

Working Group Meeting Briefing Packet

*Version 1 • March 8, 2005*Fredericton, NB • March 17-18, 2005



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Working Group agenda Wednesday, March 16, 2005

2:30 - 4:30	Curling at Fredericton Curling Club, 331 Golf Club Road, Fredericton, 506. 459.7418
PM	
6:00 РМ	Meet in the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel lobby to go to supper as a group

Thursday, March 17, 2005, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Agriculture Research Station, Fredericton, NB

10:00 ам	Welcoming remarks
	Byron James, Deputy Minister, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Hermel Vienneau, Deputy Minister, NB Department of Environment and Local Government
10:10 AM	 Approval of consent agenda - Eric Williams, NH Department of Environmental Services and GOMC Working Group Chair 1. December 2004 WG meeting decision and action items - Michele Tremblay, Council Coordinator 2. December 2004 Council meeting decision and action items - Michele Tremblay 3. Action Plan Grants report - Cindy Krum
	 Contractor status report - Cindy Krum Reference Handbook update - Patricia Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour Ocean Data Partnership update - Paul Currier, NH Department of Environmental Services and Seth Barker, ME Department of Marine Resources, Council representatives to the Partnership Committee, sub-committee, task force, and initiative reports Data Information and Management Committee - Seth Barker, ME Department of Marine Resources, sole co-chair Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee - Steve Jones, University of NH and Peter Wells, Environment Canada, Committee Co-chairs Public Education and Participation Committee - Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office and Marilyn Webster, NS Department of Education, Committee Co-chairs Habitat Conservation Sub-committee - Marianne Janowicz, NB Department of Environment and Local Government and Katie Lund, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management, Sub-committee Co-chairs Habitat Monitoring Sub-committee - Hilary Neckles, US Geological Society and Reg Melanson, Canadian Wildlife Service Habitat Restoration Sub-committee - Jon Kachmar, Habitat Restoration Coordinator Gulf of Maine Program for co-chairs Lee Swanson, NB Department of Environment and Local Government and John Catena, National Mariner Fisheries Service Gulf of Maine Mapping initiative - Susan Snow-Cotter and Brian Todd, Canadian Geological Survey, GOMMI Co-chairs Climate Change Network - Gary Lines, Environment Canada and Bill Burtis, Clean Air - Cool Planet, Task Force leads Emerging Issues and June Council Forum Planning update - Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada, Emerging Issues Task Force Proposed work plan - Bruce Smith, Seascape Kayak Tours and Theresa Torrent-Ellis, task force o-chairs Indicators - Francine Rousseau, Environment Canada and Gerald Pesch, USEPA Marine Research and Innov
10:15 AM	Sewage Management Task Force work plan Patricia Hinch and Peter Wells
10:30 AM	EQMC / Gulfwatch Nine-year report Steve Jones and Peter Wells



	A break generously provided by the NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture will be available at during this discussion
11:00 AM	June Working Group and Council Meeting and Emerging Issues Forum planning Michele Tremblay, Eric Williams, and Larry Hildebrand
11:15 AM	Introduction to the tidal barriers project from the GOMC/BoFEP Agreement Dr Danika van Proosdij, Assistant Professor, Saint Mary's University, Department of Geography
11:45 AM	Time reserved for items removed from the consent agenda
12:00 РМ	Lunch generously provided by NB Department of Environment and Local Government
1:00 РМ	Ongoing Governance Research at UNB: MPA Boundary Research Sam Ng'ang'a Macharia, Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering Department, University of NB
1:30 РМ	Sustainable Maritime Activities Task Force - crafting a response to the Council in June 2005 Russell Henry, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, Aquaculture; David Keeley, GOMC Policy and Development Coordinator; and Bryon James (invited)
2:15 PM	Collaborative Data Sharing and Information Infrastructures - recommendations to pursue participation Invited speakers include: Marcia McNiff, USGS National Biological Information Infrastructure; Laurie Rounds, NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management; Chuck Spooner, US EPA-National Water Quality Monitoring Council, Seth Barker, GOMC representative to the Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership Note: An afternoon break with refreshments generously provided by the NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture will be available at 2:30 PM during this discussion.
3:45 РМ	NOAA 2005 Work Plan and full budget development Part I Cindy Krum and Eric Williams
4:15 РМ	Adjourn with time provided for committee, sub-committee, and task force meetings The Kent and Madawaska Rooms at The Farm are available on a first-notified, first-confirmed with Michele basis or use common areas at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel, local restaurants, etc.
5:30 PM	Meet in the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel lobby to go to supper as a group

Friday, March 18, 2005, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Agriculture Research Station, Fredericton, NB

8:30 AM	Time reserved for items removed from the consent agenda
	Refreshments generously provided by NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture
9:00 AM	Gulf of Maine Summit follow-up
	Status of summit report, recruitment, and report distribution
	Implementing the Proclamation: next steps
	Maxine Westhead, Department of Fisheries and David Keeley
10:00 AM	Ocean Governance – Ocean Task Force's ecosystem principles, strategies, and pilot projects David Keeley
11:00 AM	Indicators for the Gulf of Maine: proposal for Year One and beyond David Keeley
12:00 РМ	Lunch generously provided by NB Department of Environment and Local Government



1:45 PM	Action Plan process for 2006-2011: planning for implementation Eric Williams, Michele Tremblay, and David Keeley
2:45 PM	NOAA 2005 work plan and full budget development Part II Cindy Krum and Eric Williams
3:45 PM	Adjourn



December 2004 Working Group meeting decision and action items

Sheraton Harborside, Portsmouth NH - December 6-7, 2004

Working Group members in attendance

Joe Arbour, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Bill Burtis, Clean Air-Cool Planet; Russell Henry, NB Department of Fisheries, Agriculture, and Aquaculture; Liz Hertz, Maine State Planning; Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada; Pat Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour; Justin Huston, NS Department of Fisheries and Agriculture; Steve Jones, University of New Hampshire; David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator, GOMC; Gary Lines, Climate Change Division, Environment Canada; Katie Lund; MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Betsy Nicholson, NOAA; Bruce Smith, Seascapes Kayaking Tours; Jack Schwartz, MA Division of Marine Fisheries; Jane Tims, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office; Peter Wells, Environment Canada; and Eric Williams, NH Department of Environmental Services.

Others in attendance

Donald J. Chelton, Metcalf & Eddy; Lou Chiarella, NOAA Fisheries; Lorraine Edes, Administrative Assistant, GOMC; Karin Hansen, PEPC Marketing Coordinator, GOMC; Jon Kachmar, ME Coastal Program; Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association; Andi Rierden, *Gulf of Maine Times*, GOMC; Robert A. Scherpf, Metcalf & Eddy; Kate Smukler, NOAA; Michele L. Tremblay, GOMC Coordinator

Decision items

- 1. The consent agenda was approved with the exception of the Financial Report that was removed.
- 2. Bill Burtis of Clean Air-Cool Planet will serve as US Co-Chair for the Climate Change Task Force.
- 3. The Working Group will hold a facilitate meeting on the 2007-2012 action plan, in March 2005.
- 4. The Internal Grants Program will be included in the next work plan for the NOAA earmark funds.
- 5. New NOAA earmark funds will be expended during a twelve-month work plan.

Action items

- Russ Henry asked that the working group discuss further the need for funding by GoMOOS. The Working Group noted that they would fund \$5,000 for a peer review for the Gulf Watch program. There is a March 2005 deadline.
- 2. The recent audit identified approximately 80,000 dollars. The Management Committee will place the money into a reserve account until the Council makes a recommendation.
- 3. Michelle will contact the Climate Change Committee Co-Chairs to plan a meeting for March 2005 that will build on the adaptation meeting held in Boston.
- 4. The Summit Planning Committee will disseminate the information gathered from the summit to the 5 jurisdictions for further dissemination.
- 5. Theresa Torrent-Ellis will prepare the Geotourism work plan for Working Group consideration.
- 6. Michelle will send a reminder in January concerning the Reference Committee Handbook and request actions. Pat Hinch will re-convene the Reference Committee Handbook in early 2005.
- 7. Andi Rierden will update the website to give a link to the fully signed proclamation.
- 8. The Management Committee will discuss adding funding for a Library Science intern to catalog the Gulf of Maine Council publications.
- The Management Committee will investigate funding for travel of Council and Working Group members during succession planning.
- 10. Cindy Krum will contact NOAA to determine if we can send our work plan in June when the comprehensive work plan is complete. If not, Cindy will send the Working Group and Council the plan for consideration.
- 11. Robert Scherpf of Metcalf and Eddy would like the Working Group to send him any contacts the group has for his work with the New Hampshire Seacoast Wastewater Management Study.
- 12. Maine State Planning will send recommendations for Maine representation to serve on the Sewage Management Task Force. The Task for will come to the March 2005 meeting with a budget and proposal for a Coordinator to assist the task force.
- 13. David Keeley will draft a letter to the Governors and Premiers and submit it to the Management Committee for approval before submitting to Council in June 2005. The letter will be delivered to the Governors and Premiers in August.
- 14. The Management Committee will explore the contracting of a coordinator to facilitate the 6 indicators. This will be placed on the June agenda for Council.



- 15. The Working Group will continue the Internal Grants program for another year. Michele will send notification of funds and conditions for the Internal Grants Program.
- 16. Cindy Krum will contact Holly Bamford at NOAA to see if she can hold off on the work plan until June.



December 2004 Council meeting decision and action items

Sheraton Harborside, Portsmouth, NH December 9, 2004

Council members in attendance

Priscilla Brooks, Conservation Law Foundation; Peter Colosi for Pat Kurkul, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service; Melville P. Cote, Jr. for Roger Janson; US EPA New England; Ed Christoffers, US Fish and Wildlife Service; David Haney, Bank of America; Larry Hildebrand for Jackie Olsen, Environment Canada; Justin Huston for Chris d'Entremont, NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries; W. Don Hudson, The Chewonki Foundation (private sector ME); Byron James for David Nathan Alward, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture; Larry Hildebrand for Jackie Olsen, Environment Canada; Kathleen Leyden for Martha Freeman, ME State Planning Office; Michael Nolin, NH Department of Environmental Services; Carol Ann Rose, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Lee Sochasky, St. Croix International Waterway Commission; Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; and Hermel Vienneau for Brenda Fowlie, NB Department of Environment and Local Government.

Others in attendance

David Allen, City of Portsmouth; Joe Arbour, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Steve Crawford, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point Maine; Ted Diers, NH Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program; Lorraine Edes, Administrative Assistant, GOMC; Diane Kent Gillis, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Karin Hansen, PEPC Marketing Coordinator, GOMC; Russell Henry, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture; Liz Hertz, Maine State Planning Office; Patricia Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour; David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator, GOMC; Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association; Betsy Nicholson, NOAA; Andi Rierden, *Gulf of Maine Times*, GOMC; Lisa Shapiro, Gallagher, Callahan and Gartrell; Kate Smukler, NOAA; Jane Tims, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Michele L. Tremblay, Coordinator, GOMC; Peter Wells, Environment Canada; 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 #2, #5, and #7 that was removed. Geotourism was moved to unfinished business.
- 2. The Council will devote time at the June Council meeting to address Ocean Governance.
- 3. The Council will increase the participation of experts on the Summit Committee.

Action items

- 1. The Council voted to engage the Ad-hoc to take a look at the oceans governance and see if the Council should take a larger role in the committee.
- 2. The Council to put the 85,000 dollars, found during the audit process, into a reserve account pending and investigation into other options.
- 3. The Council voted to task the Management Committee to compose a fiscal year 06 budget.
- Larry Hildebrand will organize and emerging issues forum for the June 2005 meeting.
- 5. Ocean Governance will be a topic of discussion at the June 2005 meeting.
- 6. An Ad-hoc committee will be formed to discuss Ocean Governance.
- 7. Council would like to see a tabular of committee activities by the June meeting.
- 8. Create an Ad-hoc committee on Sustainable Maritime activities (2006-2012) and make recommendations on the next action plan.
- 9. Marine Research and Innovation Task Force will report to Council in June with their Action Plan.
- 10. Council will present a report on the proclamation at the June meeting.





Action Plan Grants report

2005 Awards

Maine

1. QLF Atlantic Center for Environment \$10,000.00 Marine Area Characterizations Project. Friendship, ME Project lead: Jennifer Atkinson, Director, Marine Program

2. Maine Audubon \$10,000.00

Beginning With Habitat: Coastal Habitats. Falmouth, ME Project lead: Barbara Charry, Biologist/GIS Manager

3. BioDiversity Research Institute \$9,000.00

Gulf of Maine seabird Contaminant Assessment Network: Seabird Mercury Project. Gorham, ME

Project lead: Wing Goodale, Research Biologist

Nova Scotia

1. Clean Annapolis River Project \$10,000.00

Annapolis Watershed Pesticide Audit Pilot Project. Annapolis Royal, NS

Project lead: Stephen Hawboldt, Exec. Director

2. Clam Harvesting Area 2 Management Board \$9,500.00

Clam Habitat Restoration Planning Project. Cornwallis Park, NS

Project leads: Arthur Bull, David Scarrat

Massachusetts

1. Boston University Biology Dept \$1,250.00

Creating Scientists and Stewards: High school education through eelgrass restoration. Boston, MA

Project lead: Jim Sullivan, PhD candidate

2. Mass Audubon \$10,000.00

Little River Action Plan for Restoration. Wenham, MA -

Kathy Leahy, Director

3. APCC Assoc to Preserve Cape Cod \$10,000.00

Volunteer Monitoring of Salt Marshes on Cape Cod. Barnstable, MA

Project lead: Maggie Geist, Exec. Director

4. Massachusetts Bay Estuary Assoc \$7,575.00

Storm Windows Stormwater Education Campaign-phase 1. Hingham, MA

Project lead: Paula, Jewell, Exec. Director

New Brunswick

1. Centre for Community-Based Resource Management \$10.000.00

Developing an alliance and common understanding between the inshore fishery and tourism of Passamaquoddy Bay.

St. Andrews, NB

Project lead: Heather Gibson, Program Staff **2. Bird Studies Canada** \$9,676.00

A volunteer Beached Bird Survey in the Bay of Fundy. Sackville, NB

Project lead: Becky Whittman, Program Manager

New Hampshire

1. Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation \$10,000.00

Jefferys Ledge Monitoring and Education Project, Phase 2. Greenland, NH

Project Lead: Diane Schulte, Research Coordinator

(603) 431-0260

Total \$107,001

Note: The Action Plan Grants committee will prepare recommendations for the 2006 Action Plan Grant review process for the June Working Group consent agenda.

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Reference Handbook update

The Reference Handbook Revision Team held a productive call on February 15, 2005 with members Lorraine Edes, Jane Tims, Eric Williams, and Michele Tremblay with Team leader Patricia Hinch. Several documents were completed and will be submitted to the Management Committee as finalized. Many documents that were under revision were completed after the call. The next call will be held after the Working Groiup meeting review revised drafts and finalize any other documents that require updating. The finalized and updated versions are posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/rh/.

Submitted for Patricia hinch by Michele L. Tremblay



Contractor status reportAnticipated on-going Contractors for the Gulf of Maine Council as of March 1, 2005 Note: All contract end dates are June 30, 2005

Unless stated otherwise below

Contractor	Contract	Position	Funds
Compthis I/www	End Date	US Association Executive Director	la dive et vete
Cynthia Krum		CO / ICCCCIANON EXCOUNTS ENCOUS.	Indirect rate
Lori Hallett		US Association Administrative and Bookkeeping Support	Indirect rate
Michele Tremblay		Council Coordinator	dues
Lorraine Edes		Council Administrative Assistance	dues
David Keeley	November 30, 2005	Policy and Development Coordinator	Indirect rate
Michele Tremblay	September	Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel ANS Project	USF&W
•	30, 2005	Manager	Grants
Maine State		Habitat Restoration Project Coordinator	NMFS,
Planning Office		•	NOAA Ear-
(Jon Kachmar)			mark
Karin Hansen		PEPC Education and Marketing Coordinator	NOAA
		_	Ear-mark
Ethan Nedeau		Science Translator	Mix
Peter Taylor		Science Translator/Web Producer/Web Portal	Mix
UNH (Steve Jones)		Gulfwatch Program Coordination	NOAA ear-
,			mark
Louise White		Environmental Monitoring Coordinator	NOAA
		_	Ear-mark
Andi Rierden		Gulf of Maine Times Producer	NOAA
			Ear-mark
Lori Valigra		Gulf of Maine Times Assistant Editor/Staff Writer	NOAA
J			Ear-mark

Submitted by Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association



Habitat Conservation Sub-committee

Gulf of Maine Primer: The Primer is completed and has been online at the Gulf of Maine website since early February. A plan has been developed for distributing hard copies of the document. The 4000 hard copies will be available the week of March 14. As much as possible, we are attempting to reduce distribution costs, and at the same time ensuring that the document gets to the people agencies and organizations that would most use it. The creation of the Primer is phase 1 of a project to assess impacts to the marine environment. It sets the stage for the other two phases of the work.

Phase 2 of Assessing impacts of human activities to the marine environment: This phase involves seeking out work that has recently been done in the Gulf of Maine on impacts to the marine habitats and synthesizing the information so that it can assist in prioritizing impacts. We received a grant of \$25000 in 2004 from the MPA Center for this work. In early January we posted a contract position to undertake the activities. We received 13 applications and interviewed 3 people. The interview committee consisted of Kate Killerlain, Art MacKay, Peter Taylor and Marianne Janowicz. A decision on the successful candidate was made on March 4 and it is anticipated that person will start working the week of March 22.

Also, we have started a collaborative effort with The Nature Conservancy to host a workshop that will bring experts together to assess and reach consensus on the status of habitats, to reach consensus on the impacts to those habitats and to begin identifying management approaches to mitigate the impacts. The Scientific Advisory Panel that was created to oversee the work on the Primer will provide advise regarding the documents for this workshop and will be invited to be participants in the process. This workshop will occur in early June.

The Sub-Committee members were updated in early March.

Background

The four phases of the assessing impacts project include:

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

Phase 4: Outreach

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



Habitat Monitoring Sub-committee

The Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee and the Habitat Restoration Subcommittee have each been planning outreach publications related to salt marshes, and so are joining efforts to produce a single series of products that meets the needs of both subcommittees. The subcommittees are collaborating on three salt marsh products over the next three months: 1) a short booklet that integrates information about salt marsh habitats, restoration, and monitoring; 2) a one-pager focusing on restoration; and 3) a one-pager focusing on monitoring. The salt marsh monitoring one-pager will form the first in a series of fact sheets planned by the HMSC to inform coastal managers, decision makers, researchers, educators, and community stewards about the potential uses of regional habitat monitoring data for assessing the condition and change of critical coastal habitats. Future HMSC fact sheets on seagrass and near-shore soft-bottom habitats are planned.

HMSC co-chairs have been working with other GOMC Working Group representatives on a Working Group meeting session focused on "Collaborative Data Sharing and Information Infrastructures." This session will become a reality at the spring Working Group meeting. Meanwhile, HMSC co-chairs would welcome other input on existing mechanisms that could serve as a platform for integrating GOM habitat monitoring data.

Submitted by Hilary Neckles, USGS and Reg Melanson, Environment Canada-Canadian Wildlife Service, co-chairs





Habitat Restoration Sub-committee

The Restoration Subcommittee continues to administer grants associated with the GOMC/NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership. The most recent round was awarded in January 2005. The tables below provide a glimpse of the 2004-05 round of restoration grants.

Habitat Restoration Grants
Gulf of Maine Council/National Marine Fisheries Service Partnership 2004-05
Funds Available Year 4: \$341,000

Projects by State:

ojooto oj otato				
State	# Proposals Submitted	# Proposals	Amount	Amount
		Funded	Requested	Awarded
Maine	8	6	\$274,634	\$ 174,446
Massachusetts	5	5	\$140,808	\$129,808
New Hampshire	2	2	\$ 47,549	\$ 32,000
Total	19	13	\$462,991	\$336,254

Projects Funded by Category:

State	Coastal	Riverine	Diadromous Fish	Other	Total
	Wetlands	Restoration	Habitat*		
Maine	1	3	1	1	6
Massachusetts	2	1	1	1	5
New Hampshire				2	2
Total	3	4	2	4**	13

^{*} Diadromous fish habitat restoration is a primary goal of most of the coastal and riverine restoration projects. ** The other category in Maine is a salt marsh monitoring program for a project funded previously by the Partnership, as is the case for the Massachusetts other category. In New Hampshire, the two other categories represent a salt marsh monitoring program and a salt marsh monitoring training course.

Value leveraged with GOM/NMFS Partnership Funds:

value leveraged with GOW/NWI OT artifership rulius.				
State	Amount	Match	Cash Match	Total Project
	Awarded	Provided*	Provided	Value
Maine	\$174,446	\$ 222,332	\$ 97,148	\$ 525,116
Massachusetts	\$129,808	\$ 170,269	\$123,622	\$ 495,077
New Hampshire	\$ 32,000	\$ 47,409	\$ 4,000	\$ 134,503
Total	\$336,254	\$ 440,010	\$224,770	\$ 1,154,696

^{*} Match provided includes both in-kind and cash match for the entire project.

Amount of habitat restored:

The 2004-05 round of grants, when all projects are completed, will result in the following restored habitats:

Type of Habitat	Amount of Habitat Restored*	
Salt Marsh	400 acres	
Salt Pond	92 acres	
Riverine for Diadromous Fish species	70 miles	
Lake and Pond for Diadromous Fish species	1,300 surface acres	

^{*} These estimates of restored habitat are based on information provided by the grant applicants. Not all projects are "in-the-ground" implementation as some support feasibility work, but it is assumed that the activities funded by the Partnership will eventually leverage the full restoration at a future date.

The GOMC Habitat Restoration Committee (Restoration, Monitoring, Conservation Subcommittees) continues to work on collaboration efforts. Work with GOMC contractors focusing on restoration efforts is focusing on collaboration with the three subcommittees. Planned activities for primers, fact sheets and GOM Times articles on salt marshes is incorporating monitoring considerations in order to address the issues comprehensively. In addition, the Habitat Committee is working on a response to the new Proclamation released at the Gulf of Maine Summit in St. Andrews, NB last October. In particular, the Proclamation calls for restoration and conservation of habitat in the Gulf of Maine. It is anticipated that the Habitat Committee will produce a unified response to the Proclamation that identifies efforts underway and resources need to continue or enhance current efforts to restore, monitor and conserve habitats with the Gulf. Contact Jon Kachmar at 207-287-1913 or jon.kachmar@maine.gov for additional information.

Submitted by Jon Kachmar, Habitat Restoration Sub-committee



Gulf of Maine Climate Change Network (GoMCCN)

Since meeting with the GOMC Working Group in December 2004, Task Force co-Chairs, Mr. Gary Lines, Science Manager with the Climate Change Division of Environment Canada, Atlantic Region, and Mr. Bill Burtis, Communications Lead, Clean Air-Cool Planet have been examining ways to develop and expand the Network.

An Internal Grant was secured to develop documentation on Climate Change Impacts on the Gulf of Maine. A contract was issued by Gary Lines to the Research section of the Atlantic Coastal Action Program site in Saint John NB. Delivery on this documentation is set for 31 March 2005. The Task Force recognizes that a significant effort has already occurred in developing "knowledgebase" material on climate change. It is hoped that further development of this information will help focus the network's efforts towards identify climate change impact needs.

Bill Burtis is continuing to develop contact lists in preparation for a face-to-face meeting later this spring. The agenda for the meeting will include discussion on the way ahead as well as the level of participation required by network members. EC Atlantic is prepared to sponsor this meeting to be held in either Fredericton NB or Halifax NS.

Submitted by Gary Lines, Environment Canada and Bill Burtis, Clean Air-Cool Planet, Climate Change Network (GOMC Task Force) co-chairs.





Collaborative Data Sharing and Information Infrastructures

Action: Recommendation to pursue participation

Objective of session

The Gulf of Maine Council (GOMC) Working Group would benefit from a discussion of common interests and solutions to collaborative data management and sharing. There are many different organizations generating data on coastal habitat and water quality in the Gulf of Maine, and more efforts are on the horizon. Regional data standards would benefit multiple users by facilitating large-scale syntheses, and linkage of multiple information sources via an electronic network would improve information access and utility for a variety of audiences. The GOMC and its member states and provinces are engaged in environmental, habitat, and water quality monitoring programs. Data managers must become educated in opportunities and mechanisms for integrating data and information across organizational and geographic boundaries.

A 1.5-hour block on the agenda of a GOMC Working Group Meeting (spring 2005 meeting) is proposed in which invited guests would describe existing programs with immediate relevance to Gulf of Maine data integration needs. Representatives of the following three programs have been invited to present program summaries. Each program would be allotted 30 minutes for presentation and discussion.

Presenters

USGS National Biological Information Infrastructure

Representative: Marcia McNiff, USGS-NBII Northeast Node Coordinator, mmcniff@usgs.gov

The National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII; http://www.nbii.gov) is an electronic information network that provides access to biological data and information on the nation's plants, animals, and ecosystems. Data and information maintained by federal, state, and local government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private sector organizations are linked through the NBII gateway and made accessible to a vast community of users including researchers, natural resource managers, decision-makers, educators, students, and private citizens. Implementation of the NBII is accomplished through the development of nodes that serve as interconnected entry points to the NBII and the information held by partners.

These nodes function as fully digital, distributed, and interactive systems that focus on developing, acquiring, and managing content on a defined subject (thematic nodes) or a geographic area (regional nodes). The Northeast Information Node is currently being developed.

NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

Representative: Laurie Rounds

The NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) has partnered with NOAA National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC) to explore efficient methods to facilitate access to coastal data and reports generated from coastal zone management projects, as well as additional data that support coastal management. NCDDC and OCRM have collaborated to develop a web-based data and information management system for projects funded through OCRM and to provide NCDDC web-based metadata tools and training to selected coastal managers. The goals of the pilot project are to: 1) evaluate the usefulness and feasibility of providing web-based tools to coastal managers for recording metadata and project information and 2) demonstrate the value of entering and storing this information in a central database with distributed remote access. A test version of the information management system, the OCRM Portal, has been completed is now being reviewed by coastal programs in the Gulf of Mexico.

US EPA-National Water Quality Monitoring Council

Representative: Chuck Spooner

State of Maine – Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership

Representative: Seth Barker

The purpose of the Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership is to promote and coordinate the sharing, linking, electronic dissemination, and use of data on the Gulf of Maine region. The participants have decided that a coordinated effort is needed to enable users throughout the Gulf of Maine region and beyond to discover and put to use the vast and growing quantities of data in their respective databases. Through the coordinated access to the respective databases, the participants wish to advance a truly integrated ocean observing system in the Gulf of Maine, promote an understanding of the diversity and distribution of life in the Gulf of Maine, and contribute to integrated oceans management.

The founding members of the Partnership include governmental agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental organizations, including academic, research, and other nonprofit entities. Each of the participants is engaged in the collection of physical, biological, chemical, or geologic data on the Gulf of Maine.

The goal of this Partnership is to implement the "future" of GMBIS, an information system that:



- is technically and institutionally capable of linking databases that are created and individually maintained by
- is region-wide in scale;
- is compatible with other regional, national, and international information systems;
- is accessible by individuals throughout the Gulf of Maine region and beyond;

Participants and, where necessary and appropriate, to archive data sets;

 develops the web-based, visualization, and other information technologies needed for the seamless exchange and facile use of distributed and aggregated data; and acknowledges and maintains the integrity of all data sources.

Submitted by Hilary Neckles



Emerging Issues

As Council prepares to develop its next five-year Action Plan, it will look back at its accomplishments over the first 15 years of its existence and consider the current priorities of its member agencies and other stakeholders in this shared ecosystem. It can be anticipated that much of the focus for our pending activities will be on a continuation of good work on many of our long-standing issues and the priorities that are known and dear to our professional hearts. While this is, largely, a sensible and practical approach, we have to ask "are we fiddling while Rome burns?" That is, are we giving sufficient attention to the large-scale 'over-the-horizon' issues that may have a significant, indeed profound impact on our favo[u]rite ecosystem and the conservation, protection and management objectives on which we have been focused? Are we aware of and paying sufficient attention to social, economic, cultural, demographic, trade, policy, geo-political and other issues at a North American and global scale, in addition to the environmental issues we are more familiar with (including climate change), that may have a significant bearing on our future?

Council agreed at its December 2004 meeting to convene a Forum in June 2005 to explore and learn about such emerging issues and how they are or may be affecting the Gulf of Maine ecosystem. The objective is to provide a wider-view perspective for Council as it considers its priorities for the coming five years and beyond. In preparation for this Emerging Issues Forum, it will be necessary to commission some background research on these larger trends. Following discussion at the March 2004 Working Group meeting, a Terms of Reference and RFP will be prepared and issued in April. This will allow two full months for preparation. The Forum itself would be comprised of a Panel of experts in the various fields in question and a presentation of the important trends. This would be followed by an interactive Q&A session with Council and conclude with a discussion about the important factors that should influence and shape our next Action Plan. It is anticipated that our thinking will be re-shaped, perhaps to a significant degree, by this session.

Working Group members are requested to help identify relevant organizations and/or think-tanks that could be requested to bid on this work.

Submitted by Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada, Emerging Issues Task Force Chair



Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel

2004 fiscal year-end report

The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species (NEANS) Panel begins its fourth year in October 2004. Co-chaired by John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection and Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management, the Panel meets twice each year (spring and winter) in rotating locations throughout the Northeast. One of the charter co-chairs, Tim Sinnott, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation stepped down in December 2003 at the end of his two-year term. Two contractors staff the Panel: Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications, serves as the ANS Program Manager and Gretchen Fitzgerald, Ecology Action Centre, provides a variety of support and policy services.

Panel meetings include the "Spotlight on Species" feature where a panel of experts presents news and cuttingedge technologies on a variety of invasive freshwater and marine species. Panel meetings also include training sessions on practical topics such as effectively communicating with the media and influencing state- and federal-level legislators.

The May 2004 meeting was held in Newport, Rhode Island. The spotlight species was Zebra Mussels with a focus on "Predicting Zebra Mussel Invasion Potential for the Connecticut River Watershed," by Michelle Babione, US Fish and Wildlife Service; "Application of a GARP-based Approach to Determining the Potential Distribution of Zebra Mussels in the Northeast," Dr. Jonathan Bossenbroek, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame; and "Status of Zebra Mussels in the Hudson River: Impacts on Riverine Ecology and Fisheries," Dr. David Strayer, Institute for Ecosystem Studies. NEANS Panelist Chuck O'Neill, NY Sea Grant Extension Program, facilitated the session. The Panel adopted bylaws at its May 2004 meeting. The Panel is November meeting in Saratoga Springs, NY.

The Panel recently began a process to explore and determine research priorities and then communicate them to funding agencies. Judith Pederson, MIT Sea Grant, leads this effort. Along with a group of researchers and resource managers, Judy is working with Dorn Carlson, NOAA, to determine needs and priorities. For further information, contact Judy at jpederso@mit.edu.

Each month, the Panel publishes via its listserve and website the *NEANS Panel Resource Digest*. To subscribe to the Panel listserve, send a blank email with no subject line to panel-subscribe@northeastans.org (please cc: info@northeastans.org on your subscription request).

NEANS Panel Committee reports

Ballast Water

Co-chairs Mihai (Mike) Balaban, Transport Canada and Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant Judith Pederson, co-chair of the newly formed Ballast Water Committee was instrumental in convening the Ballast Water workshop held in October 2003 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Further information can be found at http://massbay.mit.edu/ballastwkshp03/index.html.

Communications, Education, and Outreach

Tri-chairs Michael Hauser, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Chuck O'Neill, NY Sea Grant Extension; and Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services

This past year, the Committee produced a Hydrilla Watch Card and is working through its jurisdictional agencies to distribute it in the Northeast.

As a practical mechanism of raising awareness on ANS, the CEO Committee has developed floating key chains. The bright red key chains encourage individuals to clean boats and other recreational gear so that "tag-along" species of plants and animals do not migrate between waterbodies. The key chain has printed on it a link to a NEANS Panel website page where visitors may obtain contact information for state and provincial agencies and exchange information on ANS and report new findings or locate information or lists of area invasives.

The Panel's Water Chestnut hand-pulling brochure is nearly completed. The brochure is targeted at resource managers and volunteer groups who conduct—or would like to conduct—their own hand-pulling programs.

Policy and Legislation

Co-chairs Anne Monnelly MA Department of Recreation and Conservation and Shannon Weigle, MA Bays Program The Policy and Legislation Committee is pursing a number of initiatives including compiling a list of ANS-related legislative and regulatory measures. Although a list is currently posted on the Panel's website, the Committee is expanding the project as a guidebook to current legislative and other regulatory measures. The Committee's contracted intern, Brent Williams, is working with the Panel's representatives to update the list.

Science and Technology

Co-chairs Jay Baker, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management and Jim Straub, MA Department of Recreation and Conservation



Meeting briefing packet • Version 1 • March 8, 2005

The Science and Technology Committee, through a contract with Jennifer Forman, has compiled priority invasive species lists for the region and completed an analysis of commonalities and discrepancies between these lists. The results of this compilation and analysis will be posted on the NEANS Panel website during the summer of 2004. These pages will give Panel members a better understanding of regional management priorities and make them aware of species that may be threatening their respective states.

The Science and Technology Committee launched the Marine Invader Database at marineID.org, an online repository for marine invasive species distribution information. The database contains species profile information, interactive mapping utilities, and an invasive species reporting template. The Committee continues to populate the database with additional species profile and species distribution information.

In May of 2003, the Science and Technology Committee took the lead in organizing a Rapid Response Planning Workshop in Bar Harbor, Maine. The workshop laid the groundwork for states to develop early detection and rapid response plans. Workshop proceedings are available at northeastans.org. Committee Co-chair Jay Baker will be supervising a NOAA Coastal Management Fellow beginning August of 2004 to assist states with development of rapid response plans.

Submitted by Michele L. Tremblay, ANS Program Manager



Ongoing Governance Research at UNB: MPA Boundary Research

This presentation will show how a research partnership between UNB and the relevant stakeholders was translated into a beneficial relationship for both groups. In particular, I shall show how hydrographic and oceanographic data was used in the proposed Musquash MPA to outline options for the establishment of boundaries. This presentation will conclude by outlining the challenges experienced in attempting to delineate the boundary defining the extent of rights in the proposed Musquash MPA.

Sam Macharia Ng'ang'a is a part-time lecturer and Researcher in Land and Marine Information Systems at the Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering Department, University of New Brunswick. He is currently completing his Doctorate degree on Marine Protected Area Policy and Information System Requirements.

Submitted by Sam Macharia Ng'ang'a, Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering Department, University of New Brunswick



Indicators for the Gulf of Maine: proposal for Year One and beyond

Gulf of Maine EcoSystem Indicators Partnership (ESIP) Background

The Summit produced commitments from Environment Canada and the Environmental Protection Agency to lead a regional ecosystem health indicators initiative – patterned after similar efforts in the Great Lakes and Puget Sound/Georgia Basin. The Council accepted these commitments at their December meeting as well as the Working Group's recommendations on how to proceed with a regional indicators and state of the environment reporting initiative. (see GOMC decision and action items)

Request

In January ESIP was formed (see attached organizational chart) and has now met by conference call three times. Among other things they have developed an implementation strategy that addresses the Council's request for:

- 1. Clarity on the audience for indicators and SOE reporting; and
- 2. Development of an indicators implementation strategy.

ESIP is seeking approval from the Working Group on:

- 1. the attached scopes of services and the implicit support from the Working Group in identifying people to participate in the Listening Sessions and phone interviews.
- 2. Prospective contractors for contract #1 described below

In addition, ESIP seeks Working Group advice on preparatory materials for the GOMC summer meeting and the presentation strategies at the meeting.

Continued on next page...



Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicator Partnership (EIP) Organizational Structure

Ecosystem Indicator Partnership Leadership Team				
Canadian Co-chairs	Francine Rousseau		Environment Canada	
	Joe Arbour		Fisheries and Oceans Canada	
US Co-chairs	Gerry Pesch/Steven Hale		Environmental Protection Agency	
	Gary Matlock		National Oceanic and Atmospheric	
			Administration	
Policy Support	David Keeley		Gulf of Maine Council - staff	
	Indicator Work	Group Leaders		
Contaminants	Wendy Leo		MWRA	
Fisheries	Max Westhead		Fisheries and Oceans Canada	
Land Use/Coastal Dev	Elizabeth Mills		NOAA	
Aquatic Habitats				
Nutrients	Suzanne Bricker		NOAA	
Climate Change	Gary Lines		Environment Canada	
	EIP Ac	visors		
Affiliation		Person		
Conservation Council of New Brunswick		Janice Harvey		
Environment Canada				
Environmental Protection		Peter Wells and Barb Buckland		
Gulf of Maine Council Env	•	Diane Gould		
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration		Louise White		
Ocean Conservancy				
United States Geological Survey		Ralph Cantral		
Others?		Susan Farady		
		Susan Russell		

Indicator Work Groups

Contaminants	Fisheries	Coastal	Aquatic Habitats	Nutrients	Climate
		Development			Change



Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicator Partnership

Request for Contractors

Contract #1 – Indicators and State of the Environment Reporting: Reaffirming our audience's needs The Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicators Partnership (ESIP) seeks a qualified contractor to conduct two focus groups and to compile an assessment of the Gulf of Maine Council's State of the Environment reporting initiative. This work will build on a solid foundation of an indicators workshop (www.gulfofmaine.org/nciw) and materials prepared for and at the Gulf of Maine Summit (www.gulfomainesummit.org).

Statement of Work

- Organize and convene listening sessions -- In late spring of 2005 two sets of listening sessions (1 in Moncton, New Brunswick and 1 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire) will be convened to engage the targeted indicators audience in assessing their needs and uses for regional ecosystem indicators. (A 2-page description of the purpose of the workshop, intended audiences, questions, etc. is attached.)
- Manage assessment of Tides of Change The contractor will assess the value of the Tides of Change report to the intended user community (e.g., content, format & level of report detail, etc.) through a 10-15 minute phone survey conducted via 5 representative interviews with the target audience in each of the five states and provinces. (The contractor will prepare the survey instrument in coordination with ESIP.) Based on these interviews the contractor will:
 - document applications/uses of the report (e.g., policy & strategy setting, education, etc.);
 - identify improvements, including a review of lessons-learned from similar reports produced elsewhere, that will make subsequent reports even more successful; and
 - develop thematic recommendations for next chapter(s).

Schedule and Budget

Task	Deliverables	Schedule	Amount
			(US\$)
Listening sessions	convened and 10-page report	May 15 th	\$10,000
Manage Tides of	15-page report	draft by May 15 th and final	\$15,000
Change Assessment		by July 15 th	

ESIP Support

Members of ESIP will provide (in-kind contribution):

- the meeting space, equipment and refreshments associated with the listening sessions.
- access to all Gulf of Maine indicator and Tides of Change materials;
- invitee lists for the listening sessions and

Contract #2 - Develop an indicators and reporting management strategy

The Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicators Partnership (ESIP) seeks a qualified contractor to work with ESIP to develop a Gulf of Maine indicators and state of the environment reporting strategy.

Statement of Work

Key elements of this strategy include:

- Identification and harmonization with related indicator and reporting efforts (e.g., international, national, and within the GOM region);
- Rationale for the appropriate phasing of the six indicator themes;
- Process for the development of the indicators, required partnerships, data management considerations and their roll-out;
- SOE reporting options;
- Communication and outreach techniques to get people using the indicator and reporting products, and
- Preliminary annual budget estimates, timing and production schedules.

The strategy will be presented by ESIP and the contractor to the Council at their summer meeting.

Schedule and Budget

Task	Deliverables	Schedule	Amount (US\$)
Develop a strategy	15-page report & PP presentation	June 1st	\$10,000

ESIP Support

Members of ESIP will assist the contractor with the research, analysis and writing of the management strategy.





Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicator Partnership A Proposal for SMALL GROUP LISTENING SESSIONS

Proposal: In the Spring of 2005 two sets of listening sessions (1 in Moncton, New Brunswick and 1 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire) will be convened to engage the targeted indicators audience in assessing their needs and uses for regional ecosystem indicators.

Who we are: The Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicator Partnership (EIP) is comprised of 75 environmental managers, policy analysts, and scientists charged by the Gulf of Maine Council to report on the Gulf's transboundary environmental status and trends. Accomplishments to-date include identification of six topical sets of indicators (www.gulfofmaine.org/nciw) and proposed indicators (www.gulfofmainesummit.org). The EIP has assisted in the organization of two major events (e.g., 1/04 Northeast Coastal Indicators Workshop and the Gulf of Maine Summit) that engaged nearly 400 stakeholders in crafting and critiquing the proposed indicators.

What are small group listening sessions? The small group listening sessions will be informal gatherings in which our targeted audiences are asked for their opinions and reaction regarding the approach, tone, style, graphics, text and other facets of the Council's emerging indicator work. Characteristics of these Sessions include:

- Thoughtful selection of session participants to ensure they are representative of the targeted audience
- Active participation and interaction
- Run by a group leader
- Well organized by task, theme and goals
- Gather a range of ideas, opinions and concerns
- Are designed to improve the development, portrayal and use of indicators to make them more useful to target audiences

A maximum of 7-10 individuals representing the targeted audience for each of the three themes (i.e., a total of 30 people) will be invited to participate in their specific theme session. (No individual group will be larger than 10.) The two sets of listening sessions (1 in New Brunswick and 1 in New Hampshire) will be divided accordingly:

Day	Time	Theme	
1	9:00 to 12:00	Contaminants	
	1:00 to 4:00	Land Use – Coastal Development	
2	9:00 to 12:00	Fisheries	

What will we show participants? We will present the draft indicator products, different web display options, or other agency or non-profit work associated with indicator development.

What will we ask? Although the questions have not been designed yet, the categories of questions will include:

- Confirm results of 2004 issues survey are still germane
- Credible sources of information and what makes them credible
- Usability, scale and interest of indicator products
- The range, style and frequency of information products desired
- Useful formats for environmental information & degree/type of analysis
- Suggestions on how to use the indicators
- How the indicators can serve the needs of the target audience

What participant characteristics are we looking for?

- Has a degree of opinion leadership in her/his social system
- Holds role model status
- Interacts frequently with peers- both personal and professional
- Uses local environmental information to make decisions or set policy
- Has a network through which to diffuse environmental information or otherwise use it practically
- Represents and/or works on a daily basis in the theme area
- Is in a position to effect the environmental condition under consideration



Examples of listening session representatives

- Farmers, agauculturalist, commercial fisherman and shellfish growers
- Regional land use planner
- Municipal and county official (elected or professional)
- Tourism operator
- Environmental journalist
- NGO with interest in regional indicators
- Legislative staff with posted environmental assignments
- Trade Association staff (real estate, etc.)
- Sewage treatment plant operator
- Marina manager
- Teacher
- Civic organization lead such as Rotary
- Local Health Departments

Submitted by David Keeley, Gulf of Maine Council, Policy and Development Coordinator



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	·
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Postage	
Other (please describe)	
Organization Name:	
Date	
Address:	
City, State & Zip	
Signature	
Printed Name	