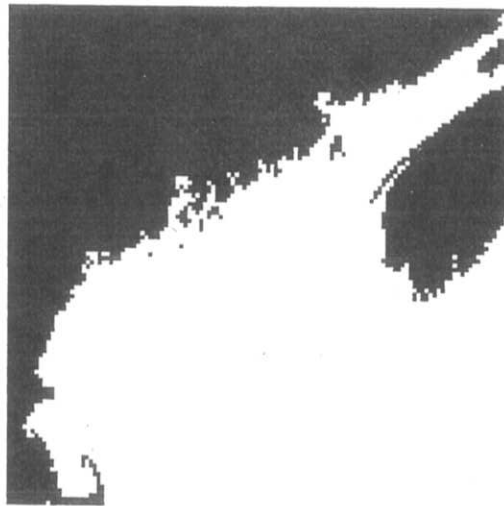

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment



1997-1998 Annual Report

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

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is an international body brought together to foster cross-border cooperation among government, academic, and private groups. The goal of the Council is to develop and implement a sustainable management strategy for the Gulf, which extends from Nantucket, Massachusetts to Cape Sable, Nova Scotia. Public and private representatives from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia oversee the Gulf of Maine Program and its activities in marine monitoring, habitat protection, public education, and pollution prevention.

For more information, please visit our webpage at www.gulfofmaine.org

The 1997-1998 Annual Report is dedicated to Art Longard, friend and devoted Gulf of Maine Council Working Group Member, who worked diligently on behalf of the Council since its inception. Art helped lay the groundwork for our international partnership dedicated to protect the precious resources of the Gulf of Maine.

His contributions to the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and the Gulf of Maine Council were invaluable.

In his memory, the Council will annually bestow the Longard Gulf Volunteer Award to an outstanding citizen volunteer living within the Gulf's watershed.



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The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

Mission: "To maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine and to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations."

1997 - 1998 Secretariat

Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management

100 Cambridge Street Boston, Massachusetts 02202 USA

Telephone: (617) 727-9530 Fax: (617) 723-5408

Dear Friend of the Gulf of Maine,

It was my pleasure to serve as Chair of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment for 1997-1998. Highlights of our year include the implementation of public forums at the bi-annual Council meetings and the strengthening of partnerships with the Global Plan of Action Program, non-governmental organizations, First Nations, and businesses. As we open our door to new partners we reinforce our regional cooperative, and in doing so, improve our chances of maintaining a healthy Gulf of Maine.

The well-attended public forums were a particular success and brought industry, government, and environmental interests to the table to discuss cooperative strategies to deal with top issues in marine environmental management.

- **Natural Gas Pipeline Forum, December 1997**

Oil and gas development has established a growing presence in Atlantic Canada. The Hibernia field off Newfoundland is one of the largest oil discoveries in North America in decades. Several pipelines have been proposed to bring natural gas from the newly discovered fields off Nova Scotia to the Northeast United States. The Forum highlighted possible impacts of the three proposed pipelines such as damage to habitats along pipeline route and landfall locations, disturbance of bottomfish and pelagic fish spawning and feeding areas, damage to benthic habitat, impact on cetaceans, wetland and forest land disturbance, and impacts on national security (reduce reliance on foreign fuel sources).

- **Right Whale Ship Strike/Ballast Water & Aquatic Nuisance Species Forum, June 1998**

Ship strikes are currently the number one documented cause of right whale deaths and could severely impact the survival of the species. Although the shipping industry is diligently working to address this issue, cross-organization cooperation is still needed. In addition, the forum focused on exotic species introduction through ship ballast water. Live organisms are routinely released throughout the Gulf of Maine in ballast waters that were collected in foreign ports. Like the zebra mussel in the Great Lakes, these species could have devastating economic and environmental consequences. Although voluntary standards exist, questions still remain about the best way to handle this issue.

Details of the forums and more of the Council's efforts are included in this Annual Report. Thank you to everyone involved for a productive year.

Cordially,

Peg Brady

Trudy Cox

Let's have
an even better
year. Our
work is so
important.
I think!

Maine State Planning Office	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Affairs	New Brunswick Department of the Environment	New Hampshire Office of State Planning	Nova Scotia Department of the Environment
Department of Marine Resources	MA Coastal Zone Management	Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture	Department of Environmental Services	Department of Fisheries

GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS OF 1997-1998

June 1997

- RARGOM Workshop held at Migis Lodge, Sebago Lake on Improving the Integration of Science and Management in the Gulf of Maine.
- Working Group and Council meeting held in Campobello, New Brunswick on June 11-13.
- Massachusetts assumed the Secretariat. Trudy Coxe served as Secretariat and Susan Snow-Cotter chaired the Working Group.
- Business Advisory Committee (BAC) held its first meeting with potential partners in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.
- Summer 1997 edition of *Gulf of Maine Times* edition published and distributed throughout the Gulf region.

July 1997

- New Secretariat Office established in Boston, Massachusetts.
- Coastal Zone '97 Conference held in Boston, Massachusetts with over 1000 international attendees.
- Council for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) held its first meeting in the Gulf of Maine region exploring ways in which Canada and US can jointly address land-based pollution into the Gulf.

August 1997

- US Gulf of Maine Association met in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Business Advisory Committee received a financial contribution from Northeast Utilities.

September 1997

- Working Group meeting held in Falmouth, Massachusetts on September 29 and 30.
- \$50,000 in NGO minigrants were announced.
- BAC held a meeting in Portland, Maine.
- Woods Hole Policy Group completed an assessment of marine debris in the Gulf of Maine which is available on the Council webpage www.gulfofmaine.org.

October 1997

- CEC met in Danvers, Massachusetts to finalize their 1997 work plan.
- An independent review of the Gulfwatch Monitoring Program led by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution was completed.
- Peter Auster and associates completed a report on the Peer Review of the Great Bay and Quoddy Region Pilot Projects.
- Visionary Award nomination forms were circulated throughout the Gulf region.

November 1997

- *Right Whales on the Brink* brochure and placard were produced in conjunction with the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Massport and The Center for Coastal Studies. The laminated placard is designed to be posted in the wheel house of a boat and gives detailed information on precautionary measures to avoid Northern Right Whales.

GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS OF 1997-1998

December 1997

- The Working Group and Council met in Boston, Massachusetts on December 10-12.
- The Natural Gas Forum was held on December 11 in Boston, Massachusetts. Speakers included:
 - North Atlantic Pipeline: Steve Merrill, Counsel; Philip German, Pipeline Engineer; William Brennan, Fisheries Consultant
 - Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline: William Penny, Vice President
 - Sprague Energy: Brian Habacivch, Natural Gas Marketing
 - Georgia Pacific: Tom Howard, NE Regional Manager of Government Affairs
 - Boston Gas: Antoinette Whitmore, Director of Government Relations
 - Clean Air Task Force: Armond Cohen
- Visionary Award Recipients were announced at the December 11 Museum of Science reception in Boston, Massachusetts.
- Non-Governmental Organization Grant Program Recipients announced at the December 11 Museum of Science reception in Boston, Massachusetts.
- The US Gulf of Maine Association met in Boston, Massachusetts.
- BAC held a meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.
- Winter 1997 edition of *Gulf of Maine Times* published and distributed throughout the Gulf region.

January 1998

- The Council's 5 year Action Plan (1996-2001) was reprinted and distributed due to high demand.

March 1998

- The Global Plan of Action Coalition (formally CEC) met in Halifax, Nova Scotia on March 10 and 11. Working Group meeting held in Halifax, Nova Scotia on March 12 and 13.
- Spring 1998 edition of *Gulf of Maine Times* published and distributed throughout the Gulf region.

April 1998

- Environment Canada assumed management of the Gulf of Maine homepage.

June 1998

- Working Group and Council met in Salem, Massachusetts on June 2-5.
- Marine Shipping Environmental Forum held on June 4. Speakers included:
 - NE Aquarium: Amy Knowlton
 - National Marine Fisheries Service: Pat Gerrier
 - Consultant: Bruce Russell
 - Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries/Oceans: Jerry Conway
 - The Center for Coastal Studies: Moira Brown
 - International Fund for Animal Welfare: Tom Moliterno
 - Mass. Maritime Academy: Captain Joe Murphy
 - Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force: Robert Peoples, Executive Secretary
 - MIT Sea Grant: Judy Pederson
 - Battelle Memorial Institute: Deb Tanis
 - US Coast Guard: Chris Friese
 - MassPort: Captain Brad Wellock
- Chris Cornelisen submitted his final report entitled "Restoration of Coastal Habitats and Species in the Gulf of Maine." He presented his findings to the Council at the June 2-5 meeting in Salem, Massachusetts.
- The Council and Massachusetts Audubon Society and Massachusetts Wetland Restoration & Banking Program hosted a Salt Marsh Monitoring Workshop on June 2. Coordinated by Chris Cornelisen, the workshop at Castle Hill in Ipswich, Massachusetts included speakers and participants from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Maine.
- Summer 1998 edition of *Gulf of Maine Times* published and distributed throughout the Gulf region.
- Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture assumed the Secretariat.

THE GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL'S 1997-1998 PROJECT PORTFOLIO

The Council supports a large number of projects in Canada and the United States that restore, protect, and monitor the Gulf, as well as educate the public and private sectors about the environmental health, beauty, and productivity of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION

The Gulf of Maine Times

This quarterly newspaper reports on the major environmental, economic, and social issues facing the Gulf. Articles provide useful information to regional and national policy makers, resource managers, scientists, not-for-profit environmental organizations, and interested citizens.

The Gulf of Maine Website

This environmental information network, located at www.gulfofmaine.org, is the Gulf's electronic communications hub. The network functions as a repository and source of information for scientists, educators, and others interested in the health of the Gulf. The *Gulf of Maine Times* is available on this website.

The Business Advisory Committee

The Committee, consisting of regional business interests, advises the Council on policy and projects relevant to the business community, better integrates business viewpoints into Council decision making, and develops support for cooperative projects.

PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH & ECOSYSTEM INTEGRITY FROM TOXIC CONTAMINANTS

The Gulfwatch Monitoring Program

Currently in the seventh year of a ten-year project, Gulfwatch uses blue mussels as a "sentinel species" to measure the level of toxic contaminants throughout the Gulf. Gulfwatch is based on the concept that an effective monitoring program requires long-term measurements to interpret temporal trends in pollution.

The Coastal Citizen Monitoring Network

This project helps maintain a regional, citizen water quality monitoring program. It addresses such issues as training, networking, data management, and integration with and acceptance by the scientific community.

REDUCE MARINE DEBRIS AND PREVENT WHALE ENTANGLEMENT

Regional Protection Strategy for the Northern Right Whale

The Council convened a workshop of leading Right Whale scientists, fishers, shippers, and managers from the region to explore next steps on this issue. A "Right Whales on the Brink" brochure for use by commercial shippers, which explains how to identify different types of whales and measures that can be taken to avoid collisions, was produced and distributed.

PROTECT & RESTORE REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT COASTAL HABITATS

Analysis of Marine Protected Areas

This program builds on the Council's 1997 Marine Protected Area (MPA) Project. A computer-based clearinghouse was created to centralize, share, and disseminate important information on MPAs in the Gulf. General selection criteria and a review of the nominating process was developed.

THE GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL GRANTS PROGRAM

Non-Governmental Organization Grant Program

Grants are competitively awarded to not-for-profit organizations to serve as catalysts or matches for programs seeking to help achieve the goals of the Council. These projects must either have a regional impact, or create transferable technologies or information that can improve similar habitats.

(See list of grants on next page)

THE GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL'S
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION GRANT PROGRAM 1997-1998

Organization and Contact Person	State or Province	Amount	Description of Project
National Audubon Society Steve Kress 607-257-7308	Maine	\$7,000	Restoration of tern nesting habitat on Pond Island, Penobscot Bay, Maine, as well as an outreach program to schools on seabird restoration.
NS Organic Growers Association Janet Wallace 902-825-6834	Nova Scotia	\$4,762	Evaluation of the use of various catch crops to provide ground cover and reduce nutrient loss and erosion on agricultural lands. Also outreach to farmers on the use and benefit of catch crops.
The Boston Harbor Association Joan Leblanc 617-482-1722	Massachusetts	\$5,000	Development and distribution of a bilingual (English/Spanish) citizen's guide to improving natural resources in Boston Harbor.
Coastal Enterprises, Inc Elizabeth Sheehan 207-772-5356	Maine	\$4,060	Production of 5 radio pieces that will focus on efforts to restore groundfish resources.
Audubon Society of NH Richard Cook 603-224-9909	New Hampshire	\$3,000	Restoration of a common tern colony and seabird nesting habitat on Seavey Island, Isles of Shoals, New Hampshire.
Beals Island Shellfish Hatchery Thomas Duym 207-853-2518	Maine	\$4,900	Continuation and expansion of an effort to combine habitat restoration principals while concomitantly increasing clam harvests in Maine, and elsewhere, by spreading and publicizing information about clam farming.
Fundy North Fishermen Association Greg Thompson 506-659-2885	New Brunswick	\$1,925	Organization of a conference on scallop enhancement in an effort to improve coordination among industry, government, and conservation groups.
Coalition for Buzzards Bay Tony Williams 508-759-1440	Massachusetts	\$2,000	Development of interpretive signage and monitoring for marine debris.
University of Maine, Cooperative Extension Esperanza Stancioff 207-832-0343	Maine	\$9,516	Development and distribution of "tool kits" to teachers for hands on learning about marine habitats and marine ecology.
St. Croix Estuary Project Rob Rainer 506-529-4868	New Brunswick	\$5,200	Development of interpretive/conservation signage on significant habitats with the St. Andrews-Chamcook area of northern Passamaquoddy Bay as the focus area.
Granite State Designers Richard Clough 603-228-1231	New Hampshire	\$2,625	Development of free public educational seminars to educate individuals on the function of septic systems, potential problems, and the measures to avoid problems.
TOTAL		\$49,988	

1997-1998 GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL VISIONARY AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Gulf of Maine Visionary Awards are given annually to individuals or organizations within each of the five bordering jurisdictions. The awards recognize innovation, creativity and commitment to marine protection. Any business, environmental organization, or individual making a difference to the health of the Gulf of Maine is eligible for nomination.

Specific activities nominated may be of a scientific, educational, conservationist, or a policy nature. The activity might be a public awareness effort, specific grassroots action, a manufacturing change that benefits the marine environment, or simply a change in a business' existing practices to address environmental concerns.

Two awards are made by the Council in each state and province. This year Visionary Awards were presented to the following:

Maine

Robin Alden for pioneering innovative marine resource management techniques as Commissioner of the Department of Marine Resources from 1995 through 1997, and for helping to communicate to the public complex fisheries issues as founder of *Commercial Fisheries News* and the *Fishermen's Forum*.

University of Maine's School of Marine Sciences, under the direction of Dr. Bruce Sidell, for its tremendous contributions to the public's understanding of the Gulf of Maine through education and research programs.

Massachusetts

Toad Hall Bookstore in recognition of its longstanding support of a multitude of small, grassroots environmental advocacy and environmental groups on the North Shore of Massachusetts.

Stormy Mayo of the Center for Coastal Studies, in Provincetown, Massachusetts for his pioneering role in establishing the Marine Mammal Disentanglement Network, which has worked for over 20 years responding to marine mammal entanglements and effectively heightening public and government concern for the protection of cetaceans in the entire Gulf of Maine.

New Brunswick

Peter Hicklin for his outstanding work over two decades with the Canadian Wildlife Service on the shorebirds and the ecology of the Upper Bay of Fundy. Peter's work has been instrumental in understanding the critical role of the intertidal mudflat systems in sustaining and supporting large populations of migrating shorebirds, which are a vital component of these precious environments.

ACAP Saint-John in recognition of its outstanding work with volunteer citizens' groups and private and public agencies to heighten awareness and education regarding the many coastal zone issues in the Saint John Harbour/Estuary Area.

New Hampshire

The Tern Restoration Project which is a joint project between the State's Fish & Game Department and the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. The project was fantastically successful on one of the Isle of Shoals with several nesting terns, chicks, and fledglings in its first year.

Northeast Petroleum for providing responsible business leadership, as well as coastal and marine education in the Gulf of Maine watersheds through 1) curriculum development and distribution and 2) funding for field trips to coastal education centers for economically challenged schools throughout the region.

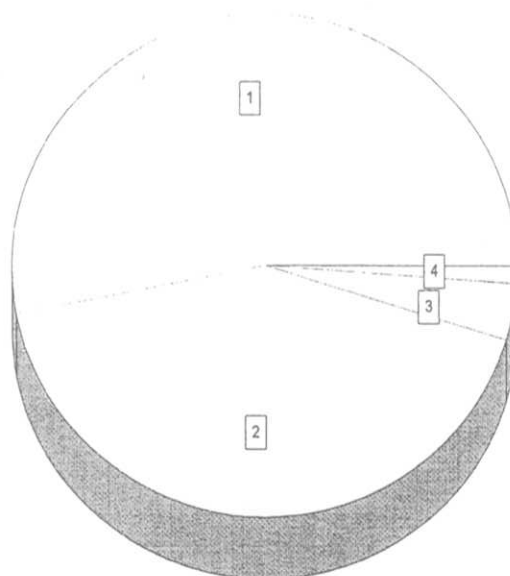
Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Power Inc in recognition of research and enhancement of fisheries and fish habitats in the Annapolis, Bear, Black, Nictaux, Tusket, and Gaspereau Rivers.

Stephen Hawboldt in recognition of his dedication to environmental education and involvement in community stewardship initiatives in the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy.

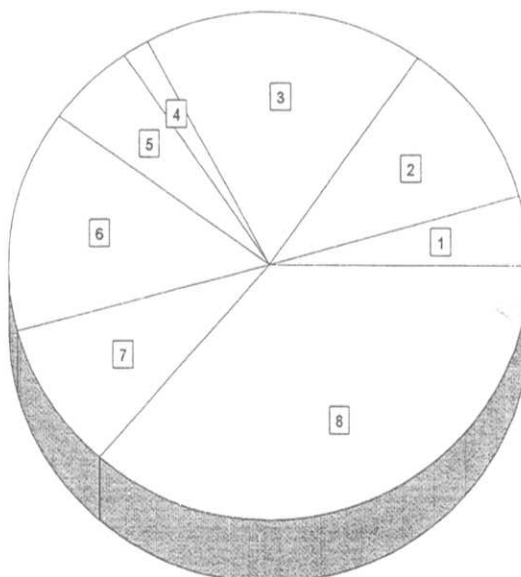
Gulf of Maine Program Revenues 1997-1998
Total \$1,372,400 (US dollars)

1	Federal Partner Grant	\$731,400
2	Matching Funds	\$577,000
3	States/Provinces Annual Contributions	\$50,000
4	Federal Partner Annual Contributions	\$14,000
Total:		\$1,372,400

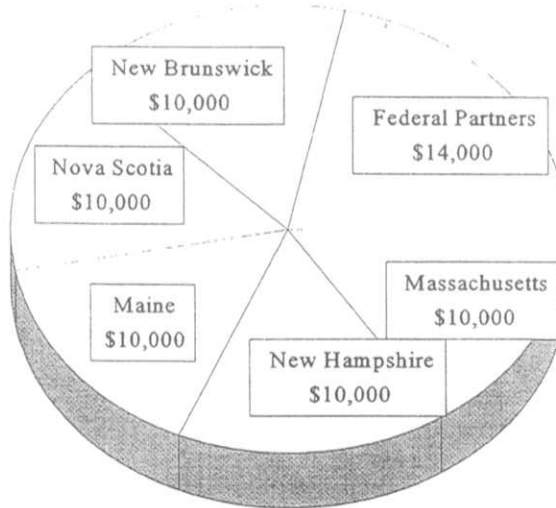


Gulf of Maine Program Budget 1997-98
Total \$1,372,400 (US dollars)

1	Secretariat	\$64,000
2	Program Infrastructure	\$147,000
3	Public Outreach	\$241,600
4	Reduce Marine Debris	\$21,680
5	Protect Groundfish Habitats	\$77,400
6	Restore Shellfish Habitats	\$192,690
7	Regionally Significant Habitats	\$130,150
8	Reduce Toxic Contaminants	\$497,880
Total:		\$1,372,400

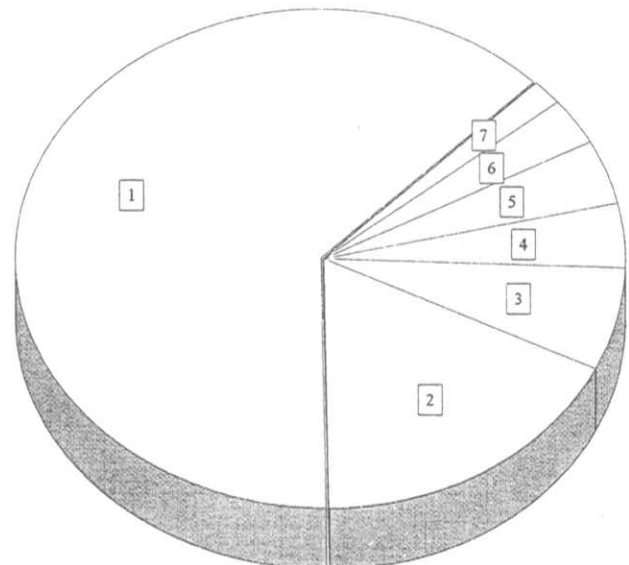


Secretariat Income 1997-1998 **Total \$64,000 (US dollars)**



Secretariat Expenditures 1997-1998 **Total \$64,000 (US dollars)**

1	Staff	\$40,258
2	Meetings	\$11,161
3	Indirect Costs	\$4,300
4	Printing & Framing	\$2,714
5	Mailing	\$2,577
6	Equipment	\$1,990
7	Travel	\$1,000
Total:		\$64,000



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