



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

Working Group Meeting Briefing Packet

Version 1 • August 27, 2004

Portsmouth, NH • September 8-9, 2004



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Working Group agenda

Wednesday, September 8, 2004, Portsmouth, NH

1:00 PM	Welcome and introductions <i>Eric Williams, NH Department of Environmental Services and GOMC Working Group Chair</i>
1:15 PM	Urban Forestry Center – welcome and history <i>JB Cullen, NH Department of Resources and Economic Development, Forestry Division (invited)</i>
1:30 PM	Approval of consent agenda <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. June 2004 WG meeting decision and action items review - <i>Michele Tremblay, Council Coordinator</i> 2. June 2004 Council meeting decision and action items review - <i>Michele Tremblay</i> 3. Contractor status report - <i>Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association</i> 4. Policy and Development Contractor - <i>Eric Williams</i> 5. Oceans and Ocean Commissions update and next steps - <i>David Keeley, ME State Planning Office and Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management</i> 6. LOMA letter update - <i>Patricia Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour</i> 7. Ocean Data Management Partnership - <i>Eric Williams</i> 8. Committee, sub-committee, and task force reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee - <i>Steve Jones, University of NH and Peter Wells, Environment Canada, Committee Co-chairs</i> ▪ Public Education and Participation Committee - <i>Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office and Marilyn Webster, NS Department of Education, Committee Co-chairs</i> ▪ Habitat Conservation Sub-committee - <i>Marianne Janowicz, NB Department of Environment and Local Government and Katie Lund, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management, Sub-committee Co-chairs</i> ▪ Habitat Restoration Sub-committee - <i>Jon Kachmar, Habitat Restoration Coordinator Gulf of Maine Program for co-chairs Kim Hughes, NB Department of Environment and Local Government and John Catena, National Marine Fisheries Service</i> ▪ Gulf of Maine Mapping initiative - <i>Susan Snow-Cotter and Brian Todd, Canadian Geological Survey, GOMMI Co-chairs</i> ▪ Aquaculture Task Force - <i>Marianne Janowicz, Task Force lead</i> ▪ Climate Change Network - <i>Gary Lines, Environment Canada, Task Force lead</i> ▪ Emerging Issues - <i>Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada, Emerging Issues Task Force lead</i> ▪ Geotourism Tourism Task Force - <i>Bruce Smith, Seascape Kayak Tours and Theresa Torrent-Ellis, task force co-chairs</i> ▪ Indicators - <i>David Keeley, Task Force lead</i> ▪ Marine Research and Innovation - <i>David Keeley, MRI Task Force lead</i> ▪ Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel - <i>Susan Snow-Cotter and John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection, Panel Co-chairs</i> ▪ Nutrients - <i>Suzanne Bricker, NOAA National Ocean Service, Task Force lead</i> ▪ Sewage Management Task Force - <i>Peter Wells and Pat Hinch, Task Force Co-chairs</i> ▪ Science Translation - <i>Susan Snow-Cotter and David Keeley</i>
1:35 PM	Developing standard marine characterizations at the local level - request for Council support <i>Jennifer Atkinson, Quebec-Labrador Foundation</i>
2:05 PM	GOMC website and online reference database – request for WG input and collaboration <i>Seth Barker and Peter Vaux, University of Maine, PEARL</i>
2:35 PM	Gulf of Maine Summit: Committing to Change – update on agenda and proclamation <i>Joe Arbour, Canadian Co-chair and David Keeley and Susan Snow-Cotter, US Co-chairs</i>
3:00 PM	Time reserved for items removed from the consent agenda
3:45 PM	Adjourn to carpool to field trip to Little River saltmarsh restoration project, North Hampton, NH <i>Ted Diers, Coastal Program, NH Department of Environmental Services</i>
6:30 PM	Meet in downtown Portsmouth for supper as a group or groups



Thursday, September 9, 2004, Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth, NH

8:45 AM	Featured GOMC group presentation: Habitat Monitoring Sub-committee <i>Hilary Neckles, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Habitat Monitoring Sub-committee Co-chair</i>
9:30 AM	Jurisdictional engagement and accountability <i>Jane Tims, NB Department of Environment and Local Government and David Keeley</i>
10:15 AM	Break
10:30 AM	Engaging municipalities in supporting implementation of coastal development goals in the GOMC Action Plan <i>Amanda Stone, Natural Resources Outreach Coalition (NROC)</i>
11:30 AM	Time for unfinished business or other items removed from consent agenda
12:00 PM	On-site lunch from O'Naturals provided by the NH Department of Environmental Services
1:00 PM	Internal Grants Program update <i>Jane Tims and Eric Williams</i>
1:30 pm	Gulf of Maine Framework Data Project and the resulting products: the Gulf of Maine Mapping Portal and the Gulfwatch mapping application <i>Tom Shyka, Program Specialist, GoMOOS</i>
2:30 PM	New England Governors and Premiers on climate adaptation workshop – next steps for Council involvement <i>Sonia Hamel, New England Governors and Premiers</i>
3:00 PM	Time for unfinished business or other items removed from consent agenda
3:30 PM	Adjourn



June 2004 Working Group meeting decision and action items

Working Group members in attendance

Seth Barker, ME Department of Marine Resources; Ted Diers, NH Office of Energy and Planning; Tim Hall, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Russell Henry, NB Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture; Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada; Pat Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour; Justin Huston, NS Department of Fisheries and Oceans; David Keeley, ME State Planning Office; Katie Lund; MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Reg Melanson, Environment Canada; Betsy Nicholson, NOAA; Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Jane Tims, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Peter Wells, Environment Canada; and Eric Williams, NH Department of Environmental Services.

Others in attendance

Brad Barr, NOAA Sanctuaries; John Catena, NMFS; Paul Currier, NH Department of Environmental Services; Steve Crawford, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Point Pleasant; Karin Hansen, GOMC Education and Marketing Coordinator (PEPC); Barry Jones, Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership; Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association; Gary Lines, Environment Canada; Lisa McCuaig, Council Administrative Assistant; Meredith Mendelson, ME State Planning Office; Andi Rierden, *Gulf of Maine Times*; Kate Smukler, NOAA MPA Center; Michele Tremblay, GOMC Coordinator; and Maxine Westhead, Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Decision items

1. The consent agenda was approved with the exceptions of the Nature-based Tourism and research priorities workshop items.
2. The Climate Change Network organized by Environment Canada will merge with the GOMC's Climate Change Task Force effort and continue its work with Gary Lines as lead.
 1. Patricia Hinch will continue to act as the contract manager for Steve Jones.
3. The Working Group accepted and will recommend that the Council adopt *the Interim Guidelines for Working with Contractors*.
4. The Avon-Windsor reference will be removed from the Habitat Restoration Strategy. Recommendation language will be removed from the objective statements in the plan. The Regionally Significant Habitat materials will be clarified in regard to their origin and intent. With these changes, the Working Group recommended to the Council that it adopt the Habitat Restoration Strategy.
5. Section 2.b. in the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership agreement should be modified by replacing "Management Team" with "Gulf of Maine Council liaison to BoFEP." In addition Appendix C was removed in favor of a work plan being provided to the Management Committee when it was ready for action.
6. The *GOMC Action Plan 2007-2011* should be added to the indicators initiative timeline to assure that involvement as well as support for local groups will be included in the Plan as will funding in the Action Plan Grants Program.
7. The by-line of the Gulf of Maine Summit report will be changed to "prepared for the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment."
8. The Working Group agreed to recommend the budget, as presented, to the Council for their approval.
9. The Working Group decided that an Assistant Editor/Staff Writer for the *Gulf of Maine Times* will be contracted and will work with Andi Rierden. Andi will be responsible for all aspects of the *Times*.



Action items

1. Jane Tims will act as lead and work with the Reference Handbook Team on drafting ground rules and procedures for consensus with the Council Coordinator facilitating meeting discussions using the consensus process.
2. The Council will contact the New England Governors and Premiers (NEGCEP) and request that those individuals who recently held the climate adaptation workshop in Boston make a presentation with NEGCEP's recommendations on how the Council can assist with implementing them to the Working Group at its September 2004 meeting. The Gulf of Maine Climate Change Network will convene a Council forum June 2005.
3. Gary Lines will email to Michele the current list of those in the GOM Climate Change Network so that she can distribute it to the WG. WG members will review the list and send to Gary their suggestions for Network members. Michele will send to Gary a sample Terms of Reference for use by the Climate Change Network who will supplant the Climate Change Task Force.
4. The Council Coordinator will work with committees, sub-committees, and task forces to post their meeting materials on website, and notify co-chairs via the WG listserv. The co-chairs will be polled to see if they will distribute this information to their committees. If the information is posted on the website, the number of "hits" will be evaluated after six months to determine if the summary compiling and posting should continue.
5. Each committee should be on the action agenda to offer discussion and decision points at least once each year. The presentations shall be action-oriented vs. providing only updates.
6. The Management Committee will ask DIMC and PEPC to participate in a future conference call to determine what support they may require and help them focus their efforts.
7. Larry Hildebrand, Pat Hinch, Betsy Nicholson, and Susan Snow-Cotter will draft bulleted recommendations for consideration by the Working Group as the basis for the GOMC's Large Oceans Management Area support letter to recapture for the Council.
8. The Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership will provide a work plan and budget to the Management Committee detailing cash and in-kind contributions. The agreement will be forwarded to the Council and the work plan finalized within two weeks. The Management Committee will designate a Council liaison to the BoFEP.
9. Working Group members will provide contact information for the Geotourism Task Force's membership. Theresa Torrent-Ellis will provide a current list to Michele Tremblay for distribution to the Working Group members.
10. Russell Henry, Justin Huston, and Peter Wells will work together to resolve the aquaculture text in the Gulf of Maine Summit report. The Summit Planning Committee co-chairs will work together to assure that aquaculture agency and industry interests and contacts are not left out of the Summit agenda.
11. Seth Barker will identify a Council representative to the Ocean Data Management Partnership.
12. The New Hampshire Secretariat will facilitate the Council signing the Ocean Data Management Partnership.
13. The Management Committee will work out the details of how a second contractor will be paid and managed (directly contracted by the Council or sub-contracted by Andi Rierden).



14. The Council Coordinator will revise the Action Plan mid-term review recommendations for presentation to the Council for its approval. The document might be formatted as a handout at the Gulf of Maine Summit.
15. The Working Group, through its members, will analyze how well it is “marketing” the GOMC in his/her jurisdictions. This will be an agenda item for a subsequent WG meeting.
16. The Secretariat and Working Group will document in Council annual reports how the GOMC has furthered each jurisdiction’s goals pertinent to the Council’s five-year Action Plan.
17. The Management Committee will form recommendations on whether or not task forces and other Council and Council-related groups will have access to GOMC internal grant funds.

Submitted by Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator



June 2004 Council meeting decision and action items

Council members in attendance

Peter Colosi for Pat Kurkul, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service; Chris d'Entremont, NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries; Shawn d'Entremont, Inshore Fisheries Limited (private sector NS); Tim Hall for Faith Scattolon, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Larry Hildebrand for George Finney, Environment Canada; Don Hudson, The Chewonki Foundation (private sector ME); Byron James for David Nathan Alward, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture; David Keeley for Martha Freeman, ME State Planning Office; Katie Lund for Thomas Skinner, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Kerry Morash, NS Department of Environment and Labour; Michael Nolin, NH Department of Environmental Services; Susan Snow-Cotter for Ellen Roy Hertzfelder, MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; and Hermel Vienneau, NB Department of Environment and Local Government.

Others in attendance

Brad Barr, NOAA; Cameron Crowell, NS Department of Environment and Labour; Paul Currier, NH Department of Environmental Services; Graham Daborn, Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership; Marie Gauthier, Environment Canada; Karin Hansen, PEPC Marketing Coordinator; Peter Harrison, National Research Council; Russell Henry, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture; Patricia Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour; Justin Huston, NS Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association; Bill Lahey, NS Department of Environment and Labour; Lisa McCuaig, GOMC Administrative Assistant; Reg Melanson, Environment Canada; Meredith Mendelson, ME State Planning Office; Randy Milton, NS Department of Natural Resources; Reg Newell, NS Department of Natural Resources; Betsy Nicholson, NOAA; Glen Parsons, NS Department of Natural Resources; Andi Rierden, *Gulf of Maine Times*; Kate Smukler, NOAA; Robert E. Stead, Town of Wolfville (Mayor); Kevin Surette, NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries; Jane Tims, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Michele L. Tremblay, GOMC Coordinator; Marilyn Webster, NS Department of Education; Peter Wells, Environment Canada; and Eric Williams, NH Department of Environmental Services.

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

Decision items

1. Consent agenda approved with the exceptions of items 6 and 7 and under 11 the reports of the Data and Information Management and Public Education and Participation Committees, the Sub-committees of Habitat Conservation and Monitoring, Nature-based tourism Task Force for which briefing documents were not included in the meeting packet or were covered in the action agenda. Removal of consent agenda items. Hermel Vienneau moved that the consent agenda be approved with the noted changes. David Keeley seconded the motion. The motion carried.
2. The Council approved for publication the *Habitat Restoration Partnership Strategy* with the revisions recommended by the Working Group.
3. The Council approved the Working Group's Action Plan mid-term review recommendations.
4. The Council approved the budget for 2004-2005 as presented.
5. The Council approved the Gulf of Maine Council and Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership Agreement with revisions including a provisional statement on availability of funds and a correction to the US Gulf of Maine Association mailing address.
6. The Council approved the Transition Team's report and recommendations.



7. The Council agreed to move forward with a proclamation supporting the Summit and its Gulf of Maine work for signature by the Governors and Premiers.
8. The Council will draft and submit a letter of support for designating the Gulf of Maine as a Large Oceans Management Area (LOMA). So that the Gulf of Maine is part of the regional priorities planning, the letter will ask that the Council's efforts be recognized and that the Gulf of Maine be considered as a LOMA.

Action items

1. The Working Group will prepare a one-sheet, two-sided information document on the Action Plan mid-term review for distribution at the Gulf of Maine Summit.
2. A team will draft a proclamation for distribution to all GOM jurisdictions with adequate lead-time so that each can do their part to move forward on finalizing the draft and executing the proclamation.
3. The Council requested that a small group be formed with David Keeley as lead. The group will prepare recommendations for the winter meeting on the organization and content of a GOM pilot project that builds on the US Commission on Ocean Policy report.
4. Patricia Hinch and Larry Hildebrand will work together to draft a new letter of support for designating the Gulf of Maine as a Large Oceans Management Area.
5. The Summit Planning Committee co-chairs will work together to assure that aquaculture agency and industry interests and contacts are addressed at the Summit.

Submitted by Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator



Contractor status report

Contractors for the Gulf of Maine Council as of August 31, 2004

Note: All contract end dates are June 30, 2005 unless stated otherwise below.

Contractor	Contract End Date	Position	Funds	Contract Manager
Cindy Krum		U.S. Association Executive Director	Indirect rate	David Keeley
Lori Hallett		U.S. Association Administrative and Bookkeeping Support	Indirect rate	Eric Williams
Michele Tremblay		Council Coordinator	Indirect rate, dues	Eric Williams
Lorraine Edes		Council Administrative Assistance	Indirect rate, dues	Eric Williams
Vacant		Policy Development	Indirect rate	Eric Williams
Michele Tremblay	September 30, 2004	Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Manager	USF&W	Susan Snow-Cotter
Maine State Planning Office (Jon Kachmar)		Habitat Restoration Project Coordinator	NMFS, NOAA	Liz Hertz
Karin Hansen		Education and Marketing Coordinator: PEPC	NOAA	Theresa Torrent-Ellis
Ethan Nedeau		Science Translation	NOAA, Mix	Susan Snow-Cotter, David Keeley
Peter Taylor		Science Translation/Web Producer/Web Portal	NOAA, Mix	Susan Snow-Cotter, David Keeley
UNH (Steve Jones)		Gulfwatch Program Coordination	NOAA	Pat Hinch
Louise White		Environmental Monitoring Coordinator	NOAA	Peter Wells
Andi Rierden		Gulf of Maine Times Producer	NOAA	Theresa Torrent-Ellis
Patricia King	December 31, 2004	State of the Gulf Summit Coordinator	Mix	Susan Snow-Cotter, David Keeley
Norval Collins	November 15, 2004	Seafloor Mapping Needs Assessment Survey and Workshop	NOS	Susan Snow-Cotter
me3 Technology Consultants	December 31, 2004	Technical Web Support	NOAA	Susan Snow-Cotter, David Keeley
Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve	October 31, 2004	Post-doctoral Research Associate for Habitat Restoration	NMFS	Liz Hertz

Please contact the contract manager for contractor work plans or other information.

Submitted by Cynthia Krum, Executive Director, US Gulf of Maine Association



Policy and Development Contractor

Draft position announcement

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC) will be contracting with an individual to serve as the Policy and Development Coordinator (PDC) for one year. The PDC will direct fundraising and external policy development at the direction of the Gulf of Maine Council Working Group. This key position will identify and contact potential funders, develop a long-term development strategy, and develop and implement policies for the GOMC.

Scope of services

1. Financial Development

Tasks

- Research and identify potential funding sources (public, non-government, and business) to implement the *Gulf of Maine Council Action Plan*
- Assist in the preparation of applications and proposals for funding
- Work with funding agencies and organizations to secure funding to address priority projects

Deliverables

- Prepare a three-to-five-year financial development strategy for a sustainable Gulf of Maine Council and for implementing priority elements of the *Gulf of Maine Council Action Plan*
- Quarterly reports describing fundraising leads, contacts, and status

2. Research and Policy Analysis

Tasks

- Identify policy issues relevant to the *Gulf of Maine Council Action Plan* for presentation to the Gulf of Maine Council and Working Group
- Present proposals and position papers relative to Council policy, program, and funding which would outline options, implications, and implementation strategies for Working Group and Council consideration

Deliverables

- Present policy recommendations for inclusion in the *2006-2010 Gulf of Maine Council Action Plan*

3. Policy Implementation

Tasks

- Ensure that environmental indicators, as developed by GOMC committees and the Gulf of Maine Summit are integrated with Gulf of Maine Council actions
- Advance Council priorities through research, writing position papers, partnerships, and meeting planning as directed by the Gulf of Maine Council Working Group

Deliverables

- Develop recommendations for action by the Gulf of Maine Council stemming from the October 2004 Gulf of Maine Summit with a focus on ecosystem indicators and environmental reporting
- Manage implementation of ecosystem indicator recommendations and submit quarterly status reports
- Develop Gulf of Maine Pilot recommendations stemming from June 2004 Council discussion about Department of Oceans and Fisheries Large Ocean Management Area and US Ocean Commission processes (governance and content)

4. Meeting Preparation and Attendance

Tasks

- Prepare for, attend, and make presentations at the quarterly meetings of the Gulf of Maine Council Working Group and the semi-annual meetings of the Gulf of Maine Council
- Participate in up to fifteen hours of conference calls for the purpose of providing updates on specific tasks and collaborating on development of additional specific tasks.



Qualifications

The Gulf of Maine Council seeks an experienced fundraising and policy development professional with knowledge of and experience in:

- fundraising for million dollar plus non-profit organizations
- ecosystem management issues (coastal, marine, and watershed) and related policy development in the Gulf of Maine;
- policy research, planning, and formulation;
- management and development issues and economic analysis;
- the structure, operations, programs, and policies of state, provincial, and federal agencies within the Gulf of Maine region, pertaining to marine (oceans and coastal) and watershed management;

and the following skills and abilities:

- ability to express ideas clearly and concisely in oral and written form;
- excellent organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills;
- experience in and ability to work in a collaborative international team environment;
- ability to work efficiently and effectively with minimal supervision; and
- ability and willingness to travel between Canada and the US.

Minimum qualifications:

A bachelor university degree in marine science, marine law, environmental studies, public/business administration or other directly related field, plus a minimum of 5 years of professional working experience in coastal, marine, or environmental policy and program research, analysis, development, and implementation.

Compensation range

This is a contract position with no benefits. A scope of services will be negotiated for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

Location

The contractor must be located in the Gulf of Maine region, will work from his/her fully-equipped office, and will be required to participate in periodic meetings throughout the Gulf of Maine. Some travel in the northeastern U.S. and Atlantic Canada is required and a travel budget will be provided.

Other requirements

Applicant must meet US and Canadian federal contract requirements for receipt of federal funds.

Application procedure

Submit resume, cover letter, and names and contact information of three professional references to:

Eric Williams, Chair
Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Working Group
NH Dept of Environmental Services
PO Box 95
Concord NH 03302-0095

Please do not send application packages via fax or email. All applications must be post-marked on or before Friday, September 24, 2004.

About the Council

Formed in 1989 by the governors and premiers of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is a collaborative of state, provincial, federal, and non-governmental organizations working to protect and restore Gulf habitats, protect human health and ecosystem integrity, promote sustainable development of resources, raise awareness of the Gulf, and foster local stewardship.

Submitted by Eric Williams, NH Department of Environmental Services



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Ocean Data Management Partnership

Michael Nolin has signed the partnership agreement on behalf of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. The Council should identify a liaison who will, on its behalf, participate in the partnership activities.

Submitted by Eric Williams



Gulf of Maine Council Large Ocean Management Area Letter

Issue

Letter of support for the inclusion of the Bay of Fundy as a Large Ocean Management Area (LOMA) under the Canada Oceans Action Plan.

Background

- In May 2004, Hon. Kerry Morash received a letter from Dr. Graham Daborn Chair, Bay Fundy Ecosystem Partnership, requesting that Gulf of Maine Council send a letter to the Honorable Geoff Regan, House of Commons, Minister Fisheries and Oceans, in support of the designation of the Bay of Fundy portion of the Gulf of Maine, as a Large Ocean Management Area under the Oceans Act.
- Working Group members recommended that a letter be drafted in May by the NS Secretariat, circulated for Council consideration and brought forward to the Council meeting in June. (The original draft letter was distributed by Pat Hinch on May 20th.)
- During the June meeting, Council members suggested changes and asked that the letter be re-circulated for final review by WG members.

Current status

- The LOMA letter was re-circulated by e-mail to Working Group members for review and approval.
- The letter was forwarded to the Minister for approval and signature in mid-August.
- A copy of the final letter is pasted below:

The Honourable Geoff Regan
House Of Commons
Minister, Fisheries and Oceans
Parliament Buildings, Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Regan,

I am writing on behalf of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment to encourage you to include the Bay of Fundy portion of the Gulf of Maine among the initial list of integrated coastal and ocean management initiatives within Canada's Oceans Action Plan. We understand that the Bay of Fundy is currently not an area of focus under the proposed Oceans Action Plan.

For the past 15 years, the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment has been facilitating collaboration among governments, industry, the not-for-profit sector, and academia in order to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine. Recognized internationally as a model for transboundary cooperation in integrated coastal and ocean management on an ecosystem basis, the Council provides a forum for discussion of regional issues of concern to Canada and the US and sets an agenda for collaborative action and change across the Gulf and its watersheds. The Council has forged strong and long-term productive relationships and new ways of doing business among provincial, state and federal (Canada and US) agencies with jurisdiction and mandate in the Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine. As a significant member of Council, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has played an essential role in moving jurisdictions in the region toward ecosystem-based integrated management.

The Gulf of Maine ecosystem, including the Bay of Fundy, has long provided an economic, social, and cultural foundation for this region. In order to ensure that future generations continue to benefit from this valuable ecosystem we must continue to seek new collaborative arrangements aimed at enhancing our capacity to manage the resources of the Gulf. Through the Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) Initiative, Fisheries and Oceans has demonstrated its commitment to integrated management. The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment feels strongly that there is an additional opportunity



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and benefit for Canada to implement its commitment to integrated coastal and ocean management in a similar manner within the Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine region. In fact, many of the institutional and collaborative arrangements are already in place in the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine, and present an immediate opportunity within the Oceans Action Plan for the Government of Canada to claim early success.

I therefore encourage you to consider inclusion of the Bay of Fundy among the initial priorities for integrated management initiatives within Canada's Oceans Action Plan.

Thank-you for your consideration of this matter. look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Honourable Kerry Morash
Minister, Nova Scotia Environment and Labour
Past Chair, Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, 2003-2004

Submitted by Patricia Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour



Gulf of Maine Pilot Work Group

Background

At the June 2004 Council meeting it called for an ad-hoc work group to be formed to consider the US Commission on Ocean Policy, Pew Oceans Commission and Large Ocean Management Area efforts in the context of the Gulf of Maine.

David Keeley and Larry Hildebrand serve as co-chairs. Other members include Joe Arbour, Susan Snow-Cotter, Ted Diers, Peter Harrison, Byron James, Don Hudson, Kathleen Leyden, Peter Underwood, and Betsy Nicholson. Their charge is to:

- Assess the alignment of these federal opportunities with the Action Plan & Council project portfolio
- Monitor DFO & Ocean Commission work
- Engage others in discussions
- Recommend courses of action
- Explore initial funding possibilities

Status

The ad-hoc group held their first call on August 8th. It discussed the status of the federal efforts:

- Commission on Ocean Policy – new report is completed incorporating comments from the Governors and others. It should be made public within the next 30-days, The Administration will then need to respond by reporting back to Congress in November. At the same time bills are being introduced in the House and Senate by legislators to advance certain ideas in their final report.
- Ocean Action Plan – four focal points include international sovereignty, ocean health, science & tech, and integrated management (calling for management plans to be developed for five LOMAs). Spring 2005 resources may be made available.

They also reviewed the Ocean Commission's call for Ocean Councils. The group plans to review how the GOM Council already meets some of the ocean council objectives so that the Council can position us as a viable pilot area. A cross-walk between the Commission's report that identifies specific council functions with the GOMC might be a starting point.

They discussed consultative processes and identified what regional organizations (BoFEP, ASMFC, etc.), academia (Sea Grant, etc.) and non-profit organizations (NEERs, ACAP, NEP, etc.) we need to consult with as well as consider other representatives to participate on the ad-hoc committee (e.g., DFO, NMFS, etc.). We can also take advantage of current meetings scheduled (e.g. BoFEP meeting in September 29-30, GOM Summit in October, possible NEGC oceans group & meeting of NE environmental commissioners, etc.) to garner input.

Possible pilot projects include an ocean research plan, information management, indicators and environmental reporting, integrated ocean observing, technology development, Georges Bank ecosystem management plan, Council evolution & corresponding appraisal of GOM Council management functions and duties to address inconsistent follow through & improve effectiveness and efficiency,

Next steps

- Make contacts and expand the committee,
- Meet with Andy Rosenberg while in NH in September
- Make a list of organizations to consult with
- Consider specific content ideas and make a short-list
- Hold a second call on either September 2 or 3rd
- Meet for a ½ day in conjunction with September 8-9 WG meeting in NH

Submitted by David Keeley, ME State Planning Office



Public Education and Participation Committee report

Publications Protocol

This protocol is to be used for all publications and other communications and educational materials produced, sponsored, or funded by the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC) or either of its U.S. or Canadian Gulf of Maine Associations. This protocol has been developed to ensure consistency in presentation and organizational identity, and to ensure quality documents that are professional in both content and appearance.

COUNCIL LOGO (display the three logos)

- All materials must display the official GOMC logo, which can be downloaded from the Council's website (www.gulfofmaine.org).
- The logo is available in three shadings: green/blue, black/gray, and black/black. The size and placement of the logo will be established by the project manager.
- When appropriate, logos of other sponsoring/contributing agencies or organizations should be included. This decision is to be made by the project manager. A collection of print-ready Council logos and those of common collaborators are available on the Council's website (www.gulfofmaine.org).
- Questions about logo size, color, or placement should be directed to the Project Manager or the Public Education and Participation Committee (PEPC).

MISSION TEXT (show examples of logo and mission statement placement)

- All materials must include one of the following versions of the GOMC mission statement:
"The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment was established to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations."

"The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment was established in 1989 by the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts to foster cooperative actions within the Gulf watershed. Its mission is to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations."
- The text option and its placement will be established by the project manager. Here are some guidelines for placement:
 - Inside title page of a multiple page report
 - The mission statement can be located anywhere on a fact sheet or short document, as determined by the layout person, as long as it is prominent and near the logo.
 - The text should be standalone—it should not be integrated with other text in a paragraph.
 - The mission statement should be prominent and located near the Council logo. It should NOT go in a preface, acknowledgements, footnote, etc.

FUNDING STATEMENT

- All materials must include the following text: "This publication (or...) was made possible through the support of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and through a grant from...(i.e. the U.S. EPA or NOAA).

CREDITS

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

DATE

- All materials must include the year of publication. For workshop or conference reports and proceedings, this is the date that the publication was finished and made available. The date



when the workshop or conference was held should go in the title, subtitle, preface, executive summary, or introduction. If there are deemed to be valid reasons, an exemption from this requirement may be provided by the project manager.

DISTRIBUTION

A distribution plan (and where appropriate, a distribution funding plan) must be developed by the project committee and Project Manager, for all such materials prior to their completion. Copies of all materials should be distributed to the following:

- Current Secretariat (two copies)
- Associations (two copies each)
- GOMC Central Registry, Maine (one copy)
- U.S. and Canadian National Libraries (one copy each)
- Working Group (E-mail notification should go out to all working group members notifying them that the publication is available to download from the website and indicating how to receive an official copy)

ELECTRONIC ACCESS

- To provide region-wide electronic access to materials at the Council's website, those materials that are appropriate for digital format must be produced in a form that is compatible with the Internet.
- The document should be either in HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) or in Adobe PDF (Portable Document Format).
- Images should be in .jpg or .gif format. Databases and spreadsheets should be in MS Excel, MS Access, or tab-delimited ASCII format.
- Additional production costs to meet this requirement should be included in the initial budgeting. It is also recognized that an electronic summary may be more appropriate than the full document.

EDITORIAL REVIEW

- All GOMC publications should be reviewed by at least one person qualified in the subject matter before review by two members of Editorial Review Board (ERB) (at least one member of PEPC and one working group member).
- The ERB will be established with volunteers from PEPC and the Working Group. A list of reviewers will be provided on the Council's website (www.gulfofmaine.org) with an indication of their area of expertise. Project managers should contact these reviewers directly to determine if they are willing and available to review specific documents, and to establish a review schedule.
- Scientific accuracy and content are the sole responsibility of the persons/groups that prepare the publication.
- The ERB will focus on copyediting, proofreading, and layout to ensure a consistent language and style.

GRAPHICS AND LAYOUT (OPTIONAL SERVICE)

- In some cases, to be evaluated and approved on a case-by-case basis, the persons or groups that prepare Council-sponsored documents can arrange to have PEPC complete the graphics, layout, and editing.

When approved, PEPC's publications person will work with the report writers to develop graphics and a suitable layout, and will provide the final publication in a suitable format (Adobe PDF, HTML, Word, or press-ready digital files in design software such as Adobe Pagemaker, Adobe InDesign, or Quark). The schedule and any additional funding will be discussed.

Submitted by Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office and Marilyn Webster, NS Department of Education and PEPC Co-chairs



Habitat Conservation Sub-committee report

Gulf of Maine Habitat Primer: The Primer is in its final draft and is in the process of copy editing. We are anticipating that it will be printed and available for distribution at the Gulf of Maine Summit in October. Printing is expected to cost \$7,00 and we have \$6-7K available (WHOI Sea Grant, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management, NOAA's Marine Protected Areas Center, and Stellwagen Bank have committed to funds). We are still seeking the remaining funds.

The Primer is Phase 1 of a larger project; "Assessing Impacts of Human Activities on Marine Habitats in the Gulf of Maine." This two-year project will culminate in GOM Council marine habitat conservation strategies through findings and recommendations regarding science, policy, and management approaches. The input from the scientific advisory panel formed to advise on Phase 1 and the remaining phases of the project was greatly appreciated for the comments on the work in progress. We look forward to continuing to work with the panel, subcommittee, and GOM PEP Outreach staff on the remaining phases of this project.

The four phases of this project include:

- *Phase 1: GOM Primer of Marine Habitat Types*
- *Phase 2: Preliminary Human Impact Assessment*
- *Phase 3: Human Impact Assessment Reporting*
- *Phase 4: Outreach*

A scope for this work has been submitted to NOAA's MPA Center to fund Phase 2-4 of the project.

The members of the Habitat Conservation Sub-Committee have been updated on progress of the Primer and other activities every few months. The latest update was in early September when they received the Primer abstract, a request for their comments on the bigger project, and a request for their attendance in a conference call to discuss these next steps. The sub-committee will discuss ideas for these initial planning phases and their involvement in the project.

Topics for Working Group Discussion

- Are there ideas for additional sources of Primer printing money and for methods of distribution?
- We know of a few documents focusing on impacts to GOM marine habitats... if you are aware of studies that have already been done, reports written, etc. can you contact Marianne or Katie with reference information? We will be compiling these sources for the second Phase of the project, which focus on impact assessment/threats to marine habitats.

Submitted by Marianne Janowicz, NB Department of Environment and Local Government and Katie Lund, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management and Sub-committee Co-chairs



Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative report

The Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative (GOMMI) Steering Committee, including Brian J. Todd, Ph.D., Geological Survey of Canada (Atlantic)/Natural Resources Canada, Thomas T. Noji, Ph.D., NOAA Fisheries, Page C. Valentine, Ph.D., US Geological Survey and Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management, will be holding a workshop at the University of Maine's Darling Marine Center in Walpole, ME, from October 4-5, 2004. Centered around the results of a recent and widely distributed GOMMI Needs Assessment survey, the workshop agenda will feature a briefing on GOMMI's background and recent activities, presentations from NOAA's Integrated Ocean Mapping (IOM) Program, Geosciences for Ocean Management Program (Canada), Irish National Seabed Survey INSS)/Geological Survey of Ireland, and a series of participant breakout groups to discuss priority mapping areas in the Gulf of Maine and the development of the GOMMI implementation strategy (possible topics include nearshore/offshore mapping, cooperative research, outreach/education, financial and political support, data management and habitat classification). The afternoon of October 5th will focus on a discussion of a funding strategy for Phase I of GOMMI, as well as next steps for the GOMMI Steering Committee in order to broaden support for the Initiative. For further information, please contact either Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management, 617.626.1202 or susan.snow-cotter@state.ma.us or Kate Killerlain, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management, 617.626.1203 or kate.killerlain@state.ma.us. Additional information on GOMMI, including a copy of the May 2004 Strategic Plan, can be found at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/gommi/>.

Submitted by Susan Snow-Cotter, Assistant Director, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management and GOMMI Co-chair



Emerging Issues report

Gulf Of Maine Marine Ecosystem May Have Entered New Phase

University of Maine press release • August 4, 2004

Media contact: Robert Steneck, School of Marine Sciences, 207-549-3062 (home),
207-563-3146, ext. 233, steneck@maine.edu; Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs,
207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine – For most of the past 4,500 years, cod was king in the Gulf of Maine's coastal waters. Today, cod have given way to the Jonah crab with potential long-term consequences for coastal fisheries, according to a University of Maine research report published in the journal *Ecosystems*.

With crabs and lobsters at the top of the proverbial heap, the Gulf may have entered a new stable phase marked by the presence of expansive kelp beds and the near absence of sea urchins. These findings could signal the likelihood of significant biological changes in other heavily fished parts of the world's oceans as well.

The authors of the report are Robert S. Steneck, professor of marine sciences at UMaine's Darling Marine Center, and former UMaine graduate students John Vavrinc and Amanda Leland. They received support for their research from the Pew Foundation for Marine Conservation, Maine Sea Grant, the Maine Department of Marine Resources and the National Undersea Research Program.

The researchers analyzed fishing records and previous studies to gather evidence for the changes brought on by fishing pressure in marine ecosystems. Ancient coastal middens, for example, have revealed evidence suggesting that Native American fishing activities were beginning to affect near shore ecosystems several thousand years ago. Analysis of colonial and modern fish landing records shows that such changes accelerated with the adoption of new fishing technologies.

It is a revolution of sorts, an overturning of the established order brought on by fishing pressure, that leads to major changes in the coastal marine ecosystem, according to the article, "Accelerating Trophic-level Dysfunction in Kelp Forest Ecosystems of the Western North Atlantic." [please see abstract posted below this press release.] In the Gulf of Maine, the revolution was brought on by the drastic reduction in the number of cod and other top predators over the past century.

"To understand how these changes are accelerating, we looked at archaeological data for coastal Maine over the past 4500 years. The long dominance of predators has given way to many species playing 'king of the hill,'" says Steneck.

"While there is no fear of these species going extinct," he adds, "entire sections of the food web have become so rare that they no longer perform critical ecological functions in the marine community. This is called food web (or trophic level) dysfunction."

When such species as cod were no longer able to perform their function of keeping their prey species in check, the ecosystem entered a new phase marked by abundant sea urchins and a lack of kelp beds. Urchins ate so much kelp that they created areas known as "urchin barrens" where only low growing algae could survive.

In turn, the harvesting of urchins during the 1990s has led to the re-emergence of kelp beds and the dominance of crabs and lobsters. The report cites an experiment in which adult urchins were stocked in an area to see if they would survive and reproduce. Crabs ate most of the urchins.

"The problem is this 'trophic level dysfunction' is accelerating. Ecosystem changes persist for shorter and shorter periods of time because the 'driver' species increasingly fall below functional population densities," Steneck explains.

"When a threshold is reached, the system changes fundamentally. Everything that came before it is thrown out the window. What this does in the long run is make the system unpredictable."

For the first time, adds Steneck, the low diversity of marine organisms, including Maine's fabled groundfish, have left the system too reliant on a single species (lobster) and too vulnerable to continued and unpredictable large-scale fluctuations. [abstract follows on next page]



Accelerating Trophic-level Dysfunction in Kelp Forest Ecosystems of the Western North Atlantic
Robert S. Steneck, John Vavrinec and Amanda V. Leland

We use archaeological, historical, ecological, and fisheries data to identify three distinct and sequential phases in the trophic structure of kelp forests in the western North Atlantic's Gulf of Maine. Phase 1 is characterized by vertebrate apex predators such as Atlantic cod, haddock, and wolffish and persisted for more than 4,000 years. Phase 2 is characterized by herbivorous sea urchins and lasted from the 1970s to the 1990s. Phase 3 is dominated by invertebrate predators such as large crabs and has developed since 1995. Each phase change resulted directly or indirectly from fisheries-induced "trophic-level dysfunction," in which populations of functionally important species at higher trophic levels fell below the densities necessary to limit prey populations at lower trophic levels. By using fractional trophic-level analysis, we found that phase changes occurred rapidly (over a few years to a few decades) as well as relatively recently (over the past half-century). Interphase durations have declined as fishing effects have accelerated in recent years. The naturally low species diversity of the kelp forest ecosystem we studied may facilitate rapid changes because the redundancy within each trophic level is low. If the biodiversity within controlling trophic levels is a buffer against trophic-level dysfunction, then our observations from Maine may be predictive of the fate of other, more diverse systems. If fishing successively targets most, or all, strong interactors at higher trophic levels, then as those population densities decline, the potential for trophic-level dysfunction and associated instabilities will increase.

Submitted by Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada and lead for Emerging Issues



Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel report

The NEANS Panel, co-chaired by John McPhedran, ME Department of Protection and Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management, will be holding its fall meeting at the Gideon Putnam Hotel and Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY from November 9-10, 2004. The meeting agenda will feature a roundtable discussion, a panel of expert presenters on Sea Lamprey invasions and the pet industry, and presentations and updates on the New Hampshire Pilot Program, Regional Rapid Response Planning, and research priorities. For further information, please visit <http://www.northeastans.org/meetings.htm>.

The Panel has received another year of funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The funds will support the Panel's administration as well as projects initiated by its four committees: Ballast Water; Communication, Education, and Outreach; Policy and Legislation; and Science and Technology.

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



Sewage Management Task Force report

The Sewage Management Task Force continues to work on the elements from its workplan. The Task Force has completed a fact sheet (BoFEP #25) that included sewage management information. Steve Jones incorporated sewage management issues in the Gulf of Summit contaminants chapter. The Task Force will continue to implement the elements of its work plan as indicated in previous briefing notes.

Submitted Patricia Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour and Peter Wells, Environment Canada, Task Force co-chairs



Developing standard marine characterizations at the local level – request for Council support

In June, 2003 QLF/Atlantic Center for the Environment (QLF) with the assistance of Maine Sea Grant (MSG) launched a process to develop scientifically defensible and reliable recommendations which could be used to guide efforts to characterize geographically discrete marine areas (principally nearshore). Having made considerable progress, QLF is reviewing the project's scope (i.e. Maine) to determine whether it is sufficient or whether this is a project in which other Gulf of Maine states and provinces should be involved.

The purpose of this undertaking is to provide a standardized and readily accessible source of guidance which local and regional groups can use to determine what they need to know in order to adequately describe a marine area. The purposes of their studies will likely differ as the local, regional, state/provincial, and national uses for this information are numerous. However, what constitutes a current "baseline" description of a marine area should be relatively consistent.

To date QLF has engaged a 21-member, volunteer, working group of experts from Maine government, academia, and NGO's. We have principally tasked this group over four, day-long meetings with determining what biological, ecological, physical, chemical, and human dimensional components would together comprise a satisfactory baseline description of a specific marine area. The group has also discussed how the results of these characterizations could be used in decision making at various governance levels and they have suggested an overall work sequence for characterization studies. Currently, QLF is actively seeking ways to link this work into ongoing data gathering and management efforts related to the management of marine areas in the Gulf of Maine. We welcome ideas which will help us to ensure that this suite of recommendations aid characterization efforts throughout this region. We are also exploring possible partnerships with national, regional, and state institutions which will enable us to complete, distribute, maintain, link, and update this material overtime and maximize its utility.

Submitted by Jennifer Atkinson, Quebec-Labrador Foundation /Atlantic Center for the Environment



GOMC website and online reference database—request for WG input and collaboration

The New PEARL/GOMCME Reference Database: A First Look

The GOMCME has joined forces with the Senator George J Mitchell Center for Environmental & Watershed Research to establish a searchable database of scientific papers, fact sheets, outreach materials, maps, Web resources, and other references dealing with environmental management in the Gulf of Maine and its watershed. The database will provide a scalable, centralized, multi-purpose repository of information, and references will be added using a modular approach to correspond with priority topics such as those in the GOMC's online Knowledgebase. Agencies and NGOs will be able to create customized search interfaces on their own Web sites that draw from this centralized database and to disseminate their own publications via the database. This collaborative effort was started in late 2003 and has capitalized on the extensive experience of Peter Vaux, Mitchell Center Associate Research Associate and Director of the Maine Aquatic Biodiversity Project and Peter Taylor, Science Translator and Web Producer for the GOMC.

Design of the database has been initiated through the technical support contract for Council web services and implementation has been facilitated by the web support staff for the Mitchell Center. The database will be housed at the University of Maine and accessed through separate search interfaces on the Council website and the UMaine PEARL Web site. After it is launched, other organizations will be able to develop customized interfaces to meet their specific needs. For the GOMC, the database will serve as a searchable repository for all GOMC publications, *GOM Times* articles, Knowledgebase and science translation topics, marine habitat conservation tools, Committee reports, and other potential uses. The publication database will go on line this fall. This "first look" will provide an opportunity to see the search interface, hear details on initial contents, and find out about future plans for expansion.

Submitted by Seth Barker, ME Department of Marine Resources and DIMC, sole co-chair and Peter Vaux, University of Maine, PEARL



Gulf of Maine Summit: Committing to Change

The Gulf of Maine Council and Global Programme of Action Coalition for the Gulf of Maine will host the **Gulf of Maine Summit: Committing to Change**, October 26-29, 2004 in St. Andrews, New Brunswick. The Summit will bring together coastal experts, concerned citizens, businesses, and leaders from around the Gulf of Maine to celebrate 15 years of partnerships, assess current environmental conditions and develop plans for future actions needed to continue improving the environmental quality of the Gulf. See the Summit website (<http://www.gulfofmainesummit.org/about.html>) for more details.

The Summit promises an action packed agenda that seeks full participation from individuals working at all levels as stewards of the environmental health of the Gulf of Maine region. The agenda is available on-line at <http://www.gulfofmainesummit.org/agenda.html>.

To date, 125 people have registered. The Early Registration Discount has been extended to August 31, 2004. By registering now people can save \$50 off the \$175 registration fee. You can register and pay on-line at <http://www.gulfofmainesummit.org/register.html>

A limited number of scholarships (up to \$150 each) are still available for community groups, NGOs and individuals from industry. The scholarship program is being offered to help ensure grassroots participation at the Summit.

Submitted by Patty King, Summit Coordinator



Featured GOMC group presentation: Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee

The HMSC met July 22-23 at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve to finalize selection of indicators for long-term habitat monitoring and to identify and prioritize the steps needed for regional implementation. Results of the meeting are summarized below.

Indicator selection

Initial monitoring will focus on habitats that are most threatened by human activities and are areas of high management priority: seagrass beds, salt marshes, and soft-bottom subtidal habitats. Indicators were identified to address the following monitoring questions relative to these target habitat types:

- I. How is the extent, distribution, or use of coastal habitats changing over time?
- II. How is the ecological condition of coastal habitats changing over time?
- III. What are the causes of coastal habitat change?

Please contact committee co-chairs for the full list of indicators selected for regional habitat monitoring.

Implementation

Four steps were identified as critical to establishing regional habitat monitoring. Over the next six months, HMSC members will work in small groups to advance the following:

1. Data infrastructure. Existing projects are underway in the region to build distributed databases and enhance their utility. For example, the USGS National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) has established a Northeastern Node Coordinator, and GOMOOS has launched the Framework Data for the Gulf of Maine to dynamically link spatial data. Programs such as these offer existing infrastructures for HMSC to build upon.

*Action: HMSC will develop a proposal to establish a Gulf of Maine Habitats data node within an existing distributed database such as NBII, capitalizing on the opportunity to link the data to broader GOM data sets through GOMOOS.

Question for Working Group: Potential linkage with GOMMI

2. Marketing. The value of monitoring data is undervalued within both management and political arenas. It will be difficult to attract the resources needed to establish a regional habitat monitoring network without elevating the profile of habitat monitoring in general.

*Action: HMSC will develop a series of fact sheets focused on the ecological and economic importance of target habitats and the critical need for monitoring data for habitat management, protection, and decision-making.

Question for Working Group: Assistance with production, marketing, and distribution of fact sheets.

3. Pilot project. HMSC monitoring will be hierarchical in scale. Tier 1 represents broad scale mapping (entire region, focused on Monitoring Question 1); Tier 2 represents a rapid assessment of ecological condition (superficial assessment of many sites, focused on Monitoring Question 2); Tier 3 represents intensive investigations (subset of sites, focused on Monitoring Question 3). Indicators relevant to Tier 2 and Tier 3 monitoring of initial target habitats were identified as the framework for three pilot monitoring projects. Please contact committee co-chairs for the complete matrix of indicators x monitoring project.

*Action: HMSC will develop proposals for pilot regional monitoring of the three target habitats. Each proposal will include the spatial sampling design for the GOM region, subdividing each habitat type into predominant strata, and will identify Tier 2 and Tier 3 sites within strata. Project proposals will reference or include standard sampling protocols for each indicator.

Question for Working Group: Ideas for pilot project funding.

4. Coordination. Lessons learned from existing regional habitat monitoring programs (e.g. NPS Vital Signs Monitoring Program, SeagrassNet, GPAC salt marsh restoration monitoring, Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans) suggest that the key to success is strong coordination and



leadership. Currently, the GOM regional habitat monitoring torch is being carried by committee-members as an ancillary duty. The HMSC views establishment of a full-time coordinator position as essential.

*Action: HMSC will include funding for a coordinator in either the data infrastructure or a pilot project proposal.

Question for Working Group: Ideas for funding

Submitted by Hilary Neckles, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Reg Melanson, Canadian Wildlife Service, Habitat Monitoring Sub-committee Co-chairs



Engaging municipalities in supporting implementation of coastal development goals in the *GOMC Action Plan*

The Natural Resources Outreach Coalition (NROC) is a unique group of organizations providing communities with information and tools to address the impacts of growth on natural resources. Participating organizations include: NH Office of Energy and Planning, NH Coastal Program, NH Estuaries Project, UNH Cooperative Extension, UNH Sea Grant, Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Regional Planning Commissions, NH Department of Environmental Services, Center for Land Conservation Assistance, and the County Conservation Districts. NROC's work is limited to the 45 communities in the New Hampshire's Coastal Watershed.

NROC offers an educational program "Dealing with Growth" to an all-boards, public meeting organized by the community. The program illustrates the linkages between growth, land use change, and natural resources. "Dealing with Growth" provides municipalities with a range of educational and regulatory tools to achieve natural resource management objectives.

Following the presentation, NROC staff work with community members to develop and implement a work plan focused on natural resource-based planning. NROC connects community participants with professional and programs that provide technical and educational assistance on natural resource topics. Examples of assistance we have provided to communities includes: planning effective education and outreach programs, working with open space groups to help set goals and priorities, developing conservation plans, and developing criteria for prioritizing areas for open space protection.

To participate in the NROC program, communities need to apply in writing. Since we are only able to work with three communities per year, selection can be competitive. To date, communities NROC has worked with include: Newmarket, Newfields, Barrington, Dover, Exeter, Stratham, Somersworth, Nottingham, Candia, Chester, East Kingston, and Strafford.

Amanda Stone, Natural Resources Outreach Coalition (NROC)



Internal Grants Program update

Draft Overview of the Gulf of Maine Council Internal Grants Program

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC) has determined that it would be appropriate and helpful to make a small amount of money available to the various Committees, Task Forces, and Panels that operate under the Council. This money is considered an Internal Grant and will enable a Committee, Task Force, or Panel to carry out its business more effectively.

The money is intended to be used to further the objectives of the Committee/Task Force/Panel, to build capacity within the group, and/or to operate small projects such as workshops, publications, newsletters, displays, etc.

A small amount of money (approximately \$33,000) would be available to a large number of groups including seven Committees—including Sub-Committees—and ten Committees, Task Forces, and Panels (please see Appendix B for a list with co-chairs and leads). The money granted to each group will be small (approximately \$2,000). The funds may be used to leverage other funds. In addition, two or more cooperating Committees, Task Forces, and Panels may merge funds for greater value.

These funds will be granted following a simple application process (see Appendix A). Each of the Committees, Task Forces, and Panels identified as eligible (see Appendix B) are encouraged to apply for funds. Each Committees, Task Forces, and Panels must submit a proposal by September 15, 2004, detailing project title, objectives, and deliverables; costing (how funds will be spent); and how the project builds capacity within the group, fits with the group's goals and objectives, and contributes to the *GOMC 2001-2006 Action Plan*.

The proposal may include an explanation of how an enhancement of double the funds would alter the project's deliverables (in case some Committees, Task Forces, and Panels do not apply and a small amount of additional money becomes available).

The *ad hoc* Internal Grants Sub-Committee of the Management Committee will review the applications, using a simple review process (Appendix C) and asking for revisions if needed. The Committees, Task Forces, and Panels will be advised of the amount of money granted. Bills for the eligible funds should be submitted directly to the Finance Committee for payment or requisition.

Although the process for granting this money is meant to be simple and flexible, there will be an emphasis on accountability. At the end of the fiscal year, the Committees, Task Forces, and Panels will be asked to submit a short report outlining how the grant was used and providing details of the deliverables and their value to the goals and objectives of the Committee, Task Force, and Panel.

This is intended to be a one-year test of the process and its usefulness. Funds will be available beginning in October 2004. At the end of the 2004/05-year (ending April 30, 2005), the *ad hoc* Internal Grants Sub-Committee will evaluate the process and the results, and recommend to the Management Committee whether or not to continue the process, with modifications if needed.

Further details are included in the Application Form (Appendix A).



Appendix A: Internal Grants process - Application for Funding

This is an application form for Internal Grant funds available to specified Gulf of Maine Council Committees and Task Forces/Panels during the 2004/05-budget year. Since only a small amount of money (approximately \$33,000) is available, the grant for each group is also small (approximately \$2,000). Although this amount alone could support only limited projects, the funds may be used to leverage other funds, and two or more cooperating Committees/Task Forces/Panels may merge funds for greater value.

Name of Committee or Task Group:

Project contact:

Address:

Phone:

E-Mail:

Project title:

Project manager and contact information (if different than Project contact specified above):

Brief description of project:

Project objectives:

Project deliverables:

Timeline for deliverables (must be completed by April 30, 2004):

Project costs (how funds would be spent):

Other funds and resources for the project, including in-kind and leveraged funds):

How the project builds capacity within the group:

How the project fits with the group's goals and objectives:

How the project supports the GOMC Action Plan:

Please indicate how a doubling of the grant money available would enhance your project. Indicate additional or modified objectives, enhanced deliverables, and any other benefit to the Committee/Task Group:

Please indicate fiscal agent: (The total amount of awarded funds will be sent in one check. Please note below what state or provincial agency, or non-profit organization will accept the funds and then pay the individual invoices during the grant period.)



Appendix B: GOMC Committees and Task Forces Eligible for funds under the Internal Grants Program

COMMITTEES WITH CO-CHAIRS

Habitat Restoration Subcommittee: Developing a Gulf-wide coastal and marine habitat restoration plan; assists in implementation of the Council/NMFS restoration partnership grant program; and pursues land protection initiatives. John Catena and Kim Hughes

Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee: Plans and implements habitat monitoring initiatives. Reg Melanson and Hilary Neckles

Habitat Conservation Subcommittee: Creating a regional strategy for marine habitat conservation. Marianne Janowicz and Katie Lund

Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative (GOMMI): Developing and implementing a Gulf-wide seafloor-mapping program. Susan Snow-Cotter and Brian Todd

Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee: Assesses human and environmental health issues and implements contaminant-monitoring efforts in the Gulf of Maine. Steve Jones and Peter Wells

Public Education and Participation Committee: Advances the education and communication goals of the Council, Working Group, and other committees. Cultivates a sense of stewardship among citizens of the Gulf of Maine region. Theresa Torrent-Ellis and Marilyn Webster

Data Information and Management Committee: Serves the data and information needs of the Council, Working Group, and committees. Facilitates access for researchers, government, non-profit organizations and the public to data and information through development of Web tools and products. Seth Barker

TASK FORCES/PANELS WITH CO-CHAIRS AND LEADS

Marine Research and Innovation: Seeks strategies to produce and aggressively implement a use-inspired marine research, observing, and monitoring framework between 2004-2005. Designing a process that responds to pressing marine environmental management issues and grows the region's technology economy. David Keeley

Geotourism: In collaboration with tourism promotion agencies, industry providers, and conservation interests, creating a strategy for sustainable nature-based tourism. Theresa Torrent-Ellis

Aquatic Nuisance Species: Formulating and carrying out an Aquatic Nuisance Species Regional Plan. John McPhedran and Susan Snow-Cotter

Climate Change: Stimulates networking and identifies roles for the Gulf of Maine Council in responding to climate change issues. Gary Lines

Emerging Issues: Explores "over the horizon" issues and makes recommendations to the Council. Larry Hildebrand

Nutrients: Supports Gulf-wide pilot project associated with U.S. susceptibility analysis of estuarine eutrophication. Suzanne Bricker

Science Translation: Promotes the translation of science to management by providing information needed by coastal managers to improve coastal and marine management. Susan Snow-Cotter

Sewage: Implements its plan to manage sewage contamination and eliminate discharges. Patricia Hinch

Aquaculture: Stimulates networking and identifies roles for the Gulf of Maine Council in responding to aquaculture issues. Marianne Janowicz

Indicators Work Group: Provides further discussion and action on indicators identified at the 2003 Indicators Workshop and other workshop recommendations. David Keeley



Appendix C: GOMC Internal Grants Proposal Review Form

The *ad hoc* Internal Grants Sub-Committee will review each proposal submitted according to the following format. The "group" referred to is the Committee, Task Force, or Panel.

Name of Project/File Number: _____

Reviewed by: _____

Does the project build capacity within the group? No Yes
How does the project contribute to the goals and objectives of the group?

How does the project contribute to the *GOMC Action Plan*?

Do the deliverables already exist or are others undertaking this work? No Yes
Are the deliverables for this project reasonable and achievable? No Yes
Can the work be completed within the proposed timeframe? No Yes
Would this project proceed without the grant? No Yes
Are matching funds identified? No Yes
Are the project costs realistic to complete the activities proposed? No Yes
Will this project lead to a multi-year project? No Yes
What are the positive environmental results of the project?

What are the weak points of the project?

Points requiring clarification or additional information:

Could there be a negative environmental, social, or economic impact of this project?

Other Committees/task Forces/Panels that should be aware of this project:

Is the described enhancement of the project reasonable? No Yes
Is the project worth doing and will it benefit the GOMC? No Yes

Decision: Approve Project as is *Request additional clarification

*Describe needed clarification: _____

Submitted by Jane Tims, NB Department of Environment and Local Government and Eric Williams



Gulf of Maine Spatial Data Framework Project: Sharing and Integrating maps of the Gulf of Maine

Maps are a critical source of information for resource managers and decision makers. Today, many federal, state, academic, and non-government organizations routinely collect geo-spatial data that are ultimately incorporated into maps. Additionally, initiatives like GOMMI are planning to collect large detailed geo-spatial data sets aimed at addressing resource management issues in the Gulf of Maine. These data sets need to be easily shared and integrated over the web in order to increase their availability and effectiveness.

This need was recognized by a consortium of organizations (see listing below) from the Gulf of Maine. This consortium applied for and was awarded a grant from the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and GeoConnections Canada under the Cooperative Agreements Program in the summer of 2003. One of the primary goals of the Gulf of Maine Spatial Data Framework Project was to implement a standard that would allow organizations to share and integrate maps online while maintaining their own data sets.

The ability to integrate and share maps over the web was accomplished by implementing the Open GIS Consortium's Web Mapping Service standard. By implementing Web Mapping Services, multiple organizations from the Gulf of Maine and beyond that use different map making and serving technologies have enabled their maps to be shared and integrated over the web.

Another important goal of the project was to create a mapping portal with two key functions. The first function is to allow stakeholders to view and create maps from the multiple maps made available by the partner organizations and others using Web Mapping Services. The second function is to provide a resource for organizations that would like to implement similar web mapping services or add mapping content to a website.

Project Products

GoMMaP (Gulf of Maine Mapping Portal) <http://www.gommap.org>

GoMMaP provides stakeholders/users with a place to view Gulf of Maine maps that are made available through Web Mapping Services. Additionally, GoMMaP serves as a resource for organizations that would like to publish their data using Web Mapping Services or would like to add mapping content to a website.

Gulfwatch mapping application

Draft version available at <http://dev.gomoos.org/chameleon/gulfwatch/>

The final version will be at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/gulfwatch/>

This demonstration application makes the Gulfwatch data available for the first time in an interactive mapping tool that also uses dynamic map layers made available through the project.

Project Partners

Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO)

Canadian Hydrographic Survey (CHS)

Census of Marine Life - Gulf of Maine Program

Geologic Survey of Canada (GSC)

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative (GOMMI)

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

me3 Technology Consultants

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - Coastal Services Center

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - Northeast Fisheries Science Center

United States Geological Survey (USGS) - Woods Hole Field Center

Submitted by Tom Shyka, GoMOOS



Little River saltmarsh restoration field trip

Little River salt marsh is located on Route 1A (Ocean Boulevard) in North Hampton, just southwest of Route 111 and just northwest of North Hampton State Beach. The main tidal creek is located at the intersection of Route 1A and Sea Road. Parking is available at North Hampton State Beach.

After nearly a decade of partnership efforts, adequate tidal flow has been restored to Little River salt marsh. Now, recovery of native marsh habitat can begin and freshwater flooding caused by an inadequate outlet will end. The Little River salt marsh is a back barrier marsh lying between Little Boar's Head in North Hampton and a rocky headland just south of North Shore road in Hampton. USDA soil maps indicate that originally the marsh was approximately 193 acres in size. Until recently most of the original marsh had been greatly reduced to 160 acres. The amount of healthy salt marsh was only 42 acres.

For further information, please visit <http://www.des.state.nh.us/coastal/restoration/littleriver.htm>.

Submitted by Ted Diers, NH Coastal Program, NH Department of Environmental Services