



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

Working Group Briefing Packet

Version 1

St. Andrews, New Brunswick • October 5-6, 2009



Table of Contents

Working Group Agenda.....	2
Ecosystem Indicator Partnership Session.....	5
Consent Agenda	6
The Council as a Facilitator: A Renewed Vision.....	25
Great Waters Initiative Update	27
Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) Update.....	29
Ocean Data Partnership and Information Exchange Network.....	31
Gulf of Maine Research Institute Overview	32
Evaluating the Effectiveness of Our Work.....	33
Quantifying and Documenting In-Kind Support	34
Gulf of Maine State of the Environment Reporting: The Task Groups Progress to Date.....	35



Working Group Agenda

Sunday, October 4, 2009

4:00 - 6:00 PM page 5	Ecosystem Indicator Partnership Session Room TBD at the Fairmont Algonquin
6:30 PM	Informal Gathering for Working Group Members Meeting in lobby at the Fairmont Algonquin

Monday, October 5, 2009

8:00 AM	Morning Refreshments Courtesy of NB Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Welcome, Introductions, and Meeting Objectives <i>Ted Diers, NH Coastal Program, NH Department of Environmental Services and Working Group Chair</i>
8:05 AM page 6	Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ June 2009 Working Group meeting summary ▪ June 2009 Council meeting summary ▪ Funders Report ▪ Committee and Subcommittee reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Gulfwatch ⊕ Climate Change Network ⊕ Outreach Committee ⊕ Information Management Committee ▪ Contracting updates list of current contractors with summary of roles
8:10 AM separate PDF	Action Plan Work Plan Status: TAPAS¹ <i>Ted Diers and Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator</i> Background: Committee and Subcommittee chairs and project leads have updated their TAPAS information so that the Working has the most up-to-date information for its work plan discussions and decisions. Outcome/Desired Action: The Working Group is fully informed on the status of the Action Plan work plan and can make course adjustments, as needed.
8:40 AM page 25	The Council as a Facilitator: A Renewed Vision <i>Ted Diers</i> Background: The Council's project portfolio and capacity has expanded and contracted based on funding and other support. There has been considerable discussion time and resources invested in processes to sustain these efforts when funding is not available. This discussion will focus on a new role for the Council as a convener (including capacity and tools such as the website and financial management) and coordinator of resources and efforts. This will lead to a sustainable organization based on a less centralized way to initiative and sustain projects while facilitating a Gulf of Maine unified vision. Outcome/Desired Action: Consensus on a renewed direction for the Council as a facilitator and convener.
10:00 AM	Break Courtesy of NB Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

¹Action Plan Mid-term review project could be incorporated into this discussion or it can be directed at the MandF level and managed by the Working Group Chair with structure recommendations provided by the Council Coordinator



<p>10:15 AM page 27</p>	<p>Great Waters Initiative Update <i>Ted Diers supported by David Keeley, Fund Development</i> Background: A bi-national Gulf of Maine Conservation and Restoration Initiative is being advanced by state, provincial, federal, and nonprofit interests—many of whom are represented on the GOMC. Potential issue areas of the initiative include: 1) Coastal Fish and Wildlife Populations and their Habitats 2) Coastal Water Quality; 3) Invasive species in the coastal and marine environment; 4) Abandoned fishing gear and other debris; 5) The impacts of climate change; 6) Long-range planning, science, and communication in collaboration with states, Tribes, NGOs and other stakeholders; 7) Measuring and monitoring improvements (or declines) over time. This initiative addresses priorities in the Action Plan 2007-2011 and will advance several of the Council's fund development focal areas (e.g., habitat restoration, monitoring, communications, etc.). With several bi-national aquatic ecosystems and heavily ramped up funding (\$678 million in 2010 for numerous "Great Waters" in HR 2996) the Great Waters initiative has the potential of raising the tide for GOM restoration funding in a big way. The intent is to complete the strategy in 2009 and to build a public-private coalition that can advocate for its implementation at the state/provincial and federal levels. Outcome/Desired Action: The Working Group will engage in a discussion of the initiative including how the effort can accelerate the region's conservation and restoration priorities and integrate with existing programs addressing the proposed issue areas; what methods can be used to ensure it is a bi-national effort; and recommendations to Council on their role(s) as a bi-national facilitator in the initiative.</p>
<p>10:30 AM page 29</p>	<p>Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) Update <i>Betsy Nicholson, NOAA</i> Background: NROC continues to make progress in fostering a dialog between states and federal agencies to identify and address challenges that require a regional solution in the areas of ecosystems, hazard resilience, ocean energy and climate change. Membership and common priority areas of ecosystems and climate change continue to overlap between NROC and the GOMC. NROC members have also been involved in contributing to the U.S. Ocean Policy Task Force deliberations on a new national policy and strategy for marine spatial planning, due out in December. Desired actions/outcome: To gain a better understanding of NROC strategic direction going into 2010, NROC plans to integrate its activities with other regional groups, and NROC involvement in the U.S. Ocean Policy Task Force and what early deliberations may mean for the GOMC.</p>
<p>11:00 AM page 31</p>	<p>Ocean Data Partnership and Information Exchange Network <i>Paul Currier, NH Department of Environmental Services and Council representative to ODP and IEN</i> Background: The Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership has received EPA grant funds to create a regional Environmental Data Exchange Network (ODPX) based on the Environmental Information Exchange Network. The Council is one of the organizations receiving grant funds to participate by providing Gulfwatch data. Work so far has identified some issues with the Gulfwatch data. ODP has just received a second-round grant (through Maine DMR) to integrate the regional data network with Web 2.0 protocols. Regional use cases are being sought to demonstrate the operation of the network in serving data to interpretive web sites that can receive data on the fly. There may be significant synergies with ESIP. Outcome/Desired Action: WG supports IT committee and Gulfwatch Committee to provide full documentation and delivery of all Gulfwatch data to ODPX 2) WG support IT committee to work with ESIP committee in exploring synergies between ODPX and ESIP.</p>
<p>11:40 AM page 32</p>	<p>Gulf of Maine Research Institute Overview <i>Jill Harlow, GMRI Advancement Strategist</i> Background: The Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) catalyzes community dialogue, interdisciplinary research, and science literacy to realize the natural and human potential of the Gulf of Maine bioregion. Our goal is to position the Gulf of Maine community to emerge at the forefront of a new era of maritime innovation, embracing creative strategies to harness the ocean's productive capacity while sustaining the bioregion's vitality and character for future generations. Outcome/Desired Action: A Working Group better informed about the GMRI and its projects.</p>
<p>12:00 PM</p>	<p>Lunch Courtesy of NB Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture</p>



<p>1:00 PM page 33</p>	<p>Evaluating the Effectiveness of Our Work <i>Ann Rodney, Evaluation Team leader</i> Background: The evaluation project developed some ways to start to measure the long-term goal of behavioral changes (which usually takes a generation), however, in order to measure behavioral changes in the GOM community (people and environment) a long-term commitment of funding and staff resources would need to be. The Council has made commitments by focusing on the physical environment by conducting projects such as GOMMI, Indicators, Habitant restoration. It is in these project that we should be measuring our success (movement is measurement). Outcome/Desired Action: The Working Group members understand the options for evaluating the GOMC's work.</p>
<p>1:30 PM page 34</p>	<p>Quantifying and Documenting In-Kind Support <i>Ted Diers and Michele Tremblay</i> Background: Quantifying in-kind support is not only a Council request but also a requirement of many of the GOMC's funders. Outcome/Desired Action: The committee/subcommittee/project leads brainstorm on a feasible method to document all match/in-kind support.</p>
<p>2:00 PM page 35</p>	<p>Gulf of Maine State of the Environment Reporting: The Task Group's Progress to Date <i>Jay Walmsley, Department of Fisheries and Oceans</i> Background: The Task Group for the State of the Gulf of Maine Report is developing a workplan for implementation. A progress report on the work of the Task Group will be presented and comment solicited on the "long list" of possible theme papers. Note: as part of the work of the Task Group, there is a two-hour session focused on the communications aspect of the SOER slated for Wednesday, October 7. The Working Group is invited to participate in this process. Outcome/Desired Action: Comment on the work to date and development of a "short list" of possible theme papers.</p>
<p>4:00 PM</p>	<p>Time for Other or Unfinished Business</p>
<p>5:00 PM</p>	<p>Adjourn Working Group Meeting</p>

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

<p>8:30 AM</p>	<p>Gulf of Maine Science Perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Robert Stephenson (Fisheries and Oceans Canada, St. Andrews Biological Station) ▪ Dr. Andy Rosenberg (Professor, Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space at the University of New Hampshire) ▪ Ms. Sally McGee (Policy Director, Environmental Defense Fund Oceans Program in New England) ▪ Mr. Jean Guy d'Entremont (President, Scotia Harvest Seafoods, Inc.) ▪ Dr. Bonnie McCay (Professor, Anthropology and Ecology at Rutgers University, New Jersey) ▪ Dr. Pete Jumars (Director of the School of Marine Sciences, University of Maine) <p>Background: Cooperative session with RARGOM Outcome/Desired Action: Working Group and RARGOM are able to share a common vision on the state of science in the Gulf of Maine.</p>
<p>12:00 - 1:00 PM</p>	<p>Lunch (on your own)</p>

Ecosystem Indicator Partnership Session

Background

ESIP has continued its effort to broaden the partnership and knowledge of ESIP products. This effort relies on presentations at upcoming meetings and in increasing usage of the ESIP webpage. ESIP's webpage changes on a monthly basis to include new journal entries focused on the work of ESIP members along with information on other ESIP issues. Over twenty thousand hits to the ESIP webpage occurred between July 2008 to July 2009. This represents a relatively low cost means of increasing communication both within the partnership and with our greater audience in the region.

Upcoming Meetings

- RARGOM (Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine): October 4-9 in St. Andrews, New Brunswick
- ESIP Members Gathering: October 4 in St. Andrews, New Brunswick
- Maine Coastal Waters Conference: October 28 in Northpoint, Maine.

What's New on the ESIP Webpage

- August/September Journal Article: This interesting journal entry written by John Brawley (Chair of the Aquaculture Subcommittee and participant in the Eutrophication Subcommittee) discusses his work on successful aquaculture in Duxbury, Massachusetts. To find out how they are taking their activities to Zanzibar visit www.gulfofmaine.org/esip.
- Release of general ESIP fact sheet: ESIP recently released the first fact sheet in a series intended to discuss indicator status and trends in the Gulf of Maine.
- Release of Indicator Reporting Tool User's Guide: The user's guide for the recently revised Indicator Reporting Tool is now available.

Status of Funding for ESIP Program Manager and IT Support:

The ESIP Steering Committee developed a funding strategy which relies upon Council member resources through June 30, 2010. The "chunk approach" defines specific products and deliverables in one to two month chunks. Resources from DOI, DFO, and EC Climate Change Program cover from the beginning of July through the end of November 2009. Tentative resources have been identified to cover January through June 2010. ESIP has a list of products that need support to fill the gap of \$10,000 for December 2009.

New Directions:

ESIP is supporting the launch of a Climate Change Network electronic newsletter, through the gracious support of EC. Christine Tilburg is lining up "reporters" from different sectors to provide regular information on meetings, publications and happenings related to climate change in the North Atlantic region.

Action or outcomes requested

1. If you are interested in providing a journal entry for the ESIP webpage, please contact Christine Tilburg at ctilburg@securespeed.us. We're always looking for new entries. Entries alternate between US and Canadian members.
2. If you are aware of any upcoming meetings where ESIP can present, please let us know.
3. Sign up for the Climate Change Network e-newsletter. Submit contacts who would be good information providers.

Submitted by Christine Tilburg, ESIP Program Manager with assistance from Susan Russell-Robinson, US Department of the Interior and Kathryn Parlee, Environment Canada (co-chairs).



Consent Agenda June 2009 Working Group Meeting Summary

**Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
Working Group Meeting – June 23- 24th, 2009
1741 Brunswick Street, 3rd Floor, Homburg Bldg**

Working Group members present

Wayne Barchard, Environment Canada; Ted Diers, NH Department of Environmental Services; Jennifer Hackett, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Tim Hall, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Marah Haywood, NS Department of Environment; Russ Henry, NB Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture; Elizabeth Hertz, ME State Planning Office; Justin Huston, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Julia Knisel, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Gary Lines, Environment Canada; Betsy Nicholson*, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Kathryn Parlee, Environment Canada; Ann Rodney, US Environmental Protection Agency; Susan Russell-Robinson; US Geological Survey, Department of Interior; Jane Tims, NB Department of Environment, and Peter Wells, Dalhousie University.

Others present

Michelle Chisholm, GOMC Administrative Assistant; Daneille Cossarini; Dalhousie University; Michael Giles, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Patricia Rae Hinch, Working Group Chair Emeritus; Adrienne Harrison*, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Glen Herbert, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Cindy Krum*, US Gulf of Maine Association; Kyla Milne, Environment Canada; Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator; and Jay Walmsley, Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

*via conference call or video conference

Via Conference Phone – Betsy Nicholson - NOAA
Adrienne Harrison - NOAA

Consent Agenda

March 2009 meeting summary acceptance : approved as written.

Committee & Subcommittee reports :

Gary Lines indicated there was a change to his briefing note that he provided . He will distribute new information during his presentation .

Consent Agenda accepted as written.

Climate Change Network Update :

Gary Lines provided an update on the Climate Change network as it relates to the Action Plan and provided the status of each activity.

Justin asked Gary what was the best way to distribute the reports - through the council ? on the web ? Michele indicated they are currently going through the GOMMI process right now.

Action : Gary to send the reports to Michele Tremblay so M & F can review.

There is currently no budget to distribute these reports in hard copy , but it can certainly be put on the web.

Adrienne suggested that the RARGOM session is really filling up with add on meetings .

Action : Gary & Adrienne will follow up with Jim Abraham to discuss piggy backing the RARGOM symposium. Liz will introduce intern working in her office to Gary Lines to see if they could work together on this as week.

State of the Environment Reporting – update and next steps – Jay Wamsley- DFO and Justin Huston

Jay posed the question : What do we want to recommend to Council ?

Recommendation : Liz wants to ensure that theme papers link ESSIP indicators as well.



Suggestion to start with the six target areas – but that we leave room for emerging issues. (ie windmills)

Who will use this information ? Challenge is that it may be not the focus of target departments/agencies. Justin concern was that could be looked at as an “authoritative source “.

Recommendation – it is important to not just talk about the creation, but the user as well. communicating that its there , so it will be used.

Recommendation that it is something that comes out on a regular basis. Although not every issue requires a report on an annual basis. But each issue should be reported on regularly regardless of the time period set out (if the report is decided that it should be updated annually or bi-annually or every five years, whatever the time cycle that it be adhered to) .

Yes, it would be used. As equally as important as the creation, is the commitment and communication of the information.

Is anyone else willing to complete a theme paper in the next 2 years ?

Liz suggested that there be a list of topics on theme papers before others are willing to commit their agencies to produce a theme paper.

In principle most agencies could commit to producing a theme paper in the next two years, but without a list of topics – no real commitment as yet. Once this list is provided and they line up with each of the agencies are doing – it should be fairly easy to do this.

What are our options (given the current status of funding)?

Suggestion is that we stick to the 6 key issues, giving consideration to time and frequency of reporting.

Recommendation : that there be a context document created . An assessment report.

Recommendation : that we use more than one layer on the web. Wikipedia is widely used – but there should be a layer on here that moves you to the Gulf of Maine information, or to the ICOM site .

Recommendation : is that we go forward with this and that we spend some real time

Recommend a small working group to come together to iron out the details; to come up with best practices and theme paper topics.

Council participation in RARGOM symposium and update on BoFEP conference :

(insert background from agenda here)

Peter Wells – provided an update on the BoFEP conf. in May 2009. Proceedings will be coming out in the fall (via cd & on the web – no longer producing paper copies).

Coastal Zone Canada 2010 in Prince Edward Island July 24th-29th, 2010

Gulf of Maine Science Symposium : Oct 4-9th in St. Andrew's, NB

Working Group meeting is scheduled for Oct. 6 – 8th – but these dates may change so that members could attend the sessions at the RARGOM symposium as well. The WG meeting agenda to be the essential/critical issues that need to be discussed FYI - Early registration closes in about a month .

Update on Nova Scotia's State of the Coast Report : Justin Huston

(insert background from agenda here)

We are hoping that this report is released by 2010. Not sure what it will look like.

Public consultation process will ask “ did we get this right ? “

The original intent of the report was basically to ensure every agency/department is all on the same page.



Preparation for Councilor TAPAS and funding decisions: Justin reviewed the TAPAS

Action Plan Grants 2009-2010 – no funding in place – **funding required \$105,000**

Comments : Deliverables – change to approximately eight, \$10,000 grants would be required.

Climate Change Network – comments - Cindy will go in and add the indirect amount – so it's there for Council meetings. Michele will make changes to member roster.

Comments : **Funding required : \$130,000**

Ecosystem Indicator Partnership :ESIP Susan Russell Robinson – suggested that the Web Services be increased to \$5000

GOMMI - Liz suggested that we remove the office logistics from the project deliverables.
Still in need of Canadian membership

Gulf of Maine Times : currently we are in the position of one on line edition. After that, there will no longer be a Gulf of Maine Times produced. **Funding Required : \$92,000**

Gulfwatch : Funding Required \$10,260.00

Peter indicated he would like to continue as the Cdn. Co Chair , and would like his Organization updated to Dalhousie University.

Habitat Monitoring Funding Required : \$40,000 - funding proposal has been put forward
Michele will add in the co-chairs to the membership list

Habitat Restoration : Funding Required \$40,000 – NOAA recommends we provide matching funds for the coordinator position – Liz announced \$20,000 from DoT in Maine.

Secretariat : Funding Required : \$16,525- waiting for dues to come through but should be fully funded if they all come through.

Recommendation : is that we identify the In Kind contributions that the organizations give

Pull together something that shows what we did last year, in kind & financial contributions

Action : Management & Finance Team to come up with a way to identify in kind contributions – perhaps a simple spread sheet. An organizational contribution as opposed to the individual contribution that is currently tracked.

Council Programs - Fund Development - Funding Required \$26,855

If all dues come through, this should be fully funded.

Recommendation : Next WG meeting agenda - we have a “fund development” session. Writing proposals, etc. Not just handing over documents to our fund developer and expecting that to be completed – the committees need to own these and be more involved.

Web Services : Funding Required : \$11,682

Each committee needs to be including web services to their expenses . Once the dues are collected, this will be covered.

Recommendation: M & F will discuss in conjunction with IT co-chair . Michele will have “Communication” to the Web Services title.

Council Champions – Aligning Council Activities with Councilor Interests - will bring this back tomorrow morning for discussion.

Review of 09/10 Budget for Council :

Note : This budget will be adjusted once the final budget is completed. An adjusted budget will be presented once all actual \$ amounts are completed.

**June 24, 2009
Gulf of Maine Working Group Meeting
Environment Canada, 45 Alderney Drive, 15th Floor**

Working Group members present

Wayne Barchard, Environment Canada; Ted Diers, NH Department of Environmental Services; Jennifer Hackett, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Tim Hall, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Marah Haywood, NS Department of Environment; Russ Henry, NB Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture; Elizabeth Hertz, ME State Planning Office; Justin Huston, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Julia Knisel, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Gary Lines, Environment Canada; Betsy Nicholson*, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Kathryn Parlee, Environment Canada; Ann Rodney, US Environmental Protection Agency; Susan Russell-Robinson; US Geological Survey, Department of Interior; Jane Tims, NB Department of Environment, and Peter Wells, Dalhousie University.

Others present

Michelle Chisholm, GOMC Administrative Assistant; Daneille Cossarini; Dalhousie University; Michael Giles, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Patricia Rae Hinch, Working Group Chair Emeritus; Adrienne Harrison*, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Glen Herbert, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Cindy Krum*, US Gulf of Maine Association; Kyla Milne, Environment Canada; Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator; and Jay Walmsley, Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

*via conference call or video conference

Via Conference Phone – Betsy Nicholson - NOAA

9am - unfinished business from Day 1

Aligning Council Activities with Councilor Interests

Discussion around the table to try to match up council activities with committed councilors.

Michele Tremblay will draft a definition of “ what is a council champion ? “ and present to Secretariat Team will follow up with Working Group Members, when this document is ready to go. Working Group members will be asked to prepare councilors prior to the next meeting .

Suggestion : to give a heads up to Councilors the role of the “championship” in the Council mtg tomorrow.

9:30 – Use and Influence of Marine Environmental Information : continued Studies of Publications of Intergovernmental Groups such as the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment – Peter Wells

Currently working on a project to find out which publications are being used that have been produced by the GOMC. Currently looking at updating the bibliography to find out what is out there, and who the end users are of these publications.

Question around having a feedback question on the Gulf of Maine Council website when someone downloads a publication from our website. Decision was made earlier that we would not have this on our website. Deters people from visiting the website if they have to answer questions .

10:00 am - Enhanced Measures of the Management of Shellfish Harvest Areas Adjacent to Waste Water Treatment Plans in Canada –Marshall Giles, Director of Aquaculture Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture in Nova Scotia



10:30- Atlantic Canada Regional Adaptation Collaborative – RAC – Regional Adaptation Collaboratives Program) Kyla Milne, Adaptation Policy Specialist – Climate Change Directorate, NS Department of Environment. (milnekm@gov.ns.ca)

Key issues in Atlantic Canada that could be impacted by Climate Change :

Flooding
Saltwater Intrusion
Erosion/Sedimentation
Infrastructure at Risk

Objective – land use planning, infrastructure design, maintenance, emergency management.

Atlantic Approach -
Common Adaptation Framework
Community Pilots
Municipal & Provincial Policy Reviews
Professional Development

Starting this fall, a vulnerability assessment will begin (Year 1)
Year 2 more policy development/analyzing risks – Year 3 – Policy Development will be implemented

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment – Council Meeting – June 24th, 2009

Councilors present: John Annala, Gulf of Maine Research Institute; Patricia Brooks*, Conservation Law Foundation; Pete Colosi*/Betsy Nicholson for Pat Kurkul, National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration; Mel Côté*/Ann Rodney for Stephen Perkins, US Environmental Protection Agency; Tim Hall for Michael Murphy, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; NB Department of Fisheries; Diane Kent-Gillis/Jane Tims for Roland Haché, NB Department of Environment; Julia Knisel for Darrin Babb-Brott, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Daniel Lebel, Environment Canada; Kathleen Leyden*, ME State Planning Office; Jim McKay for Rick Doucet; NB Department of Fisheries; Greg Roach, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Susan Russell-Robinson for Marvin Moriarty, Department of the Interior; Rob Stephenson, St. Andrews Biological Station; Michael Walls for Tom Burack, NH Department of Environmental Services; and Jack Wiggin, Urban Harbors Institute.

Others present: Jennifer Anderson*, National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration; Wayne Barchard, Environment Canada; Paul Boudreau, COINAtlantic; Michelle Chisholm, GOMC Administrative Assistant; Ted Diers, NH Department of Environmental Services; Lucia Fanning, Dalhousie University Maine Affairs Program; Russ Henry, NB Department of Aquaculture; Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada; Patricia Rae Hinch, Working Group Chair Emeritus; Justin Huston, Working Group Chair, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Eric Hutchins*, National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration; Cindy Krum*, US Gulf of Maine Association; Marc Sheeran, Environment Canada; Jack Schwartz*, MA Division of Marine Fisheries; Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator; Jay Walmsley, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; and Peter Wells, Dalhousie University.

*via conference call or video conference

Meeting opened with Greg Roach welcoming everyone to Halifax, NS

Presentation of the annual budget :
Cindy Krum, Executive Director, US Gulf of Maine Association

Cindy reviewed the budgets and outlined the program areas that do not currently have funding for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1st.

An actual 2008 -2009 budget will be presented to Council in December.

Options for bi-national agreements in the Gulf of Maine – Lucia Fanning, Director of Dalhousie University's Marine Affairs Program.

Reviewed previous action plans back to 1996 and reviewed the three major goals of the GOMC & how they have changed and what has stayed the same ? Lucia presented what she was able to identify as the gaps in GOM priority areas & reviewed the existing agreements.

Key Action Plan Elements :



- 1) consensual decision making & collaboration
- 2) Enhance Accountability (long, medium & short term outcomes
- 3) Continue to engage partners (but who is missing ? ie First Nations ?
- 4) Leverage resources for shared benefits – there is no ongoing or secure funding for forum

What is the cost to all of not having the Council & it's products :

Value of the Council, ie : watershed based, regional focus, supports an ecosystem based management, buildings transboundary relations.

Betsy Nicholson will circulate the request from the US President to give Council a heads up on what is being asked of NOAA.

We need to determine if there are opportunities to create a binding or non-binding agreement. There is a need to better document what we have NOT accomplished & why we have not achieved our goals.

Canadian Association Meeting

Attendance :

Greg Roach
Justin Huston
Wayne Barchard
Peter Wells
Tim Hall
Jane Tims
Russ Henry
Diane Kent Gillis

Jim MacKay
Daniel Lebel

Justin called the meeting to order & reviewed the Council agenda.

Consent Agenda –

Jane requested we remove the Climate Change Network update and wanted to discuss around the table the linkages with the RAC.

Robert Stephenson & John Annala will give up date on RARGOM Symposium during “other business “ agenda item.

Justin mentioned the issue of “Councillor Champions” – heads up that this discussion will come up during the Council meeting.

Dues – only one agency that is unable to pay their dues this year. Department of Marine will not be able to pay their dues . July 1 is the new fiscal year in the US, so two agencies will not be able to pay until after this new budget. Discussion around meeting fees – the \$50 meeting fee. Brief discussion but will continue with the large group.

Bilateral agreement – short discussion on where the budget money would come from for this work to be completed. Doesn't seem to be a link between this and the Action Plan. Mid-term review needs to take place. Short discussion on the bi-lateral and whether or not it is necessary.

State of the Environment Report – discussion back in December where it was discussed what a State of the Environment report would look like. Scoping document by DFO on behalf the Council. There has been two presentations to the Working Group meeting thus far. Jay Walmsley will give a presentation during the Council agenda.

Decision item today – are we able to put together a sub committee – DFO would fund a work shop in conjunction with the next working group meeting.

There was a call for volunteers to assist in writing theme papers during the Working Group meeting. There will be a full presentation to the council next December.



Gulf of Maine Restoration & Conservation Initiative – This is a major issue within the US right now. With the other initiatives that are going on in the Great Lakes ,etc. The challenge this creates is that Canada and the US do not have the same priorities – we have been asked to participate in this initiative – they have asked for ONE person to represent Canada.

How do we want to participate here ? This sounds like a much bigger initiative than simply our council. This issue was deferred to a Cdn. Assoc. conference call in the very near future – this to be the focus issue as well as the by-law review.

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment – Council Meeting – June 25th, 2009

Day Two

**Environment Canada Offices , 15th
45 Alderney Drive**

Councilors present: John Annala, Gulf of Maine Research Institute; Patricia Brooks*, Conservation Law Foundation; Pete Colosi*/Betsy Nicholson for Pat Kurkul, National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration; Mel Coté*/Ann Rodney for Stephen Perkins, US Environmental Protection Agency; Tim Hall for Michael Murphy, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; NB Department of Fisheries; Diane Kent-Gillis/Jane Tims for Roland Haché, NB Department of Environment; Julia Knisel for Darrin Babb-Brott, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Daniel Lebel, Environment Canada; Kathleen Leyden*, ME State Planning Office; Jim McKay for Rick Doucet; NB Department of Fisheries; Greg Roach, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Susan Russell-Robinson for Marvin Moriarty, Department of the Interior; Rob Stephenson, St. Andrews Biological Station; Michael Walls for Tom Burack, NH Department of Environmental Services; and Jack Wiggin, Urban Harbors Institute.

Others present: Jennifer Anderson*, National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration; Wayne Barchard, Environment Canada; Paul Boudreau, COINAtlantic; Michelle Chisholm, GOMC Administrative Assistant; Ted Diers, NH Department of Environmental Services; Lucia Fanning, Dalhousie University Maine Affairs Program; Russ Henry, NB Department of Aquaculture; Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada; Patricia Rae Hinch, Working Group Chair Emeritus; Justin Huston, Working Group Chair, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Eric Hutchins*, National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration; Cindy Krum*, US Gulf of Maine Association; Marc Sheeran, Environment Canada; Jack Schwartz*, MA Division of Marine Fisheries; Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator; Jay Walmsley, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; and Peter Wells, Dalhousie University.

*via conference call or video conference

Via Conference :

Cindy Krum
Betsy Nicholson for Pat Kurkul
Priscilla Brooks
Pete Colosi
Kathleen Leyden sitting in for Martha Freeman
Jack Schwartz

Greg Roach opened the meeting with introductions around the table.

Consent Agenda – Climate Change Update – request to be added to other business by Diane Kent Gillis.

Robert Stephenson requested to have an update opportunity on the RARGOM Symposium to be added to “other business “

Consent agenda approved as written.

Transboundary spill preparedness in the Gulf of Maine – Mark Sheeran, Science Advisor, Environmental Emergencies Program, Environment Canada
To access e-maps from Environment Canada – ask Justin – Anthony Pouw

The future of Council's core programs - function, form and funding – Review of the TAPAS sheets – Justin

Core programs were identified during last council meeting. There were considered to be the “key” or “core services” that are necessary to carry on in lean economic times.

1) Action Plan Grants - No funding in place this year.

Recommendation : *Program will be put on hold indefinitely until funding is available*

2) Climate Change Network – EC funding has been secured.

The Canadian/US coordination is fully funded to 6 months. Climate Change will continue to function but it is not funded to where it needs to be . Question was posed: does it matter how the work gets done ? RAC is going to work on similar “initiatives “ as well as several US initiatives (NROC). GOMC can be used to support & communicate – information exchange vehicle.

Recommendation : *Coordination is happening, perhaps we can get an update at a future Council meeting on the efforts in the Gulf of Maine by different groups.*

New Hampshire may want to add this to the December session to have an update on the RAC and other efforts in northern US States.

3) Ecosystem Indicator Partnership – currently working on securing cash funds – throughout the last couple of days with EC & DFO – if this money comes through, they will be funded at 50%. This will still keep a shortfall of \$42k. Funded at this point to the end of December.

Recommendation : *Continue to monitor*

4) **Gulf of Main Mapping Initiative** : No potential funding proposals on the table at this time.

5) **Gulf of Maine Times** : very likely that DFO funding is going to go through. This will carry the editor through to October which will produce one on line issue. Funding applications were submitted, but no funding has been secured to go beyond one further issue.

Priscilla suggested that we build in a component on the Gulf of Maine Times with all grants application. Do not want to exclude the Outreach Committee in this .

Recommendation : *to continue to lobby for funds. Although we weren't successful in our previous attempts, it may have hinged more on timing/economic climate. Members need to commit to submitting articles if we do decide to go this way. (or communications staff within our departments/agencies) We will investigate the “evergreen” option,*

Need to have an Outreach Plan on how we are going to reach our target audience.

Gulf Watch : \$10k is a priority for inorganic analysis & Data report/management. The 10k is a short fall for this current fiscal year. This is a priority issue as set out by the Council.

Recommendation : *Jack will explore the option of freezing & storing samples.*

Web Services : Funds will be covered for the year, if the dues come through. No longer providing any other services outside the scope of services. This is to maintain the basic website – not committee
We are shifting from a dedicated server \$6500 to a shared server that will cost \$1800.

Recommendation : *M & F will be discussing in conjunction with web services coordinator.*

Budget Approval : Budget approved as written !

Securing Funds to Implement Council Programs 2009-2010 : Shortfall of \$26k – although if all dues come in, we will be covered for the remainder of the year. WG feels this is a major component and feels that this should remain unchanged. This is the first year this was a full time position, so not easy to measure the outcomes in just one year.

WG needs to look at other options, perhaps to give better results.

Recommendation : *Should there be money made available, the 15% cut that was taken from this Fund Development position – will be reinstated. Performance measures have to be put in place for this position. We need to ensure our contractor is assisted by members outside of government, to be more NGO's . We will work on scope of services.*

We will revisit in the next year in terms of deliverables and ensure that measures are met.



Secretariat : Core services needed to remain the same as past years. Shortfall will be approx. \$16k – but only if the dues come in. So at this point, each of the contractors will be working on a 6 month contract.

Recommendation : *There will be a \$50 meeting fee for each Working Group member or each Council member. We will look to the host jurisdiction (where the meeting is being held) to help defer costs of hosting – ie : room rental, or providing lunch, etc.*

Habitat Restoration : Funding is in place, however there is still a \$26,636 short fall. a huge percentage of our indirect comes from this NOAA Grant. It is imperative that this program continue. NOAA has always requested that we match – either through in kind of non-federal dollars. We have enough of the NOAA grant to fully fund this program through the end of the year. This is the last year of the NOAA grant. Significant benefit would be to have Cdn dollars.

Recommendation :

Although it appears as though this is fully funded – we need to continue to seek funding proposals. GOMC has to submit an application to NOAA to seek additional funding, there is much competition from other agencies.

This remains a funding priority for the Fund Development staff, (David Keeley).

Habitat Monitoring : No funding has been secured. Web tool will remain a PILOT until new money is identified.

Scoping a State of the Environment report for the Gulf of Maine : Dr. Jay Walmsley, Department of Fisheries & Oceans.

insert agenda info here.

Suggestions to improve the TAPAS Program :

- a) more printer friendly
- b) need to capture in kind work (**where** is the question ?)
- c) a little more detail on what happens without the funding

June 2009 Council Meeting Summary

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Meeting DRAFT Summary Notes from MLT

Environment Canada • Dartmouth, NS

June 24-25, 2009

Councilors present: John Annala, Gulf of Maine Research Institute; Patricia Brooks*, Conservation Law Foundation; Pete Colosi*/Betsy Nicholson for Pat Kurkul, National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration; Mel Côté*/Ann Rodney for Stephen Perkins, US Environmental Protection Agency; Tim Hall for Michael Murphy, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; NB Department of Fisheries; Diane Kent-Gillis/Jane Tims for Roland Haché, NB Department of Environment; Julia Knisel for Darrin Babb-Brott, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Daniel Lebel, Environment Canada; Kathleen Leyden*, ME State Planning Office; Jim McKay for Rick Doucet; NB Department of Fisheries; Greg Roach, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Susan Russell-Robinson for Marvin Moriarty, Department of the Interior; Rob Stephenson, St. Andrews Biological Station; Michael Walls for Tom Burack, NH Department of Environmental Services; and Jack Wiggin, Urban Harbors Institute.

Others present: Jennifer Anderson*, National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration; Wayne Barchard, Environment Canada; Paul Boudreau, COINAtlantic; Michelle Chisholm, GOMC Administrative Assistant; Ted Diers, NH Department of Environmental Services; Lucia Fanning, Dalhousie University Maine Affairs Program; Russ Henry, NB Department of Aquaculture; Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada; Patricia Rae Hinch, Working Group Chair Emeritus; Justin Huston, Working Group Chair, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Eric Hutchins*, National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration; Cindy Krum*, US Gulf of Maine Association; Marc Sheeran,

Environment Canada; Jack Schwartz*, MA Division of Marine Fisheries; Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator; Jay Walmsley, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; and Peter Wells, Dalhousie University.

*via conference call or video conference

DAY 1 – June 24th

Presentation of the annual budget

Cindy Krum, Executive Director, US Gulf of Maine Association

Cindy reviewed the budgets and outlined the program areas that do not currently have funding for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1st. This overview was given to prepare Council for its discussion on core programs on Day 2.

Council Forum: Options for bi-national agreements in the Gulf of Maine

Lucia Fanning, Director of Dalhousie University's Marine Affairs Program

Lucia provided an overview of the purposes for bi-national agreements and highlighted some of the key agreements that exist between the US and Canada. Lucia reviewed previous action plans of the Council back to 1996 and reviewed the three major goals of the GOMC & how they have changed and what has remained consistent. Lucia presented what she was able to identify as consistent elements of the Council over the past 20 years:

- 5) Consensual decision making & collaboration
- 6) Enhance Accountability (long, medium & short term outcomes)
- 7) Continue to engage partners (but who is missing ? ie First Nations ?)
- 8) Leverage resources for shared benefits – there is no ongoing or secure funding for forum

Lucia then led the Council in a discussion about the value of Council and the potential pros and cons of future bi-national agreements concerning the Gulf of Maine. Discussion questions included: What is the cost to everyone around the table of not having the Council & it's products? What are the gaps and deficiencies of Council currently? What would be the basis of a future agreement regarding the Gulf of Maine? The Council?

It was suggested that further thought/effort could be given to explore a future bi-national agreement re: the GOM. The Council acknowledged the subject as an important dialogue to continue in the future and periodically assess the pros/cons of future bi-national agreements, but decided at this time not to pursue additional work/discussion on this topic at this time.

Councillor Field Trip: Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

Councillor Reception

DAY 2 – June 25th

Greg Roach opened the meeting with introductions around the table.

Consent Agenda

From the consent agenda , Diane Kent Gillis requested that the Climate Change Network update be discussed later on the agenda. Robert Stephenson requested to have an opportunity to provide an update on the RARGOM Symposium as well. The consent agenda was otherwise approved.

Presentation on transboundary spill preparedness in the Gulf of Maine

Mark Sheeran, Science Advisor, Environmental Emergencies Program, Environment Canada

Mark provided a presentation on Canada / US oil spill preparedness in the Gulf of Maine.

The future of Council's core programs—function, form, and funding

Greg Roach with support from Justin Huston and Michele Tremblay

At the request of Council in December '08, detailed summaries of each core program were developed to facilitate discussion on the status of funding for Council's core programs. This was compiled in an online Tracking Action Plan Activities System (TAPAS), which was made accessible at: www.gulfofmaine.org/tapas (LOGIN: Councillor and WG email addresses, PASSWORD: *tapas* .). Prior to the meeting, Greg Roach and Justin Huston hosted two conference calls for Councillors to be briefed on the online TAPAS.

Action: Michele Tremblay will work with Yellahoose, LLC on other user printing options for TAPAS vs. the current PDF).

Action: Michele Tremblay will explore the feasibility of resuscitating SAM (Supporting Actions Matrix), its connectivity to TAPAS, its likelihood of its use by GOMC participants, and its value relative to the Action Plan mid-term evaluation, and present options to Management and Finance.

1) Action Plan Grants - No funding is in place this year, as was the case during the previous year.

Decision: Program will be put on hold indefinitely until funding is available

2) Climate Change Network – EC funding has been secured.

The Canadian/US coordination is fully funded to 6 months. Climate Change will continue to function but it is not funded to where it needs to be to achieve all identified actions in the Action Plan. A key point was raised that it doesn't necessarily matter how the work gets done/coordinated, so much as that it gets done.

Significant efforts underway in both the US and Canada via NROC and the RAC respectively. GOMC can be used to support & communicate – information exchange vehicle.

Action: Management and Finance will explore options to provide the Council with a RAC Regional Adaptation Collaborative) presentation at its December '09 meeting with an emphasis on climate change technical resources outlines in the Climate Change Committee's proposed deliverable.

Action: Adrienne Harrison and Gary Lines will continue to work together to ensure that NROC and RAC activities related to coastal hazards remain linked.

3) Ecosystem Indicator Partnership – currently working on securing funds – throughout the last couple of days with EC & DFO – if this money comes through, ESIP will be funded at 50%. A funding shortfall of \$42k will remain for the year, meaning that funding will last until the end of December.

Action: Continue to monitor and re-visit at the December Council meeting or as needed through the fall.

4) Gulf of Main Mapping Initiative: **No notes on this. Need input.**

5) Gulf of Maine Times : DFO funding would enable one more on-line issue to be produced in October, however, no funding is identified for after this time. Funding applications were submitted, but no funding has been secured to go beyond one further issue. Donations were solicited but only \$2,000 was raised. After discussing options, Council recommended the following actions/decisions:

Decision: Continue to solicit funds for the Times. Although we weren't successful in our previous attempts, it may have hinged more on timing/economic climate.

Action: The Secretariat Team and Management and Finance will work with the Outreach Committee and Editorial Team to re-scope the Gulf of Maine Times Editor 2009 contract to provide deliverables that include exploring the editorial and technical aspects of transitioning to an "evergreen" publication with issue closing dates so that the static versions of editions of the Times are archived). The intent of this action item is to stretch the limited funding available for the Times so that it does not end abruptly with one last electronic issue.

5) Gulf Watch : There is currently a \$10k funding shortfall which is needed for inorganic analysis & data report/management.

Action : Jack Schwartz will explore the option of freezing & storing samples to be analyzed when funds become available..

6) Web Services : Funds will cover Web Services for the year, if the dues come through. However, the web services will no longer be able to provide services to committees unless the funding is secured by the committees. Web Services will only be available to maintain the basic website and core web requirements of the Council

Option to shift from a dedicated server \$6500 to a shared server that will cost \$1800.

Decision : Council agreed in principle to shift to a shared server, however, M & F will discuss the issue in conjunction with web services coordinator to resolve specific technical concerns.



7) Secretariat : Core services are critical to the day-to-day operations of Council, and needed to remain the same as past years. The funding shortfall will be approx. \$16k – but only if the dues come in. So at this point, each of the contractors will be working on a 6 month contract.

Action: Cindy Krum will reallocate the amount of \$6,500 to the income section of the TAPAS for Secretariat.

Decision: There will be a \$50 meeting fee for each Working Group member or each Council member.

Decision: The Council accepted the new policy of requesting a registration fee of \$50 per person per meeting for Council and Working Group meetings. It is the intent of this decision that a member's inability to pay will not hinder his/her participation. We will look to the host jurisdiction (where the meeting is being held) to help defer costs of hosting – ie : room rental, or providing lunch, etc.

7) Securing Funds to Implement Council Programs 2009-2010 : Shortfall of \$26k – although if all dues come in, we will be covered for the next 6 months. WG feels this is a major component and feels that this should remain unchanged. This is the first year this was a full time position, so not easy to measure the outcomes in just one year. WG needs to continue to explore other options and approaches to maximize results. Councilors also stressed the importance of engaging the NGO leaders of Council and partner organizations for assistance in improving Council's fund development approaches.

Decision : The 15% reduction from last year funding levels from the Fund Development position – will be reinstated.

Action: The Secretariat will explore hosting the Gulf of Maine Funders Forum in conjunction with the October Working Group meeting or the December Council/Working Group meeting

Action: The Secretariat will work with the current fund development contractor to re-scope his 2009 six-month contract with an emphasis on foundation prospect development and more defined deliverables.

8) Habitat Restoration: Funding is in place for the Habitat Restoration Grants program, however there is still a \$26,636 short fall to cover the Coordinator position. A large percentage of Council's indirect funding for cores services and the US Association comes from this NOAA Grant, and it therefore imperative that this program continue. NOAA has always requested that we match – either through in kind of non-federal dollars. We have enough of the NOAA grant to fully fund this program through the end of the year. This is the last year of the NOAA grant.

Decision: This remains the number one funding priority for Council.

Action: Fund Development will work with the Restoration subcommittee and Secretariat to submit an application to NOAA to seek additional funding..

9) Habitat Monitoring: No funding has been secured. Therefore the web-based habitat monitoring tool will remain a pilot project until new funding is identified.

Approval of the Budget

Decision: The budget was approved with the changes identified during the TAPAS discussion.

Scoping a State of the Environment report for the Gulf of Maine

Tim Hall and Jay Walmsley, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

A scoping document was presented outlining what a State of the Gulf report might look like, Council's potential roles and the implications for the Council. There was general consensus around the table that Council was in a unique position to champion this type of effort. The Council agreed with the recommended approach which consists of taking a module approach, anchored by an overarching, relatively unchanging reference document on the Gulf of Maine region, and a series of distinct theme papers focused on specific issues or aspects of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem. Further, these theme areas would focus on the areas currently being developed through ESIP. Council emphasized the importance of ensuring that ESIP and the SOE initiative are closely linked.



Action: Jay Walmsley to lead a SOE task group to flesh-out in more detail the State of the Gulf concept, including the drafting of the general overview report, deciding on initial theme papers, funding required, and potential leads. The results will be reported to the Council in December.

Celebrating 20 years of the Council: Oceans Day 2010

Justin Huston, Working Group Chair

Justin communicated that Theresa Torrent-Ellis was leading efforts to hold a small celebration to recognize Council's 20 years of work in the Gulf of Maine, to be held in conjunction with an International Oceans Day event in Portland, Maine on June 8, 2010.

Decision: Council agreed in principle to the concept and to shifting the Council meeting from NH to Portland, ME.



Funders Report

Summary of Development Initiatives: July 1 to October 1, 2009

Activity	Funder	Amount
Habitat Restoration		
GOM Habitat Conservation and Restoration Initiative – preparing a bi-national plan and launching a communications/outreach strategy	Maine Community Fdn NH Charitable Fdn. Jessie B. Cox Trust US Congress	\$7500 (Funded) \$30,000 (Expected) \$70,000 (Pending) \$250,000 (Pending)
Restoration Partnership grant – 3 years beginning Summer 2010	NOAA/NMFS	\$1,950,000
Ecosystem Indicator Partnership		
ESIP 2.0 – demonstration/pilot projects (1 in CA and 1 in US) – concept to be fleshed out	TBD	TBD
Support for ESIP coordinator and indicator tool development	US Congress	\$35,000 +/- (Pending)
Support for Massachusetts tasks	EPA	\$
Gulf of Maine Times		
Notify US subscribers that GOMT is now only available on-line	MSPO	\$1,000 (Expected)
Notify CA subscribers	DFO	TBD
Solicit sponsors		
Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative		
Support for mapping and coordinator – pending resolution of litigation	MDMF	TBD
Gulfwatch		
Research projects to augment Gulfwatch – subcommittee developing concepts for proposals	TBD	TBD
Climate Change		
Concept sketch with CA-CP (implements TAPAS task)	TBD	TBD

Gulfwatch Contaminants Monitoring Sub-Committee

The Gulfwatch Contaminants Monitoring Subcommittee met and prepared for the upcoming 2009 field collection season. Collection sites were finalized by the jurisdictions, as was the lab analysis. The subcommittee concluded adding PBDEs (polybrominated diphenyl ethers) as a future analyte would be a meaningful addition, pending sufficient funds.

At the end of August the Massachusetts Gulfwatch field sampling coordinator announced he will no longer participate in the Gulfwatch Program, the first time in Gulfwatch history that MA Coastal Zone Management (CZM) would not be performing this function. Currently MA CZM staff are assembling field teams to conduct the sampling. All field sampling needs to be completed by mid-October.

As requested by the GOMC, the subcommittee will archive mussel samples for metals analysis due to the shortfall in funding for lab analysis. Samples will be archived either at BIO (Bedford Institute of Oceanography) in Dartmouth, Maine DEP, or UNH (university of New Hampshire) in Durham.

The 2009 field sampling and analysis is the last year Gulfwatch will have sufficient funds to conduct this survey. Efforts to secure funding through the Council's Fund Development Coordinator were unsuccessful. The subcommittee agreed that short-term, i.e. two year cycle, projects may offer an avenue for Gulfwatch to advance contaminant research and monitoring. The subcommittee agreed to review research concepts from prior years. Information on the source and details of sponsorship would be required from the fund development coordinator.

The Technical Support Specialist distributed draft 2007 and 2008 data reports to the full subcommittee for review, and they are expected to be completed by September 30th. The Gulfwatch field coordinator distributed a draft multi-year assessment report. The subcommittee requested more information to evaluate the multi-year draft report. Further information is expected from the Gulfwatch coordinator.

The subcommittee discussed a request from the Ocean Data Partnership (ODP) for Gulfwatch data. ODP indicated they have no Gulfwatch contaminant data. Jim Craddock (GOMC database manager) revealed ODP has all Gulfwatch data in suitable format through 2006. Jim agreed the data for 2007 and 2008 will be submitted to him in the same format once the draft reports are finished. The subcommittee advised ODP: 1. All data through 2006 was reviewed for quality control for dissemination; 2. All Gulfwatch data should be shared with ESIP. 3. The Environmental Coordinator position was eliminated due to lack of funds. Data support for Gulfwatch (and Habitat program) has been discontinued (however Steve Jones will assist ODP). 4. Suspend the web based Gulfwatch interactive map and replace with a link to the ESIP interactive mapping tool.

The subcommittee plans to meet in New Brunswick next November.

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

Climate Change Network Task Force

Upcoming Event and Activities Status

Background

At the June 2009 meeting the Climate Change Network updated the Working Group on timelines proposed for delivery on the seven separate activities noted in the Action Plan.

These activities are:

- 1.5 Prepare regional criteria to identify coastal habitats at risk from sea level rise and other climate change impacts; integrate into **habitat restoration decision-making**.
- 1.6 Compile and disseminate information on **coastal habitats and watersheds at risk** due to climate change.
- 1.17 Conduct risk analysis and prioritize the vectors of **invasive species** and understand the effects of climate change.
- 1.18 Convene stakeholder workshops to identify and promote mitigative and adaptive strategies for dealing with **sea level rise and changes in water quality** related to climate change.

- 1.20 Enhance the climate change module of the Council's on-line **KnowledgeBase** by compiling programs, best practices and other information.
- 1.21 Investigate and propose **regional climate change adaptation strategies**
- 1.22 **Initiate the Climate Change Network and coordinate Climate Change Action Plan Activities for years one and two.**

Progress to Date:

At the June meeting information was provided on the work to date on each activity. Upcoming work is as follows:

1. Further work to sustain the Climate Change network was proposed and documented through TAPAS.

The following deliverables were restated in the financial planning tool:

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

First 2 deliverables would cost approximately \$45K. The second 2 would total \$105K for an annual total of \$150K. While this appears substantially different from the earlier projections for cost it is meant to better represent the amount of effort required to properly engage all the stakeholders necessary to fulfill the Network's mandate. To this point only small steps have been taken and minimal funding provided to achieve the Network goals which include delivering on the Action Plan activities.

2. A CCN event is being planned for Oct 2009, to be held concurrent with the Gulf of Maine Symposium. The theme for the event is "**Climate Change Strategies for the Gulf of Maine**" and provides an opportunity for significant climate change "players" to discuss current and upcoming projects on both sides of the border. This will be a follow-on event from the Coastal Zone 2009 event in Boston (July) and focus on Gulf of Maine adaptation strategies.

Proposed Next Steps

1. Continue efforts to finance Network.
2. Complete planning for and hold CCN event in October.

*Submitted by Gary Lines
9 September 2009*

Outreach Committee

Gulf of Maine Times

Background:

June 2008 the GOMC received the report *Recommendations for a New Approach For Changing Times* authored by Peter Alexander. In this report a number of recommendations were made on how best to proceed in sustaining the Gulf of Maine Times to continue to serve as "the primary public face of the Gulf of Maine Council". In the report "reader feedback confirms that the Gulf of Maine Times has become an invaluable communications and outreach tool. It plays a significant role in raising awareness among decision-makers, conservation professionals, residents, visitors and users of the marine environment in the Gulf of Maine." In tandem with this report our editorial team of the Times developed a new and improved web based version of the Gulf of Maine Times. This set the stage for a shift in how the Times could be used as a communications tool through the increasing less costly opportunities provided by electronic platforms.

The Next Steps Were Taken:

At the June 2008 Salem meeting of the GOMC it was determined that a course of action which adopted finding funding for the Times through sponsorships and grants would be pursued as well as increasing the web capacity and utility to promote reader sponsorships. At this time there was enough funding to produce just two print copies and the web content design. From June 2008 to June 2009 great attempts were made to find business sponsors for the Times, however this coincided with the sudden down turn of the economy and less available funding from all sources.

The two editions were funded and some funding was provided by the Maine Coastal Program and Environment Canada to retain the Editor for a fall 2009 electronic only edition and the New Hampshire Coastal Program continues to provide an Assistant Editor.

And Our Next Steps To Take:

At this time the Working Group needs to make a commitment to three online editions of the Times, which includes the one which is currently funded, and contributions from each of our jurisdictions. These contributions include funding of our Editor and help in identify additional quality writers. The minimum funding needed to continue a Web-Based version of the Gulf of Maine Times is \$30,000.00 per year. For June 2009 to June 2010 there is a need to secure \$20,000.00 to fund the publication. At this time the Outreach Committee would recommend that the Working Group commits to providing this funding. If it is not secured then it would recommend that we suspend publication of the Gulf of Maine Times.

In Peter Alexander's report he suggests that the GOMT Web presence is vital as "... the cornerstone It is already getting more than 5,000 discreet visitors per month. If user features and functionality are added, it is updated often, and some attention is paid to promoting it, the site will quickly become a 'go to' source for people looking for information about the ecology and environment of the Gulf of Maine."

In the June 2009 Council meeting discussion was held as to the benefit of an "evergreen" component to the Times and to the inclusion of "jurisdiction text contributions". After conversations with the Editors it was determined that both of these components could be easily assimilated into a Web Based publication. Frequent updates are essential to maintaining visitor/reader interest. One way that this could be sustained would be through a "Voices of the Council" section to highlight Council activities and members.

Actions Requested:

- ✓ Each jurisdiction will commit to funding two additional Web-Based Publications of the Gulf of Maine Times at a cost of \$4,000.00 per jurisdiction.
- ✓ A commitment to retaining the Editor and Assistant Editor positions to manage content, functionality and quality of the Gulf of Maine Times.
- ✓ A commitment to maintaining the education mission of the Times, including that it remains the "objective" voice of the Gulf of Maine.
- ✓ Adding updates frequently which will include a section which will highlight Gulf of Maine Council members and activities.

Information Management Committee

Background

The Information Management Committee serves the data and information needs of the Council, Working Group, and committees, and facilitates access for researchers, government, non-profit organizations and the public to data and information through development of Web tools and products. The Committee provides overall supervision of the Council's web presence, and administers an IT budget, in coordination with the Management Committee, that supports the basic web presence and administrative IT functions for the Council. We also coordinate with other committees that may require IT tasks for their projects.

Recent Activities

- Working with Jim Cradock of Yellahouse, the Council's web server(s) have been moved from DataPipe to Yellahouse. This is a cost-saving measure. We are confident in the ability of Yellahouse to meet the council's IT needs for the foreseeable future.



- As a Partner in the Northeast Coastal and Ocean Data Partnership (formerly the Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership), the Council is receiving funding to develop consensus-based minimum data elements and publish the Gulfwatch data via a Partnership web service. Several mandatory metadata elements are not in the current Gulfwatch dataset. We are working to fill the data gaps so we can publish the data.
- Recent IM Committee activity has been restricted mostly to the co-chairs (Paul Currier and Jennifer Hackett) and our contractor (Jim Cradock). It would be good to get some more committee members.

Submitted by Paul Currier and Jennifer Hackett, Information Management Committee Co-Chairs

Contracting Updates List of Current Contractors with Summary of Roles

July 2009 – June 2010 Contractors for the Gulf of Maine Council as of September 14, 2009

Note: All contract end dates are June 30, 2010

Unless stated otherwise below

Contractor	Contract End Date	Contract Title	Funds
Krum Steele Consulting (Cindy Krum)		U.S. Association Executive Director	Indirect rate
Lori Hallett		U.S. Association Finance Assistant	Indirect rate
naturesource communications (Michele Tremblay)		Council Coordinator	Indirect rate, dues
NH DES Team		Council Administrative Assistance	In-kind, NH DES
Biological Conservation (Slade Moore)		Habitat Restoration Project Coordinator	NOAA/ NMFS
The Keeley Group	December, 31, 2009*	Core Services (Web, Fund Development, Gulf of Maine Times)	Dues
UNH (Steve Jones)		Gulfwatch Program Coordination	EC, NOAA
Lawrence A. LeBlanc	Sept. 30, 2009	Technical Support Specialist to the Gulfwatch Contaminants Monitoring Program	NOAA
Christine Tilburg	Sept. 30, 2009**	Indicators Coordinator	DFO, USGS

* Once remaining dues are received, expect to extend Web and Fund Development portion of Core services contract through June 2009; Gulf of Maine Times portion of contract is expected to end October 31, 2009.

** Additional funding beyond September 30, 2009 is expected.



**GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL / NOAA HABITAT RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP
SUMMARY OF ACTIVE GRANT CONTRACTS AS OF 9-15-09**

STATE/ PROVINCE	Grant No.	APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING (total award)
2006 and 2007				
MA	06-06	Town of Newbury	Old Town Hill and Newman Road Salt Marsh	\$60,000
NH	06-09	NH Dept. of Transportation	Taylor River Dam Feasibility Study	\$62,000
ME	07-04	Town of Bar Harbor	Bar Harbor Eelgrass Habitat Restoration	\$20,122
ME	07-06	University of Southern Maine	Post Removal Monitoring of the St. George River: What's Happening Four Years After the Removal of Sennebec Dam	\$56,328
SUBTOTAL				\$198,450
2008				
MA	08-01	Town of Plymouth	Town Brook Dam Removal	\$ 50,000
MA	08-05	Mass Wetlands Restoration Program	Development for Degraded Salt Marshes in the Great Marsh Region on Massachusetts' North Shore	\$ 40,000
ME	08-06	Maine Forest Service	Restoring Habitat Connectivity for Penobscot River Diadromous Fish	\$ 80,000
MA	08-07	Town of Newbury	Larkin Mill Dam Removal	\$ 62,000
MA	08-09	Cape Cod Commercial Hook	Rock Harbor Creek/Cedar Pond Salt Marsh Restoration Project	\$ 40,000
ME	08-10	Chewonki Foundation	Montsweag Brook Restoration Project	\$48,000
SUBTOTAL				\$320,000
2009				
NH	09-01	City of Manchester	Maxwell Pond Dam Removal and Black Brook Restoration Project	\$ 64,000
MA	09-02	Town of Danvers	Curtis Pond Dam Removal Feasibility Study	\$ 34,800
MA	09-03	Ipswich River Watershed Association	Feasibility study for the removal of the South Middleton Dam	\$ 21,000
MA	09-04	The Trustees of Reservations	Damde Meadows Tidal Restoration Project	\$ 142,000
MA	09-05	Town of Wellfleet	Mayo Creek Salt Marsh Restoration Feasibility Study	\$ 40,000
ME	09-06	Atlantic Salmon Federation	Removal of the West Winterport dam	\$ 35,000
ME	09-07	Atlantic Salmon Federation	Blackman Stream Fishway	\$ 65,000
NE	09-08	Atlantic Salmon Federation	Little River Dam Removal	\$ 14,480
NB	09-09	Kennebecasis Watershed	Lower Kennebecasis Habitat Assessment and Restoration Project	\$ 18,920
NS	09-10	Clean Annapolis River Project	Assessment and removal of the Clementsport Dam, Moose River	\$58,050
SUBTOTAL				\$493,250
TOTAL Active Grants				\$1,011,700



The Council as a Facilitator: A Renewed Vision

Gulf of Maine Council Expenditures Administered Through the Association of US Delegates to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
 Nine Year Expenditure History Summary
 For the 6 years ending on June 30

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	TOTAL	2010 Budget
NEANS Panel	88,376	47,359	40,231	48,531	0	0	224,497	0
Evaluation	0		0	0	18,000	21,251	39,251	
Gulf of Maine Times	87,931	65,958	85,895	70,032	75,371	42,127	427,314	6,019
Outreach	29,286	50,962	49,522	45,196	35,615	0	210,581	
Policy	0	28,908	32,553	29,820	34,739	0	126,021	
Web	21,116	30,003	39,641	43,628	44,787	38,252	217,426	27,660 **
Science Translation	51,836	62,498	61,257	45,345	48,481	0	269,417	
<u>Total Education</u>	190,169	238,329	268,868	234,021	256,994	101,630	1,290,011	33,680
<u>Fund Development</u>	0	0	16,220	17,530	17,430	36,086	87,266	17,021 **
Action Plan Grants	150,684	53,501	100,874	55,749	93,801	5,942	460,551	
Internal Grants	0	25,107	62,320	179,061	61,596	0	328,084	
<u>Total Grants Program</u>	150,684	78,608	163,194	234,810	155,397	5,942	788,635	0
Habitat Conservation	0	19,549	12,592	3,148	0	1,161	36,450	
Web Portal		10,126	23,977					
Habitat Restoration	391,212	113,374	597,378	263,556	384,673	635,578	2,385,771	430,000
<u>Total Habitat Restoration/Conservation</u>	391,212	143,048	633,948	266,704	384,673	636,739	2,456,324	430,000
Environmental Monitoring	90,430	50,051	151,072	90,034	136,484	33,211	551,282	28,485
Gulfwatch		103,141	0					0
GOMMI	4,854	13,914	20,057	5,227	12,710	30,842	87,604	0
Indicators	17,019	3,468	35,487	47,929	162,571	53,986	320,460	2,008
SOG Summit	47,998	84,910					132,908	0
<u>Total Monitoring/Research</u>	160,301	255,483	206,616	143,191	311,765	118,039	1,195,395	30,493
<u>Total Other*</u>	15,777	29,317	8,795	8,839	0	0	62,728	0



Total Program Expenses	996,519	792,144	1,337,872	953,625	1,126,259	898,436	6,104,856	511,194
-------------------------------	----------------	----------------	------------------	----------------	------------------	----------------	------------------	----------------

*Other includes, BoFEP, RARGOM, Geotourism, Action Plan production.

** Currently budgeted for 6 months (Web & Fund Development)

General and Administrative

US Association & Secretariat	129,809	153,663	165,481	179,382	183,943	165,890	978,168	141,730
Auditor Calculated Indirect rate	13.03%	23.92%	15.42%	19.19%	16.59%	19.24%		
For the 3 years ending on June 30								
2001 - Total Expenses	418,446							
2002 - Total Expenses	384,278							
2003 - Total Expenses	1,405,330							

Great Waters Initiative Update

Background

A project steering committee was formed in early 2009.² It consists of more than twenty US and Canadian representatives of leading non-profit organizations and the public agencies often responsible for regulating, funding and/or conducting coastal conservation projects. This initial collaborative approach to priority setting has established the need to pursue two inter-related paths.

Path One: Making the case -- organizing a bi-national Gulf of Maine conservation and restoration initiative

The steering committee has discussed a range of options to create the initiative. Key steps include:

- Engage key stakeholders throughout the Gulf of Maine to determine priorities. Examples of activities include: assessment of existing conservation and restoration programs (e.g., frequency and methods to identify priorities; interaction with program staff, assessment of funding sources, etc.); understand current and prospective roles of local/state/provincial/federal governments and non-profit environmental organizations in conducting conservation and restoration, etc.).
- Identify the desired scope of conservation and restoration activities. Collect and analyze data regarding conservation and restoration projects that are underway or planned.
- Identify gaps in planning, implementation, or funding.
- Prepare implementation strategies, including legislative remedies, benchmarks, and measures.

Deliverables: A consensus document articulating the region's conservation and restoration needs and strategies to address those needs and secure the funding required.

Path Two: Creating an informed constituency -- facilitating the creation of a sustainable gulf-wide alliance

While effective restoration and conservation advocacy exists in pockets around the Gulf there is no concerted and sustained advocacy for these issues in the bi-national Gulf of Maine. This advocacy effort needs to engage non-profits, government, foundations and the business community. (It should be highlighted that the immediate need for an informed constituency relates to conservation and restoration. However, once in place it is expected the alliance will address other issues.) Specifically, we need to make opinion leaders, decision-makers and others more aware of the region's restoration and conservation needs. Key steps may include:

- Describe the organizational options for a sustainable Gulf of Maine alliance, identify and engage initial participants, and create the alliance.
- Assess public perception related to conservation/restoration, their awareness of the GOM ecosystem, and determine messages that elicit the desired responses.
- Develop outreach materials and use them to communicate the region's needs.

Successful restoration alliances and campaigns (e.g., Great Lakes, Puget Sound, Chesapeake Bay, etc.) were started with multi-year support from the philanthropic community. The considerable success they have all had in procuring US federal funding for restoration activities demonstrates that such investments are effective and are highly leveraged. It appears the minimum start-up time is about three years. Proponents of this effort in the Gulf of Maine are acutely aware that while seed funds may be available to form the alliance they need to actively consider ways to sustain such an effort. One promising opportunity is to partner with the business community (e.g., engineering and design firms, construction companies etc.) that will perform the actual restoration work. (Rebuilding and upgrading water infrastructure is the single greatest cost item for the ecosystem restoration efforts around the country. The EPA estimates that nearly \$400 billion is currently needed nation-wide to fix aging waste and storm water systems.) We have initiated conversations with the business community and the results are encouraging. We will explore other approaches as well.

Deliverables: Creation of an alliance supported by its members and outreach materials

Options for the GOMC: How it wants to participate

The Gulf of Maine Council can participate in a variety of ways in the development and implementation of the GOM Conservation and Restoration Initiative. (Development of the strategy will occur in 2009-2010. Simultaneously an

Conservation and Restoration Initiative

A bi-national partnership working to make on-the-ground improvements to coastal fish and wildlife populations and their habitats, coastal water quality, invasive species in the coastal and marine environment, abandoned fishing gear and other debris and address the impacts of climate change on the region's ecosystem. It has three inter-related phases:

- Initiative development;
- Advocacy & outreach; and
- Implementation

² Individuals participating in this initiative and the GOMC include: Mel Cote, John Catena, Eric Hutchins, Ted Diers, Slade Moore, Anita Hamilton, Hunt Durey, Stew Fefer, Peter Lamb, Kathleen Leyden and Diane Gould.



advocacy effort will work to secure *significant* new resources to implement the strategy via existing state/provincial and federal programs and/or new programs.)

Option One: Regional Convener

Act a bi-national regional convener of the planning process that brings together public, non-profit and private interests to develop the Gulf of Maine Conservation and Restoration Initiative. As a convener it takes leadership in guiding a bi-national steering committee. Representative tasks include developing agendas and supporting materials, conducting outreach and inviting participants, chairing meetings (both physical and teleconferences), performing networking within and outside the region , preparing meeting summaries and identifying next steps, and managing contracts (e.g., opinion polling, message development and communications, research and synthesis of existing US/CA conservation and restoration programs, Congressional outreach, etc.).

Implications

1. The Council takes an active role, likely for 12-18 months, as a leader of the Initiative. In this context a Councilor from each country (or Working Group members) will commit the time (e.g., multiple hours/week) to assume the visible role of convener.
2. The Council provides directly or secures from other sources the funding (e.g., \$50,000 to \$75,000/year) to perform the work described above.
3. The Initiative development process would be “an activity of the Council” and the Council embraces the highly collaborative, public & non-profit partnership needed to make the Initiative a success.

Option Two: Regional Facilitator

Act as a neutral facilitator of the planning process that helps public, non-profit and private interests understand their common objectives and assists them in achieving those objectives them without taking a particular position in the discussion. The Council will assist the group in achieving a consensus on any disagreements that preexist or emerge in the development of the Initiative.

Implications

1. As an entity, the Council is neutral and takes no position in developing the Initiative. (Its members are able to participate as they choose.) It facilitates the discussion and has no vested interest in the outcomes.
2. Acts as fiscal agent (through US GoM Association) to provide the resources needed to perform the work, secures from other sources or works with an entity that performs the services on behalf of the Initiative.

Option Three: Regional Participant

Join with others as an interested participant in the planning process to create the Initiative.

Implications

1. One or more representatives would be designated by the Council to participate on its behalf. In this capacity these representatives would bring information and advice to the Initiative and report back to the Council.

Outcome/Desired Action: The Working Group will determine:

- how the effort can accelerate the region's conservation and restoration priorities and integrate with existing programs addressing the proposed issue areas;
- what methods can be used to ensure it is a bi-national effort; and
- recommendations to Council on their role(s) in the initiative.

Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) Update

Background: NROC is a state-federal partnership between the six New England States and six federal agencies (NOAA, EPA, DOI, USCG, USDA/NRCS, and USACE) to identify and address challenges that require a regional solution. There remains much overlap with the Gulf of Maine Council in membership, and its focus on the issue areas of ocean and coastal ecosystem health and climate change.

UPDATE:

Integration: NROC continues to explore ways to integrate its efforts with other regional entities in the Gulf of Maine and New England, and will have a discussion at their Oct 1 meeting on to best leverage efforts with other groups like the Northeast Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) who has expressed interest in developing joint work plans with committees with NROC.

Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health Work Plan:

Activity #1: Increase the visibility of state-federal work groups.

Deliverables:

- NROC, with assistance from the Nutrient Criteria RTAG, will report on progress toward development of estuarine nutrient criteria and on the NH DES incorporating a numeric nitrogen criterion into the state's Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology for determining estuarine water quality impairments.
- NROC, with assistance from the NERDT's Sudbury Group, will disseminate a regional protocol for determining time-of-year (TOY) restrictions on dredging to protect fishery resources.
- The Coastal America NERIT will complete 4-5 multi-agency salt marsh or fish passage restoration projects and NROC will increase the visibility of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership as they work to increase the amount of private funds donated to federally sponsored projects.
- Identification of several pilot habitat restoration projects that showcase habitat types and categories which provide the greatest amount of benefits for multiple fish and wildlife species.

Activity #2: Convene ocean ecosystem health workshop.

Deliverables: A regional consensus statement among policymakers, managers, and scientists that:

- Defines ecosystem health
- Identifies measurable, legal standards for inclusion in state/provincial policy

Activity #3: Conduct regional ecosystem-based marine spatial planning working session.

Deliverables:

- Workshop for policy-makers, managers and scientists
- "Next steps" document on how this approach could be used on a regional basis

Activity #4: Support regional coastal and ocean observing networks and work with regional groups that promote data sharing and interoperability to work collaboratively, share resources, avoid duplicative work, and provide requested support. (Note: This Activity could be amplified to get at more NERACOOS coordination (and MACOORA) or break that part out and make new? Keep this one more data discoverability?)

Deliverables:

- A network of regional data providers with metadata registered in a national directory (GCMD, FGDC, GeoConnections, or Google) with robust, searchable discovery metadata that can be accessed through the GCMD Gulf of Maine portal or other discovery metadata portals or services.

Activity #5: Accelerate research on priority coastal and ocean issues. (Note: ROSI, NOAA and other partners will work to refine this task e.g., milestones, outcomes, actions, etc.)

Deliverables:

- Annual progress reports and requests for assistance from these initiatives

Activity #6: Promote existing regional ocean and coastal ecosystem health reporting initiatives: increasing awareness.

Deliverables:

- New England perspective on coastal and ocean ecosystem health
- Forums for state legislators, agency decision-makers and the region's Governors
- Whitepaper on the value and costs of a "Ocean's Return on Investment" report

Activity #7: Promote existing regional ocean and coastal ecosystem health initiatives: work with Governors' on a regional invasive species proclamation. (Note: Awaiting comments from NEANS Panel on role for NROC. Could shift



the focus/deliverable away from Govs' Proclamation to coordination with NEANS, and states/feds on Early Detection and Rapid Response (which include the coastal Rapid Assessment Surveys), several outreach efforts, including posters and other materials, and the MIMIC program to train and coordinate volunteer monitoring)

Deliverables:

- Approval of a Governors' invasive species proclamation

Committee Membership:

Bruce Carlisle, Co-Chair, MA
Mel Coté, Co-Chair, EPA
Paul Currier, NH DES
Christopher Deacutis, NB NEP

Mike Fogarty, NOAA
Christian Khraforst, MA
Kathleen Leyden, ME SPO
Kate Killerlain Morrison, TNC

Tom Ouellette, CT DEP
Joe Payne, Casco Bay BayKeepers
Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant
Paul Stacey, CT DEP
Sally Yozell, TNC

Climate Change Adaptation Activities:

The GOMC/Climate Change Network (CCN) has partnered with the NROC Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee to plan a CCN event that will promote regional dialogue on broad scale adaptation strategies. The session held at the Gulf of Maine Science Symposium on October 7 will exchange information and lessons learned on the development of programs in response to climate threats including sea level rise, flooding and inundation, and communicating risks to the public and decision-makers. Managers from the US and Canada will share their approaches to planning for and adapting to climate impacts. Additionally, the event will enable climate adaptation practitioners to build relationships for future coordination or collaboration in the Gulf of Maine.

U.S. Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force:

On June 12, 2009, President Obama sent a memorandum to the heads of executive departments and federal agencies establishing an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, led by the White House Council on Environmental Quality. The Task Force is charged with developing a recommendation for a national policy that ensures protection, maintenance, and restoration of oceans, our coasts and the Great Lakes. It will also recommend a framework for improved stewardship, and effective coastal and marine spatial planning. An interim report has just been released and can be found at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans/interimreport/> Working group members will be briefed on its content and significance at the meeting.

Possible activities and next steps

- To discuss further integration strategies between GOMC and NROC.
- To identify any NROC ecosystem or climate change activities that are of interest to the GOMC for 2010 collaboration.
- To stay informed on U.S. Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force deliverables that may impact how U.S. partners work together on ocean and coastal issues in the Northeast.

Action requested

None

Submitted by: Betsy Nicholson, NOAA

Ocean Data Partnership and Information Exchange Network

Progress and Background

The [Northeast Coastal and Ocean Data Partnership](#) (ODP - formerly the Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership) has received EPA grant funds (through NHDES) to create a regional Environmental Data Exchange Network (ODPX) based on the [Environmental Information Exchange Network](#). The Council is one of the organizations receiving grant funds to participate by providing Gulfwatch data. Work so far has identified some issues with the Gulfwatch data. ODP has just received a second-round grant (through Maine DMR) to integrate the regional data network with Web 2.0 protocols. Regional use cases are being sought to demonstrate the operation of the network in serving data to interpretive web sites that can receive data on the fly. There may be significant synergies with ESIP.

The ODP has recently expanded its region of interest to include the Eastern Scotian Shelf, and US coastal and ocean waters to the New York Bight, as well as the tributary watershed. This was motivated by a desire to effectively support the development of a data integration framework for the Northeast Regional Association of Coastal and Observing Systems, as well as a desire to facilitate the integration of data management and communication in coastal, estuarine, and intertidal areas where watershed activities have the greatest impact on ocean resources.

The ODPX project has recently received national attention in the context of the National Water Quality Monitoring Council's work to develop a National Monitoring Network (NMN). There is potential for developing consensus-based standard procedures using the Exchange Network framework, for integrated water and environmental data management that would be applicable from the furthest extent of the watershed to the blue ocean, with a focus on coastal and intertidal areas.

Specific to the Gulfwatch data, a substantial amount of work is needed to provide the minimum metadata for Gulfwatch data to be published for general use. It appears likely that future collection of Gulfwatch data will be drastically curtailed due to lack of funding. We recommend that GoMC take the opportunity afforded by the ODPX project to fully document all Gulfwatch data, and archive it via the ODPX, which will be web-accessible using web services /exchange network protocols for the foreseeable future.

Possible activities and next steps

- Re-energize the Information Management Committee, and work with ODP to expand the partnership to the Gulf of Maine watershed
- IM Committee and ESIP Committee work to develop robust data flows using ODPX in support of ESIP indicator tools.
- IM Committee and ESIP Committee explore closer working relationship with ODP and NERACOOS where the common goal exists of providing useful, data-driven products for understanding and management of the Gulf of Maine ocean environment

Action or outcomes requested

- 1) WG supports IT committee and Gulfwatch Committee to provide full documentation and delivery of all Gulfwatch
- 2) WG support IT committee to work with ESIP committee in exploring synergies between ODPX, ESIP, and NERACOOS.

Submitted by Paul Currier and Jennifer Hackett, Information Management Committee Co-Chairs.

Gulf of Maine Research Institute Overview

CATALYZING OCEAN STEWARDSHIP AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

*Jill Harlow, Advancement Strategist, Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Presentation to the Gulf of Maine Council's Working Group, October 5, 2009*

Established in 1968, GMRI is a non-profit marine science center with a bold vision—to realize the Gulf of Maine bioregion's potential as a healthy ocean ecosystem, vibrant marine community, and wellspring of innovation. Two important qualities distinguish GMRI. The first is a collaborative approach to catalyzing solutions to the complex challenges of ocean stewardship and economic growth in the Gulf of Maine bioregion. The second is the unique blend of science, education, and community activities through which the organization accomplishes its mission.

GMRI made an evolutionary leap in 2005 when it opened a world-class marine research laboratory at the heart of Portland, Maine's working waterfront. This facility is unusual in that it complements traditional lab space with a highly interactive, technology-enhanced education environment.



Since then, GMRI has recruited an interdisciplinary team of scientists from around the globe (Australia, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand, and the U.S.). This team works closely with the fishing community to set research priorities and executes results-oriented research aboard fishing vessels. Over 40 active projects unlock the mystery of how ocean currents control life in Gulf of Maine; investigate connections among herring, lobster, cod, haddock, tuna, whales, sharks, seabirds, and other species; unravel how pressure from fishing and climate change reshape these relationships; and refine fishing gear to protect sensitive habitats and sustain critical spawning grounds. GMRI is a partner in the newly approved Cooperative Institute for the North Atlantic Region—only the second marine-focused cooperative institute to be approved by NOAA.

To maximize the impact of its research, GMRI involves fishermen in variety of forums where they can freely exchange ideas with scientists and fishery managers, thus nurturing the evolution of a 21st century fishing community that is informed, thoughtful, and actively engaged in science, management, and business development. GMRI has emerged as a go-to organization to facilitate deliberate dialogue around complex and often contentious marine resource issues. GMRI is relied on to provide technical support and training to help fishing communities implement new fishery governance structures and conservation-oriented business systems (e.g., sectors and branding of locally and sustainably harvested seafood products). GMRI has also emerged as a quiet leader in catalyzing a thoughtful approach to ocean energy development in Maine.

As a long-term strategy to cultivate a scientifically literate public capable of making informed decisions about complex environmental policy decisions, GMRI delivers authentic science learning to middle school students that is connected to the region's freshwater and coastal ecosystems. In four years, GMRI has brought over 38,000 5th and 6th graders to their lab for an immersive science learning experience. They are leveraging Maine's investment in laptops to equip 7th and 8th grade students to monitor for invasive species in their local communities and to share their observations through a publicly accessible website.



Evaluating the Effectiveness of Our Work

Background

In the spring of 2007 the Gulf Of Maine Council hired Eastern Research Group, Inc to develop an over all strategy for tracking the Council's progress toward attaining the desired outcomes stated in the 2007-2012 Action Plan and to identify 3-5 activities from the 18 month work plan to be measured and evaluated, as examples.

The evaluation project developed some ways to start to measure the long-term goal of behavioral changes (which usually takes a generation), however, in order to measure behavioral changes in the GOM community (people and environment) a long-term commitment of funding and staff resources would need to be. The Council has made commitments by focusing on the physical environment by conducting projects such as GOMMI, Indicators, Habitat restoration. It is in these projects that we should be measuring our success (movement is measurement).

One of the recommendations was for the Secretariat to work with Committees to define key terms in the short-term outcomes and developing complete links between activities and short-term outcomes. The NOAA Coastal Service Center has revised and developed bridge outcomes or short-term goals for GOM Goal One (Coastal and marine habitats are in a healthy, productive, and resilient condition.) To complete this work for all projects would be a significant undertaking and would require major time from staff, working group, and committee chairs, and considerable amount of funding. The other two recommendations were for any publications released on the web would require a web-survey regarding that publication, and incorporate evaluation into all projects by making evaluation a deliverable.

Possible activities and next steps

- Review the revised short-term goals with the Habitat Restoration committee chairs for accuracy
- Discuss possibility of evaluating the Habitat Restoration project
- Investigate the details of conducting online surveys for future publications to go up on the web
- Investigate the details of developing survey's for publications already up on the web
- Develop 3 – 5 question survey's for the web
- Require all new projects to have an evaluation component incorporated into the work plans as of October 2010
- Recommend development of evaluation into current projects by March 2010.

These actions would be completed by Evaluation Team members and committee co-chairs, with oversight by the Secretariat Team

Action requested

The Working Group members understand the options for evaluating the GOMC's work. The Gulf of Maine Council, Working Group, committees and subcommittees place a higher priority on measuring the results of projects.

Evaluation Team members: Cindy Krum, Betsy Nicholson, Michele Tremblay, Adrienne Harrison and Ann Rodney



Quantifying and Documenting In-Kind Support

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

INKIND Donations

July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

Please scan and email to lhallett@maine.rr.com or send to:

US Gulf of Maine Association
 (USGOMA tracks the donations)

PO Box 6063
 Falmouth, ME 04105

Note: Please document all time except Working Group and Council meetings and Management and Finance Committee calls. These are documented via participant lists.

Description	Time in hours
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Value in Dollars

Travel (taxi, tolls, gas, hotel, flight etc)	_____
Meals	_____
Facility Rental	_____
Office Supplies	_____
Telephone	_____
Printing & Copying	_____
Postage	_____
Other (please describe)_____	_____

Is this donation federally funded? Please circle one: YES NO

Organization Name:_____

Your Name:_____

Date_____

Address:_____

City, State & Zip_____

Signature_____

Gulf of Maine State of the Environment Reporting: The Task Groups Progress to Date

The *Ad Hoc* Task Group for State-of-the-Environment Reporting was established following the Council meeting in June 2009. The main objective of this group until December 2009 is to finalize the workplan for the State of the Gulf of Maine Report.

Members of the Task Group include:

- Jay Walmsley (DFO), Chair;
- Tim Hall (DFO), Working Group Champion;
- John Brawley (Consultant);
- Heather Breeze (DFO);
- Laurel Cole (NOAA);
- Paul Currier (NH Department of Environmental Services);
- Jennifer Hackett (DFO);
- Russ Henry (NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture);
- Liz Hertz (Maine State Planning Office);
- Justin Huston (NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture);
- Steve Jones (University of New Hampshire);
- Janet Nye (NOAA), and
- Kathryn Parlee (Environment Canada).

Progress has been made in the following areas:

Context Document - The context document is intended as an introduction to the State of the Gulf of Maine Report. A contractor, Colleen Thompson, has been hired by DFO to develop a first draft of the context document by early December. Task Group members provided input into the table of contents for the document.

Theme Papers - A workshop session was held in September to compile a long list of theme papers, focusing on the 6 ESIP priority areas. Discussion was based on an initial list suggested by Task Group members and the ESIP Steering Committee. The theme paper long list includes:

Priority Area	Theme Papers*
Climate Change	Climate Change Trends
	Climate Change and its Effect on Humans
	Climate Change and its Effect on Ecosystems, Habitats and Biota
Fisheries and Aquaculture	Aquaculture in the Gulf of Maine
	Commercial Fisheries and Traditional Communities
	Status and Trends of Fish Stocks in the Gulf of Maine
Coastal Development	Trends in Land Use and Coastal Development
	Watershed Status
	Demographic Trends in the Gulf of Maine
	Marine and Coastal Access
	Working Waterfronts
Contaminants	Toxic Contaminants
	Microbial Pathogens and Toxins
	Trends in Water Quality and Pollution Sources
Eutrophication	Eutrophication
Aquatic Habitats	Coastal Ecosystems and Habitats
	Offshore Ecosystems and Habitats
	Coastal and Marine Protected Areas



Priority Area	Theme Papers*
Other Issues	Invasive Species
	Migratory Species
	Species at Risk
Emerging Issues	Emerging Issues
* Title indicates intended content and is not the final title of the paper	

The Working Group will be asked to comment on the long list and identify those papers that are a priority for inclusion in a short list of papers.

Theme Paper Drafting and Review Process - A roadmap of the process for theme paper development and review is being developed. The theme paper structure will be developed by the Task Group as a guide to authors. The review process will include peer review by a third party and review by the Task Group, prior to review by the Working Group.

Communications Session

The Task Group recognises that communications and the presentation of the information are critical to the process of developing the State of the Gulf of Maine Report. It has been agreed that the content of the report and the delivery mechanism should be developed in parallel. To this end, a Communications Workshop will be held on Wednesday 7 October 2009 at the St Andrews Biological Station. The workshop is open to all interested parties. The two focal areas of the discussion will be: 1) marketing - how to make people aware of the information and encourage its use, and 2) dissemination of the information - the platform, how to present the info etc.

*Submitted by Jay Walmsley, PhD, Chair
October 2009*