



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

Council Retreat and Meeting Briefing Packet

Version 1 • November 22, 2005

Wiscasset, ME • December 1-2, 2005



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Council agenda

Thursday, December 1, 2005, The Chewonki Foundation, Wiscasset, ME

9:00 AM	Welcome <i>W. Donald Hudson, The Chewonki Foundation and Chair, Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment</i>
9:10 AM	Outline meeting purpose and agenda <i>Tobey Williamson, Facilitator, Barton & Gingold (unless otherwise noted below, Tobey facilitate discussion)</i>
9:20 AM	Presentation: retrospective on previous action planning and stakeholder input <i>David Keeley and Michele Tremblay</i>
9:50 AM	Discussion: retrospective and input presentation
10:20 AM	Recap: Working Group training session on logic models with time for questions and answers with a focus on audience, outcome determination/accountability/SMAART objectives
10:45 AM	Break
11:00 AM	Discussion: sphere of influence vs. sphere of concern
11:10 AM	Discussion: breadth vs. depth – what are the roles of the Council?
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Discussion: Gulf of Maine issues unique to a jurisdiction, those that we share but can be addressed by each jurisdiction, and those issues where a coordinated response is required
2:00 PM	Discussion: Council Statement of Purpose
2:30 PM	Presentation: goals and objectives from the October Working Group session <i>Liz Hertz, Maine State Planning Office and Chair, GOMC Working Group</i>
2:45 PM	Initial feedback on each goal and objective: the Councilors will work in small groups and discuss an overnight assignment
3:00 PM	Break before business meeting (continued on next page)



3:15 pm	<p>Approval of consent agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. June 2005 Council meeting decision and action items - <i>Michele Tremblay, Council Coordinator</i> 2. Indirect rate approval – <i>Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association Executive Director</i> and <i>Priscilla Brooks, USGOMA Treasurer</i> 3. GOM Council-Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership Agreement progress report – <i>Patricia Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour</i> 4. GOMC Development Strategy – <i>David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator</i> 5. Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) – <i>David Keeley</i> 6. Proclamation – <i>David Keeley</i> 7. Committee, sub-committee, and task force reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee - <i>Steve Jones, University of NH</i> and <i>Peter Wells, Environment Canada, Committee Co-chairs</i> ▪ Public Education and Participation Committee - <i>Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office</i> and <i>Marilyn Webster, NS Department of Education, Committee Co-chairs</i> ▪ Habitat Conservation Sub-committee - <i>Marianne Janowicz, NB Department of Environment and Local Government</i> and <i>Katie Lund, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management, Sub-committee Co-chairs</i> ▪ Habitat Monitoring Sub-committee – <i>Hilary Neckles, US Geological Society</i> and <i>Reg Melanson, Canadian Wildlife Service</i> ▪ Habitat Restoration Sub-committee - <i>Jon Kachmar, Habitat Restoration Coordinator Gulf of Maine Program</i> for co-chairs <i>Lee Swanson, NB Department of Environment and Local Government</i> and <i>John Catena, National Marine Fisheries Service</i> ▪ Gulf of Maine Mapping initiative - <i>Susan Snow-Cotter</i> and <i>Brian Todd, Canadian Geological Survey, GOMMI Co-chairs</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, Seascope Kayak Tours</i> and <i>Theresa Torrent-Ellis, task force co-chairs</i> ▪ Indicators - <i>no lead currently designated</i> ▪ Marine Research and Innovation - <i>no lead currently designated</i> ▪ Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel – <i>John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection</i> and <i>Judith Pederson, MIT Sea Grant, Panel Co-chairs</i> ▪ Nutrients - <i>Suzanne Bricker, NOAA National Ocean Service, Task Force lead</i> ▪ Sewage Management Task Force - <i>Peter Wells</i> and <i>Pat Hinch, Task Force Co-chairs</i> ▪ Science Translation - <i>Susan Snow-Cotter, initiative lead</i>
3:20 pm	<p>Ocean Task Force <i>David Keeley</i></p>
3:50 PM	<p>Ecosystem Indicators Partnership <i>David Keeley</i></p>
4:20 PM	<p>Proclamation update <i>David Keeley</i></p>
4:35 PM	<p>Canada’s Ocean Action Plan <i>Joe Arbour, Department of Fisheries and Oceans</i> and <i>Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada</i></p>
5:00 PM	<p>Time for items removed from consent agenda and other business</p>
5:30 PM	<p>Adjourn</p>



Friday, December 1, 2005

7:30 – 8:45 AM	Canadian and US Gulf of Maine Association meetings (each Association will send to you the meeting agendas)
9:00 AM	Review and reflection on yesterday's progress
9:20 AM	Discussion of goals and objectives
10:15 AM	Break
10:30 AM	Continued discussion of goals and objectives
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Discussion: Thinking about the Council's structure and how it might change to meet the new Action Plan? When should the Council begin this discussion? How can we develop more effect Council meeting agendas?
1:30 PM	Review and adjust six-month schedule for action plan: next steps, what and when?
1:45 PM	Recruit Councilors for Action Plan Advisory Committee(s): next steps, who?
2:00 PM	Adjourn

Gulf of Maine Councilor biographical summaries

as of November 20, 2005

Stephen Pritchard, Secretary, Massachusetts Office of Environmental Affairs

Stephen Pritchard was sworn in as Secretary of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) on July 12, 2005. Acting Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) since February 2005, he has led the parks unification initiative to combine the two 100-yr old urban and state parks agencies, including consolidating operations, creating the world-class parks management systems, and implementing the Fix-It-First approach to the DCR's capital spending. Prior to the DCR assignment, Secretary Pritchard was the Chief Operating Officer/Chief of Staff for the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs where he worked with environmental, business and government stakeholders on key initiatives and policies including environmental permitting reform, world-class parks and oceans management. Prior to state government, Secretary Pritchard, 47, spent most of his career working in business development and operations in the energy sector. He led the development and permitting of one of the cleanest combined cycle natural gas fired power production facilities in the country at Infrastructure Development Company. Prior to that, Pritchard was a vice president of operations at Intercontinental Energy Corporation, where he managed multiple energy production facilities. Pritchard also worked for thirteen years at a mid-Atlantic based investor owned energy/utility company. Mr. Pritchard earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Northeastern University in Boston in 1981. He earned a Masters Degree in Business Administration at Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland in 1985. He lives in Scituate with his wife and their daughter.

Susan Snow-Cotter, Director, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management

Susan Snow –Cotter holds a BA in Political Science from UMass/Amherst and a Masters in Marine Affairs from the University of Washington. Her professional experience includes work in the non-profit sector with the Wilderness Society in Boston in the early 1980's and six years in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands working on fisheries and coastal zone management issues. From 1994 to 1999 she served as Ocean Policy Coordinator for the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM). In that capacity, Susan worked on aquaculture and ocean resource planning projects and represented Massachusetts on the Gulf of Maine Council Working Group and the Minerals Management Service's Outer Continental Shelf Policy Committee. In 1999, Susan was appointed Assistant Director for Coastal and Ocean Management with oversight of all CZM's marine resource management programs including water quality, marine monitoring, aquatic nuisance species, ocean management and data management. Most recently, Susan led the Governor's Ocean Management Task Force process that resulted in the development of a two volume Task Force report and recommendations. She is currently serving as Director of the Office of Coastal Zone Management.

Priscilla Brooks, Ph.D., Conservation Law Foundation (private sector Councilor for MA)

Priscilla Brooks is the Director of the Marine Resources Project and environmental economist for the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF). Dr. Brooks received her Bachelor of Science degree in Communications from Cornell University in 1981 and Master of Science (1987) and Ph.D. degrees in environmental and natural resource economics from the University of Rhode Island. Prior to joining CLF in 1994, Dr. Brooks worked as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Rhode Island where her research focused on international trade and marketing of fisheries products and the economics of seafood safety and aquaculture, with implications for fisheries management and public policy. The Conservation Law Foundation was founded in 1966 and is New England leading environmental advocacy organization. CLF works to solve the environmental problems that threaten the people, natural resources, and communities of New England. CLF's advocates use law, economics, and science to design and implement strategies that conserve natural resources, protect public health, and promote vital communities in the region. CLF's major project areas include communities (land use, transportation reform, and public health); marine resources (fisheries management and marine environment protection); energy (power system restructuring, air quality, renewable energy, and efficiency); and natural resources (forest and waterways protection). CLF's marine resources project has worked for two and a half decades to institute pollution control and water quality improvements, prevent offshore oil and gas development, protect marine habitat, and rebuild New England's legendary fisheries. In 1995, Dr. Brooks served as co-chair of the Massachusetts Governor's Task Force on Aquaculture, and she currently chairs the New England Fishery Management Council's Social Sciences Advisory Committee. Raised in Baltimore, Maryland, she resides in Ipswich, Massachusetts with her husband, John Wigglesworth, and two children, Rosie and Nicholas.

Martha Freeman, Director, Maine State Planning Office

Martha Freeman took over as Director of the State Planning Office on September 2, 2003. Most recently, Martha served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Baldacci. In this capacity, she focused on management issues and such policy matters as community colleges, education initiatives, and municipal restructuring. Prior to joining the



administration, Freeman was the key policy person during the Baldacci for Governor campaign and the transition, convening groups of stakeholders and developing policies that would become the basis for the agenda of the new administration. Previously, Freeman served as Director of the Maine Legislature's Office of Policy and Legal Analysis and as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General. She has also been a public policy and management consultant, a counselor in private practice and a published author writing about the environment. Freeman has a law degree from the University of Maine School of Law and a master's degree from the University of Maine Graduate Program in Clinical Counseling.

George D. Lapointe, Commissioner, Maine Department of Marine Resources

Mr. Lapointe was appointed Commissioner of the Maine Department of Marine Resources in September 1998. George is a veteran state and federal marine fisheries manager. He received his BS in Wildlife Biology from the University of Massachusetts and holds a Master of Science in Wildlife from the University of Minnesota. Commissioner Lapointe formerly held the position of Director, Interstate Fisheries Management Program, with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), Washington, DC from December 1994 - September 1998. George directed ASMFC's fishery management planning activities; supervised the preparation and implementation of fishery management plans for 19 Atlantic Coast species, seeking state-based solutions to fishery management issues; coordinated activities with state marine fisheries agencies, federal agencies, academic and scientific organizations, conservation organizations, and members of the public to promote efficiency, outreach and public participation in the ASMFC fishery process. Prior to ASMFC from 1991-94, Lapointe was Project Liaison, Proactive Strategies Project, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Baton Rouge, LA. From 1989 - 1991, he was Legislative Counsel, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Washington, D.C. From 1987-1989, he was Council Liaison, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Washington, D.C., representing ASMFC as a non-voting member on three Atlantic Coast Councils. From 1985-87 he was Fisheries Management Specialist, Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), Newport News, VA. Commissioner Lapointe currently resides in Hallowell with his wife and two sons.

W. Don Hudson, Jr., President, Chewonki Foundation (private sector Councilor for ME)

Don Hudson developed an interest in plants and ecology in the early 1970s while leading expeditions for the Chewonki Foundation in the wilds of Quebec. He followed that interest to the slopes of Katahdin, and earned a Master's degree from the University of Vermont studying the reproductive biology of a rare Arctic plant. He then moved to Indiana University to complete doctoral studies on aspects of the origin and evolution of a domesticated plant, the tomaté or husk tomato. Don became the Head Naturalist at Chewonki in 1982, was appointed Executive Director in 1991, and President in 1997. Don and several students at Chewonki surveyed Baxter State Park and the western Maine mountains for old-growth forest and alpine features in 1984 and 1985. He has served on the State's Endangered Plant Technical Advisory Committee and its successor, the Botanical Advisory Committee, which support the Natural Heritage program, and the New England Plant Conservation Program. As time permits, Don continues to search out rare plants in mountain haunts. Don has served as the President of the Maine Environmental Education Association and the Gulf of Maine Marine Education Association. He currently serves on the board of the National Marine Educators Association. Don was appointed by Governor Angus King to the Citizen Advisory Panel for the Decommissioning of Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station in 1997, and by Speaker Saxl to Maine's Advisory Commission on Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning in 2000. Governor King also appointed Don as the Public Sector representative of the Maine delegation to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment in 2001. For the past ten years, Don has surveyed and documented the osprey population in mid-coast Maine—from the Damariscotta River to the New Meadows River. Don assists with the teaching of the science course, "Natural History of the Maine Coast," for Chewonki's Maine Coast Semester. Don lives in Arrowsic, Maine with his wife, Josephine Ewing, a botanist, gardener, and scientific illustrator, and their two sons, Charlie and Reuben.

Dale Graham, Minister, New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government

Dale Allison Graham was elected to the legislative assembly of New Brunswick as the Progressive Conservative Party member for Carleton North in a by election held June 28, 1993. After redistribution, he was re-elected in the general elections held September 11, 1995, and June 7, 1999, representing the riding of Carleton. On June 21, 1999, he was sworn in as Minister of Supply and Services and Deputy Premier. He was re-elected as member for Carleton on June 9, 2003, and was sworn in as Minister of Supply and Services and Deputy Premier on Friday, June 27. On July 22, 2005, he was appointed as acting Minister of the Environment and Local Government. Born in Woodstock, N.B., Mr. Graham attended local schools in Centreville. A restaurant and bake shop owner since 1981, he was vice-president of the Carleton North Progressive Conservative Association and offered as the Progressive Conservative candidate in the 1991 provincial general election. Mr. Graham has a long history of contribution to his community. He served for several years as a school trustee in Districts 30 and 13; as member of the steering committee Centreville "Project Splash"; as director of Carleton-York Community Futures; and as vice-president of the Centreville Chamber of Commerce. He is a member and former deacon of the Centreville United Baptist Church. As a member of the



Opposition, Mr. Graham served on the legislature's Select Committee on Land Use and the Rural Environment. He was a member of the legislature's Standing Committees on Privileges, and Law Amendments, and the Select Committee on Gasoline Pricing. He chaired the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. He served as the PC whip and the critic for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Supply and Services. He is a member of the Board of Management and the Policy and Priorities Committee. Mr. Graham and his wife, the former Shelley McDougall, are the parents of four children.

David Nathan Alward, Minister, New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture

David Nathan Alward was elected to the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly in the provincial general election held June 7, 1999, as the member for Woodstock. He was the Chairman of the Legislature's Standing Committee on Crown Corporations. In addition, he was a member of the Select Committee to Review Appointments by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council and the Select Committee on Private Passenger Automobile Insurance. He was born December 2, 1959, in Beverly, Massachusetts, and is the son of the Reverend Ford and Mrs. Jean Alward. He graduated from Nackawic Senior High School and completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology at Bryan College, Dayton, Tennessee. He has also completed course work toward a Master of Arts degree in Counselling Psychology as well as several seminars and workshops relating to group facilitation, conflict resolution, human resource development, and community development. Mr. Alward was employed with the federal government from 1982 until 1996, initially with Canada Customs and later, as program officer with Human Resources Development Canada. For the past three years he has been self-employed as a human resource development and community development consultant. In addition to his consulting work, he and his family operate a small family farm in Riceville, N.B., where they raise purebred Hereford cattle and own and operate a small woodlot. Active in his community, he volunteered as an emergency medical technician and lab instructor with the Saint John Ambulance and as a firefighter with the Meductic Fire Department. He served on the board directors of the Carleton Regional Development Commission and the New Brunswick Hereford. He served on the Centennial Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee, the School District Stay-in-School Committee, and the local agricultural employment board. He has also been a volunteer in local recreational activities and student tutoring. He was re-elected as member for Woodstock on June 9, 2003, and sworn in as Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture on June 27, 2003. He and his wife Rhonda have two sons, Jonathan and Benjamin.

Lee Sochasky, Executive Director, St. Croix International Waterway Commission (private sector Councilor for NB)

Lee Sochasky has worked in natural resource and rural development fields along the Canada/US boundary for over thirty years. Ms. Sochasky is currently the Executive Director of the St. Croix International Waterway Commission, an organization that coordinates the delivery of a transboundary management plan for the St. Croix River corridor on the Maine/New Brunswick border. Since 1989, she has been responsible for planning, research, and management facilitation in fields that include land and water use, fisheries, recreation, heritage appreciation and economic development. In 1988-1989, Ms. Sochasky was the first executive director of Charlotte County Community Futures Inc., a rural economic development agency for southwestern New Brunswick. Her work to establish an economic recovery program for the region included the creation of the NB/ME "Quoddy Loop" tourism concept, school- and career-based training programs, and a county-wide low income housing cooperative. From 1971 to 1987, Ms. Sochasky held various positions with the Atlantic Salmon Federation in programs for Atlantic salmon research, conservation, protection, education and public involvement in Atlantic Canada and New England. Ms. Sochasky's volunteer activities have included participation in the national sailing instructor program, town planning, water monitoring, trail development, and heritage promotion. She holds a B.Sc. degree (Honours, Animal Behaviour) from McGill University, with post-graduate studies in marine biology and business management. Residing in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, she works daily in both New Brunswick and Maine to promote an international perspective to issues affecting the Gulf of Maine.

Kerry Morash, Minister, Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour

The Honorable Kerry Morash was born in Liverpool on November 29, 1958. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Acadia University and has Canadian Registered Safety Professional designation. He joined Bowater Mersey upon graduation and worked 18 years as safety co-ordinator in various sectors. He was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in July 1999; re-elected in August 2003. He was appointed caucus chair in June 2002. Minister Morash is married to Patricia Morash; they have twin daughters.

Chris d'Entremont, Minister, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Minister d'Entremont was born October 31, 1969 in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. He graduated from the Loyalist College of Applied Arts and Technology in Belleville, Ontario. He worked as announcer at Radio CJLS and was employed as electronics salesperson for TriStar and for Camille d'Eon Boatbuilders. He is presently employed as development officer for South West Shore Development Authority. He was first elected to Legislative Assembly in August 2003.



Executive assistant to former Finance Minister Neil LeBlanc. Member of Argyle Municipal Planning Commission. The minister is a member of the West Pubnico Fire Department, secretary to the West Pubnico Fireman's Club, a member of Dewey's Charitable Association, Yarmouth County Crime Prevention Association, Festival Acadien de Ste.-Anne du Ruisseau, and the Rotary Club of Yarmouth. He is treasurer of South West Nova Scouting Council and treasurer and firefighter for Eel Brook and District Fire Department. He is married to Anne Muise and has two sons.

Michael P. Nolin, Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Michael Nolin was appointed Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services in May 2003. Prior to his appointment, he was the Corporate Vice President of Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, a Manchester engineering consulting firm. Prior to joining Hoyle, Tanner & Associates in 1987, he served as the Administrator of the Public Information & Permitting Unit of the Department of Environmental Services. While with HTA, Nolin was involved in managing a wide range of environmental and transportation projects. Nolin is a lifelong resident of New Hampshire, and has demonstrated a commitment to the state's environmental issues throughout his career. For several years in '70s, he was water quality director with the Lakes Region Commission, and he was a consultant on water quality issues in Rockingham County. Nolin has also served several New Hampshire governors on number of boards, from Gov. Walter Peterson to Gov. Benson. He is the longest serving member of the Transportation Enhancement Advisory Committee, having served under three governors. In addition to his position on the Lakes Region Planning Commission, he has served on the State Wetlands Board, and in 1995 was the Governor's designee to the Clean Air Act Study Committee. He currently belongs to a number of environmentally related professional associations and societies. While Nolin is "all business" on the job, his family is his "number one interest in life." He and his wife, Paulette, enjoy their four grown children and their four grandchildren. He is also known to enjoy a little golf, concerts, the Granite State Opera, and traveling abroad when time permits.

David M. Haney, Bank of America, (private sector Councilor for NH)

Mr. Haney, Regional Director, Fleet Bank, represents the Bank's community development interests in the States of Maine and New Hampshire. He has a BSBA from the University of Colorado where he was named Outstanding Male Business School Graduate. He graduated from the Prochnow School of Management, University of Wisconsin Graduate School of Business, and attended the Stanford University Bank Simulation Pilot Study Program. He has done further postgraduate work at The University of Colorado at Denver in Organizational Development. Mr. Haney is engaged in multiple community-based activities in the areas of affordable housing, economic development, diversity, and environmental issues. He has served on organizations supporting affordable housing including vice-chair of the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority; founding Chair of the NH Community Reinvestment Corporation, founding member of the NH Workforce Housing Council; FNMA Northern New England Advisory Board; National Association of State Housing Agencies and Boards, New England Housing Council; NH & Maine Housing Forums; and Seacoast, Upper Valley, and Nashua Workforce Housing Coalitions. In support of economic development, Mr. Haney has served as Chair of COMBINET – Community & Business Information Network; Chair of Amoskeag Small Business Incubator; NH Community Development Finance Authority, SEED Advisory Board; NH and NE Associations of Economic Development; NHEDA Curriculum Planning Committee; Alliance of Regional Economic Development Associations, Board; Seacoast Technology Incubator Planning Committee; Manchester Enterprise Community (EC/EZ) Advisory Board; Intown Manchester, Economic Development Working Committee; Four Directions Native American CDFI and Advisory Board. Mr. Haney serves on organizations dedicated to diversity including as chair of NH Champions of Diversity; Fleet NH & ME Regional Diversity Leadership Councils; NH Minority Health Coalition; One Community, Disability/Minority Planning Committee; Nashua Ethnic Awareness Committee; New England Minority Health Planning Committee; and NH Community Leaders of Color. David serves on environmental organizations as a Councilor on the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and Secretary/Treasurer of the US Gulf of Maine Association. David Haney's community interests include serving as Chair of Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services, (Founding Chair); New England & National Advisory Councils, Neighborhood Reinvestment Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital, Assembly of Overseers; Kids Count Cabinet, NH Children's Alliance; Plan NH; and Puppy raiser for the Guide Dog Foundation for The Blind. Recognition and Awards include SBA Financial Services Advocate of the Year in 2002; Fleet Community Development Officer of the Year in 2002; NH Bankers Association, Community Banker of Year, Nominee 2003; BankBoston, Golden Eagle Award for Volunteerism, 1999; and Leadership NH, Class of 1999.

GOM FEDERAL PARTNERS

Pat Kurkul, Northeast Regional Administrator, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service

Ms. Kurkul has been Northeast Regional Administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) since 1999. In that capacity, she is responsible for the development of policy and the implementation of management programs for the living marine resources of the northeastern United States. She is also a member of the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, and of several other regional natural resource related bodies. Ms. Kurkul is a career government employee having been with NOAA Fisheries since 1980. She began with



the organization as an economist. Her experience at NOAA Fisheries also includes a period as a senior policy analyst and as Office Director for Sustainable Fisheries. She has a Bachelors and a Masters Degree in Resource Economics.

Jackie Olsen, Environment Canada

Jacqueline Olsen joined the Federal Government in 1980 after gaining private industry experience in the banking field. During her 22 years with Parks Canada, Jacqueline served on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts beginning at Jasper and Pacific Rim National Parks, Kitwanga and Fort St. James National Historic Sites, then moving east in 1990 to assume the responsibilities of Corporate Director at Fundy National Park in New Brunswick. Jacqueline has served a variety of functions during her career from Corporate Services to Project Management, Visitor Services and Public Education. Her Senior Management level positions with Parks Canada include Superintendent of the New Brunswick South Field Unit, Director of the Atlantic Service Centre, and Director of Management Services for Eastern Canada. In February 2002, Jacqueline joined Environment Canada as the Director of Corporate Affairs responsible for Corporate Communications, Strategic Planning and Community Programs (EcoAction, Community Animation Program, Sustainable Communities Initiative, and Atlantic Coastal Action Program). She holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Saint Mary's University, Halifax), a Master of Business Administration (Dalhousie University, Halifax), and has a Human Resources designation (CPPMA). Jacqueline has a long-standing interest and dedication in the area of people management and considers team-building to be an important aspect of her job.

Linda Murphy, Director, EPA Region I Office of Ecosystem Protection

Linda Murphy is director of EPA New England's Office of Ecosystem Protection and is responsible for the air, surface water, drinking water, hazardous waste, pesticides, and toxics programs. The office also is responsible for the Indian and urban programs. Linda is a civil engineer and has worked for EPA since 1974. Prior to that she worked for USDA and for a local municipality.

Faith Scattolon, Director, Oceans Act Coordination Office, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Ms. Scattolon graduated from Dalhousie University in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Ms. Scattolon began her career with DFO in 1981 working in DFO's Science Branch, Invertebrate Division, on cephalopod research programs and developing fisheries for offshore and inshore surf clams. Ms. Scattolon assumed increasing management responsibilities and began working in DFO's Fisheries Management Branch in 1987, first as Manager of the Regional Commercial Fisheries Licensing Program, and then in 1990 as Senior Fisheries Management Advisor for Invertebrate Fisheries along the Scotian Shelf and in the Bay of Fundy. In 1992 and 1993, Ms. Scattolon worked as the Atlantic Officer on a special team established within DFO to design a new legislature framework for managing commercial fisheries. In 1994, Ms. Scattolon was appointed Senior Assistant to the Regional Director-General, Maritimes Region, DFO. Ms. Scattolon was appointed Director of the Oceans Act Coordination Office in October 1997. The Office, established at that time, is a multidisciplinary office tasked with coordinating implementation of the Oceans Act in the Maritimes.

Compiled and prepared by Michele L. Tremblay

Articulating the role of the Council

Background – This document was prepared to assist the Council in their December 2005 deliberations about its role as a transboundary organization in the Gulf of Maine. Naturally the functions it performs, both internally and externally, flows from the non-binding 1989 Governors and Premiers Agreement, its current mission statement, and its 17-year history in responding to regional issues. Together these help define the Council's current role.

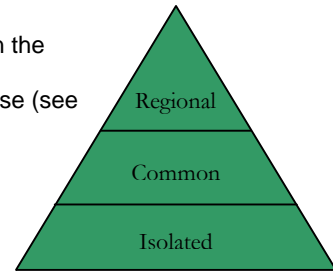
Mission

“to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine and to *allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations*”

The Council is comprised largely of representatives from federal, provincial, and state fisheries, environmental and planning agencies. (Twenty-five percent of the Council represents non-profit and business interests.) The Premiers and Governors envisioned these representatives coming together in this international setting to act on issues they could not address individually. They believed “*the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.*” As such the Council's actions are advisory.

Region-wide issues requiring a collective response – There are literally hundreds of important issues occurring throughout the region that fit within the Council's mission. To help focus Council resources the following logic model is offered.

- Isolated -- issues that occur in just one or a few of the jurisdictions
- Common -- issues that occur in all jurisdictions and can be addressed within the jurisdiction
- Regional – issues that require or significantly benefit from a regional response (see appendix for examples)

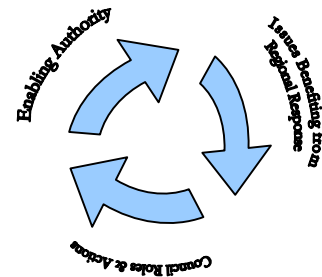


There are also cross cutting methods and techniques that are enhanced by regional cooperation and can respond to multiple issues. For example, environmental data and information management systems support permitting, science research and education. Or regional monitoring programs enable cost sharing and may greatly expand uses of the data.

Possible Council Roles – Between 2006-2011 the role of the Council will be informed by its enabling authority and 16-year history as well as the “required responses” to the issues benefiting from a collective regional response.

To facilitate the Council's discussion the following “strawman narratives” are provided to assist it in crystallizing its role for the period 2006 to 2011. After each narrative that describes **what the role** of the Council is there are examples of **how** it might perform its work.

1. Practitioners of integrated watershed, coastal and ocean management – The Council's origins are founded in ecosystem-based management. Inherently this approach has tried to ignore political boundaries in favor of an integrated, watershed context. It recognizes the Gulf provides essential ecological values (e.g., flood retention, high primary productivity, etc.) that sustain ecosystem functions. Further, since inception the Council's mission has explicitly recognized that the region's economy is inextricably tied to the goods and services the Gulf of Maine ecosystem produces. (Various reports (e.g., www.oceanecomics.org) provide strong documentation of these economic values.)



Examples of how the Council might do this?

- a. *Organize and deploy region-wide information management efforts (e.g., monitoring, mapping, research, indicators and environmental reporting) that enable better management decisions*
- b. *Prepare and disseminate Gulf education and outreach via the GOM Times, the web, etc.*
- c. *Catalyze restoration of degraded coastal environments in partnership with local interests*
- d. *Focus attention on science or policy gaps and promote solutions*
- e. *Foster innovative region-wide projects and secure the necessary resources*
- f. *Make people aware of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem and the fit with sub-regions*

Ecosystem-based management is an integrated approach to management that considers the entire ecosystem, including humans. The goal of ecosystem-based management is to maintain an ecosystem in a healthy, productive, and resilient condition so that it can provide the services humans want and need.



2. Enable the region's governments be more effective stewards – By working together in a regional forum the states, provinces and federal agencies are learning from each other, trying new approaches and as a result are better stewards of the resources they are responsible for in their jurisdiction.

Examples of how the Council might do this?

- a. *Organize forums, workshops and conferences that showcase innovative approaches*
- b. *Council roundtable discussions at semi-annual meetings*
- c. *Staff exchanges and sharing of materials (e.g., regulatory analysis, education materials, etc.)*

3. Sustain strong partnerships – Local and regional organizations are highly motivated and successful in responding to issues of regional concern. The Council participates in and nurtures these groups – often seeking to build their capacity by creating strategic alliances.

Examples of how the Council might do this?

- a. *Build the capacity of organizations through the annual Action Plan grants, technical assistance, resource publications/reports, workshops, and forums.*
- b. *Support BoFEP, RARGOM, ESIP, GoMOOS, Ocean Data Partnership*

Submitted by David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator



Appendix

Issues Requiring or Significantly Benefiting from Regional Response

This category of issues seeks to accelerate progress in attaining environmental and social goals. The rationale for this category includes:

1. Inactivity (or inconsistent approach) in one jurisdiction may undercut substantive, on-the-ground progress in a neighboring jurisdiction

Issue	Effect
A jurisdiction institutes progressive ballast water discharge standards but other ports in the region do not	Invasive species are more quickly & resources of the lead jurisdiction are wasted
A jurisdiction permits discharge of contaminant that is moved throughout the Gulf by the gyre and coastal currents (e.g., 1987 100-year flood event)	Jurisdictional efforts to improve water quality are impeded by those with lower standards.
Some jurisdictions protect key nesting, feeding and roosting spots for mobile or migratory birds via land conservation and regulations while other do not	Migratory bird populations are adversely affected by inactivity of non-participating jurisdictions & lack of integrated network of sites
Downwind jurisdictions institute air emission standards to address asthma while those upwind do not	The effect of the asthma reduction efforts are compromised
A jurisdiction seeks to control infectious waterborne diseases while others do not	Ecosystem integrity or public health is compromised
Ineffective land use controls (e.g., erosion and sediment control, wetland protection, buffers & setbacks) will affect neighboring jurisdiction efforts to restore fisheries dependent on the region's nursery habitats	Fisheries dependent on estuarine habitats for recruitment will be adversely affected

2. Jurisdictions working in isolation of each other on the same issues will likely need to invest more time and money in the design and start-up of jurisdictional initiatives. Further, the lack of coordination in project design will impede the exchange and application of data at a regional scale.

Issue	Effect
Neighboring jurisdictions independently develop innovative local stewardship training initiative	The costs to research and design the programs are greater
Jurisdictions design and implement environmental monitoring or benthic habitat mapping programs without consulting with each other	Different monitoring protocols and metadata standards impede sharing of results
Eco-tourism operators interested in voluntary certification standards develop jurisdictional approaches	Tourists and visitors to the region are confused by the different standards and effects of them

Submitted by David Keeley



Jurisdictional priorities

Identified at the Working Group Action Plan Retreat • October 2005

Jurisdiction	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3
Maine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintaining/enhancing habitat for full suite of species ▪ Clean Air ▪ Clean Water 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable nature-based industries
Massachusetts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ocean Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Passage of ocean management legislation ✓ Planning workgroup involving multiple agencies ✓ Habitat characterization/classification ✓ Seafloor mapping ▪ Coastal habitat management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Marine invasives monitoring ✓ Wetlands restoration and priority sites ✓ Eelgrass restoration ▪ Fisheries management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Protect and where feasible restore Diadromous fisheries ✓ Conserve, rebuild, and maintain economically valuable commercial and retentional marine fisheries 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land use management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Coastal geology/hazards guidance document ✓ Clean marine program and guidance ✓ Storm water BMP assessment ✓ Low impact development & smart growth guidance ▪ Ocean Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Marine economy valuation
New Brunswick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stewardship and education, including partnerships ▪ Integrated coastal zone management, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ecosystem based management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integrated coastal zone management, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Monitoring & compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable economic activities and Marine technology development, including mapping, energy, aquaculture and fisheries ▪ Integrated coastal zone management, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sustainable coastal communities ✓ Exploration of governance ✓ Coastal areas/oceans planning



<p>New Hampshire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve water quality and ecosystem health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Track environmental trends through long-term monitoring and environmental indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support regional development patterns that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ protect water quality ✓ maintain open space ✓ preserve ocean resources ▪ Support sustainable use of ocean resources that improve the regional economy
<p>Nova Scotia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NSDEL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Protected areas ✓ Private land conservation ▪ NSDAF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regulation & compliance ✓ Community Based restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NSDEL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Contaminants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Waste (on-site sewage disposal systems) ◆ Wastewater management (sewage, stormwater & sludge) ▪ HDAF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Fish processing (regulation compliance, monitoring, innovative technologies) ✓ Aquaculture industry (development, regulation, compliance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NSDEL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Environmental industries ✓ Technology innovation ▪ NS Tourism-sustainable tourism ▪ NSDAF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sustainable communities ✓ Sustainable aquaculture & fisheries <p>Goal 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated management & planning (cooperation, coordination, partnerships) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ addressing climate change ✓ strengthening environmental education programs ✓ continuing to promote stewardship initiatives ✓ facilitating effective community/public participation ✓ developing & implementing a provincial coastal policy



Federal-Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ecosystem-based management ▪ ecosystem overview ▪ federal/provincial cooperation ▪ Coastal & marine protected areas ▪ Identification of significant habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indicators, monitoring & reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gulfwatch ✓ ESIP ✓ Developing guidelines, legislation ▪ Climate change impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Understanding and adaptation ▪ Reduction of land and marine-based pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach and engagement
Federal-US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional Ocean Governance of marine protected areas ▪ Regional ecosystem based management ▪ Coastal & ocean mapping ▪ Critical habitats ▪ Water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integrated Ocean Observing System ▪ Indicators ▪ Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Natural Hazards ▪ Energy ▪ Smart growth ▪ Comprehensive land use planning ▪ Homeland Security- drinking water

Compiled and submitted by Tracy Wilson Administrative Assistant and Michele L. Tremblay

October 2005 Working Group Action Plan Retreat Summary

- 1. Goal of the meeting:** To develop options for the structure of an Action Plan for the Gulf of Maine Council for 2006-2011.

Objectives of the meeting:

- To reach consensus on GOMC Statement of Purpose
- To undertake a Strategic Assessment (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats facing the GOMC)
- To reach consensus on Action Plan goals
- To development 3 SMAART objectives (see item 2 for more explanation) per goal
- To reach clarity on next steps in Action Plan development

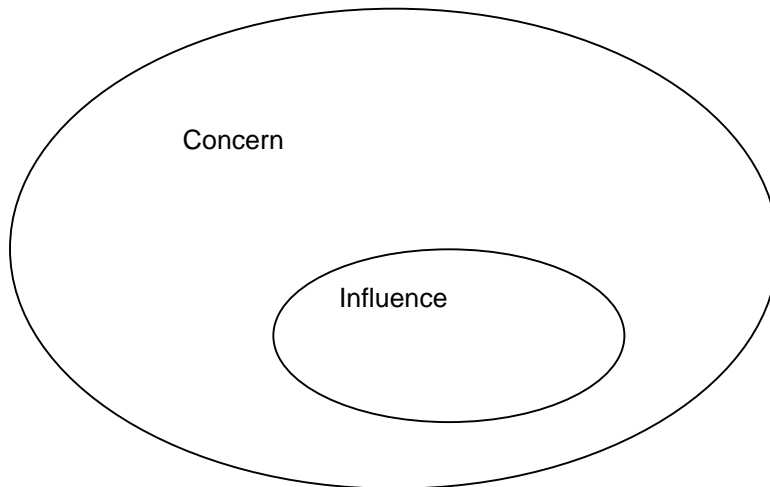
- 2. Key Concepts used to inform the meeting:**

- **Sphere of Influence (SOI) vs. Sphere of Concern (SOC)**

Sphere of Concern (SOC) is the universe of issues an organization is aware of and could work on.

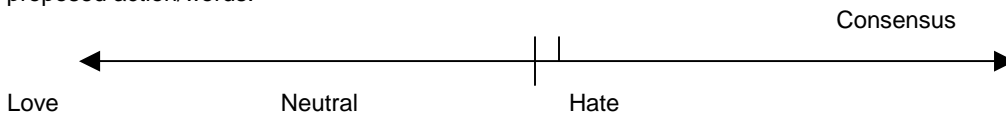
Sphere of Influence (SOI) is the particular issues within the SOC that the organization is best suited to address effectively given resources, skills, timing, etc.

By focusing on the SOI, and doing the very best work possible, the SOI can grow into a larger portion of the SOC. Focusing on the SOC without regard to the SOI often results in lower than optimal effectiveness, which can result in a shrinking of the SOI.



- **Consensus**

To have consensus, every decision-maker must be at least a notch above neutral, or able to “live with” the proposed action/words.



- **Focus**

The group realized during the LOGIC Model training given in the preceding day and a half by the NOAA Coastal Services Center that the more focused an outcome statement is, the easier it is to develop measurable objectives. The GOMC has been criticized for not having a focused agenda. Using Sphere of Influence/Sphere of Concern as a filter can help the organization develop more focus as different issues are raised for the Council to become involved in – we need to try and identify when the Council is the most appropriate group to take a lead on an issue and when the Council can partner and when an issue is part of our Sphere of Concern but not one that the Council can influence.



- **Accountability**

There was a lot of discussion about accountability during the training session, with agreement that developing measurable objectives and monitoring progress towards them was key to being accountable for GOMC's programs. The group brainstormed the following list of people/organizations to whom they are accountable:

- Council
- Gulf of Maine Stakeholders/Gulf of Maine Region
- Funders
- Governors/Premiers
- Ourselves
- Future Generations
- Coastal Communities

- **SMAART Objectives**

This acronym came from the NOAA training session and is a method for ensuring well-crafted objectives that can be compared to results to ensure accountability. Objectives should be:

Specific
Measurable
Audience Focused
Ambitious
Realistic
Time-bound

- **Performance Monitoring**

The key follow up to SMAART objectives to ensure accountability is to develop methods to collect and analyze the information required to measure progress towards outcomes.

3. **Statement of Purpose vs. Mission Statement**

What is a Mission Statement

- For external use – concepts/general
- Covers the realm of issues the organization addresses
- Identifies the organization's Sphere of Concern

What is a Purpose Statement

- For internal and informal use – actions/specific
- Describes why an organization exists
- Guides an organization's day to day actions
- Identifies the organization's sphere of influence

Creating a Statement of Purpose for the GOMC

Questions for Development of a GOMC Statement of Purpose:

- What is unique about the GOMC?
- What makes/could make the GOMC more than the sum of its parts?
- What would you like the GOMC to be known for?
- What is no one else doing for the Gulf of Maine?
- What issues require cross-boundary cooperation in order to be addressed effectively?

Responses to above questions; grouped into categories (Not prioritized)

The Council can foster *Integrated Governance*

- By developing common/shared strategies to address issues
- Through identification of environmental issues that require regional solutions
- By supporting connections between people
- By supporting connections across jurisdictions
- By supporting connections between watersheds and the EEZ
- Through the sharing of information and experiences across border



- By developing similar common approaches to eco-management

What the Council adds:

- Identify priority regional issues and facilitating regional approaches to those issues
 - By convening experts
 - By Identifying science or policy gaps/needs across region and promoting solutions
 - Providing leadership for regional ocean governance/ecosystem management
 - Fostering innovate regional projects
- Focus attention on region
- The GOMC is a body that promotes trans-boundary communication/collaboration to develop regional solutions to priority ecosystem issues and management.
- The GOMC fosters trans-boundary communication, cooperation, and collaboration on projects and programs that enhance recognition, understanding, and enhancement of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem.
- Regional linkage of GOM w/ Land Use
- Regional focus on offshore habitats (mapping characterization, etc.)
- Identify Bioregional issues and variety of efforts addressing them—Fed/State Gov.; NGO; community
- Ecosystem- based regional coordination
- Regional, Cross-border
- Enhance regional management structure
- Context is regional ecosystem and this integrates into international context for large-scale coastal regions.
- A forum to discuss the shared resources of the GOM
- Innovative ideas and new ways of doing business

How the Council adds value within the region:

Monitoring

- Establish conduct standardized monitoring programs throughout Gulf of Maine (State of Environment Reporting; habitat restoration monitoring)
- Gulf of Maine regional monitoring program for key ecosystem contaminants
- To report (periodically) on the health and ecological integrity of the GOM
- Water quality improvement
- Environmental quality that sustains ecosystem integrity, resource use, and biodiversity

Providing Funding

- Pooling of resources, human and economic, for greater environmental impact
- When funding is available, conduct and sponsor activities to protect and restore GOM resources
- Funding local projects at a regional scale (action and restoration grants)

Habitat

- Promoting stewardship of the GOM
- Critical habitat protection, especially for migratory species w/in GOM
- Promote habitat restoration and conservation

Sustainable Development/Use

- To encourage responsible behavior by people whose actions influence ecosystem health
- To promote sustainable economic and environmental development
- To enhance sustainable use of ocean resources based on sound science
- Info/BMP exchange
- Share info on environmental monitoring and management to assist in sustainable development

Communication/Collaboration

- Enables interaction & collaboration on coastal/marine issues
- Provides a forum to collaborate on coastal marine issues including ecosystem-based management in the Gulf of Maine
- Resource sharing
- To inform people about the importance of the ecosystem (GOM)
- Foster communication among jurisdictions
- Facilitate Reporting
- Trans-boundary dialogue



- Information exchange

Focus

- To bring Focus to the environmental issues facing the GOM and its watersheds.

Integrate Science/Disciplines & Decision-making

- Connections between disciplines
- Connections between decision-makers
- Ecosystem management
- Integration of science and management
- Champions of **Integrated** CZM
- To lead and facilitate an ecosystem based approach...

Community Involvement

Grassroots representation

Leadership

- To lead by example
- To inspire individual and collective action

Refinements of the Statement of Purpose Themes

Inform/Influence decision-making at multiple levels

Convene/Facilitate regional solutions

Information Exchange

Wisdom/vision

Translation of Scientific Information

- Funders
- Management
- Policy
- Education

Ecosystem Management

- Integrated governance
- Integrated Science/Disciplines
- Interdisciplinary

Trans-boundary

AGREED UPON OPTIONS FOR THE CORE OF A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- The Gulf of Maine Council facilitates/fosters, innovates, and collaborates on sustainable, integrated approaches to priority regional issues in the Gulf of Maine Ecosystem.
- The Gulf of Maine Council provides value-added services on a regional ecosystem basis through innovation.
- The Gulf of Maine Council provides vision and leadership in the development of innovative and time-honored solutions to priority regional issues in the Gulf of Maine Ecosystem.

4. SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) Analysis

• **Strengths**

- Dues/Funding
- Communication
- Track Record
- Scale of Region
- Representation
- Personal dedication (Working group)
- Cooperation
- Trans-boundary
- Knowledge
- Partnerships
- Visionary
- Like each other
- Programs



Continuity of purpose
Formal recognition from Governors/Premiers
Follow-up
International recognition

- **Weaknesses**

Judgmental
Personal dedication
Dues/Funding limited
Industry engagement
Community engagement
Lack of focus /Too Broad/ Spread too thin
External communication
Representation/Attendance (Council)
Scale of Region
Infrastructure -- Office/Staff
Time (volunteer)
Forward momentum
Institutional support
External perception /buy-in
Maine centered/reach/ watersheds
Air
Marketing
Specific issues- resonance of
Lack of specific audience
No outcome measurement
No needs assessment
Follow through

- **Opportunities**

Regional Social Science/Economic/ Indicators
Disasters/Crisis—if the Council can be responsive/nimble on issues:
It can be a convener
- it can develop outreach materials and tools
Technology
Regional Ocean Governance Focus at federal levels – funding potential
NEGECP
Create a new NGO counterpart
New action plan
Determine regional economic value of environment
Work with Landowners – Ag/Forestry

- **Threats**

Regional Ocean Governance—competition
NEGECP
Funding
Lack of NGO counterpart
Commitment of Councilors/Competition
Disasters/Crisis
- funding diverted
- preparation for
- Health

5. Who is the GOMC Audience?

Fisherman/Aqua culturists
Managers
Resource Users
Stewards

6. Discussion of Action Plan Goals



Refinements to Existing Goals from 2001-2006 Action Plan

GOAL 1 - what are we focusing on?

Migratory/highly mobile
Aquatic/diadromous species
Full suite of species currently found within the Gulf of Maine Region
Ecosystem integrity

GOAL 2

Not just contaminants
Human health- broadened

New Goal Statement Drafts proposed for consideration in the 2006-2011 Action Plan

GOAL 1 Achieve and maintain ecosystem health and integrity

GOAL 2 Protect Human Health and Public Safety

- Contaminants
- Climate Change
- Natural Hazards
- Planning
- Water Quality

Discussion that led to the development of the three goals:

Goal 1- to achieve and maintain ecosystem health and integrity.

Will include human and all other species
migratory
highly mobile
aquatic
diadromous

full suite of species currently found within the Gulf of Maine region

Goal 2- to protect human health and public safety

Informed decision making
Contaminants, climate changes, water quality, hazards

Goal 3- to encourage social and economic well-being

sustainable maritime activities
use, socio-economic

AGREED UPON OPTIONS FOR GOAL STATEMENTS FOR ACTION PLAN GOALS

1. *Activities and Natural Resources in the gulf are governed and managed in an integrated fashion.*
2. *The Gulf of Maine Ecosystem is healthy and viable.*
3. *Resources in the Gulf of Maine are utilized sustainably.*



June Council meeting decision and action items

Draft • Exeter Inn and Conference Center, Exeter, NH • June 16, 2005

Council members in attendance

Joe Arbour for Faith Scattolon, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Priscilla Brooks, Conservation Law Foundation (private sector MA); Ed Christoffers for Marv Moriarty, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Melville P. Coté, Jr. for Linda Murphy, US EPA New England; David Haney, Bank of America; Patricia Hinch for Kerry Morash, NS Department of Environment and Labour; W. Don Hudson, The Chewonki Foundation (private sector ME); Byron James for David Nathan Alward, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture; Larry Hildebrand and David Wartman for Jackie Olsen, Environment Canada; Pat Kurkul, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service; Kathleen Leyden for Martha Freeman, ME State Planning Office; Michael Nolin, NH Department of Environmental Services; Rosalind Penfound for Chris d'Entremont; Lee Sochasky, St. Croix International Waterway Commission; Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; and Jane Tims for Brenda Fowle, NB Department of Environment and Local Government.

Others in attendance

Neil Bellefontaine, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Peter Colosi, NOAA NMFS; John Coon, University of NH PhD candidate; Ted Diers, NH Department of Environmental Services; Susan Farady, The Ocean Conservancy; Troy Hartley, University of NH; Russell Henry, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture; Liz Hertz, ME State Planning Office; Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada; Justin Huston, NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries; David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator, GOMC; Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association; Rich Langan, University of NH; Marie Loskamp, NH Department of Environmental Services Administrative Assistant; F. Graham Peacock, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Ann Rodney, US Environmental Protection Agency; Kate Rodriguez, NOAA NMFS; Jack Schwartz, MA Division of Marine Fisheries; Kate Smuckler, NOAA MPA Center; Jane Tims, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Michele L. Tremblay, Coordinator, GOMC; Peter Wells, Environment Canada; Chris Williams, NH Department of Environmental Services; and Eric Williams, NH Department of Environmental Services.

Michael Nolin, Commissioner of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and Gulf of Maine Council Chair, opened the meeting.

Decision items

1. The consent agenda was approved with the exception of the deleted items: #6 and Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee, Public Education and Participation Committee, Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative, Climate Change Network, Emerging Issues, Indicators (now known as ESIP), Marine Research and Innovation, Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel, Marine Research and Innovation, and Nutrients. The following items were removed from the consent agenda for discussion later in the meeting: Restoration Partnership Grant Report, Habitat Restoration Sub-Committee, and the Geotourism Task Force.
2. The Council decided to accept the fiscal 2006 budget, apply any unspent 2005 dues to offset the anticipated deficit, and to direct the US Gulf of Maine Association Executive Director to work with the auditors at the end of the month and adjust the fiscal year 2005 budget to reflect true actual expenditures through the end of June.

Action items

1. The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Secretariat will prepare a cover letter and work with the New England Governors and Eastern Canada Premiers (NEGECP) Environment Committee to have the implementation strategy including I the NEGECP summer meeting packet.
2. The Secretariat will work with a member of the Council that will be at the NEGECP August Meeting and briefly present the Council's response and respond to questions.
3. David Keeley will work with the Gulf of Maine Summit proclamation group to solicit further responses from the Council via its listserve. The document will then be finalized by the end of June so that the New Brunswick agency leads can forward it to the New England Governors and Eastern Canada Premiers August meeting for inclusion in its agenda.
4. Cindy Krum will apply balance of unspent dues 2005 to offset the anticipated deficit.
5. Cindy Krum will work with Lori Hallett at the end of the month to adjust the fiscal year 2006 budget to reflect true actual (instead of projected) expenditures through the end of June and any other minor adjustments such as funds secured. Cindy will email the up-dated budgets to the Council.
6. The purchase of liability insurance for the US Gulf of Maine Association will be discussed and approved on a future Management Committee call. The Canadian Association should investigate the coverage as well.



7. David Haney, Don Hudson, and Byron James volunteered to participate on the new Council Finance Review Group.
8. The reserve account funds identified and discussed during the December 2004 Council meeting will be left in the reserve allocation to facilitate cash flow.
9. The Council will formally contact all committees to remind them that Internal Grants Program reports are required by June 30.
10. The Council formally asked the committees to submit their reports for their semi-annual briefing notes.
11. The Council will send a letter to NEGECP regarding climate change, to let NEGECP know that the Council is here to complement their efforts.

Submitted by Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator



Indirect rate

Association of US Delegates to the Gulf of Maine Council (U.S. Association) Indirect Rate:

For the past two years, at the December Council meeting, the council has approved an indirect rate based on the U.S. Association auditor's calculation from the prior fiscal year. The indirect rate goes into effect on the date the decision is made by the Councilors and is then applied to any new contracts, or included in any new grant proposals. The rate from December 9, 2004 through December 1, 2005 was 13.03 percent. The new recommended rate, to begin December 1, 2005 and to remain in effect until the December Council meeting in 2006, is 23.92 percent. Through this consent agenda item, the U.S. Association requests the council's approval to implement the new rate.

Submitted by Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association

GOMC-BoFEP Progress Report

Gulf of Maine Council - Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership Agreement - Progress report for work completed June 2004 - November 2005.

In December 2003, the Council agreed to establish a collaborative agreement with the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BOFEP) and provide \$10,000 per year for three years to support projects and programs of mutual interest that link to the Council's Action Plan. The agreement requires BOFEP to present an annual progress report to the GOM Council.

After careful consideration, the first year of funding was applied to a geographic information system study with Environment Canada to map tidal barriers in the Bay of Fundy. The purpose of this project is to integrate Bay of Fundy Tidal Barrier Audits information from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, into a comprehensive digital database. The database will be used as a baseline to assess the cumulative impacts of tidal barriers in the Upper Bay of Fundy and serve as a platform for future research.

Work completed June 2004 through November 2005 (under contract)

Dr. Danika van Proosdij completed the contract work for 2004-05 under the GOMC-BoFEP Agreement. The final report entitled "Bay of Fundy Tidal Barriers GIS Database Development," is available on the BoFEP website at: http://www.bofep.org/Publications/barrierGIS/BOFwebsite/vanProosdij_Dobek2005finalreport.pdf Specific deliverables completed under this contract included:

- an integrated text report on CD of empirical data collected through the Bay of Fundy Tidal Barrier Audits including a series of PDF maps of all base layers (where available) and location of all barriers discussed in the Ecology Action Centre and CCNB reports. (Completed: March 31, 2005);
- a digital spatial database of tidal barriers and metadata sets of other data discussed in the report and a guide to their use, is now accessible through the internet in PDF form was completed June 30, 2005; (a hyperlink to fact sheets will be available for NS only);
- a final report and written assessment of availability of historical documents on terrestrial activities which might impact the ecosystem health of intertidal environments was completed June 30, 2005.
- a progress report presentation by Dr. Danika van Proosdij, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, on the Tidal Barriers Study during the GOMC Working Group Meeting in Fredericton, on March 17, 2005.

Through competitive process, three projects have been selected to receive GOMC funding in 2005-06 under the GOMC-BOFEP Agreement. All projects are in progress. Final reports are due in June 2006. These are as follows:

- Development of a series of historical digital mosaics depicting change in intertidal habitat in the Minas Basin - Dr. Danika van Proosdij, Department of Geography Saint Mary's University (\$4,990 Cdn). The purpose of this study is to assess and integrate all available historical aerial photography on saltmarshes within the Southern Bight of the Minas Basin, into the comprehensive digital geodatabase initiated in 2004. This work will compliment on-going initiatives to quantify the changes in ecosystem habitat in the Minas Basin. The air photo mosaics produced can then be used by researchers to explore why changes are occurring, ideally separating the natural versus anthropogenic impacts. The final product of this project is a georeferenced rectified air photo mosaic layer for each year of available historical aerial photography at low tide integrated into the GIS database. This database is being developed as a baseline for future research on the impacts of tidal barriers on intertidal ecosystems and is to be housed at St. Mary's University.

- Annapolis Watershed Salt Marsh Evaluation Project, Clean Annapolis River Project - Stephen Hawboldt (\$5,000 Cdn) The goal of this project is to identify, evaluate and develop restoration plans for candidate salt marshes in the Annapolis watershed. The study will examine the degree and cause of tidal restriction and the size and potential biological productivity of the site including contributing factors. Sites will be ranked as to their feasibility for restoration. Project outcomes include: an inventory of candidate salt marsh restoration sites in the western Annapolis Valley restoration; the identification of priority candidate sites; development of restoration plans for high priority sites; and an initiation of protocols for pre-restoration baseline monitoring of priority sites.

-Lessons Learned from Recovering Marshes: the Hydrological Network in Abandoned Dykelands - Gail Chmura, Department of Geography, McGill University (\$2,500 Cdn). The purpose of this project is to study vegetation distribution and production in relation to the altered hydrology documented in recovering marshes. The project will assess the responses of two recovering dykelands - John Lusby Sanctuary on the Cumberland Basin and Saints Rest March near St. John. Each marsh will be compared to a reference, or control marsh, Allen Creek/Wood Point on



the Upper Bay and Dipper Harbour on the lower Bay, which have never been isolated from tidal flooding. Products of this study include: a digital spatial database of hydrological networks and elevation model; maps of modern hydrological networks at four marshes; maps of original hydrological networks of two dykes marshes; and a report of analyses of hydrological differences between reference and dyked marshes in the two parts of the Bay.

Other work elements (not funded but specified in the GOMC – BOFEP Agreement)

“Act as the key information source for the Bay of Fundy and other northern parts of the GOM”

- participated in GOM forum on coastal development (GOMC meeting Dec 2003);
- reported on BOFEP activities and progress during GOMC Summit (Oct 2004);
- provided tours of the KC Irving Environmental Science Centre at Acadia University and Acadian dykelands (June 2004);
- hosted the 6th BOFEP Workshop (October 2004).(Proceedings are available at: <http://www.bofep.org/bofep%20workshops.htm> printed);
- hosted the BOFEP Windsor Causeway Panel (January 2005);
- presented a progress report on the Tidal barriers Project to the GOM WG (March 2005); and
- organizing the program for the 7th Bay of Fundy Science Workshop “Challenges in environmental management in the Bay of Fundy-Gulf of Maine” Oct 25-27, 2006, The Fairmount Algonquin, St. Andrews, NB to maximize opportunities for exchange and dissemination of scientific information among partners. (see <http://www.bofep.org/bofep%20workshops.htm> printed) (ongoing).

“Contribute to the scientific understanding of the Bay of Fundy ecosystem through research and programs on contaminants and habitat restoration including new research projects such as a GIS study of tidal barriers in the Bay of Fundy”

- sponsored the 6th BOFEP workshop in October 2004, which provided overviews of current scientific research on issues of concern in the Bay of Fundy. Proceedings available in hard copy and at <http://www.bofep.org/bofep%20workshops.htm> printed.);
- completed the first year (2004-05) contractual requirements under the BOFEP-GOMC Agreement. The final report is entitled “Bay of Fundy Tidal Barriers GIS Database Development” by Dr. Danika van Proosdij.
- published Fundy Issues # 25 "Contaminant Concerns: Heavy Metals and the Bay of Fundy" and #26 "Saving Special Spaces: Protected Areas. These are available on the BoFEP Website at http://www.bofep.org/fundy_issues.htm);
- completed two summary documents on the relationship between hard bottom benthic species assemblages, species richness, and oceanographic and structural factors and processes. Documents are entitled: “Regional characterization of environmental factors as indicators of species richness (Buzeta, Roff, McKay, Singh Robinson, Strong) and “Regional characterization by structural and physical parameters as indicators of species richness” (Buzeta, Roff, McKay, Singh Robinson, Strong) (contact Maria Inez Buzeta at buzetam@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca);
- presented a summary report during the GOM Summit in Sept. 2004, on BOFEP activities, issues and priorities from the 6th BOFEP workshop for future consideration and action;
- developing a framework for preparing periodic State of the Bay of Fundy Reports (ongoing);
- conducting studies on the cumulative effects of mercury and parasite burdens on migratory shorebirds (semi-palmated sandpipers) (ongoing).
- continuing to review the literature on the biology and ecology of *Corophium volutator* (ongoing) (A compilation of more than 600 citations has been prepared by the *Corophium* Working Group of BOFEP. Draft is available only in hard copy. (Contact: communications@bofep.org)
- continuing to conduct research on toxic contaminants and implement programs on habitat restoration within the NB and NS area through its Working Groups and in conjunction with the Gulf of Maine Council through participation on GOM Working Groups including Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee; Sewage Task Force; and Habitat Conservation, Restoration (Cheverie Creek Project), and Monitoring committees);

“Expand BOFEP to include more US representatives; BOFEP continues to welcome the participation of US representatives in BOFEP Working Groups and workshops “

- US representatives of USEPA, University of Maine, the Island Institute, Texas A&M University, Suffolk University and Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, made presentations during the 6th BOFEP Workshop. Individuals making these presentations are now members of BOFEP; and
- The Planning Committee for the 7th BOFEP Workshop, St. Andrews, NB, Oct 25-27, 2006 intends that the workshop be cross boundary in nature. US representatives will be invited to participate on the program committee.

“Promote effective communication and information exchange between GOMC and BOFEP members, and cross-link information sources such as web sites, displays, and joint fact sheets”



- BOFEP and GOMC maintain open communications and exchange information on issues of concern throughout the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy coastal, marine and watershed;
- BOFEP website is cross linked to the Gulf of Maine Council website; and
- BOFEP displays and information materials have been on exhibit at the GOM Summit (Oct. 2004), GOM Visionary awards ceremony (Jan.2005) GOM WG meeting (March 2005, June 2005) and Council meeting (June 2005).

“Provide consultation and scientific advice on issues of importance to the Council”

- BOFEP has continued to make presentations and participated as members of the GOMC Working Group, Committees, Task Forces, and panels. BOFEP members provide advice on issues and priorities of concern throughout the Gulf of Maine from a Canadian perspective.
- BOFEP members have been asked to participate in a new GOMC Task Group entitled “Advancing Marine Research Priorities in the Gulf of Maine”.

Recommended action: For information only.

Submitted by Patricia Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour



Development Strategy

Issue

Gulf of Maine Council Organizational Development Strategy

Background

In early 2005 the Council commenced work on an Organizational Development Strategy that is designed to strengthen its organizational capacity and to secure the in-kind and financial resources required to effectively implement the Action Plan. The Council has discussed elements of the Plan at its winter and summer meetings as well as participate in a phone interview. (The Working Group has discussed elements of the Strategy as well.) Attached is a preliminary table of contents.

Current Situation

While progress continues on drafting the Strategy the Working Group believes that work on the 2006-2011 Action Plan needs to take priority and precede completion of the Development Strategy (e.g., form follows function).

Request

The Working Group should be directed to continue work on the Action Plan and Development Strategy in parallel.



Gulf of Maine Council 3-Year Development Strategy¹

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

I. Introduction & Purpose

- Rationale for strategy – build on our past, position us for greater success in the future, long-term vs. triage approach, continuous improvement, benefit from more coherence, jurisdictional buy-in/commitment will vary, renewed national interests via commission reports & strategies – sense action is needed/urgency,
- Outcomes & outputs – healthy ecosystem with sustainable & vibrant coastal communities; effectively address/respond to gulf-wide issues requiring a regional response; strong & vigorous regional organization with project portfolio;

II. Council *raison d'être*

- mission, vision, values/principles, objectives
- defining the regional agenda

III. Background & Current Conditions

- Council self-assessment²; lessons-learned; core activities, effectiveness, effect of stopping, activities to strengthen the core; optimum organization based on issues
- Guiding principles

IV. Development Strategy

- Introduction
- Organizational development & fundraising
- Articulate crosscutting themes (e.g., leveraging resources via discretionary funding programs & partnering; communication, cultivation, marketing, measures and reporting on success; expand human capacity to address regional agenda; fit & relevance with jurisdictional priorities & benefits flow; etc.)

V. Primary Development Focal Area: *Strengthening the Core*

VI. Secondary Development Focal Area: *Growing Beyond the Base*

VII. Implementation Plan

Submitted by David Keeley

¹ This is an internal, strategic document (versus an operational and fundraising plan) that charts a course for the Council to pursue.

² Intention is to prepare a survey instrument and administer it to current and selected past Council members. Contents may include current understanding of purpose, level of participation at home and at meetings, perceived relevance to jurisdictional and agency mission & priorities, Council strengths and weaknesses – what do we do well?, assessment of fit with agency mandates, how would you improve the Council's mission, recommendations, what have they gotten from the Council, what other organizations are you involved in that are duplicative or applicable to GOMC that we might learn from, etc. Could conduct multiple outreach – starting with a phone survey and a meeting in December



Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC)

Issue

Gulf of Maine Council advice to the Northeast Regional Ocean Council

Background

On August 29th the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers received a briefing in St. John's Newfoundland on creating a joint oceans agenda. The resolution obligates the NEGC/ECP to cooperate and collaborate on ocean-related issues, challenges, and opportunities; many of which were discussed during the conference. More specifically, it calls for an Oceans Working Committee be formed that will:

- Foster international cooperation and collaboration on all aspects of ocean and marine-related research and development, education, exploration, observations and oceans management;
- Facilitate the exchange of information, including reports, discussions, initiatives and plans which may be developed or considered;
- Seek partnerships and synergies to facilitate existing initiatives such as the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and encourage new initiatives and partnerships;
- Address related environmental issues such as major oil spills, ports of refuge, invasive species, and the deliberate dumping of bilge oil at sea; and
- Provide a vehicle for cooperation on all aspects of oceans management.

Current Situation

The Governor from Rhode Island and the Premier from Newfoundland have initiated the process of forming the Oceans Working Group by writing to their respective state and provincial colleagues requesting the designation of representatives.

Request

The Council should request the Oceans Task Force to discuss specific proactive ways the Gulf of Maine Council can assist the Northeast Regional Ocean Council including the provision of briefing materials on the Council's regional governance "lessons-learned" over the past 17-years. Recommendations from the Task Force should be provided to the Working Group and then passed on to members of the NEGC/ECP Oceans Working Committee. Further, GOMC staff should coordinate with NEGC/ECP staff. This work should be accomplished no later than March 2006.

Submitted by David Keeley



Proclamation update

Issue

Council implementation strategy: Governors and Premiers October 2004 *Committing to Change* proclamation

Background

In October 2004 the Governors of Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire and the Premiers of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia released their *Committing to Change* proclamation at the Gulf of Maine Summit. This proclamation reaffirmed their commitment to work collaboratively, identified three priority areas and directed the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment to develop an implementation strategy. At the Council's summer 2005 meeting in Exeter, New Hampshire the Council approved a strategy (see attached) and forwarded it for consideration at the St. John's NEGC/ECP summer meeting.

Current Situation

Although the materials were forwarded to the Governors and Premiers they were not discussed or approved at their summer meeting. It is timely and important for Summit participants and the Council to ensure the strategy is acted on.

Request

The Council chair, with assistance from the Working Group, should write to each Governor and Premier requesting his or her comment and approval on the attached strategy. This should be accomplished no later than March 1, 2006.

Submitted by David Keeley



Canada's Ocean Action Plan (OAP)

Canada's Oceans Action Plan recognises that integrated management and planning is at the heart of modern oceans governance and management. Integrated management is an open, collaborative and transparent process, based on an ecosystem approach, which can reduce conflicts between human activities. Canada's OAP was announced in 2005 along with \$28.4 million CDN to address a number of oceans management priorities nation-wide. These are couched under 4 pillars, International Leadership, Integrated Management, Health of the Oceans, and Oceans Technology. Under the International Leadership pillar an initiative was included that addressed Canada/US collaboration in the Gulf of Maine. We have just recently received approval from Treasury Board to move ahead on this initiative.

The OAP will be implemented through a phased approach, and in the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy it will be delivered jointly through Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. In the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy, Phase I (until March 31, 2007) will focus on developing stronger linkages between existing management bodies, building consensus for collaborative ocean planning and supporting GoMC priorities on monitoring, indicators development/SOE reporting, and climate change.

Larry Hildebrand and Joe Arbour will be giving a presentation which outlines the OAP and the proposed direction for the Gulf of Maine project.

Submitted by Joe Arbour, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada



Public Education and Participation Committee

PEPC has joined the planning committee for the 2007 National Marine Educators Conference to take place in Portland, Maine. On the planning team are PEPC members: Mark Wiley, Sharon Meeker, Theresa Torrent-Ellis, and Karin Hansen. Their contributions will include everything from setting the agenda, fund raising, conference coordination, registration, logistics, and lodging.

As part of the on-going Council Visibility Campaign PEP continues to write and distribute press releases for Council projects and committees. The website's media room is maintained, media contacts and resources are continually updated and communications with US and Canadian media representatives initiated and sustained. PEPC also regularly assists NOAA's Washington headquarters with the creation and distribution of press releases in the New England region. Recent NOAA/Council joint releases included the announcement of the Open Rivers Initiative announced at the White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation.

For the Habitat Restoration Sub-committee, PEPC assisted in the planning and coordination of the Pemaquid Salt Marsh dedication. Maine Congressman Tom Allen was a speaker at the event which drew media coverage from WGME, NBC Portland, and the Lincoln County News. PECC produced press releases and announcements, created a project fact sheet, coordinated media kits and photographed the event.

The toolkit subcommittee is continuing to work with the web designer to complete and launch the educator's toolkit website.

With the assistance of Me3 Technology, the NGO directory was enhanced to allow for easier distribution of messages. Due in large part to an increased request for information to be distributed through the directory, PEPC worked with Me3 to assess software upgrades which will allow the directory to be used to its full intent. An internal grants program proposal was submitted to cover the cost of the software.

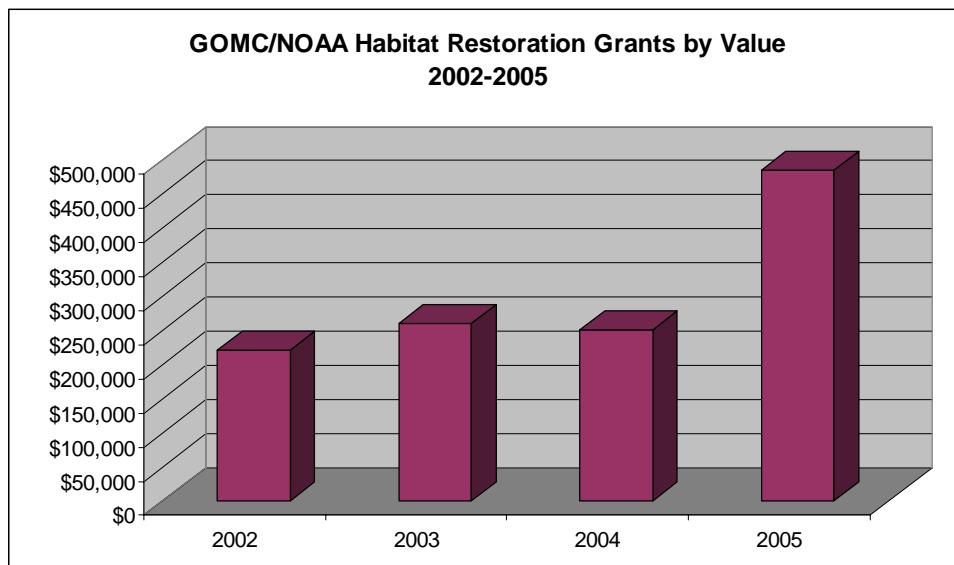
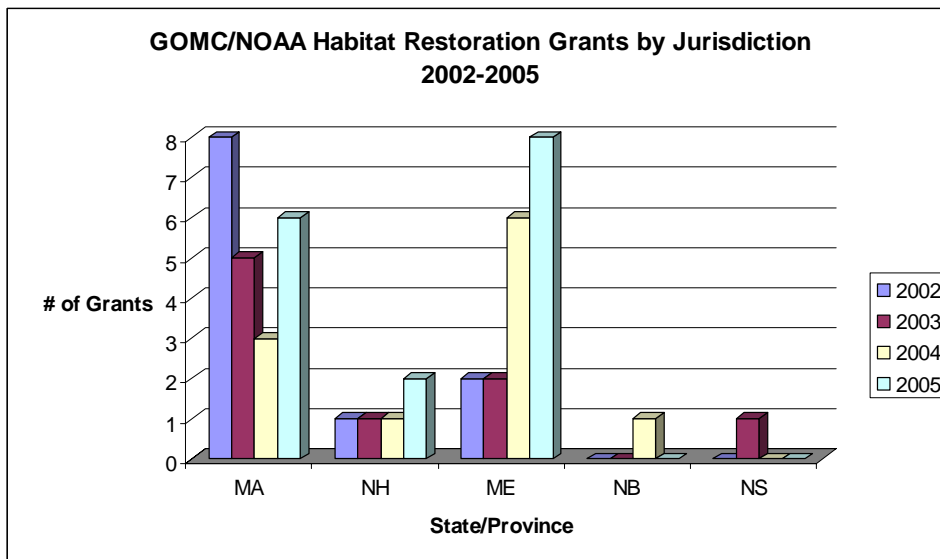
Submitted by Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office and Marilyn Webster, NS Department of Education and PEPC Co-chairs

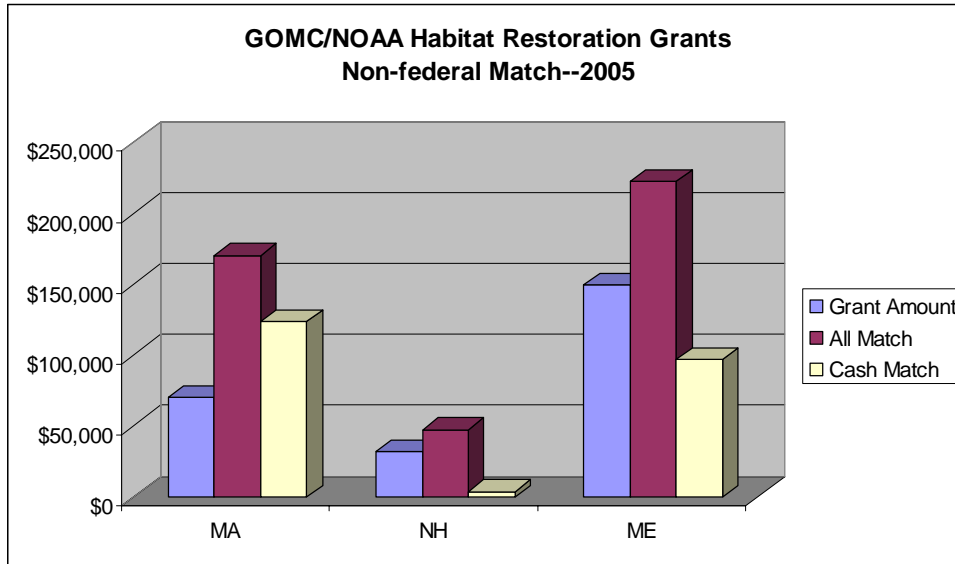


Habitat Restoration Sub-committee

The Restoration Sub-committee continues to work on the FY 2005-06 work plan that focuses on riverine habitat restoration monitoring protocols and outreach efforts. An ad-hoc steering committee met on Nov. 17th to further develop riverine restoration monitoring parameters in preparation for a planned April 2006 workshop that will gather practitioners, scientists, planners and resource managers in the Gulf of Maine. The Sub-committee is planning to develop a draft monitoring protocol and outreach efforts by July 2006, and continue to coordinate efforts with the GOMC Habitat Monitoring and Conservation Sub-committees. Other components of the work plan include developing primers and fact sheets on relevant riverine restoration topics, articles for publication in the GOM Times, and press releases for river projects underway in the Gulf of Maine.

The Sub-committee is preparing to grant a 5th round of habitat restoration funding under the GOMC/NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership. Final grant applications were due Nov. 18th and final decisions will be made by the beginning of January 2006. The charts below provide an overview of grants funded to date, total monies granted (between 2002-2005), and a summary of non-federal match Council restoration grants have leveraged for 2005.





Submitted by Jon Kachmar, ME State Planning Office and GOMC Habitat Restoration Project Coordinator



Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel

May and November 2005 Panel meetings

The May 2005 Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species (NEANS) Panel meeting was preceded by *Implementing Rapid respond to Aquatic nuisance Species in the Northeast: key Components of a Successful Program*. The workshop included presenters from a variety of perspectives including science, policy, regulation, and enforcement as well as from other emergency management sectors. Proceedings will be available by the winter.

The NEANS Panel meeting included a training session on volunteer management and the “Spotlight on Species” session featuring Alewives. A consultant conducted the training session and two successful volunteer programs presented their programs' work.

The November 2005 meeting was held at the StoweFlake Resort and Conference Center in Stowe, VT. The meeting will include a Steering Committee retreat to finalize the review and branding policy, discuss its profile and regional coordination role, work on its development strategy, and to explore the Panel's expanding role in regional ANS activities.

Website revision

Last year, the Panel received an Internal Grant Program (IGP) award from its host organization, the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. The grant funds paid for a consultant to work with the Panel's Web Revision Team and to implement changes. Mike Hauser, NEANS Panelist representing the VT Department of Conservation, led the effort and donated many hours of hands-on time to create the new look for the website. The website is expected to “go live” before the end of the year.

Social-based marketing approach to behavioral change workshop

This year, the NEANS Panel applied for an IGP through the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. The proposal includes contracting with a social-based marketing expert to design and conduct a workshop to bring together invasive species leaders to discuss how to achieve behavioral changes and work together on a regional approach to implement it. If funded, the workshop would be held in conjunction with the Panel's May 2006 meeting in Massachusetts.

Internal policies

The Panel continues its work on a development strategy. Recognizing that the Panel's plans exceed its base funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Panel's ANS Program Manager drafted a menu of support mechanisms with an explanation of each. The Panel's Steering Committee has solicited comments on the document and will discuss it at its November retreat,

About the NEANS Panel

The Northeast Regional Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel (NEANS Panel) of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force was approved in July 2001. The NEANS Panel is comprised of the states of Maine, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont and as well as the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Quebec. At the November 15-16, 2005 meeting, Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation was elected to serve a two-year term succeeding John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection. Judith Pederson will serve the remainder of her two-year term.

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

Ecosystem-based Management: possible roles for the GOMC

Contents

1. **Purpose & GOMC directive**
2. **A common framework**
3. **Insights: Problems and Opportunities**
4. **Recommendations**

I. Purpose & GOMC directive

The Gulf of Maine Council formed the ad-hoc Ocean Task Force to develop coastal and ocean management recommendations for consideration in the Council's 2006-2011 Action Plan. In its directive, the Council acknowledged that the escalating scale of human impacts is causing gulf-wide economic and environmental problems and that the region's present policies are insufficient for managing the competing needs and impacts on the marine environment

A basis for the work of the Task Force was Canada's 2002 Oceans Strategy, two US national ocean commission reports, and the 2004 US Ocean Action Plan. The Council also convened a 1-day 2003 Oceans Forum and received Task Force presentations at their June 2004 (Wolfville), December 2004 (Portsmouth) and June 2005 (Exeter) meetings. Members discussed possible roles for the Council in further enabling ecosystem-based management in the Gulf of Maine and concurred it wanted to collaborate with others. In this spirit, the Council convened a meeting of twenty-five ecosystem-based management practitioners (September 2005). They explored current management approaches in the Gulf and began to develop recommendations to the Council on ways it can assist governments, for-profits, non-profits, academia, and citizens in enhancing oceans management. A two-day gathering co-sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and the Council's Marine Conservation subcommittee followed this a month later.

The Task Force also relied heavily on the substantial scientific literature on this topic and indeed "borrowed liberally" from these writings to compile this memorandum. We thank the many authors that have unwittingly enabled the Task Force to present some cogent materials for Council's consideration. (e.g., *Marine Ecology Progress Series – Politics and Socio-economics of Ecosystem-based Management of Marine Resources*, 9/05; *Scientific Consensus Statement on Marine Ecosystem-based Management 2005*; etc.)

II. A common framework

It is timely for the Gulf of Maine Council to develop some common understanding of key words and phrases so that our dialogue is clear to all parties. The following descriptions can provide the basis for this understanding.

By way of background, there are well-founded positions in how to approach ecosystem-based management (EBM). In one vision, EBM entails a radical change in the paradigm underlying our management approach that accounts for the complexity of exploited ecosystems and recognizes the need for precautionary management of human activities. In this vision, "... the preservation of ecologically viable populations of ecosystem components is key to maintain species' functional redundancy and the derived structural and functional ecosystem conditions that ensure ecosystem resilience and sustained provision of ecosystem services" (Jackson et al. 2001). Application of the precautionary principle and development of robust management approaches are essential features of this vision. The other vision regards ecosystems from a purely mechanistic perspective and seeks to maximize human profits by engineering the food web and other ecosystem manipulations. Under this logic, the goal of ecosystem-based management is to obtain ecosystems that are tailored for supplying the optimum harvest of the desired species. (Tudela, Short, 2005) Defining what ecosystem management is and how it can be achieved are vexing questions under consideration by marine resource managers around the world. As a leader in regional governance it is timely for the Council to consider how it wants to approach this matter.

An **ecosystem** is a dynamic complex of plants, animals, microbes and physical environmental features that interact with one another. Humans are an integral part of ecosystems, marine and terrestrial. The "interconnectedness" within and among ecosystems is provided both by the physical environment (for example, currents transporting larvae from one part of the ecosystem to another) and by biological interactions (for example, kelps or sea grasses creating habitat or predators consuming prey).

An **ecosystem-based approach** to management is geographically specified. It is adaptive and takes into account ecosystem knowledge and uncertainties. It considers multiple external influences and strives to balance diverse societal objectives. It also requires that the connections between people and the ecosystem be recognized, including

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P. Underwood (NS)
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the short and long-term implications of human activities along with the processes, components, functions, and carrying capacity of ecosystems. (Sumaila, 2005)

Ecosystem-based management is an integrated approach to management that considers the entire ecosystem, including humans. The goal of ecosystem-based management is to maintain an ecosystem in a healthy, productive and resilient condition so that it can provide the services humans want and need. Ecosystem-based management differs from current approaches that usually focus on a single species, sector, activity or concern; it considers the cumulative impacts of different sectors. Specifically, ecosystem-based management:

- Emphasizes the protection of ecosystem structure, functioning, and key processes;
- Is place-based in focusing on a specific ecosystem and the range of activities affecting it;
- Explicitly accounts for the interconnectedness within systems, recognizing the importance of interactions between many target species or key services and other non-target species;
- Acknowledges interconnectedness among systems, such as between air, land and sea; and
- Integrates ecological, social, economic, and institutional perspectives, recognizing their strong interdependence.

The word “based” in ecosystem-based management explicitly acknowledges that ecosystems are not managed. Rather, human activities that impact those ecosystems are managed. Making ecosystem-based management operational involves converting broad conservation objectives for productivity, biodiversity and habitat into explicit strategies, whose performance can be measured by indicators, for regulating those human use activities. (Scientific Consensus Statement, 2005)

III. Insights: Problems and Opportunities

Conflicting societal goals -- ecosystem-based management involves regulating the effects of human activities on the ecosystem as well as recognizing the implications of changing ecosystem dynamics on how those human activities are conducted. It recognizes that management of our coasts and oceans entails integrated consideration of the commonly conflicting demands that our society placed on the ecosystem. It is evident that agency mandates within various levels of government currently lack a shared vision to conserve the breadth of services that humans want and need from our coastal and marine ecosystems.

Fragmented mandates – existing management programs and policies were instituted “one at a time.” Further, no one entity currently possesses the mandate to see that the various pieces of management across sectors fit together or to look at the interactions among activities with respect to the overall impact on ecosystem services.

Ecosystem-based management principles, goals, and policies can be found throughout our laws and programs however they are not applied systematically. Mechanisms are needed for Canadian and US agencies to integrate management across sectors and to work together for joint, ecosystem-based solutions. Existing sectoral planning processes can provide some of the building blocks of a nested framework for integrated management.

Reconciling different scales and enabling flexibility – regulators are struggling with the technical challenges of implementing ecosystem-based approaches in part because current policies were developed at a large-scale (e.g., national, province/state, etc.) while responses to issues need to be place-based and at a smaller scale. Further, regulators understand that the management boundaries must be delineated and will necessarily be leaky and influenced by processes occurring at both larger and smaller spatial scales. (Drivers of change, ecosystem processes, and the stocks and flows of ecosystem services all occur at a variety of spatial scales.) Thus, effective management is required at numerous, nested scales.

Using incentives to achieve desired outcomes -- although ecosystems cannot be managed as such (they are simply too complicated), we do have some experience in managing human activities through the incentive structures to which humans respond. Thus, we have the ability to manage people and their impacts on ecosystems. The challenge is to understand and build upon the various perspectives and expectations of the many stakeholders who are involved.

Creating a vision for the marine environment – amidst the many Canadian and US coastal and ocean policies and programs (documented in two 2005 analyses) there seems to be the high-level, broad elements of a vision for the Gulf of Maine that most can concur with. These include:

- Healthy and resilient ecosystems;
- Effective biodiversity levels; and
- The provision of desired ecosystem goods and services.

Examples of conflicting goals

Food production and waste disposal, military operations and recreational boating, generation of hydroelectric power and Anadromous fish management, dredging and filling for port development and wetland protection, offshore aggregate mining and fish production, shoreline armoring and coastal wetlands for buffering climate change, etc.)

Possible Vision

Our oceans include apex level predators, long-lived species, complex living benthic habitat age-structure fish populations and the maintenance of diverse marine communities.



From these broad statements the region can begin to craft a more eloquent vision. Within any visioning exercise we will need to consider many things – the following is just a sampling:

- Giving greater value to the condition of non-fish components of the ecosystem, in contrast to society's current focus on production;
- The baseline from which to measure the ecosystem. We know that we need intact ecosystems – not necessarily pristine, but retaining their components and interrelationships, as well as adequate resistance and resilience to disturbance;
- Historic expectations and incentive systems;
- The linkages between decisions and consequences;
- The ability to adapt to uncertainty;

With a vision statement for the Gulf of Maine we can explore our present societal goals, assess if they are attainable, and work with our partners to institute management programs to attain the goals. As stated earlier, a key element of this work is setting baselines (e.g., what conditions do we seek) and indicators (e.g., state and reference conditions to be monitored). The Council's work with the Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicators Partnership can be drawn on.

IV. Recommendations for the 2006-2011 Action Plan

The Ocean Task Force offers the following preliminary recommendations for Council deliberation at their December 2005 meeting.

1. Clarify terms and definitions – The Council should use the 2006-2011 Action Plan to codify the Council's approach to ecosystem-based management, including key terms and the activities it will support. As part of this effort, the Council could consider adopting the *Scientific Consensus Statement on Marine Ecosystem-based Management Report*, in part or in whole. It could then work with key partners to describe, by stakeholder sector, the needed education efforts.
2. Address conflicting societal goals and policies – The Council should facilitate identification of the most significant conflicting policies and programs that are impeding an ecosystem-based approach in the Gulf of Maine and the effects of these conflicts. This should include an evaluation of the cumulative effect that these programs and policies have on ecosystem services. Further, it should suggest ways to reconcile these conflicts and offer a vision for the Gulf of Maine that builds on current statutes.
3. Develop the tools to enable an ecosystem-based approach – the Council, in partnership with others, should develop the framework for a user-driven (e.g., coastal decision-makers, stakeholders, scientists, etc.) Gulf of Maine ecosystem characterization that integrates existing chemical, physical, and biological knowledge as well as human use activities. This characterization framework (or proposal) would:
 - Describe what research, data and information exists and what is needed to move toward an ecosystem-based management approach and the priority gaps that need to be filled in the near-term. Possible elements include:
 - a. Region-wide benthic habitat mapping;
 - b. Identification of special management areas or marine managed areas;
 - c. Long-term/sustained environmental monitoring (e.g., species, habitats, & media – air, land, water, etc.). It should commence by organizing a 2006 workshop that builds on the Council's Gulfwatch program, previous planning efforts (circa 1990), and its monitoring inventory (<http://cooa.sr.unh.edu/webcoast/MP/mp.jsp>). The workshop should be tasked with developing an integrated environmental monitoring proposal to the Council and other regional partners.
 - d. Development of forecasting tools that assist decision-makers manage human activities in the Gulf of Maine; and
 - e. Prepare a human use atlas that describes spatial and temporal patterns.
 - Describe the required data and information management systems and how current efforts (e.g., Ocean Data Partnership, GoMOOS, Census for Marine Life, GOMMI, etc.) can be accelerated;
 - Identify how the Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP) indicators of ecosystem health can be used to track progress in achieving our goals;
 - Identify the implementation phases, estimated costs and funding sources to commence work.
4. Support and enable ecosystem partners – the Council, in collaboration with others, should build the capacity of existing programs that are implementing elements of an ecosystem-based approach. It can do this through:
 - Professional development – the Council should work in collaboration with others to form a learning circle of Gulf of Maine ecosystem-based management practitioners. This network would facilitate



dialogue, stimulate learning and foster innovation among the participants electronically and through workshops.

- Agreements – the Council should facilitate inter-jurisdictional management agreements to share data, personnel, and to implement approaches to regional issues requiring a comparable response.
- Capacity building – the Council and its partners should provide technical support, workshops, training and matching funds that enable its ecosystem-based partners to be even more active and successful.

5. Work to accelerate/further enable coastal ecosystem management programs – As noted on page three there are multiple, nested scales within the Gulf of Maine ecosystem. Given the Council's traditional emphasis on coastal ecosystems it might choose to focus on the conservation objectives in the coastal to subtidal ecosystem/habitats within sight of the shore (and to a lesser degree watersheds and deep-water). It can work collaboratively with its partners to:

- Identify existing management plans that address key ecosystem objectives;
- Assess management goals with respect to appropriate baselines and the conservation of ecosystem services (e.g., ensuring that marine ecosystems can fully function in order to sustain the delivery of a wide range of services). These include provisioning services (e.g. food and fresh water), regulating services (e.g. climate and flood regulation), cultural services (e.g. spiritual and aesthetic values), and supporting services (e.g. nutrient cycling and primary production).³
- Use information from monitoring and research (e.g., status and trends, scientific advice, etc.) to evaluate how the plans have performed individually and cumulatively with respect to these objectives;
- Collaboratively develop recommendations to accelerate the work of these programs to attain ecosystem objectives.

Please see separate document on GOMC website for further detail on draft document

Submitted by David Keeley

³ Ecosystem-based goals should give precedence to the long-term potential of systems to deliver a broad suite of ecosystem services over short-term goals for individual services. Such goals inherently recognize that it is not possible to sustain humans without sustaining ecosystems over long time frames (Grumbine 1997).



In kind Donations Form

US Gulf of Maine Association

PO Box 2246

South Portland, ME 04106

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)_____	_____

Organization Name: _____

Date _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip _____

Signature _____

Printed Name _____