

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

**Working Group
Action Plan Session and Business Meeting
Briefing Packet**

Version 1 • December 29, 2005
Halifax, NS • January 10-11, 2006



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Working Group agenda

Tuesday, January 10, 2006, NS Department of Environment and Labour, Halifax, NS

9:00 AM	<p>Welcome, introductions, and meeting objectives <i>Liz Hertz, ME State Planning Office and Working Group Chair</i> Session outcome: Working Group members have a consensus understanding of the process and results to date from the Working Group and Council meetings and can productively participate in the January general session, break out groups, and business meeting.</p>
9:30 AM	<p>Narrowing our scope <i>David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator</i> Session outcome: WG members have an understanding of the scopes of concern vs. influence, issues requiring a regional response vs. regional coordination, and roles of the Council and other participants.</p>
9:45 AM	<p>Review and discuss Action Plan goals and objectives correlation <i>Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator</i> Session outcome: WG members have an understanding of the relationship between recommendations from public forums/ document synthesis and the Action Plan goals and objectives.</p>
10:00 AM	<p>Overview of findings and summary prepared by Secretariat Team <i>Liz Hertz</i> Session outcome: WG members have an understanding of the analysis done by the Secretariat Team and are aware of the background information used to perform the analysis.</p>
10:15 AM	<p>SMAARTing our objectives <i>Betsy Nicholson, NOAA</i> Session outcome: Participants will be refreshed with an understanding of terms, the logic model planning process, and most importantly how to develop a SMAART objective and related measurement.</p>
10:30 AM	<p>Break and instructions to break out groups <i>Liz Hertz</i> Session outcome: Break out group participants will have a clear understanding of their work and their expected outcome at the end of the session.</p>
10:45 AM	<p>Breakout groups</p>
12:00 PM	<p>Lunch on your own</p>
1:15 PM	<p>Breakout groups continue their work Session outcome: at the end of their session today at 2:45 PM, breakout groups will provide their notes to Michele Tremblay for inclusion in a PowerPoint presentation on Wednesday morning</p>
2:45 PM	<p>Break before Working Group business meeting</p>



3:00 PM	<p>Approval of consent agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. December 2005 Council retreat and business meeting summaries and decision and action items- <i>Michele Tremblay</i> 2. Gulf of Maine Council Internal Grant Program 2006 awards - <i>Jane Tims, NB Department of Environment and Local Government</i> 3. Committee, sub-committee, task force, and initiative reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Education and Participation Committee - <i>Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office and Marilyn Webster, NS Department of Education, Committee Co-chairs</i> ▪ Habitat Restoration Sub-committee - <i>Jon Kachmar, Habitat Restoration Coordinator Gulf of Maine Program for Lee Swanson, NB Department of Environment and Local Government and John Catena, National Marine Fisheries Service, Sub-committee Co-chairs</i> ▪ Climate Change Network - <i>Bill Burtis, Clean Air-Cool Planet and Gary Lines, Environment Canada, Task Force Co-chairs</i> ▪ Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel - <i>Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation and Judith Pederson, MIT Sea Grant, Panel Co-chairs</i>
3:15 PM	<p>Northeast Regional Ocean Council Scoping meeting and Canadian meeting Plans <i>Betsy Nicholson, NOAA and Russ Henry, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Aquaculture</i></p>
3:30 PM	<p>Ecosystem Indicator Partnership: progress report and request for Council support and funding <i>Lucia Fanning, Environment Canada and ESIP Canadian co-chair</i></p>
4:00 PM	<p>Marine Environmental Informatics – a bibliometric study of publications of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment: 1989-2005 <i>Bertrum MacDonald, Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Management, Professor, School for IM</i></p>
4:30 PM	<p>NS Coastal Management Strategy <i>Justin Huston, NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</i></p>
4:45 PM	<p>GOMC Task Forces and Panels <i>David Keeley</i></p>
5:00 PM	<p>Adjourn</p>

Tuesday evening, January 10, 2006, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675 Lower Water St, Halifax

5:30 PM	<p>Meeting in Westin lobby to walk or drive to Museum</p>
6:00 - 8:00 PM	<p>Gulf of Maine Council Visionary and Nova Scotia Bay of Fundy Awards Ceremony <i>Hosted by Gulf of Maine Councilors the Honorable Kerry Morash, NS Department of Environment and Labour and Chris d'Entremont, NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</i> RSVP to Patricia Hinch at 902.424.6345 or Justin Huston at 902.424.2996</p>

Wednesday, January 11, 2006, NS Department of Environment and Labour, Halifax, NS

9:00 AM	<p>Reconvene general session and present break out group work in PowerPoint presentation <i>Liz Hertz</i> Session outcome: review, discuss, and refine the three goals and measurable objectives</p>
10:30 AM	<p>Break</p>
11:30 AM	<p>Next steps and March meeting planning <i>Liz Hertz</i></p>
12:00 PM	<p>Adjourn</p>



Correlation of GOM syntheses, surveys, and Councilor input

Goal 1: Gulf of Maine Ecosystem is Healthy Protect and Restore (this is a strategy to accomplish the above)

Number of hits				Role	Objectives from December 2005 Council meeting
A	B	C	D		
13	5		1	-	Ten thousand acres of regionally significant habitat are protected
6					
6	3		1	-	Five thousand acres of regionally significant habitat are restored
2					
1	3			-	Coastal eutrophication incidences that threaten regionally significant habitat are reduced
1					
10	5	1		L	Managers share and integrate ecosystem-based and adaptive approaches into their programs
6					
3	3			L/P	Biodiversity and abundance of coastal and marine species is restored and protected
2					
26	5	1		L/P	Knowledge and understanding of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem is developed and shared (e.g. mapping; SOG)
10					
2	4		1	P	Invasive aquatic species are well managed.
1					
3	2			P	Causes and impacts of climate change are well manage
1					
3	5	1		L/P	Land-based activities have a minimal effect on the Gulf of Maine ecosystem
2					
6	7	1		-	Gulf of Maine managers have easy access to technical information (e.g. seafloor maps are readily available for 25% of the Gulf of Maine; monitoring data is accessible)
3					
10	3	1		?	Gulf of Maine Council provides good internal and external information exchange
5					

Goal 2: Human Health within the Gulf of Maine Watershed is Protected (refine original language)

Number of "hits"				Role	Objectives from December 2005 Council meeting
A	B	C	D		
2	4	1	1	L/P	Citizens within the Gulf of Maine watershed are aware of human health risks (due to/posed by) (human induced activities/contaminants)
1					
2	5		1	-	Management of primary contaminants is improved
2					
1	1	1	1	-	Behaviors adversely affecting human health are reduced by 20% by 2009 (e.g. BMPs/stewardship enhancements)
1					
23	1			L/C	Coastal water quality, land use, the coastal zone and pollution are consistently managed throughout the Gulf of Maine
10					
6				?	Regional framework for water budget/allocation exists
2					

Goal 3: The Gulf of Maine Economy is Healthy and Sustainable

Number of "hits"				Role	Objectives from December 2005 Council meeting
A	B	C	C		
3	3	1		P	Aquaculture activities have a benign effect on the Gulf of Maine
2					
5	2		1	P	Biotech/R&D are a more significant part of the Gulf of Maine economy
2					
0	2		1	P	Nature/cultural/recreational tourism is a more significant part of the economy
0					
4	2			P	Integrated energy planning takes place within the Gulf of Maine
3					
2	3	1		L/P	Citizens understand the value provided by the Gulf of Maine through better economic information (natural capitol)
1					
1	3			P	Traditional commercial fisheries remain an important part of the Gulf of Maine economy
1					
1	2	1	1	P	Traditional coastal community/lifestyle culture is maintained
1					
9	3	1		L/P	Coastal industries are applying best practices and are good stewards
5					
3	3			P	Gulf of Maine industries are knowledgeable about environmental pressures facing the Gulf
2					
12	3	1		L	Industry representatives are engaged in Gulf of Maine Council activities
7					
10	2			P	Sustainable business practices are applied throughout the Gulf of Maine
5					
8	3	1		L/P	Good information exists regarding resource use around the Gulf of Maine
5					



Key to column scores or “hits”

A = Council prioritization from “colored dot voting” at the December 2005 retreat (see “Methodology” for further information)

B = Documents (see itemized list below)

C = Councilor telephone interview conducted November 2005

D = *Gulf of Maine Council Action Plan 2001-2006*

Role = L: Lead, P: Partner, C: cannot do, -: not identified on flip charts, ?:no clear match from breakout groups to summary charts

Methodology

It was challenging to devise a method to correlate the large volume of data with the Council’s goals and objectives and their votes on them. Below is a list of documents and data sources that were correlated in column B in the tables above:

- Canadian Crosswalk (findings but not recommendations)
- US Crosswalk
- Tremblay synthesis (see list at the end of this document for sources that are included)
- Improving Methods and Indicators for Evaluating Coastal Water Eutrophication: A Pilot Studying the Gulf of Maine this report has not yet been released so is not part of the US or Canadian Crosswalks and the Tremblay synthesis)

The team of David Keeley, Cindy Krum, and Michele Tremblay reviewed the listed documents and data and used their judgment to correlate them to the objectives that the Council drafted at its December Action Plan retreat. Each time that recommendations or input from a document or data were found, a “hit” was recorded for that objective. A hit would be defined as an instance in which recommendations or input found in one of the listed sources closely matched or supported a Councilor-drafted objective. Each hit was assigned one point.

Column B contains hits derived from multiple documents that were, in turn compiled from a number of documents. The “hits” in this column carry a great deal of weight and the responses recorded in it should be viewed as highly significant.

In the case of Council votes, the total number of points was recorded (top sub-row of sub-column A) as well as the simple number of all dot votes (bottom sub-row of column A). Each Councilor received six dots with the following point values:

Blue (three points each),

Red (two points each), and

Yellow (1 point each).

List of Gulf of Maine documents, meetings, and processes included in Tremblay synthesis

Goal 1

1. *Response to Aquatic Nuisance Species in the Northeast: Eradication Protocol Workshop Proceedings, September 2003* (GOMC Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel)
2. *Saltmarshes of the Gulf of Maine: Long-term monitoring to assess human impacts and ecological condition* (GOMC Habitat Restoration Sub-committee), 2005
3. *Gulf of Maine Habitat Restoration Strategy, October 2004* (GOMC Habitat Restoration Sub-committee)
4. *Gulf of Maine Marine Habitat Primer* (GOMC Habitat Restoration Sub-committee), 2005
5. *User Needs Assessment for the Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative, October 2004* (GOMC Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative)
6. *Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative, a Framework for Ocean Management, May 2004* (GOMC Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative)
7. *Ocean Zoning for the Gulf of Maine: A Background Paper* (GOMC), January 2003
8. *Marine Habitats in the Gulf of Maine: Assessing Human Impacts and Developing Management Strategies Workshop Proceedings* (GOMC Habitat Conservation Sub-committee) currently in process/draft, 2005

Goal 2

9. *Sewage Management in the Gulf of Maine: Workshop Proceedings, 2002* (GOMC Sewage Management Task Force)

Goal 3

10. *Aquaculture Physical Remediation Workshop Proceedings September 20-21, 2001*, June 2003

Crosscutting and other

11. *Tides of Change Across the Gulf: an Environmental Report on the Gulf of Maine and the Bay of Fundy*, 2004
12. *Committing to Change* (Post-Gulf of Maine Summit report), 2004
13. *Regional Ecosystem Indicators for the Gulf of Maine: Pre-Summit Draft Fisheries, Contaminants, and Coastal Development* prepared for the Gulf Of Maine Summit, October 2004
14. *Gulf of Maine Science-to-Management Establishing Research Priorities in the Gulf of Maine*, November 2004 (Regional Associating for Research in the Gulf of Maine)
15. *A Survey of Coastal Managers’ Science and Technology Needs Prompts a Retrospective Look at Science-based Management in the Gulf of Maine*, August 2004 (GOMC and Coastal States Organization)
16. GOMC Response to Summit Recommendations, Exeter, NH, June 2005

Submitted by Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator; Cindy Krum, USGOMA Executive Director; and David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator

Jurisdictional priorities

Identified at the Working Group Action Plan Retreat • October 2005, Draft V.1

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

Submitted by Michele Tremblay and Tracy Wilson

Articulating the Council's scope and role

Background – This document was discussed and amended by the Council at their December 1, 2005. It describes both the kinds of issues it addresses and its role as a transboundary organization in the Gulf of Maine.

The functions the Council performs, both internally and externally, flow 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”

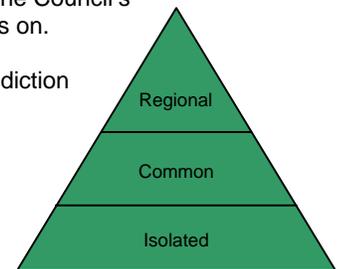
from

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 an advisory capacity in this international setting to act on issues they could not address individually.

Part I - 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 applied to issues it works on.

- 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)



Part II – Methods

To address these regional issues the Council uses 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. Public outreach and education methods (e.g., conferences, reports, web products, newspapers & media, etc.) help to engage and inform the region's residents. Regional monitoring programs enable cost sharing, produce efficiencies and may greatly expand uses of the data that are generated.

Part III – Signature Activities

The Council's has described examples of activities that it wants to be known for at its June and December 2005 meetings and in November 2005 interviews. These are referred to as signature activities. These examples include:

- High profile conferences (e.g., biennial science conference, coastal managers techniques, etc.)
- Planning and research to address human impacts on the marine environment (e.g., restoration, ecosystem-based management, etc.)
- Communication on gulf-wide issues through web materials, newspapers, regional report cards, indicators and state of the environment reports
- Data and information management
- Sustainable development of the marine environment

Part IV – Council Roles

Its enabling authority and 17-year history as well as their work on issues benefiting from a collective regional response inform the role of the Council.

1. Facilitators 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.oceanconomics.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 legally responsible for.

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*

Council Discussion – At their December meeting the Council they used these words:

- Roles we need to concentrate on: education, science, policy, and stewardship. (policy = setting or providing standards) (stewardship = actual projects under the grants and other activities such as restoration work)

Descriptors of the Council: educator, funder, catalyst, convener, advocate, technical assistance provider, collaborator, implementer, project manager, advisor.

Submitted by David Keeley



Council telephone survey summary

Please see “8. Council telephone survey summary [PDF](#) (90KB) or [MS Word](#) (90KB)” in the December 2005 Council meeting section at <http://gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/> for the full results of this survey.

Gulf of Maine Council Survey: What are the areas of convergence and divergence?

In November 2005 Council members participated in a phone interview that produced a 20-page report on the responses. It is rich in detail and worthy of a close-read. This memorandum seeks to distill the points of agreement and instances where multiple Council member views vary.

1. General perceptions of the Council and its work

Convergence

- Council members are positive and supportive of the Council and its work
- The Council has a history of performance and is a regional leader
- Need greater internal coordination and accountability
- Mission is relevant and the Action Plan has helped to focus
- Clarify role of non-government appointments to Council

Divergence

- Ambitious work plans inspire us vs. agenda is broad and we're spread too thin
- Increasing relevance of the issues being addressed encourages us to be involved vs. senior management participation waxes and wanes
- Serve as a forum for communication and information vs. needs to be more action-oriented

2. Council Purpose

Convergence

- Forum for regional coordination, dialogue and information/knowledge sharing
- Focus on environmental health and sustainable management of the Gulf

3. Primary Strengths and Weaknesses

A. Strengths

Convergence

- A good 17-year history of interaction, cooperation and planning
- The government agencies that need to participate are on the Council and are authorized to be involved
- It fosters cross-border communication
- The five-year plan and measurable outcomes
- Informal and collegial nature

B. Weaknesses

Convergence

- Insufficient resources and staff given the breadth of the work
- Council funding is dominated by US sources
- Participation is too often delegated down
- Need greater focus on action, outcomes and results

4. Motivation to participate and benefits

Convergence

- Learning about new issues and lessons-learned on ways to respond to issues
- Meeting people, networking and personal growth opportunities
- Leadership mandate to participate and interact across the border
- Advance regional issues that can not be addressed in isolation

5. Use of products/services to influence decisions-making at home

Convergence

- Many could not identify specific examples
- Council workshops, conferences, publications and other educational materials help inform us about issues important back home



6. Make Council agenda more relevant to agency needs

Convergence

- Focus on issues that require regional response in greater depth
- Identify and address policy changes that are needed in the jurisdictions to better respond to regional priorities
- Elevate profile of the Council
- Ensure issues on the public agenda are addressed by the Council
- Tighten connection in Council projects between sustainable development and environmental protection
- Focus more time on jurisdictional sharing of lessons-learned
- Action Plan tasks should feed more directly into state/provincial decision-making
- Take an active role in making meaningful recommendations to the jurisdictions

7. Council signature issues

Convergence

- Support planning, research and activities that address land-based impacts on the marine environment
- Issue state of the environment reports, indicators and report-cards/regional score card
- Communication on gulf-wide issues with common language
- Sustainable development of the marine environment
- Data and information management across the Gulf

8. Improve Council structure/organization

Convergence

- Review Council member appointments (# and source – government, industry, NGO), roles and training of Council member duties
- Explore ways to engage people that live and work in the Gulf of Maine

Divergence

- Maintain Council appointments at highest level vs. deputy level participation
- Big picture agendas vs. action-oriented, detailed agendas
- Annual rotating secretariat vs. multi-year cycle
- Increase capacity and make operation more professional vs. keep it small and inexpensive

Submitted by David Keeley

December 2005 Council meeting summary

Draft Business Meeting Summary with Decision and Action Items

December 1, 2005 • The Chewonki Foundation • Wiscasset, Maine

Council members present: Priscilla Brooks, Conservation Law Foundation; Ed Christoffers, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Peter Colosi for Pat Kurkul, NOAA; Mel Coté, US Environmental Protection Agency; David Haney, Bank of America; Don Hudson, The Chewonki Foundation; Byron James, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture; Kathleen Leyden for Martha Freeman, ME State Planning Office; Linda Murphy, US Environmental Protection Agency; John Nelson, NH Fish and Game Department; Jackie Olsen, Environment Canada; Greg Roach, NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and NS Department of Environment and Labour; Lee Sochasky, St. Croix International Waters Commission; Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Harry Stewart for Michael Nolin, NH Department of Environmental Services; Jane Tims for Trevor Holden, NB Department of Environment and Local Government.

Others present: Mel Coté, US Environmental Protection Agency; Liz Hertz, ME State Planning Office; Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada; Sue Inche, ME State Planning Office; David Keeley, GOMC; Cindy Krum, GOMC; Betsy Nicholson, NOAA; Michele L. Tremblay, GOMC, Eric Williams, NH Department of Environmental Services; Tobey Williamson, Barton & Gingold; Tracy Wilson, GOMC.

Decision items

1. The Council approved the indirect rate until next Council meeting in June whereupon the finance committee will bring further options to the table for discussion.

Action items

1. The Council approved the consent agenda with the removal of items 2, 4, 5, 6 and items under 3 for which task force reports were not submitted.
2. The Council requested that the committee reports that are included in the consent agenda are of a consistent format, that the Working Group ensure all reports are submitted in a timely manner, and that the reports make a clear link to pertinent activities in the current Action Plan.
3. The Council directed the Ocean Task Force to look at the feasibility of doing these things in the next five-year plan and to identify priorities the Council should pursue.
4. The ESIP request will be added to the next Working Group agenda so it will follow the standard process and recommendations formed for the Council at their next June meeting.
5. The Council recommended that the new Action Plan include actions related to NROC.
6. The Council approved the indirect rate until next Council meeting in June whereupon the finance committee will bring further options to the table for discussion.
7. Michele will distribute the Council phone survey via list serve.
8. The Council asked the Ocean Task Force to monitor developments and to provide a *report at their next meeting*.

Approval of consent agenda

Action: The Council approved the consent agenda with the removal of items 2, 4, 5, 6 and items under 3 for which task force reports were not submitted.

Action: The Council requested that the committee reports that are included in the consent agenda are of a consistent format, that the Working Group ensure all reports are submitted in a timely manner, and that the reports make a clear link to pertinent activities in the current Action Plan.

Ocean Task Force - David Keeley

David Keeley reported on the sequence of events of the Ocean Task Force.

Ocean Reports

- Canada's Ocean Strategy
- Pew Oceans Commission
- Commission on Ocean Policy

Council Organizes

- Discussions at two meetings
- Ocean Governance Forum
- Form Ocean Task Force

Committees Take Initiative

- OTF convenes EMB practitioners
- Marine Conservation/TNC 2-day workshop

- Task Force prepares recommendations

Ocean Task Force Members:

J. Arbour (DFO), T. Diers (NH), R. Henry (NB), L. Hildebrand (EC), B. James (NB), M. Janowicz (NB),
D. Keeley (GOMC), K. Leyden (ME), L. Mercer (ME), B. Nicholson (NOAA), S. Snow Cotter (Mass),
J. Sowles (ME), P. Underwood (NS), M. Westhead (DFO)

It became apparent that it was important to have some common terminology for terms such as ecosystem, ecosystem-based approach and ecosystem-based management. Definitions were agreed.

- 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.
- 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.
- **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.

David discussed the characteristics of 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
- Integrates ecological, social, economic, and institutional perspectives, recognizing their strong interdependence.

Included in the materials are insights gleaned from observations:

- Conflicting societal goals: EBM entails integrated consideration of the commonly conflicting demands that our society placed on the ecosystem
- Fragmented mandates: existing management programs and policies were instituted “one at a time” without an overall scheme
- Reconciling different scales and enabling flexibility: 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
- Using incentives to achieve desired outcomes: manage human activities through the incentive structures to which humans respond and build upon the various perspectives and expectations of the many stakeholders who are involved
- Creating a vision for the marine environment: high-level, broad elements of a vision for the Gulf of Maine include healthy and resilient ecosystems; effective biodiversity levels; and the provision of desired ecosystem goods and services.

Ocean Task Force recommends:

- 1) Clarify terms and definitions and suggest that 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. (It was recognized that these definitions are dynamic and the task force reported what their understanding is at this time.)
- 2) 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 5) Work to accelerate/further enable coastal ecosystem management programs – As there are multiple, nested scales within the Gulf of Maine ecosystem focus on the conservation objectives in the coastal to sub tidal ecosystem/habitats (within sight of the shore)

Item #3 was an area of concern: that some of those were so huge and would we ever actually do any or all of these things. The Council discussed that these recommendations are possibly too much (financially and in scope) for the Council to take on. It was suggested that we try to bite off a manageable chunk and keep in mind the collaborative partnerships to help achieve these recommendations. The Council was concerned that this was limited to the near coast area and that off shore issues needed to be included to ensure the big picture is developed. The Gulf of Maine Council should become the leader, but not necessarily do all of it. Rely on partners. One practical

thing that we can get into the action plan is to examine Council projects to make sure they meet those principles. It is fascinating and challenging at the same time. How do we approach the ecological aspect? How do we talk across ecological areas in an effort to collaborate? What are the next steps in processing feedback? On sustainability and sustainable use, we need to be careful of the ecological dependencies, but didn't see the human use of the dependencies discussed in the handouts.

Action: The Council directed the Ocean Task Force to look at the feasibility of doing these things in the next five-year plan and to identify priorities the Council should pursue.

Ecosystem Indicators update - David Keeley

David described the management & implementation strategy for a Gulf of Maine ecosystem indicators and reporting program. The impetus behind the strategy began at the Gulf of Maine Summit and the *Committing to Change Proclamation*. The other key impetus was the Council in that it provided funding for the development of this strategy. He defined indicators as quantitative or qualitative measures that provide information about the status of or changes in natural, cultural and economic aspects of an ecosystem.

- Indicators summarize complex information into a simplified form. Trends can be tracked over time to provide insights into environmental conditions, stressors, and societal responses.
- Indicators can draw attention to challenges or benefits created by ecosystem conditions, progress towards addressing these challenges or sustaining these benefits, and identify additional responses that may be necessary.

The program that is being proposed builds on both a time and content continuum that the Gulf of Maine Council is responsible for.

- The *2002 Atlantic Northeast Coastal Monitoring Summit* outlined a strategy to develop a regional monitoring network that would provide data managers said they need.
- In 2004, the Northeast Coastal Indicators Workshop focused on six important regional issues. It developed key management questions and indicators that would inform management decision-making.
- The *Tides of Change Across the Gulf* and the Gulf of Maine Summit crystallized how people wanted to proceed.

Actions since the Summit

- *Gulf of Maine Council actions*
 - *Accept Summit recommendations*
 - *Allocate funding to indicators*
 - *Ocean Task Force initiative*
 - *Summer report to Governors & Premiers*
 - *Members provide financing*
- *ESIP is formed*
 - *Meeting by conference call twice a month*
 - *Convened listening sessions with users*
 - *Prepared draft Management and Implementation Strategy*

ESIP is co-chaired by five federal agencies

- Environment Canada
- National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- US Geological Society
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans

As part of developing this Strategy, the committee has consulted with and drawn lessons from other regional programs, such as the Great Lakes and Georgia Basin-Puget Sound. They have looked at indicator and monitoring programs that are already in place within the region and at national levels and identified synergies with these groups as well as gaps that need to be filled.

The committee has gone out to engage managers and decision-makers in the region to better understand the types of information they need and the formats they find useful for receiving information.

The program proposed by ESIP would work toward a vision that is consistent with and guided by that of the *Committing to Change* proclamation.

- Indicators and reporting will complement other information used by decision-makers and play an important role in achieving this vision.
- The indicators will be clearly established between science, management, and ecosystem goals.
- This type of information will help decision-makers gain insights into the larger ecosystem implications of their choices and actions.

Objectives

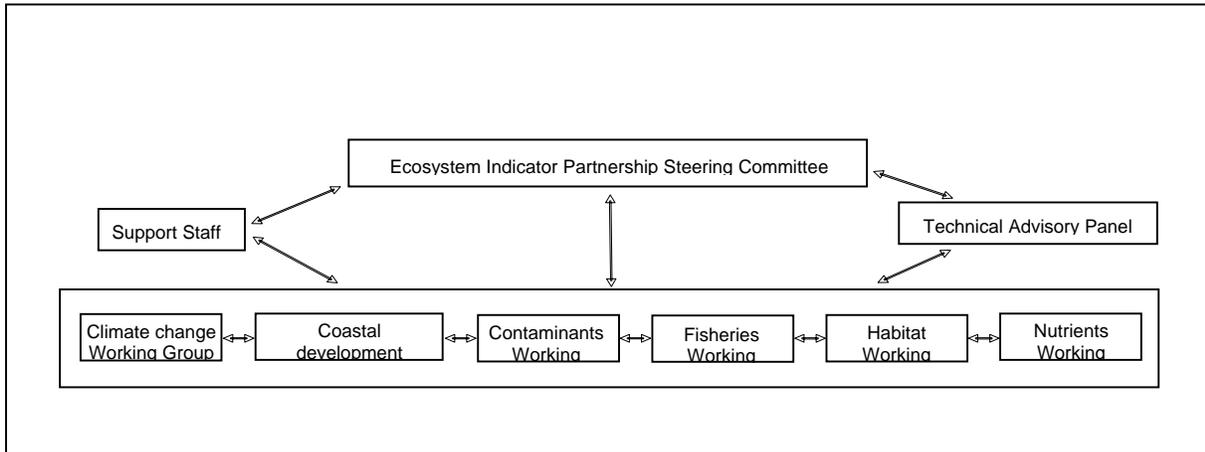
- Develop indicators that are grounded in science and relevant to management issues.
- Utilize a collaborative process that involves a variety of partners and data sources.

- Provide consistent, scientifically sound, credible information to strengthen environmental policy and management.
- Ensure that information reaches decision-makers in a manner that is useful to them.

Principles

- Partnerships with existing programs.
- Science-based selection of indicators.
- Audience-relevant indicators and information formats.
- Necessary and sufficient suite of indicators.
- Transparent development and reporting of indicators.

Program Structure



ESIP requests from GOMC:

- Participation— Provide advice on the contents of regional indicators and reporting materials
- Policy commitment— Long-term commitment to support the development, dissemination and use of environmental reporting and indicators.
- Financial resources— Core funding to support staff and activities associated with program (\$100k per year)

Comments and questions from the Council:

- Is this a sub committee of the GOMC or is it an independent organization? It is independent. It is a freestanding entity and the GOMC is a partner.
- If the Council were to provide support would it depend on dues? It is probably not possible. Is it appropriate to have permanent staff for this?
- Liz reported that funding requests normally would go to the Working Group where it would go through the standard process. She recommended that the funding request be withdrawn from this agenda.
- The Council recognizes work that this group has done has been very good. The wording included in this proposal could be used in developing the goals and objectives for the Gulf of Maine Council new Action Plan.
- The Council could not find specific reference to indicators in the Proclamation.
- Monitoring vs. indicators.... Looking at state of the environment will the indicator system help us report on the effectiveness of our next action plan?
- Look at the staffing issue for this proposal vs. staffing for the Council.
- Another question is—can an organization other than ESIP do this more efficiently? Can it be housed somewhere else?
- The Council recognizes and values all the hard work that the committee has done for developing this set of indicators.

Action: The ESIP request will be added to the next Working Group agenda so it will follow the standard process and recommendations formed for the Council at their next June meeting.

Proclamation Update - David Keeley

David Keeley asked whether Council members have creative ideas in encouraging governors and premiers in responding to what was sent in August. The Council discussed the timing of this—with the new action plan in the works, should we wait until the Action Plan comes out, and have them formally sign on to the action plan which would include items from the proclamation plus others.

Action: The Council recommended that the new Action Plan include actions related to NROC.



Canada's Ocean Action Plan - Joe Arbour, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada

Joseph Arbour reported on Canada's Ocean Action Plan. He gave an overview of the Ocean Action Plan, Phase 1 in the Maritimes Region, and Canadian/US collaboration on Oceans management and opportunities for the Gulf of Maine Council.

The Plan rests on four interconnected pillars that integrate delivery across government:

- *International Leadership, Sovereignty and Security*
- *Gulf of Maine activities fall under the first pillar, International Leadership, Sovereignty and Security*
- *Integrated Oceans Management for Sustainable Development*
- *Health of the Oceans*
- *Oceans Science and Technology*

Phased Approach to Implementation

- *Phase I until March 2007 (16 months)*
- *Will address immediate priorities*
- *Will set the stage for long-term objectives and Phase II*

International Leadership, Sovereignty and Security

- *Strong links to foreign over-fishing agenda and new international oceans governance arrangements and marine security*
- *Maritime security and Canada's contribution to fight terrorism*
- *Bilateral integrated oceans management work with the U.S. (Gulf of Maine)*
- *Focus on Arctic (Arctic Marine Strategic Plan)*
- *Respond to WSSD targets such as demonstrating the application of the ecosystem approach by 2010*
- *Convention on Biological Diversity and High Seas marine protected areas and biodiversity*

Integrated Management for Sustainable Development

- *Integrated oceans planning activities include:*
 - *Analyzing the state of health of marine ecosystems*
 - *Mapping the seabed to support understanding the environment*
 - *Identifying sensitive marine areas in need of increased conservation, management and/or protection*
 - *Establishing governance arrangements and engaging citizens and stakeholders.*

International Leadership, Sovereignty and Security: Gulf of Maine

- *Initial bilateral work to enhance collaboration on coastal and ocean issues*
- *Begin through existing transboundary mechanisms (Gulf of Maine Council, fisheries management Councils)*
- *Environment Canada to share resources with DFO, and to contribute towards the following:*
- *Support to Gulf of Maine Council on climate change*
- *Gulfwatch chemical analysis*
- *Ecosystem indicators and SOE reporting system*
- *Joint integrated management workshop (Winter/Spring 2006)*
- *Develop a strong foundation for joint ecosystem-based management*
 - *Build on Gulf of Maine Council's Oceans Task Force EBM recommendations*
 - *Produce an Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Report*
 - *Produce an Ocean Use Atlas*
 - *Ocean use atlas to seek the Council's agreement on:*
 - *Assisting with developing the Ecosystem Overview*
 - *Assisting with developing the collaborative planning model*
 - *Assisting with coordinating and planning for the Joint IM workshop (consider timing, expectations, and most importantly, how this will affect the Gulf of Maine Council's ongoing role vis-à-vis the 'broader' objectives you are promoting).*
 - *Explore options for a Canada/US collaborative planning model*

Large Ocean Management Areas (LOMAs)

- *DFO has formally designated five Large Ocean Management Areas in Canada. Currently the Bay of Fundy/ Gulf of Maine is not considered one of DFO's LOMAs, however strong support has been given to make it one (including from the Council). The work undertaken in the area during Phase I of the Ocean Action Plan will help set the stage for LOMA designation.*

Network of Marine Protected Areas

Conclusions



- *Phase I of the Ocean Action Plan involves concrete action on a government-wide basis in all three of Canada's oceans*
- *Phase I will be delivered regionally and collaboration with provinces and stakeholders will be a priority*
- *International collaboration on our respective initiatives will help to address the myriad of oceans issues at regional, national, and international scales.*

Health of the Oceans

- *Federal Marine Protected Areas Strategy (NHQ)*
 - *Designation of Federal Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) on a priority basis*
 - *Establish a more systematic MPA planning process in the context of integrated management planning*
 - *Enhance inter-governmental collaboration*
 - *Provide Canadian leadership and experience to the international community*
- *Ballast water regulations and marine pollution enforcement (TC lead)*
- *Designation of Musquash MPA*
- *Implement Gully Management Plan*
 - *Science in support of Gully Management (with Science)*

Time for items removed from consent agenda and other business

Indirect rate approval – *Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association Executive Director and Priscilla Brooks, USGOMA Treasurer*

Cindy Krum explained the change in the indirect rate that was proposed by the auditor. 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. David Haney Don Hudson, Byron James will convene to discuss alternative options. This rate was accepted until we come up with another plan.

Action: The Council approved the indirect rate until next Council meeting in June whereupon the finance committee will bring further options to the table for discussion.

GOMC Development Strategy – *David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator*

John Coons created a compilation of the conversations with Councilors and Don Hudson reported on the 26-page summary. The survey is on the website and you can read much more detail there. Click on the Meetings link in lower left—it is front and center.

Action: Michele will distribute the Council phone survey via list serve.

Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC)

The Council requested an update from David on the pending relationship between NROC and GOMC. David reported that the good news is that in the NEGC-ECP August 2005 Resolve the governors/premieres resolved to "...do no harm to the Gulf of Maine Council" and to build on the GOMC. The geography is quite different and the issues that the two groups address will be quite different. No additional resources were available at the time this Resolve was signed. People are beginning to discuss goals and objectives on this group—this is a part of the Bush Ocean Action Plan and several federal agencies are getting involved. The group will be going through a similar exercise that the GOMC went through to develop a list of concerns/regional issues and to determine the purpose. There was a concern that NROC will become the voice in DC and that the GOMC already has a voice there. At an NROC meeting there has been specific talk of the GOMC and other entities and the desire to pull them in, what mechanisms currently exist, what works, what doesn't, and to avoid redundancy between the 2 organizations. The desire of the NROC is to work collaboratively, without duplication, with the GOMC. The membership has just recently been identified in Canada. The northeast governors formed NROC and invited Canadians to participate. The development of this Council should be seen as a positive thing.

Action: The Council asked the Ocean Task Force to monitor developments and to provide a report at their next meeting.

Submitted by Tracy Wilson, Administrative Assistant



GOMC Internal Grants Program 2006 awards

Internal Grants 2005/06: Ask all for detailed work plan and budget

Listing of Proposals by Committee and Task Group

Part 1- Accelerated Action Plan Projects

Re f. No	Name of Committee	Name of Project	Request Amount (US \$)	Internal Grant Amount (US \$)
1	Climate Change Network Task Force	Regional Indicators of Climate Change	\$5,000	5K
2	Ecosystem Indicator Partnership	Implementing <i>Indicators and Reporting Management Strategy</i>	\$40,000	40K
3	Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee (HMSC) and Data Information Management Committee (DIMC)	Development of a Regional Habitat Monitoring Data System	\$7,500	7.5K
4	Habitat Restoration Subcommittee	Habitat Restoration Outreach	\$10,000	10K
5	Research Priorities Working Group	Commencing Implementation of the 9-04 Research Focus Group	\$5,000	5K
6	Secretariat	Encouraging the Use of Biodiesel	\$4,500	4.5K
7	Sewage Task Force and Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee	Sewage Task Force (STF) Workplan for 2005-06	\$4,000	4K
8	GOMMI	Gulf of Maine Habitat Mapping	\$15,000	15K
Total, Part 1 Projects				91,000



Part 2 Projects (Building Capacity)

Ref. No.	Name of Committee	Name of Project	Request Amount (US \$)	Internal Grant Amount (US \$)
9	Climate Change Network Task Force	Gulf of Maine Climate Change Network Workshop and Outreach Plan	\$15,000	10K
10	Habitat Conservation Sub-Committee	Feasibility Study of Marine Habitat Management Strategies	\$3,000 (Enhancement requested but no costs)	3K
11	Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee (HMSC) and Data Information Management Committee (DIMC)	Development of a Regional Habitat Monitoring Data System	\$6,000 (\$3,000 for each Committee plus \$3,000 enhancement)	6K
12	Habitat Restoration Subcommittee	Habitat Restoration Outreach	\$5,000	3K
13	Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel	Regional social-based marketing approach to ANS prevention and control	\$3,000 (plus \$2,500 for 1 st enhancement and \$3,000 for 2 nd enhancement)	6K
14	PEPC; EQMC ; DIMC; Science Transl. Task Force; Sewage Management Task Force	A Citation Assessment of Publications of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment	\$6,000	3K
15	Science Translation Project	Populating the GOM Knowledge-base: A Regional Information Database	\$3,000 (plus \$3,000 enhancement)	3K
16	Sewage Task Force /Environmental Quality Mon. Comm.	Research and Coordination of Activities under the Sewage Task Force (STF) Workplan for 2005-06	\$6,000 (plus \$3,000 or \$6,000 enhancement)	3K
17	Sustainable Maritime Activities	Engaging Industry in Development of the next Action Plan	\$4,000	4K
18	Sustainable Tourism Task Force	awareness of sustainable tourism / regional identity	\$6,250	3K
19	PEPC (at request of Working Group)	Social Marketing Workshop with Dr. McKenzie-Mohr	\$7,900	6K
Total, Part 2 Projects				50K
Total, all projects				141K



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.

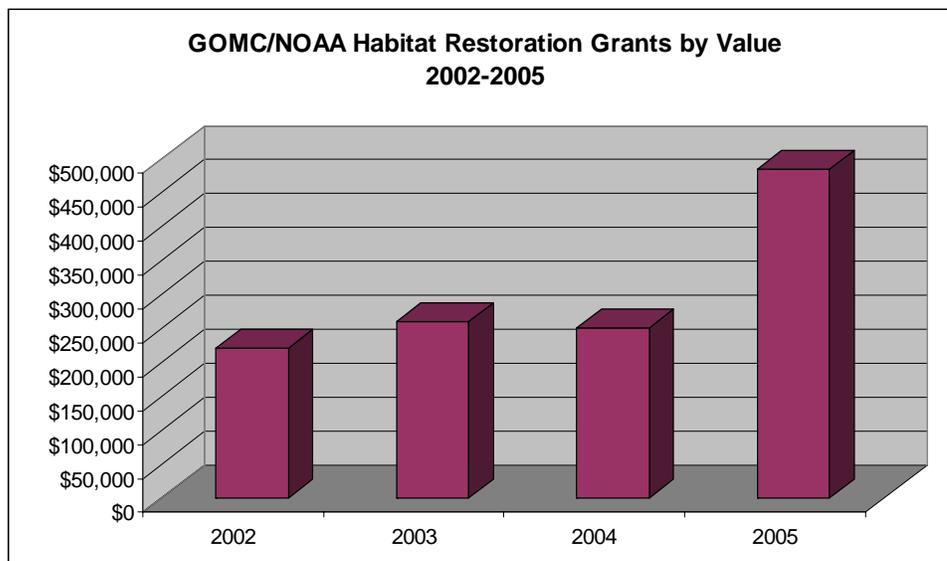
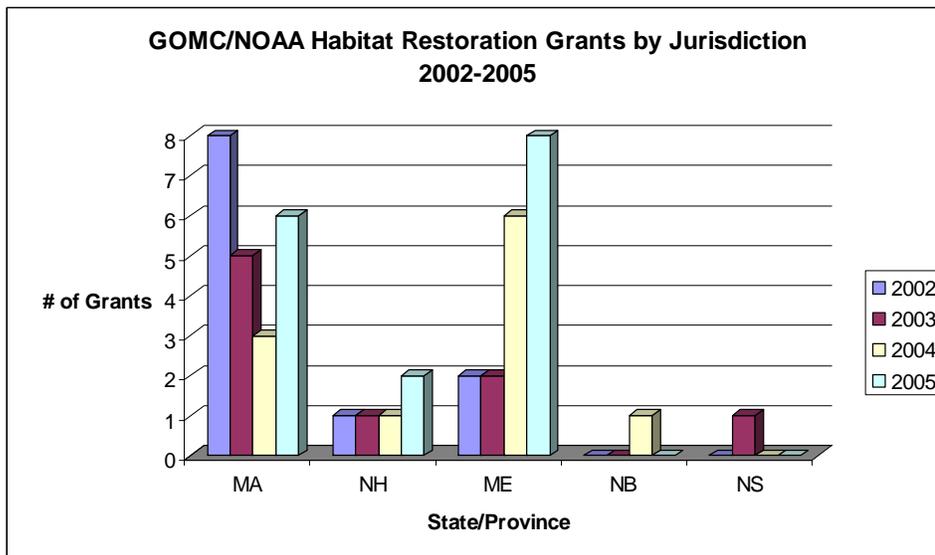
With the assistance of Me3 Technology, the NGO directory was enhanced to allow for easier distribution of messages. Due in large part to an increased request for information to be distributed through the directory, PEPC worked with Me3 to assess software upgrades which will allow the directory to be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

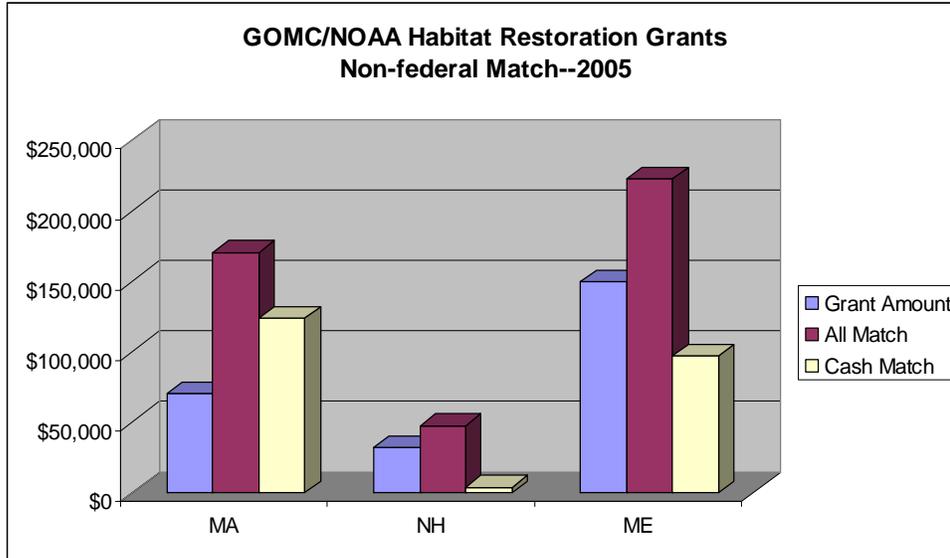
Submitted by Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office and Marilyn Webster, NS Department of Education and PEPC Co-chairs

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



Climate Change Network Task Force

Since meeting with the GoM Working Group in March 2005, Task Force co-Chairs, Mr. Gary Lines, Science Manager with the Climate Change Division of Environment Canada, and Mr. Bill Burtis, Communications Lead, Clean Air-Cool Planet have been examining ways to develop and expand the Network.

The Gulf of Maine Council and the Task Force sponsored an Emerging Issues Forum in June 2005. As a result of that forum two internal grant proposals were submitted to Gulf of Maine Management Committee in response to the Gulf of Maine Action Plan Item #8. That item states that Task Force members are to “convene those working on climate change impacts to develop adaptation strategies, encourage research and disseminate information to managers”.

The first project is to combine the datasets of Canadian and US climate records to produce a Gulf of Maine region-based set of **climate change indicators**.

The second project is to plan a **Workshop of climate change “practitioners”** to develop details of Network Terms of Reference and future projects. Workshop is to be delivered in March 2006. Along with the workshop, the project will develop an Outreach Plan that maximizes outreach opportunities to deliver climate change impact information to coastal communities.

Future Activities

It is anticipated that successful completion of the two abovementioned projects will position the Gulf of Maine Council much more favourably to progress on any future Action Plan items dealing with climate change.

Future activities could include work on items noted at the Emerging Issues Forum such as:

1. Regionalization of information and data (hopefully as a follow-on from the indicators work)
2. CC Indicators linked to Environmental Indicators through ESIP Project.
3. Develop Threshold Data – possibly as follow-on from Indicators
4. Science Translation – moving climate change information outward
5. Expand roles of individual players in network (follow-on from workshop)

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



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



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



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Ecosystem-based Management: Possible roles for the GOMC

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 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

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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).¹
- 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.

V. Council comments

On December 1, 2005 the Council received these briefing materials and discussed the recommendations. Their comments included:

- The recommendations were thoughtful, important and quite ambitious.
- Developing a common language (Recommendation #1) is timely and should be integrated into the new 5-year Plan.
- Recommendation # 3 in particular seemed to eclipse the ability of the Council to perform the work independently. The Council affirmed it wanted to work in partnership with others over the next few years to secure the resources and accomplish some of the more manageable tasks.
- They asked the OTF to revisit the suggestion in #5 to focus on the near-coastal environment to the exclusion of the open ocean.
- The Council wants to ensure the work it performs and supports embraces an ecosystem-based management perspective.
- They requested the OTF to set some priorities among the recommendations and suggest an implementation schedule.

¹ 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).



Ecosystem Indicator Partnership progress report and request for Council support and funding



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December 28, 2005

To: Gulf of Maine Working Group
From: Ecosystem Indicator Partnership
Re: Briefing materials for 1-10-06 meeting in Halifax

Background

The Council approved the Working Group's recommendations from the Gulf of Maine Summit -- many of which touched on indicators and State of the Environment Reporting. In particular, Recommendation #3 said:

Use indicators to garner support - There was a keen sense that the development and communication of a set of regional indicators is a "keystone" activity for the Council to nurture and support. Participants acknowledged that a suite of integrated environmental, economic and social indicators and the necessary monitoring and reporting could lead to more progressive management in our watersheds and marine environment.

Proposed Action for Council:

ESIP is an excellent means to address this recommendation. It needs the necessary support to be as effective as possible. Work has commenced on an indicators management and implementation strategy that will be presented to the Council in December 2005. This will directly address ways to communicate and use indicators.

Current Status

For the past 12-months ESIP has met by conference call every month (sometimes twice/month). In May ESIP hired two contractors to:

- Engage stakeholders through two focus groups (Munton and Portsmouth) & detailed interviews of 50 decision-makers to confirm their needs, as they are the primary audience. (There are secondary audiences as well.);
- Prepare a management and implementation strategy for a Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicators and State of the Environment Reporting Initiative. (Copies of the full report will be available at your meeting.) The Strategy is designed to create synergies with the region's investments in ecosystem-based management approaches (e.g., mapping, monitoring and observing, research, data management, education/outreach, etc.) and build on current indicator efforts.

In December the Council received a briefing and requested Working Group comments on the following ESIP recommendations.



ESIP Recommendations to Council

#1 Participation – Provide periodic advise on the contents of regional indicators and reporting materials.

The Council is representative of the primary audience ESIP is seeking to serve – more specifically decision-makers. Consequently it wants to come to the Council on a periodic basis to seek its advice. Further, ESIP wants the Council to continue as an active participant in its deliberations.

#2 Policy Commitment – Make a long-term policy commitment to support the development, dissemination and use of environmental reporting and indicators.

Summit participants and the Council understand that the development and implementation of environmental reporting and indicators is an ongoing (e.g., decadal) investment. The draft strategy provides sufficient detail as to the scope and scale of this investment as well as phased-development strategies.

As the leading regional entity & information broker the Council needs to display proportional influence – both as a regional entity and as individual members in their work back home. The Council needs to make a policy commitment to be engaged in the ESIP initiative, to assist in the dissemination of indicators and reporting materials, and to use the products in its decision-making.

#3 Financial Commitment -- Make an ongoing funding commitment, as a partner, to support staff and activities associated with program.

A sustained indicators and reporting initiative must be premised on an ongoing core-funding stream that is enhanced through competitive grants and discretionary funding. Without such a commitment this initiative cannot progress beyond the planning phase. ESIP is looking to the Council to make a commitment of \$100,000/year – resources permitting – to indicators and State of the Environment Reporting.

ESIP is following the Great Lakes partnership model where staff and cash contributions are distributed among many partners. EPA, DFO and EC have recently made commitments of staff support that will buttress Council support. Other regional partners (e.g., GoMOOS, the GOM Ocean Data Partnership, etc.) are also making commitments consistent with their abilities. On an opportunistic basis ESIP has been invited to apply for \$150K from GeoConnections and will be applying to EPA – National Environmental Information Exchange Program for \$75K. ESIP anticipates that its partners will raise an additional \$200,000 in staff time and cash



Review of Gulf of Maine Task Forces and Panels

Council Directed

(Formed by Council in response to Action Plan, Council controls agenda, duration is time-limited)

Name	Primary Funding Source	Relationship to Council
Sewage Task Force	GOMC/IG	Reports directly to Council, seeks to implement multi-year work plan sanctioned by Council
Climate Change	GOMC/IG	Formed by Council in response to Action Plan
Marine Research and Innovation	GOMC/IG	Formed by Council in response to Action Plan
Emerging issues	GOMC	Have not convened a work group
Science Translation	Multiple	Initiated and lead by the Council, reports solely to GOMC
Ocean Task Force	GOMC	Formed by Council and reports solely to GOMC

Council Affiliated

(Council is a partner but does not control agenda, on-going entity, direct tie-in to Action Plan)

Name	Primary Funding Source	Relationship to Gulf of Maine Council
Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel	USF&WS	Council is a partner. Largely dedicated funding,
Nature-based Tourism	GOMC	Initiated by Council & has evolved/expanded to be partnership not controlled by GOMC
GOM Nutrients Work Group	NOAA/NOS	Dedicated funding source/restricted to this purpose, Council is regional partner
Ecosystem Indicators Partnership	NOAA, EPA, DFO, EC, GOMC	EPA and Council took formative role, has now grown & Council is important regional partner
Gulf of Mapping Initiative	NOAA	Council took formative role, has now grown & Council is important regional partner



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