maintain my own database of NH Gulfwatch data. I use the National Coastal Assessment web site to download data from EPA labs. I like having an off-site backup of the data in case my own PC crashes and a way to direct people to the data without doing a query for them. I would like the Gulfwatch database to perform that same function. Right now, I have fixed a number of small mistakes in the NH database. I would need those fixes to be made in the Gulfwatch database before it could act as an offsite backup for my analyses.”

“So, in short, I feel that Gulfwatch needs to first put some effort toward QA’ing the database and then it can establish a web server for providing the data to other users.”

“By the way, for what it is worth, I do not find the Gulfwatch database very useful. The maps are nice but the data is not site-specific enough. In fact, the sediment data concentrations are extremely low, even those locations marked with a red dot.”

“At NOAA, we have created about 15 watershed databases (see on the web: NOAA, NOS, OR&R Home | Pollutants in the Environment | Watershed Database & Mapping Projects) around the country (Charles River in New England) that allow the user to Query the sediment, toxicity and fish tissue data and links it to a map (MARPLOT). In addition, EPA used these database tools to create a Region 1 sediment database but most of the data is only from hazardous waste site (see Matt Liebman of EPA).”



Attachment 1: 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

Attachment 2 – Excerpt from 2006 Gulfwatch Report

1.4 USES OF GULFWATCH

Toxic contaminants that accumulate in the marine food chain are a concern for both ecosystem health and human consumption of seafood. Gulfwatch has provided information on exposure of mussels to a selected number of toxic contaminants over a wide geographical basis, with the goal of providing a baseline overview of the extent of contamination in the Gulf of Maine. The detailed geographical coverage has also provided local evidence of contaminant sources. In these contexts, the results of the Gulfwatch program have served diverse private and public needs. The results have provided baseline information that has been considered in the development of state, provincial and regional policies, guidelines and environmental quality criteria. Different agencies in and outside the Gulf of Maine have used the procedures developed by Gulfwatch as a basis for developing monitoring programs. Private aquaculture businesses have used Gulfwatch data for licensing of sites and as a basis for siting operations in uncontaminated areas. In addition, Gulfwatch results have been used as baseline in damage and remediation assessments for accidental pollution events. Researchers have also used the data to help develop and locate projects on contaminants in the Gulf of Maine. To facilitate access to the Gulfwatch data, the results for 1993-2001 are posted as the “Gulfwatch Interactive Mapping Tool” (<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/gulfwatch/map.asp>) on the GoMOOS website <http://www.gomoos.org/chameleon/gulfwatch/>.

The following examples illustrate the nature and extent of ways that Gulfwatch results have been used by resource and public health managers in each jurisdiction and country to address management and policy issues related to contaminants in the marine environment.

1.4.1 Management and Policy

Every two years, Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire submit a report to Congress on the status of pollution. This Biennial Water Quality Report to Congress - Section 305(b) Clean Water Act requires states to assess the water quality conditions and biological exposure relative to toxic contaminants. In Maine, Gulfwatch has been the basis for describing toxic contamination. Gulfwatch data have also been cited in the New Hampshire Biennial Water Quality Report to Congress-Section 305(b) since 1994.

In the preparation of sanitary surveys for classification of shellfish growing waters, Gulfwatch data are the only information available on toxic contamination levels for some water bodies and are the most up-to-date and reliable information base for others. As such, Gulfwatch data have already been used in New Hampshire, Maine, and Nova Scotia. It is not known if any shellfish beds have been opened or closed as a direct result of Gulfwatch data.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries maintains an active interest in understanding the status and trends of contaminants with the potential to adversely effect marine and diadromous fishery resources. The agency uses region-wide contaminant survey databases, such as the NOAA Musselwatch Program, EPA Coastal Condition Survey, and Gulfwatch to provide large-scale spatial and temporal trend information for contaminants. These data sources enhance agency effectiveness during the course of review and evaluation of potential fishery impacts associated with coastal development and industrial discharges in Massachusetts. The data serves as a regional baseline against which contaminant data from project proponents may be compared.

The Massachusetts Bays Program used the GW data in their State of the Bays report to show local and regional spatial trends for toxic contaminants (<http://www.mass.gov/envir/massbays/bays.htm>).

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) uses the Gulfwatch data as part of their biannual 305 (b) reporting.

The NHDES Shellfish Program refers to existing Gulfwatch data when conducting sanitary surveys for classification of shellfish waters to enable identification of any possible sources of elevated toxic contaminants. The Gulfwatch data are also related to levels cited by the National Shellfish Sanitation Program for acceptable levels of toxic contaminants for the eventual classification of waters in the different areas of the coast. The NH Division of Public Health also uses the Gulfwatch data to conduct risk assessments in relation to consumption advisories for seafood species.

The NH Estuaries Project has used Gulfwatch data as a key indicator in determining the status of toxic contaminants throughout the Seacoast area. Each State of the Estuaries report has cited Gulfwatch data as one of the top indicators for tracking environmental quality in the Seacoast. The NHEP directly supports the Gulfwatch program to enable collection of data from several sites on an annual basis, and to enable sampling of other species more commonly harvested and consumed by humans, i.e., *Mya arenaria* and *Crassostrea virginica*.

MAINE

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) uses the Gulfwatch program with their SWAT Program in several ways. The contaminant data are used directly, and the Gulfwatch sampling compliments and augments the SWAT sampling design, frequency and scope

The Casco Bay Partnership uses Gulfwatch data to compliment other ongoing and historical data to assess toxic contamination trends in the bay. They have included its use in their most recent State of the Bay report. The Maine Department of Marine Resources also uses Gulfwatch data as a screening tool to identify potential shellfish harvesting areas that may have toxic contamination of concern. This information helps to identify where additional sampling may be necessary.

When Maine reviews new industrial discharge applications, it uses Gulfwatch data to determine whether the receiving water is impaired or threatened. This knowledge then affects the type of license conditions. With Gulfwatch data available, the licensing process moves faster and more efficiently. Maine has also developed criteria for impairment based on Gulfwatch data. Categories include "threatened" and "impaired." These are then used to target management programs such as nonpoint source efforts.

Maine has conducted public hearings on proposed storm water rules for coastal waters. Gulfwatch data was used in this case to identify seven key watersheds within which best management practices will be required for all new development. Using Gulfwatch data and several other data sets, Maine is also looking at contaminant relationships between different ecological compartments (filter feeder, benthic feeder, and sediment).

CANADA

Environment Canada's Ocean Disposal Programme uses Gulfwatch data to make decisions on the issuing of disposal permits for dredged materials and as local background reference data for assessing disposal sites (personal communication, K. Kay, Marine Disposal Program, Environment Canada, Atlantic Region).

Gulfwatch data has been used in Canada and referenced in the development of CCME approved tissue residue guidelines for DDT for the protection of wildlife (CCME, 1997).

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) can set restrictions on harvesting areas where shellfish may be unfit for human consumption and it must also ensure that contaminant levels in products from aquaculture operations are not harmful to human health. Through a referral process, Environment Canada classifies areas and advises DFO in this context. Shellfish from areas of known chemical contamination exceeding federal guidelines cannot be harvested for human consumption or for further processing including depuration. Gulfwatch data have been and continue to be used in this regard (personal communication, A. Menon, Shellfish Sanitary Program, Environment Canada, Atlantic Region).

In the future, Gulfwatch data will also be used to help to identify areas of potential shellfish habitat restoration throughout the Gulf of Maine in both Canada and the US.

The Canadian Wildlife Service is using Gulfwatch data and known trophic relationships to develop screening criteria for determining contaminant levels in mussels that are protective of mussel consuming seabirds. Gulfwatch data are being used to assess recent concerns about endocrine disruptors in the Atlantic Canada region (personal communication, N. Burgess, Canadian Wildlife Service, Atlantic Region).

PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE

The Environmental Department of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point, ME used Gulfwatch and other sources of data on toxic contaminants identify contaminants in marine species consumed by native Americans in the area (EDPT 2001). The data were to serve as a basis for evaluation by risk assessment experts to determine any human health risk with consumption of the targeted species.

1.4.2 Monitoring

Monitoring data have also been used by most, if not all jurisdictions to help identify impacted areas for potential management action including remediation, as well as in assessing the efficacy of waste treatment processes related to various point source discharges. The overlap between Gulfwatch and the NOAA Mussel Watch program provides a critical reference for comparison of results to a larger database and to identify possible inconsistencies.

In the United States, numerous agencies have used the procedures developed by Gulfwatch as a basis for starting monitoring programs. Maine in the 1990's embarked on a comprehensive toxic monitoring program (SWAT) that incorporated Gulfwatch procedures. The coastal module relied heavily on Gulfwatch data to select monitoring stations and experimental design. Because of the information available through Gulfwatch, the coastal portion of the program began ahead of schedule. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service used the Gulfwatch data to develop a regional distribution of contaminants in forage species for waterfowl.

The National Estuaries Project in the U.S. side of the Gulf of Maine has used Gulfwatch in a variety of ways. The Casco Bay Estuary Project Monitoring Plan was based on Gulfwatch protocol. A part of the Massachusetts Bays Program's (MBP) (one of the National Estuarine Programs) Monitoring Program has collaborated with the Gulfwatch Program with coordinated sampling in 1995. The MBP funds were used to measure bioavailable metals in the blood of mussels and for the analysis of two types of biomarkers (DNA adducts and lipid peroxidation products). These analytes will be correlated with the whole body metal and organics analyses conducted by the Gulfwatch Program. In New Hampshire, the Gulfwatch results served as a key database of toxic contamination for the review of existing information and identification of water quality and pollution problems in the Great Bay Estuary to help initiate coordinated monitoring supported by the New Hampshire Estuaries Project. NHDES has now expanded the Gulfwatch program in New Hampshire and uses the results of the expanded monitoring as a key indicator of toxic pollution.

In Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has used Gulfwatch data to assess the effects of contaminants on fish habitats. The concurrent Canadian mussel watch program has also used Gulfwatch protocols and has greatly benefited from the experiences of Gulfwatch participants in the development of their program.

1.4.3 Aquaculture and Commercial Fishing

Maine's growing aquaculture industry uses Gulfwatch data to assure that new and expanding aquaculture sites are not located in contaminated areas. Such knowledge streamlines both the industry and state submerged lands leasing process. All types of aquaculture use this data, sea vegetables, finfish, and shellfish.

This same approach has been initiated in Nova Scotia. Provincial fisheries in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are mandated to issue permits for any newly proposed shellfish aquaculture site. Site inspections, bacterial and contaminant monitoring in water and biota are considered before a permit can be issued. Part of permit issuance is a referral process in which federal agencies (Environment Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)) provide recommendations relative to the environmental quality of the proposed aquaculture site. DFO must ensure that contaminant levels in products from aquaculture operations are not harmful to human health. The provincial governments in both provinces carry out site inspections; however, they must rely mainly on federal agencies for information relative to microbial and contaminant levels. Water quality data are provided by the Canadian Sanitary Programme (CSP) but virtually the only source of contaminants data is provided by Gulfwatch and the Canadian shellfish contaminants monitoring programme (personal communication, A. Menon, Shellfish Sanitary Program, Environment Canada).

Some Maine aquaculturists have requested "Organic Certification." Gulfwatch data has been used to support the basis to say that water quality is "at natural levels" and that there is an ongoing program that monitors for toxic contaminants. Mussel aquaculture relies on the collection of seed that is transplanted to grow out areas. Gulfwatch has been used to assure seed quality.

In general, the entire fishing industry (oceanic and aquaculture) has relied in part on Gulfwatch data to assure the public that monitoring of marine environmental quality is being performed.

1.4.4 Impact /Damage and Remediation Assessment

Oil spills have the potential for extensive environmental impact and damage. As part of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment, Gulfwatch data are being used to determine the degree of impact as well as environmental recovery from the Julie N oil spill in Portland Harbor (September, 1996). Having both the historical data from the area (one Gulfwatch station) as well as natural baseline data from industrial and undeveloped ports in the region, Gulfwatch is helping with that assessment. Additional analysis of mussel tissue levels were used to assess longer term impacts in 2000 and to evaluate conditions in relative to a remediation project in a salt marsh in the Fore River (Kinner et al. 2004). In New Hampshire, previous Gulfwatch mussel data from the Piscataqua River were used to compare with post oil spill (July, 1996) contaminant concentrations. The recovery rate from this exposure to oil was monitored on site through annual Gulfwatch monitoring at Dover Point.

Other human activities can cause extensive exposure of marine biota to contaminants. Gulfwatch contaminant data from local sites in Nova Scotia have been used for background reference purposes by the Toxic Chemicals programme of Environment Canada to interpret site-specific contaminant loading in Sydney Harbor, NS (personal communication, W. Ernst, Toxic Chemicals Program, Environment Canada, Atlantic Region). A research study in Stonington Harbor ME used mussel tissue levels to determine if previously reported high concentrations of mercury in dredged sediments (1980's) were evident in indigenous biota (Jones 2003).

In the assessment of ecological risk for contaminants from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Gulfwatch results provided a regionally appropriate interpretation of exposure levels for comparison to mussels in and around the Shipyard, suggesting that biological exposure concentrations of some trace metals and PAHs were elevated relative to other sites in the Gulf of Maine (Johnston et al., 1997).

1.4.5 Education

Informing the public about the status of potentially toxic contaminants in the marine environment of the Gulf of Maine, as well as describing and explaining monitoring techniques, are important activities of public health and resource managers in the region. In 2003 a fact sheet on Gulfwatch was published and has been widely circulated for educational purposes (<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/publications/gulfwatchfactsheet.pdf>).



Such efforts are aimed at raising public awareness of environmental issues and at increasing stewardship activities to protect valuable natural resources throughout the Gulf watershed. There are many examples of references to Gulfwatch results and the program in general, for educating the public about contaminants in the marine environment. For example, Environment Canada published a feature article about Gulfwatch in their Science and the Environment Bulletin Issue #17, March/April 2000. More recently the Casco Bay Partnership

The Gulfwatch program is a key activity of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. The Council has produced two fact sheets for public education. Both the "State of the Environment" (Thurston and Larsen, 1994) and the "Shellfish Resources" (Moore, 1996) fact sheets referenced and discussed the Gulfwatch program. Other Council public education documents and newsletters have cited Gulfwatch, and there is a fact sheet published specifically on Gulfwatch that has been used to inform managers and the public about the program and for educational purposes.

Other studies in more limited sub-regions in the Gulf of Maine have been referenced to the regional Gulfwatch sites. Gulfwatch data have also been used and referenced in the Massachusetts State of the Coast Report, the first draft of which was put together during the summer of 1995.

In New Hampshire, Gulfwatch data provide the most systematic and wide-ranging assessment of sites and contaminants in the state's waters, and were a key source of information on toxic contaminants in both the New Hampshire Estuaries Project technical characterization report (Jones 2000) and the state of the bay reports released in 2000 and 2003 for public education (<http://www.nhep.unh.edu/resources/publications.htm>).

Gulfwatch presentations have been one of the more requested topics by a variety of non-governmental organizations. It provides "real data" on local resources and provides the audience with information on local water quality within a larger context. It also has proven an excellent way to demonstrate to the public how to interpret environmental data. A partial list of locations where presentations have been given (several are repeated annually) includes:

- Bigelow Laboratories Winter Seminar Series
- Bowdoin College
- Casco Bay Estuary Project Technical Advisory Committee
- Casco Bay Estuary Project Management Committee
- Clean Annapolis River Project
- Gulf of Maine Symposium
- Coastal Zone Canada
- Friends of Casco Bay
- Great Bay Coast Watch
- Gulf of Maine Council "Bridging the Gulf" Conference
- A variety of other GOMC fora
- Island Institute
- Maine Legislature
- Maine Volunteer Water Quality Fairs
- Marine Environmental Research Institute
- Marine Benthic Conference
- New Hampshire Estuaries Project
- New Hampshire Department of Environmental Service
- Penobscot Bay Coalition
- RARGOM Workshops
- Southern Maine Technical College
- Submerged Land Management Conference
- University of Maine Orono



- University of New Hampshire undergraduate classes and seminars
- University of New Hampshire / University of Maine Marine Docents
- University of Southern Maine
- Poster sessions and presentations at recent annual Aquatic Toxicity Workshops, International Conference on Molluscan Shellfish Safety, Northeast Atlantic Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

Information Management Committee: Urgent budget review and action for 2009 budget needed

Background

The Information Management Committee has been inactive for some time. It now has Jennifer Hackett of BIO and Paul Currier of NHDES as co-chairs. It has been identified that the projected reduced IM budget of 2009 (July 1 2008-June 30 2009) will be insufficient to sustain the current Gulf of Maine Council website, due to lack of funds for contractors.

The Information Management Committee conference call on 20 February 2008 raised a unanimous and serious concern regarding the anticipated reduced IM budget allocation for the coming year which will come into affect in a few short months. It was noted that the IM Committee is not in a position to raise additional funds to support GOMC IM costs, therefore, coverage for anticipated IM support costs need to be covered by the general IM budget, come from other committee budgets, and in the future, be identified during any funding requests for new projects. The IM Committee agreed that a complete review was necessary to identify all costs, in-kind and "free resources" currently required to maintain the current IM tools and service levels. The IMC decided to differentiate between tools used for Core Council activities as well as project-specific products.

The review confirmed that there will be a severe shortfall and will not be able to maintain the current level of IM support for even Core Council activity products under the projected budget allocation for the coming year. The review identified that more than two contractors currently provide IM services (totaling over 55 hours per month) for maintenance and development of just the Core products. Maintenance and development of project IM products took up the remaining time for the contractors. The review also identified that "free" domain software was used almost exclusively to reduce on-going software costs and that there are many in-kind services that the contractors provide which would normally incur additional costs for hardware and software (ie regular backups). Finally, the review identified that the current sharing of tasks and integration of existing tools that have been developed by the contractors has resulted in cost savings and enhancement for developing new Core and project products.

The total IM support costs for this past year was more than \$57k. This included coverage for the web hosting/maintenance of \$5.4k (which is use of the "Council" server provided by Datapipe) and over \$41k for maintenance and development support costs for two of the IM support contractors. Assuming that only \$13k of Dues funding is firmly identified for IM budget allocation for the coming year, this will only cover the annual web hosting/maintenance cost of \$5.4k (the use of the "Council" server), plus a \$300 annual licensing fee for "Constant Contact" software, leaving only about \$150 per week for contractor maintenance support. This \$150 per week will only be enough to cover IM contractor costs for crisis control fixes. This would result in the current IM tools and web information remaining "as is" with no new content and risk severe deterioration and usefulness without regular maintenance and improvement. Virtually no new core Council content would be able to be added to the site by the contractor(s).

Core IM products and services were defined as those:

- benefiting all Council committees and sub-committees equally (ie basic Web Pages, People Finder, NGO Directory, Mailing Listserves maintenance, Internal communication notices, KnowledgeBase and Spatial Search)
- supporting the main Council Outreach mechanisms (ie many Gulf of Maine Times tools, "Publication, Registration Download and Fulfillment" tool), and
- supporting needs of the Management and Finance Committee (ie "Action Plan Grant Submission and Review" tool, "Contract Opportunity Response Submission, Review and Tracking" tool, "Finance Files Sharing" tool).

Possible activities and next steps

Council should discuss and recommend a new strategy for supporting base and project IM costs:

- Project Tools would be assessed and maintenance and development costs would be outlined to the Project committees?
- If Council cannot raise the base IM support, it should be divided up between the Projects which rely on base support

Action or outcomes requested

- Council should reconsider the allocation for ongoing base IT support
- If Council cannot raise the base IM support, it should be divided up between the Projects which rely on base support
- If this is not feasible, Council should triage the IM support for 2009

Submitted by Paul Currier, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and Jennifer Hackett, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Co-chairs, Information Management Committee

GOMC website: annual update

Background

This briefing note provides an update on the Council's website, www.gulfofmaine.org, which serves as one of the Council's primary tools for internal and external communications.

Website usage statistics for 2007:

- 97,343 different people used the Council's website.
- They visited the Council's website a total of 146,074 times.
- Total number of webpage views was 1,734,094.

This level of usage compares favorably to similar websites. For example, the Council's site had 24,300 visitors during the first quarter of 2007, while GoMOOS reported 20,000 visitors during the same period (GoMOOS 2007 User Survey, www.gomoos.org). This level of usage of the Council's website was accomplished within the annual IT budget of approximately \$57,000, equivalent to \$0.39 per visit to the website. (The IT budget also covers non-website systems such as the Council's email system and listserves. It also covers the Habitat Restoration Web Portal, which is not included in the above usage statistics.)

A few highlights of information technology activities during the past year:

- ESIP Monitoring Map
- Facilitated redesign and enhancement of Gulf of Maine Times web presence
- Online application and review system for GOMC grants and contract RFPs
- Web-based system for administering habitat-restoration project proposals, review, and progress reports
- GOMMI Coverage Map
- Online financial reporting tools for GOMC administration
- Gulf of Maine KnowledgeBase bibliographic database
- Regional Habitat Monitoring Data System
- Audience-tracking and evaluation system for GOMC publications (downloads and hard-copy requests)
- Ongoing support for People Finder, NGO Directory, listserves, etc.
- Ongoing support for adding/updating content for committees, projects, opportunities, news, etc.

Visitors to www.gulfofmaine.org came primarily from the U.S. and Canada but also from dozens of other countries. The top home hosts of website visitors included fwdar1-1.ns.ec.gc.ca, boston-ce.itd.state.ma.us, and iusr5.gov.ns.ca.

Submitted by Peter Taylor, GOMC Web Producer

ESIP: Progress and Proposed Workshops

Background - Indicators

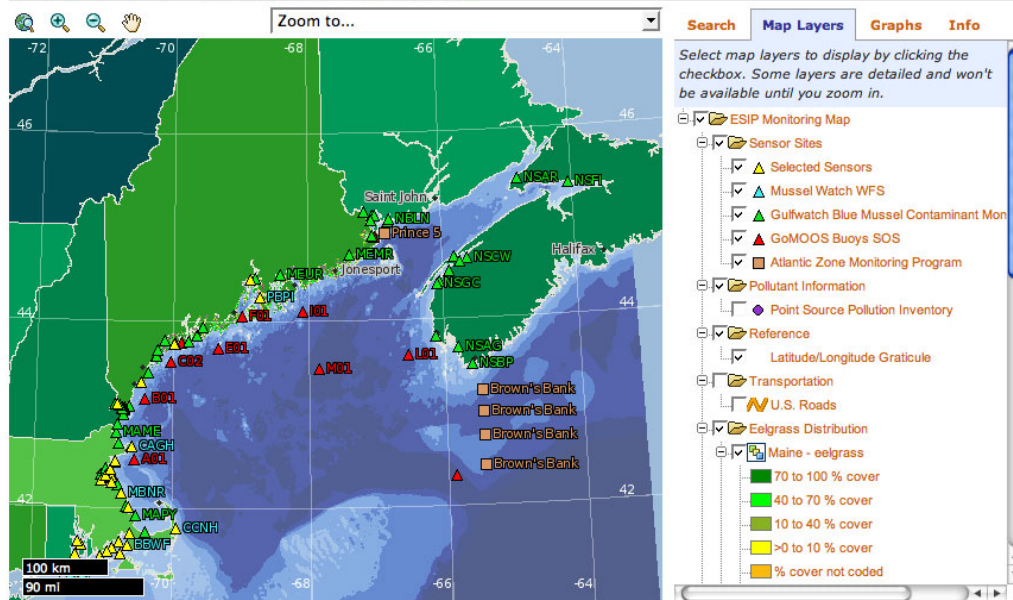
ESIP is fast approaching determination of priority indicators for the six subcommittees. Proposed indicators are listed in the table below:

Subcommittee	Reached Consensus	Proposed priority indicators
Aquatic Habitats	Yes (3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extent/Distribution of Eelgrass 2. Extent/Distribution of Salt Marsh 3. Location of Tidal Restrictions
Climate Change	Yes (4)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sea Surface Temperature (SST) 2. Precipitation trends and anomalies 3. Sea level rise 4. Air temperature trends and anomalies
Coastal Development	Yes (4)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Point sources 2. Employment density 3. Population density 4. Impervious surface
Contaminants	Yes (3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sediment triad data (chemistry, toxicity, and benthic community) 2. Mussel tissue data (Gulfwatch) 3. Shellfish sanitation data
Eutrophication	Expected by end of April	
Fisheries & Aquaculture	Expected by end of March	

Background - Indicator Reporting Tool

ESIP, in partnership with GoMOOS, released the first version of the ESIP Indicator Reporting Tool the first week in March. The tool can be accessed at: www.gulfofmaine.org/esip. A screen shot is located below. The tool incorporates several datasets and indicators under consideration (examples: point sources, distribution of eelgrass).

[Ecosystem Indicator Partnership \(ESIP\) > Interactive map](#)



Action or outcomes requested

8. ESIP requests assistance in suggestions for siting the proposed meetings to demonstrate ESIP webtools (Monitoring Map and Indicator Reporting Tool) and introduce proposed priority indicators.
9. ESIP requests assistance in announcing the Indicator Reporting Tool. In addition, ESIP asks that Working Group members provide feedback on effectiveness of tool.
10. ESIP requests working group support for consistent GoMC recognition for committee members.

Submitted by Susan Russell-Robinson and Anita Hamilton, Co-chairs, ESIP

Ecosystem-based approaches: acting on the Council's December 2007 discussions

Background

In March 2007 the Council co-convened a 2-day meeting at UNH with COMPASS, MOPF and other EBM partners. At that meeting seven Regional EBM Work Groups were formed to address interrelated EBM topics – two of which are the framework and tool-kit

(<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/EBMWorkGroups/>). (Others include modeling, pilot projects, communications, data access and dissemination, and a network for early career scientists.) Presently over 125 government, non-profit and academic representatives are engaged. Many of the work groups have met 1-2 times and there are frequent conference calls. (Nearly 10 Working Group and Council representatives are engaged.) COMPASS has provided a coordination/staffing role to enable these work groups to perform. (The Moore Foundation has provided support for 2-years to COMPASS and recently decided to renew their commitment for several additional years.)

The EBM Toolkit Work Group conducted a regional needs assessment survey in early fall 2007. Quite a few Councilors and GOMC committee members participated. Initial results were presented at the GOMC Working Group's fall meeting in Bar Harbor. The survey generated valuable information for other EBM efforts beyond the toolkit. The Toolkit Work Group wrote a survey report in February, and it is awaiting final GOMC approval for publication.

At their December 2007 meeting Councilors divided into two groups, discussed creating an EBM framework and EBM Toolkit, and identified possible next steps for each project. The following action steps (verbatim from the Council minutes) were identified. (Detailed notes from the two break-out sessions are also available.)

Conceptual and Operational EBM Framework

1. EBM needs to continue to be a centerpiece of the Council's work and we need to grow the capacity of the Council to bring US and Canadian efforts together. We want to do this in partnership with MOPF and COMPASS.
2. Acting in our role as a convener we should organize a meeting of EBM practitioners, such as what was done in 2005. Questions of meeting content, who pays, a realistic time – spring, and partnering with the COMPASS work group in convening the meeting so the whole role doesn't fall on the Council all emerged.
3. The meeting would think through how the emerging framework can be adapted and applied through the many small projects that being done independently of each other. Maybe there is no "one size fits all" framework for EBM. And all interests would be encouraged to participate.

EBM Toolkit

1. Inventory of existing activities: Inventory of what EBM projects are underway in each jurisdiction. Expand table with examples from Council agencies and organizations. First need to define context of EBM for this exercise – meet certain criteria to make the list.
2. Information portal in Gulf of Maine for products and tools. Use existing communication/media tools (website and GOMT) to promote portal.
3. Glossary of terms to help users understand what EBM means.
4. Needs assessment.
5. Identify fund developer to accomplish activities.
6. Building partnerships to get resources in place to be a facilitator.
7. Look at potential source of funding – possibility to add to list of core funding priorities for Council
8. Foster EBM concept without toolkit - Using existing products – articles in GOMT and links to information on website



Possible activities and next steps

1. COMPASS and other US/Canadian partners recently commenced planning for a workshop in late 2008. This event will bring together the principle EBM proponents to assess progress in the seven areas and to make plans for subsequent work.
2. COMPASS has expressed interest in working more closely with the Council. They bring strong financial support and scientific expertise to the table and want to facilitate not duplicate or replace other efforts.
3. The regional EBM Work Groups have gained considerable momentum during their first year. Participants include numerous organizations that have not generally been involved in the Council. By partnering in the Work Groups, Council representatives are at the forefront of EBM efforts and developing new relationships.

Action or outcomes requested

- Review the Councilors' December 2007 discussions and conclusions; share innovative and applicable ongoing jurisdictional approaches, and discuss ways to accelerate EBM approaches.
- Recommend that the Council join with others to co-host an EBM workshop. Identify jurisdictional representatives interested in assisting with workshop planning.
- Responding to the Councilors' desire to bring US and Canadian efforts together "in partnership with MOPF and COMPASS" request them to participate in the Council's June 2008 meeting on Cape Cod.
- Work with regional partners to secure funding for the delivery and training of provincial, state and federal representatives on the uses/applications of the EBM tool kit (e.g., role-out, training, debugging, etc.).

Submitted by David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator and Peter Taylor, Web Developer/Science Translation

COMPASS and the Gulf of Maine Council as Unique Facilitators of an Ecosystem Approach to Management

Overview

During the past year, COMPASS and the Gulf of Maine Council (through its Working Group and contractors) have been working together on several initiatives related to ecosystem-based management (EBM). The organizations play important complementary roles in facilitating, coordinating, convening, and conducting EBM activities in the region. COMPASS contributes a strong scientific focus, while the Council brings together the management community.

Beginning in 2007, COMPASS has facilitated several Gulf of Maine EBM Work Groups involving participants from numerous organizations. Many of the organizations have not generally worked together in the past. The EBM Work Groups have been quite productive already and have gained momentum as a regional nexus for advancing EBM.

The Council's Working Members and contractors have played key roles in the successful establishment and early progress of the EBM Work Groups. Council-affiliated agencies and NGOs participate in the EBM Work Groups, the Council's Science Translation contractor is co-leading the EBM Toolkit Work Group and participating in other Work Groups, and the Council is hosting a web-based collaboration tool that is used by the EBM Work Groups.

COMPASS's Unique Niche

COMPASS will continue to ensure the scientific community is coalesced and prepared to effectively communicate their information to players critical in decision and policymaking. In addition, COMPASS will facilitate connections or create venues for scientists to share information with a range of audiences (policymakers, decision-makers, other scientists, media, etc.). There are a number of specific efforts we foresee developing and implementing; we also want to remain opportunistic to be useful to the scientific and political climate (which are often unpredictable). To do this, we have two main outcomes over the next two years:

1. New England scientific community is coalesced and working comprehensively to synthesize and develop science related to ocean ecosystems and a spatial approach to management.
2. Key New England decision-makers (and those affecting or influencing decisions) appreciate and apply existing and new scientific knowledge about marine systems to manage these systems for the continued delivery of goods and services wanted/needed.

Our outputs will continue to support and catalyze the regional, collaborative work groups that COMPASS has facilitated over the past year. In looking ahead, we will focus on efforts on gaining scientific knowledge to better understand ecosystem structure, function, and value such as:

- Ensuring decision support tools to make spatially explicit management choices are developed
- Using models to predict changes to ecosystem services based on various management scenarios
- Working with others to create a blueprint for area-based management for the Gulf of Maine region.

Our outputs will also ensure the best available marine science is communicated in an audience-appropriate way by training scientists in targeted communications, building relationships between scientists and other stakeholder groups, and creating venues to communicate scientific information.

Gulf of Maine Council's Unique Niche

Ecosystem-based planning and management is one of the Gulf of Maine Council's four guiding principles (www.gulfofmaine.org/council/mission.php). The Council supports collaborative management that integrates economics and ecological values and objectives, emphasizing natural rather than political boundaries.

Goal 1 of the Council's five-year Action Plan for 2007–2012 is to protect and restore habitats so that coastal and marine habitats are in a healthy, productive, and resilient condition. In its Action Plan, the Council states that an essential component for achieving Goal 1 is to develop and apply integrated, holistic approaches to management and policy. Accordingly, Activity 1.19 in the Council's current 18-

month Work Plan calls for supporting and enabling interactions among existing programs involved in implementing an ecosystem-based approach to management and policy.

The Council is uniquely poised to catalyze innovations in marine and coastal management in the Gulf of Maine. At its last meeting in December 2007, the Council directed the Council Working Group to analyze information regarding partnering to create a framework for ecosystem-based management and the Council role(s) in promoting interaction among practitioners through an EBM learning network, further refine the Council's position, and report back to the Council at its June 2008 meeting.

Current Collaborations between COMPASS and Council

1. **Gulf of Maine EBM Toolkit**
COMPASS and the Council (through Science Translation contractor Peter Taylor) are leading development of a Gulf of Maine EBM Toolkit, one of seven priority Action Items from the 2007 regional EBM meeting. The Toolkit Work Group has conducted a regional survey of EBM practitioners and is planning a workshop of coastal decision-makers.
2. **EBM regional implementation framework**
A work group is using a phased approach to create a regional framework for implementation of EBM. Phase 1: Assess current knowledge related to EBM frameworks at various spatial and temporal scales. A consultant will review and analyze existing EBM-related models and identify preliminary architecture for a regional framework. (Project funded by MOPF)
3. **EBM cross-cutting communications**
A regional EBM Communications Work Group is meeting on February 25 to determine how they can assist the other work groups with their outreach and education needs, particularly connecting the science to managers and policymakers. Peter Taylor has developed a webpage on the Council's server for all regional work group information, (www.gulfofmaine.org/EBMWorkGroups), and there have been preliminary discussions and a prospectus about an EBM e-newsletter as another communication tool.

Opportunities for Future Collaborations

There is a tremendous opportunity for the Gulf of Maine Council to take a leadership role in regional EBM initiatives. Working collaboratively, COMPASS and the Council can have a great impact on facilitating knowledge, information, and dialogue about EBM and all it entails. Regional groups are calling on the Council to take a larger role, and some are interested in partnering with them to find additional funding. By continuing to support and facilitate the Gulf of Maine EBM Work Groups—which have become widely recognized among many organizations as unusually productive and mutually beneficial—the Council and COMPASS can significantly advance science-based coastal and marine management in the region.

Submitted by Verna DeLauer, COMPASS & Peter Taylor, Gulf of Maine Council

Possible Roles of The Nature Conservancy's EcoRegional Marine Assessment in an EBM Framework

Background

At the December 2007 Council meeting, there was a forum to discuss EBM. A core element of an EBM framework is the compilation and assessment of existing information. TNC's EcoRegional Marine Assessment, which includes the Gulf of Maine, can help the Council and its partners pursue the framework.

The Northwest Atlantic EcoRegional Marine Assessment spans from Cape Hatteras in North Carolina to the northern limit of the Gulf of Maine in Canadian waters and extends seaward to the foot of the continental slope (depth of 2500 meters). The study area includes the shorelines of 11 states and two provinces (about 65 million population), including the major estuaries of Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds, Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay, Long Island Sound, Narragansett Bay, Penobscot Bay and the Bay of Fundy.

The Assessment will include data on marine ecosystems, habitats, species and human uses. Products will include:

- (1) An integrated database of information on marine ecosystems, habitats, target species and human uses at the Northwest Atlantic regional scale. This database will be publically available.
- (2) A narrative report of the approach and methods used to build the decision support database, as well as a description of current conditions and trends in all the marine habitats, target species and human uses included in the analysis. Maps will also be used to illustrate certain data sets.
- (3) A narrative report that describes the priority places and strategies that The Nature Conservancy (TNC) recommends for conservation action within the Northwest Atlantic Marine Ecoregion.

Estimated completion date of the Assessment is December 2009.

Action or outcomes requested

11. WG becomes familiar with TNC's EcoRegional Marine Assessment, and understands the types of data and information TNC is soliciting and the decision-support tools that will come out of the effort.
12. WG will be able to participate in providing data sets.
13. WG will be able to brief Councilors to consider formal partnerships with TNC on this effort such as through the GOM Ocean Data Partnership.

Submitted by Kate Killerlain Morrison and Sally Yozell, The Nature Conservancy

Outline for a Proposed Gulf of Maine Science Symposium

October 4th to 9th, 2009

St Andrews, New Brunswick

DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION BY SCIENCE STEERING COMMITTEE

The Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine (RARGOM, in collaboration with DFO SABS, GMRI, and COMPASS) has initiated the organization of a Gulf of Maine Science Symposium to be held in 2009. An Organizing Committee has been established and members include:

- Rob Stephenson/Lara Cooper— DFO St Andrews (OC Chairs)
- John Annala— GMRI
- Jeffrey Runge— RARGOM/University of Maine
- Lynn Rutter— RARGOM/COMPASS
- Verna DeLauer— COMPASS

The Organizing Committee would like your support to sit as a member of the Science Steering Committee for the symposium.

Date and Venue

The dates chosen for the symposium are October 4th to 9th, 2009. The symposium will be held at the Fairmont Algonquin Hotel in St Andrews New Brunswick.

Conveners

There will be four convening groups. The Organizing Committee will be supported by RARGOM (supported by the institutions of GMRI, SABS, and COMPASS), by sponsors, and by the Science Steering Committee (SSC).

Science Steering Committee

The SSC will be Co-Chaired by Rob Stephenson and John Annala. Other confirmed SSC members include Jeffrey Runge, Stephen Hale (EPA/RARGOM), and Andy Rosenberg (UNH/COMPASS). The role of the SSC will be to develop the scope and content of the science themes and to encourage institutional support and sponsorship.

Scientific program

The last major symposium for science in the Gulf of Maine was the RARGOM scientific symposium and workshop held in St Andrews, New Brunswick in 1996. Since that date, federal, provincial, and state jurisdictions in Canada and the US have moved forward with ecosystem approaches to management. Therefore, it is timely to review and update the science and make recommendations that will support moving forward with ecosystem-based management in the Gulf of Maine.

At this symposium, invited keynote and plenary speakers will provide perspective, insight, and challenges to the participants. Sessions will feature contributions from policy and decision-makers in government, marine resource managers, and natural and social scientists...

Symposium goal

The proposed overarching goal for the symposium is to advance the science that supports the future management of the Gulf of Maine. The symposium program will (1) inform participants of the current objectives, constraints, and future influences on management of marine resources, (2) inform participants about the state of scientific knowledge in the Gulf of Maine, and (3) identify scientific requirements and directions to meet future needs from an ecosystem-based approach. In order to achieve this goal, the following questions will be addressed:

- What is the status of our current knowledge of the Gulf of Maine and its ecosystems?
- What is the state of our current scientific capacity in terms of what we know management needs are now and will be with an ecosystem-based approach?
- What natural and social science research and particular data sets will be required over the next 5 years to meet ecosystem-based management requirements?
- What science is required to observe and predict change and respond to future uncertainty?

Symposium themes

The symposium will address a number of underlying themes that cut across specific topic areas from the list below. A major goal is to ensure that a socio-economic/policy aspect is included within each of the themes.

- Common vision for science advice for integrated management; bringing scientific knowledge into the management policy and decision-making
- Measurement and assessment of effects of climate change on Gulf of Maine ecosystems
- Indicators and reference points for monitoring programs
- Cumulative effects and overcoming complex management?
- Metapopulation structure and biodiversity of the Gulf of Maine and their roles in maintaining the integrity of the region's ecosystems
- Trophic ecology of the Gulf of Maine
- The role of integrative modelling, including species interactions, coupled physical biological modelling, nutrient fluxes in embayments, biogeochemical cycling in the coastal zone, etc.
- Identification, status and conservation of key habitats—
- Management for multiple use of the coastal zone, including aquaculture and energy facilities, e.g. wind, tidal, LNG??
- New scientific approaches and tools for regional integrated management
- Coordination of science and management scales for multiple ecosystem services and sectors— temporal and spatial mismatches between biological systems and human institutions
- Human causes and consequences of changes to coasts and oceans
- Values that humans attribute to environmental services and how those values contribute to the use of resources
- Incentives for embracing change (a key attribute of resilience)— in personal behavior, societal expectations, business practices, and resource management — to adapt to an ever-changing environment and make the kinds of changes necessary to move forward with EBM
- Feedbacks between human and ecological systems and their contribution to driving systems beyond thresholds
- The consideration of scientific uncertainty in the management process
- Assessment and measurement of management success (or the impacts of human activities) from a coupled social-ecological perspective

Symposium topics

The meeting is intended to be open enough to accept contributed research on the Gulf of Maine from a broad spectrum of disciplines, including:

- Marine biology and ecology
- Fisheries ecology and oceanography
- Biological, chemical and physical oceanography
- Ocean observing
- Marine invasives
- Aquaculture
- Modelling (including visualisation of geo-referenced data)
- Sociology
- Environmental psychology
- Anthropology
- Marine archaeology
- Natural resource economics
- Management science

Target audience

The symposium organizers will extend invitations to the following to attend and participate in the symposium:

- Policy and decision-makers in government
- Natural resource managers
- Natural and social scientists
- Anthropologists
- Marine Economists
- Non-governmental representatives
- Industry members

Symposium format

The symposium will be open to both oral and poster papers. The proposed symposium format is shown below.

For each theme session there will be:

- A keynote address by a policy person/manager that address the policy/management needs for that theme
- One or two plenary addresses by natural and social scientists that cover the high-level scientific requirements and needs for the theme
- A number of contributed papers that address more specific policy/managerial/science needs for the theme
- Discussion perhaps using a panel format

The subjects for the theme session will be developed by the SSC with reference to the underlying symposium themes.



Products

Suggested products include a technical report that would come out quickly after the meeting and could be taken to participating institutions. To encourage peer-reviewed publication of symposium papers, publication of a symposium volume is under consideration.

Submitted by Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada

Gulf of Maine Council Summit 2009 Proposal

20th Anniversary Celebration

Background

As a follow up to the 2004 Gulf of Maine Summit the Council is to complete the “State of the Gulf Report”. The three additional areas which were identified for the next version of the Report include, nutrients, habitat change and climate change. This report will also be aligned with the results and recommendations from ESIP. It has been proposed that the perfect opportunity to release this report would be a second Summit event which will be held on the 20th Anniversary of the launch of the Gulf of Maine Council. This would be December 12, 13 and 14, **2009**. It is being proposed that this will be held in Portland Maine which has convenient airport, train and ferry access and the new Abromson Center at the University of Southern Maine which can readily accommodate and manage an event of this size.

The Vision

By keeping the event to a workshop day and then a one day Summit the Outreach Committee Contractor, Chairs and Committee should be able to coordinate a planning committee and process . With a partner like the Abromson Center, who can handle the registration set up and management, and that we already have in place our media and web support needs we should not have the need to hire a contractor to coordinate this event.

Day One: Workshops

As we received praise from the 2004 Summit on our workshop day it is proposed that we follow up with a similar plate of options, with a focus on areas such as sustainable tourism, research and conservation in the Gulf of Maine.

Day Two: The Summit

A series of presentations in the Abromson Auditorium – capacity 520 – which celebrate “Sustaining Our Common Heritage”, these can include overarching research, successful projects, theater, etc...

To avoid the “talking head” syndrome of the traditional “break out sessions” it is proposed that during the day a series of facilitated café sessions can provide opportunities to network and to engage in “goal visioning”. In this way participants can have the opportunity to bring their work and long term objectives to the table and have a quality opportunity for networking.

Day Two: Evening Benefit Event – Abromson Auditorium and Atrium or Eastland Ballroom

Cash Bar

Heavy Appetizers including two to three food stations - approximately \$25 - \$30 per person – corporate sponsor possible

Entertainment – **Possibly John Fishman of “Phish” fame** (what an amazing draw this would be)!

Silent Auction of Gulf of Maine Artists – It will be holiday time!

Day Three: December Meeting of the Gulf of Maine Council

Details to Date:

The proposed Hotel site – The Eastland

They can provide rooms at this time. This is a very lovely older hotel with very nice rooms which they will provide for \$89 to \$99 per night - **this is an excellent rate.**

They have meeting rooms, a ballroom and a wonderful rooftop bar that overlooks Portland and Casco Bay. I have worked with them on other large conferences and have had excellent experiences with them.

They can provide meeting space for the Council on the 14th. I am still waiting on the quote for this. Food for the day would be around \$30.00 per person with morning break, lunch and afternoon break.

The other potential hotel would be the Holiday Inn by The Bay but I think we should only consider them as a backup if needed. I have not liked working with them or the atmosphere of the hotel.

The Meeting Site – Abromson Center University of Southern Maine

I have had amazing experiences working with Sherri and her crew.

This is a new “green facility” which can accommodate 520 people in the auditorium and has at least eight meeting rooms. They have a wonderful catering service. They are set up to handle all registration needs including workshops, name tags and any additional meeting materials. They have full audio visual set ups through out the building, wireless access throughout the center and staff technical support. There is free parking at the Center.

I am waiting on a quote from them. When I worked with them for the NMEA national conference they had a set per person charge of \$12 which was easily incorporated into the conference fee.

Some initial costs for food would be for continental breakfast, lunch and breakout session for Day Two - \$20 - \$25/ person.

(Food for the workshop day will be determined by the location)

Some additional costs will be to rent a bus to shuttle participants from the Eastland to Abromson Center, program printing, signage, and presenter fees if needed.

The State of the Gulf Report

We need direction from Peter and ESIP on the product that is needed. Who the audience is and what are our objectives.

Next Steps:

Committee recommendations – Is this ESIP’s role??

Contractor to write the report needed or can this be part of the Science Translation contract?

Timeline

Budget – production, printing and distribution

Question to Larry: What portion of the 2008 and 2009 EC funds can be allocated to this Summit and/or what portion of the Summit can be funded with these funds.

More details to come.....

Submitted by Theresa Torrent-Ellis



Ocean Initiatives Integration Meeting (OIIM)

Background

As part of the Joint Workplan Concerning the Implementation of Ocean Action Plans and Moving Towards Ecosystems Approaches to Management of Coastal and Oceans Resources between DFO and NOAA, DFO committed to a follow-up meeting to examine linkages between the various existing collaborative mechanisms identified in the document; Overview of Current Governance in The Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine: Transboundary Collaborative Arrangements and Initiatives. The meeting on March 27th at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, will bring together invitees from a number of federal, state and provincial agencies to identify ocean and coastal initiatives and programs underway, knowledge gaps, and possible opportunities for collaboration and sharing in order to facilitate integrated management and build strong cooperative relationships. This effort will lay the foundation for future discussions that will strengthen proposals to support and fund projects and programs in the Bay of Fundy / Gulf of Maine. Members of the GOMC working group (WG) are facilitating this meeting with the DFO to advance efficiencies and improve integration of ocean initiatives in the Gulf of Maine region.

Possible activities and next steps

The meeting rationale and concept will be presented. The WG will be provided an opportunity to contribute responses to questions that will be given to the participants at the March 27th meeting. These responses will be presented to the meeting the next day thereby recognizing the perspective of the GOMC WG.

Action or outcomes requested

Responses collected from the WG will be compiled and presented to the participants at the OIIM meeting.

Submitted by Dave Duggan and Anita Hamilton, Ocean and Coastal Management Division, Maritimes Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada