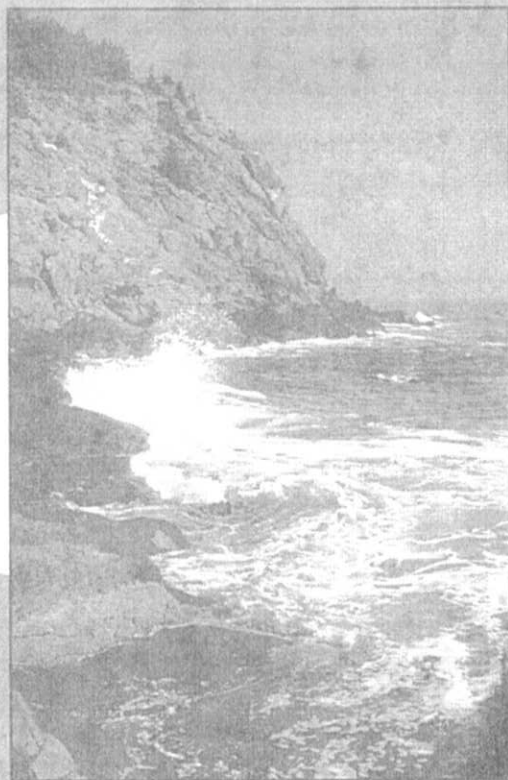


Gulf of Maine Council

on the

Marine Environment



Annual Report
July 2000—June 2001



Gulf of Maine Council

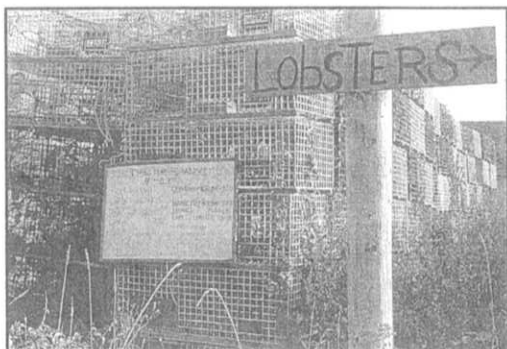
on the

Marine Environment



Annual Report

July 2000—June 2001



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THE MISSION OF THE GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL
is to maintain and enhance environmental quality in
the Gulf of Maine and to allow for sustainable
resource use by existing and future generations.

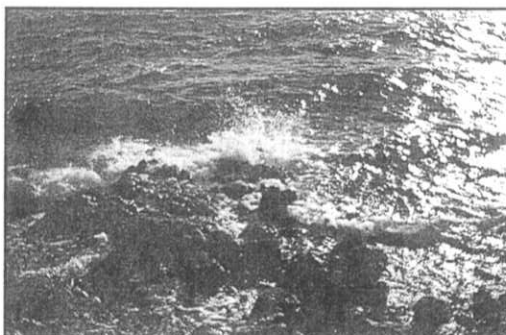
The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is an international body established in December of 1989 through an "agreement on the conservation of the marine environment of the Gulf of Maine" signed by the governors and premiers of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. The Council fosters cross-border cooperation among government, nongovernment, academic and private groups.

Gulf of Maine Council
c/o NH Department of Environmental Service
PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095
phone and fax: 603-225-5544
E-mail: info@gulfofmaine.org
Web site: <http://gulfofmaine.org>

front photo: Monhegan Island, Maine
back photo: Tenants Harbor, Maine
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Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

gulfofmaine.org
info@gulfofmaine.org

July 2001

Dear Friends of the Gulf of Maine:

Maine
Dept. of Marine
Resources,
State Planning Office

Massachusetts
Coastal Zone
Management,
Executive Office of
Environmental Affairs

New Brunswick
Dept. of Environment and
Local Government,
Dept. of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Aquaculture

New Hampshire
Dept. of Environmental
Services,
Office of State Planning

Nova Scotia
Dept. of Environment and
Labour,
Dept. of Agriculture and
Fisheries

Federal Partners
Dept. of Fisheries and
Oceans Canada,
Environment Canada,
US Army Corps of
Engineers,
US Environmental
Protection Agency,
US Fish and Wildlife
Service,
US National Oceanic and
Atmospheric
Administration

It was a privilege and a pleasure to serve as the 2000-2001 Chair for the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment.

As it moved into its second decade working to maintain and enhance the environmental quality of the Gulf of Maine, the Council focused on considering its priorities for 2001-2006. The Council recognizes, as it plans for its third action plan, that the continued health of this unique marine ecosystem is a shared, transboundary responsibility.

The Council continues to serve as a forum for exchanging ideas and information among its provincial, state, and federal agencies, and beyond. For example, the Working Group held special sessions on marine protected areas proposal and habitat restoration. The Council learned of co-management initiatives of the Maine Department of Marine Resources, marine protected areas initiatives being pursued by the Conservation Law Foundation, and explored the role aquariums can play in public education.

The Council's "core projects" continue to make great strides. The Gulfwatch program, which uses blue mussels to measure the level of toxic contaminants, is in its ninth year. The program is being reviewed to consider how it may expand in the future. The Gulf of Maine Times is in its fifth year of providing quarterly news to approximately 10,000 readers in the Gulf. Data and Information Exchange initiatives are expanding with our enhanced technological capabilities. People Finder is a new tool on the Council's web site. It is a searchable database of contact information. Currently, information from 650 nonprofit programs is being added to People Finder so that it can be a tool for communication and sharing of information throughout the region.

I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the efforts of the fourteen organizations who received Council Implementation grants, the 10 individual and organizations who were awarded Council Visionary awards, and Richard Wheeler who was awarded Council's Longard Volunteer award this year. These individuals and organizations work tirelessly to protect and enhance segments of the Gulf of Maine they call home. And amazingly there are many, many more just like these individuals and groups who deserve to be recognized for their efforts as well.

Sincerely,

Evan D. Richert, Council Chair 2000-2001
Director, Maine State Planning Office

The mission of the GOMC is to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine and to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations.

Maine State Planning Office • 2000-2001 Secretariat

GOMC • c/o NHDES • PO Box 95 • Concord, NH, US • 03302-0095 • (603) 271-8866 • (603) 271-0656 fax



July 2000

- Gulf of Maine Environmental Information Exchange (GOMINFOEX) meets in Rockland, Maine. GOMINFOEX is a cooperative effort of public and private interests to promote and help find, access, and make use of environmental information in the Gulf (<http://www.gominfoex.org>).
- Working Group Meeting, Portsmouth, New Hampshire
- Council Meeting, Portsmouth, New Hampshire
- The Maine State Planning Office assumes the role as Council's 2000-2001 Secretariat. Director Evan D. Richert serves as Council Chair. David Keeley serves as Working Group Chair.

August 2000

- Andi Rierden is hired as the new editor for the Council's quarterly newspaper, *The Gulf of Maine Times*. (<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/times/>).
- Aquaculture Committee Meeting, Eastport, Maine.

September 2000

- Working Group Meeting in Saint John, New Brunswick
- In conjunction with Coastal Zone Canada 2000. Working Group engages in a discussion about marine protected areas and the "Gulf of Maine International Ocean Wilderness Proposal (formerly the Hague Line proposal), with presentations from Martin Willison from Dalhousie University, Bob Rutherford from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Ben Haskell from the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

October 2000

- Monitoring Committee meeting, Saint Andrews, New Brunswick
- Working Group Action Plan Retreat, Darling Marine Center, Walpole, Maine.
- Members of the Working Group meet to evaluate the Council's priorities and begin to craft the 2001-2006 action plan.

November 2000

- Council awards over \$115,000 in Implementation Grants to 15 organizations around the Gulf (see page 17 where we have a list of grant recipients)



- GOMINFOEX “Out of the Fog 2” Workshop, Saint John, New Brunswick, Co-sponsored by the Council. A meeting report is available at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/gominfoex/out_of_the_fog_ii.htm.
- Aquaculture Committee Meeting, Portland, Maine

December 2000

- Winter 2000 edition of the *Gulf of Maine Times* published (Volume 4, Number 3). Cover articles feature dam removal and marine protected areas (<http://gulfofmaine.org/times>).
- Working Group meeting, South Portland, Maine.
 - ◊ The Public Education and Participation Committee (PEPC) unveils the new Gulf of Maine Council display. Two displays are available for public use. To reserve the US display, contact Council coordinator, Laura Marron at 603-871-8866 or info@gulfofmaine.org. To reserve the Canadian display, contact Allan Kindervater of Environment Canada, 902-426-0126 or allan.kindervater@ec.gc.ca.
 - ◊ A roundtable called “A Focus on Coastal & Marine Habitat—Protection and Restoration” is held at the Maine Audubon Society office in Falmouth, Maine. Presentations include:
 - *Marine Habitat Restoration*—John Catena, NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
 - *The Edwards Dam Removal*—Betsy Ham, Natural Resources Council of Maine
 - *Sea Bird Restoration*—Scott Hall, National Audubon Society
 - *Habitat Restoration*—Lois Winter, US Fish & Wildlife Service
 - *Marine Water Quality Restoration*—Amy Fitzpatrick, Maine Department of Marine Resources
 - *Salt Marsh Restoration*—Michele Dionne, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Council Meeting, South Portland, Maine.
 - ◊ Presentations were given by two Maine Councilors. Don Perkins speaks about the Gulf of Maine Aquarium and the role aquariums can play in public education. George Lapointe, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Marine Resources discusses the Department's lobster and other co-management initiatives.
 - ◊ Visionary and Longard winners are announced. Barry Jones, retiring from his position with the New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government was recognized for his history of contributions to the Council. Jones served as a Working Group member for over 10 years, and was part of the group of “founders” who promoted the original concept of creating a bi-national Council.
 - ◊ A special Council roundtable on “environmentally sustainable marine-based economic activities. Review contributions of Council member agencies in this area, and discuss Council's potential role in supporting environmentally sustainable marine-based economic activities.



- ◊ The Council decides to make a transition from having a coordinator that rotated each year with the Secretariat, to a “permanent” coordinator. Two agencies (NS Dept. of Fisheries and Aquaculture, and NH Dept. of Environmental Services) generously offered to serve as host for the coordinator. The host agency will provide office space and equipment in-kind. NH DES will host the coordinator position. The Secretariat role continues to rotate annually among the jurisdictions.
- GOMINFOEX meeting, Portland, Maine

January 2001

- Report released—“Background and Issues Paper on the Current Status of Shellfish and Broodstock Movement and Disease Transfer Risks in the Gulf of Maine Region”, prepared by Bruce J. Barber, Ph.D. and Sharon McGladdery, Ph.D. for the Gulf of Maine Council. (http://gulfofmaine.org/council/pdf/aquac_shellfpaper.pdf)
- Peter Gough’s Gulf of Maine “Ark” exhibit opens at the Nova Scotia Museum. Nova Scotia presents Visionary awards.
- Massachusetts Visionary and Longard awards presentation at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History.
- Presentation of New Hampshire Visionary Awards in a ceremony attended by Governor Jeanne Shaheen and the three NH Council members David Haney, Jeff Taylor and Bob Varney at the State House in Concord, New Hampshire.

March 2001

- Presentation of the Maine Visionary Awards during the Maine Fishermen’s Forum.
- Spring 2001 *Gulf of Maine Times* published (Volume 5, Number 1). Lead articles feature Atlantic salmon and the sea urchin industry (<http://gulfofmaine.org/times>).
- Public Education and Participation Committee (PEPC) meeting via conference call
- Gulf of Maine Information Exchange (GOMINFOEX) meeting, Gloucester, Massachusetts
- Aquaculture Committee Meeting, Augusta, Maine
- Working Group Meeting, Gloucester, Massachusetts

April 2001

- Gulf of Maine Habitat Restoration Workshop, Wells, Maine, co-sponsored by Council and NOAA/ National Marine Fisheries Service

April 2001

- Canadian Federal Partners Workshop (Department of Fisheries and Oceans & Environment Canada), at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, NS
- Environmental Quality Monitoring Workshop, Portsmouth, NH

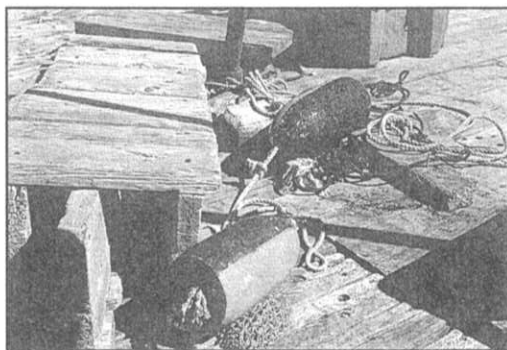


May 2001

- Working Group Meeting, Bar Harbor, Maine
- A Benthic Mapping Seminar on May 23rd.
- Council Meeting, Bar Harbor, Maine.
 - ◊ Presentation by Councilor Priscilla Brooks about the importance of marine protected areas and efforts of the Conservation Law Foundation regarding MPAs.
 - ◊ Sustainability forum on the 25th with the following presentations:
 - Ecotourism: Costas Christ, Conservation International, Washington, DC
 - Aquaculture: Edward Myers, Maine
 - Marine Research and Innovation: Evan Richert, Council Chair, ME SPO
 - ◊ Maine State Planning Office steps down as Council Secretariat and welcomes New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government into the role. Minister Kim Jardine serves as Council Chair. Kim Hughes serves as Working Group Chair.

June 2001

- Summer 2001 *Gulf of Maine Times* published (Volume 5, Number 2). Lead articles feature salt marsh restoration, and a writer's legacy in Cape Cod (<http://gulfofmaine.org/times>).
- Council assembles a panel on coastal development in Maine and presents to the Pew Oceans Commission in Rockport, Maine.
- GOMINFOEX meeting at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, NS.
- Report released—"Marine Monitoring Programs in the Gulf of Maine—An Inventory," prepared by Heather Chandler for the Gulf of Maine Council and the Maine State Planning Office. (http://gulfofmaine.org/library/pdf/mon_inventory.pdf)



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Gulf of Maine Regional Habitat Restoration Workshop

A regional habitat restoration workshop was convened on April 10 and 11, 2001, at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve in Wells, Maine. The goal of the workshop was to develop a strategy for preparing and implementing a regional habitat restoration plan for the Gulf of Maine. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Council and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service.

It was well attended with over 75 participants, including members of nongovernmental organizations in Canada and the United States and staff from federal, state, and provincial wildlife, environmental, and marine resource agencies. The workshop report can be viewed on the Council's web site at [<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/habitat.shtml>].

Participants gathered in four breakout groups based on habitat type: tidal wetlands; riverine systems; subtidal habitat; and beaches, dunes, and islands. Each habitat group was asked to define restoration and determine major threats that can be addressed by restoration; identify priority restoration needs and identify priority projects to address those needs; provide spatial and site specific information on projects that would be useful for decision-making; identify limitations to implementing restoration projects and corresponding solutions; and identify research needs and opportunities.

The key points of their discussions were brought back to the full group, presented, and then summarized. Finally, workshop participants were asked to consider the content of a regional habitat restoration plan and the process through which such a plan could be created and implemented.

By the close of the workshop, it was clear that the workshop had achieved its stated goals. The goals for restoration in each habitat type had been identified, as well as the meaning of "restoration" within each environment's context; specific criteria for identifying restoration projects, appropriate techniques, and data needs had been highlighted; specific obstacles to restoration listed; and immediate and long-term research needs as well as specific habitat health indicators defined.

Workshop participants agreed that a regional plan is important because such a plan will:

- define why restoration is important
- provide a strategic approach to restoration;
- provide a good information source for community groups and others regarding specific projects' significance;
- allow for efficient use of available funding and staff resources
- provide for recognition of local efforts within a larger context.
- increase the public profile for restoration
- stimulate community involvement
- increase the overall capacity of all participants to accomplish restoration goals



Workshop participants agreed that common actions are needed to support a regional plan:

- Inventory existing databases to answer the question: what data inventories do we have and what do we need;
- Develop regional data management protocols;
- Identify and communicate the unique ecological traits of Gulf of Maine habitats;
- Determine what actions the region can do together that individual jurisdictions can't do alone;
- Determine what habitat information exists that ties the five jurisdictions together;
- Share information (restoration techniques, research data, etc.) among jurisdictions to add value to efforts;
- Ask the Gulf of Maine Council to act as a communications exchange;
- Encourage Gulf of Maine Council to create a formal agreement on habitat restoration, then local organizations can use that agreement as leverage in their own jurisdiction;
- Emphasize that protection is as important as restoration in most habitats;
- Set ambitious but achievable restoration targets by habitat type, then identify projects with partners and funding.

The Workshop participants identified "Next Steps":

- Complete Workshop Report [<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/habitat.shtml>];
- Identify available information for each habitat type;
- Draft a plan to include goals and objectives; strategies; actions; partners; resources necessary to implement; time schedule;
- Devise a marketing strategy to publicize the plan to agencies and the public.

In May of 2001, the Council decided that it was an appropriate time to re-establish a Habitat Committee. The Habitat Committee, formed during the summer of 2001, is charged with the initial functions of creating a regional restoration plan, and administering a habitat restoration grant received from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (see below).

NOAA awards Council \$430,000 for habitat restoration

The NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) awarded \$430,000 to the Council to finance regionally important coastal habitat restoration projects. The Council has pledged to match a minimum of \$430,000 through in-kind or cash support, bringing the potential value of the project to more than \$800,000. In addition, NOAA has conditionally approved continued funding for the next two years, at or above \$430,000 per year.

Council will use the funds to provide grants for local engineering studies, actual restoration work, and for monitoring changes for two to three years after restoration work is completed.



Gulf of Maine Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee Workshop

An Environmental Quality Monitoring Workshop, sponsored by the Council, was held in Portsmouth, New Hampshire from April 29th-May 1st, 2001. The workshop was attended by 23 individuals representing government, university, nongovernmental and business organizations.

The goal of the workshop was to move toward an integrated contaminants and environmental quality monitoring program for the Gulf of Maine by discussing and reaching consensus on:

- priority issues, current monitoring efforts, and previous recommendations on improving monitoring in the Gulf;
- components of a guiding framework for monitoring;
- approaches for strengthening the current "Gulfwatch" mussel monitoring program; and
- next steps toward achieving integrated environmental quality monitoring in the Gulf.

The following workshop actions were identified, and are being explored further by the Council's Working Group and Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee:

1. Complete and analyze inventory of monitoring programs:

- Complete an inventory of coastal and marine monitoring programs in the Gulf of Maine.
- (The inventory is complete, and can be viewed on the Council's web site at: http://www.gulfofmaine.org/library/monitoring_inventory.html.)
- Analyze the inventory to determine the scope of existing monitoring efforts and potential gaps, and to provide a starting point for networking among monitoring programs.

2. Enhance Gulfwatch:

- Enhance the Gulfwatch program based upon suggestions received through the workshop and from Monitoring Committee members. Potential changes include modifying number of sampling sites, testing other organisms in addition to mussels, sampling for additional chemicals, sampling sediment, and establishing a tissue bank. Monitoring sites could also be used to address habitat monitoring needs.

3. Improve Water Quality Information:

- Develop and implement an ongoing effort to translate scientific data into information and get it into the hands of managers and the public. Update Gulf of Maine inventory of point sources and interpret discharge permit data for determining source-loading estimates. This source assessment will be used for the "Health of the Gulf" report. Existing models, such as the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project will be considered.
- Initiate and facilitate monitoring programs that improve our understanding of the effects of sewage, nutrients and pathogens in the Gulf.

4. "Health of the Gulf of Maine" Report

- Prepare a comprehensive report on issues affecting human health and ecosystem integrity in the Gulf. It will identify priority issues and information gaps for Council consideration. A series of meetings, and a "Health of the Gulf" workshop would provide information to be



included in the report. The meetings and workshops would enhance networking between subregional monitoring programs and Gulf-wide efforts.

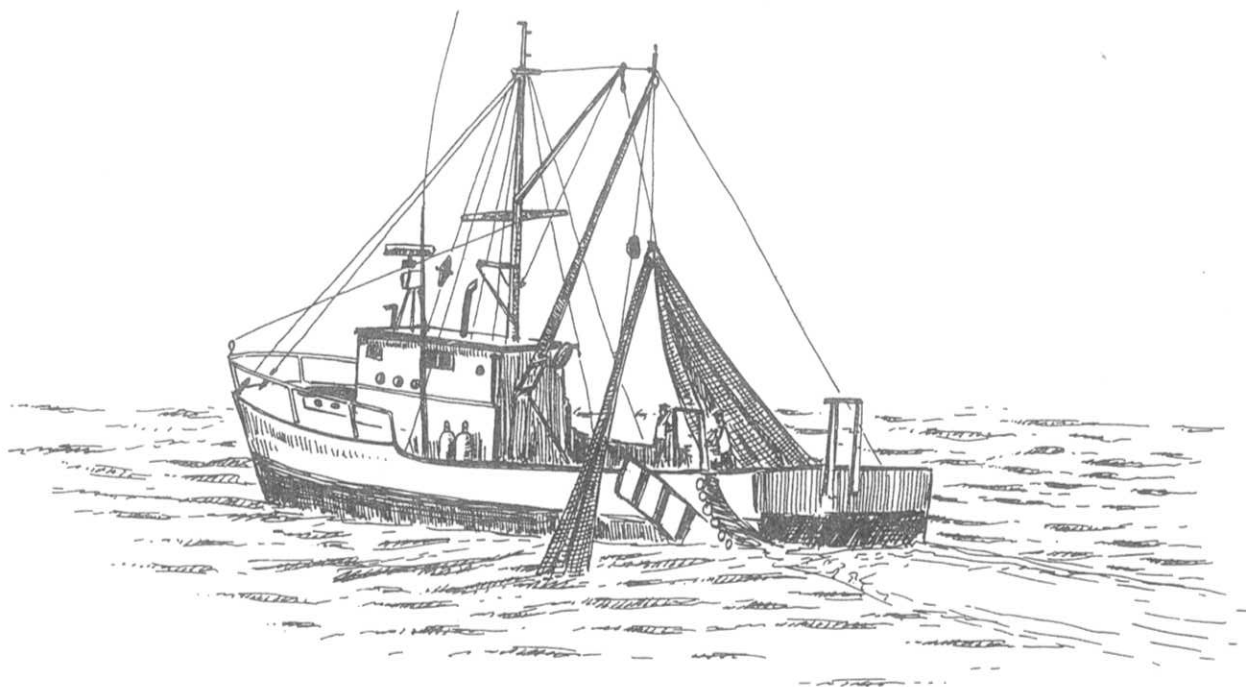
4. Environmental Indicators


- Identify a suite of indicators of environmental quality in the Gulf for ongoing communication with the public.
- Reports on indexes of environmental quality could be disseminated through the Gulf of Maine Times and other venues.

Council hosts Northeast Regional Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel

In July of 2001, the Gulf of Maine Council requested that the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force establish a Northeast Regional Panel, to be hosted by the Council. The Task Force accepted Council's request. As host entity for the Northeast Regional Panel, the Council will organize meetings, contract work products, provide administrative services, and administer funds to support a regional response to aquatic nuisance species (ANS) concerns.

In developing its 2001-2006 Action Plan, the Council acknowledged the need to focus attention on the threats posed by ANS. The Action Plan will contain an objective for increasing the active profile and management of ANS threats by Council member agencies. The Council will work closely with the Northeast Regional Panel to identify and implement strategies and actions to support this objective.





Through an appropriation of funds from the US Congress in 1999, the Council received an 18-month grant through the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for July 1, 1999 through December 31, 2000. The Council's project portfolio focused on three of its own "core projects": the Gulf of Maine Times newspaper, Gulfwatch mussel monitoring program, and the data and information exchange initiative. In addition, the Council provided funding to not-for-profit organizations through its 2000-2001 Implementation Grants Program (see page 17).

Gulf of Maine Times

Launched by the Council in 1997, the *Gulf of Maine Times* is a quarterly newspaper that offers in-depth news on Gulf-related issues to a circulation of 9,000. Articles provide thorough coverage of policy, resource management and scientific matters for government officials, staff of nongovernmental organizations, educators, business people, press and other interested readers.

Over the past year, the Times added contributing writers to expand coverage and bring additional insights from around the Gulf. New features include a commentary called "Gulf Voices" that provides perspectives from citizens and introduces ideas and projects from the region, a Q&A with noted experts exploring legislation and other initiatives, personality profiles, and book reviews. To give it a more contemporary look, the newspaper was redesigned and color was added to the front, back, and center pages. A new design of the newspaper's online version (<http://gulfofmaine.org/times/>) has enhanced its visual appeal and made it easier to navigate and access previous editions.

To subscribe to the *Times*:

1. Contact the editor, Andi Rierden, Editor, P.O. Box 339, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, B0S 1A0, Canada, Phone: (902) 532- 0200, Fax: (902) 532 - 0250, E-mail: editor@gulfofmaine.org, OR
2. Register online through the Council's People finder at: http://gulfofmaine.org/cdb/user_add.html.

The following individuals serve on the Editorial Board: Andy Cameron (NS Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries), Anne Donovan (Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management), Alison Evans (Coastal Network of the Gulf of Maine), Eric Williams (NH Department of Environmental Services), Lois Winter (US Fish & Wildlife Program's Gulf of Maine Program). The managing editor is Laura Marron, Council coordinator.

The Gulfwatch Monitoring Program

Currently in the final year of a nine-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. Mussels are collected from designated sites, and mussel tissue is then analyzed for a suite of heavy metals and organic contaminants. Data is compiled and interpreted, and a summary document is written and distributed. The 1998-1999 Gulfwatch data will be made available on the Council's Web page at <http://gulfofmaine.org/library/gulfwatch/index.html>.



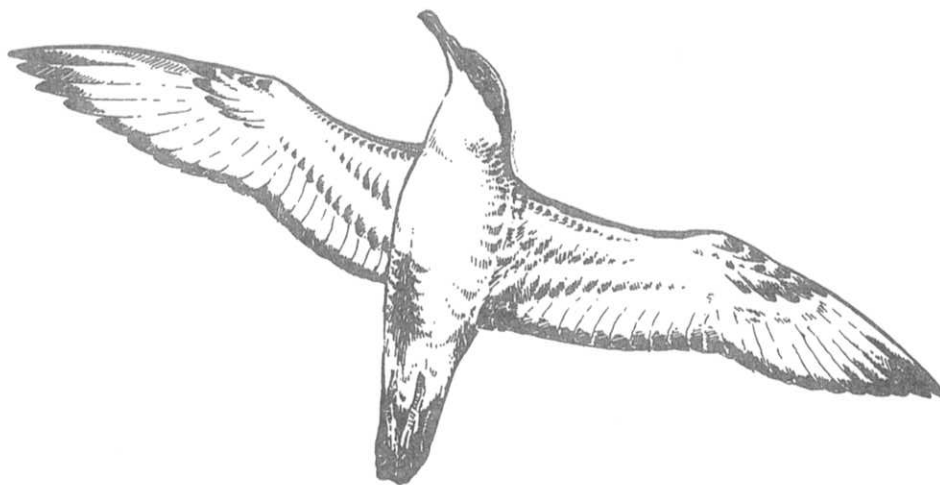
This year, a scientific, peer-reviewed paper on the results of the first seven years of Gulfwatch was published in Marine Pollution Bulletin, 46 (6): 491-505. The Council's Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee is in the process of reviewing Gulfwatch, with an eye toward continuing many of its components, and modifying it by using additional indicator species and testing for additional contaminants.

Data and Information Exchange

Council's Web site (<http://gulfofmaine.org>) offers a broad range of tools and Gulf-related information to enhance communication between the Council and citizens interested in Gulf of Maine and Council issues. These include a calendar of events, a library with access to many reports, the Gulf of Maine Times, and general information such as requests by the Council for grant applications and annual awards nominations, and information about the Council's action plan, committee business and special projects.

This year, a new tool called "People Finder" was launched. It is a searchable contact database of people who live and work in the Gulf of Maine region. Under development is the addition of 650 nongovernmental organizations to this database and tools that will allow for communication and networking between organizations.

The Council supported a November 2000 Gulf of Maine Environmental Information Exchange (GOMINFOEX) workshop. The Data and Information Management Committee is the Council's representative in this broad cooperative initiative to facilitate access to available information on the Gulf to all sectors of people. More details on the results of this workshop can be found at www.gominfoex.org.



Gulf of Maine Council

Recognizing that much of the ongoing stewardship work on behalf of the Gulf of Maine is being undertaken by countless grassroots environmental organizations, the Council fosters locally-based stewardship projects by providing seed money to organizations that share the Council's goals, but work independently of the Council.

The Council's Grants Program is a competitive program that provides up to \$10,000 to local initiatives throughout the Gulf that implement Council's priority goals of protecting and restoring regionally significant coastal habitats, restoring shellfish habitats, promoting restoration of groundfish resources, protecting human health and ecosystem integrity from toxic contaminants in the marine environment, and reducing marine debris. Since 1996, the Council has awarded approximately \$470,000 to several dozen organizations working on projects that are aligned with the Council's priorities.

2000-2001 Grant Recipients:

- Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre, NB, \$10,000 for compiling data on rare, endangered, and keystone species found in the Bay of Fundy seascapes
- Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP), NB, \$10,000 for semi-permeable membrane devices as a tool for community environmental monitoring
- Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Centre, NB, \$10,000 for understanding local cod stocks for restoration in the Bay of Fundy
- College of the Atlantic, ME, \$8,435, for Ecology and Community: designing a baseline study in the Union River watershed
- Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, ME, \$10,000 for Concord Gully Conservation Partnership
- Gulf of Maine Aquarium, ME, \$9,875 for Gulf of Maine Marine Research Portal
- Marine Invertebrate Diversity Initiative [MIDI], NS, \$10,000 for MIDI Web based system for compiling, managing and accessing benthic habitat information-test application to US Coastal waters
- Nature Conservancy of Canada, NB, \$6,344 for Brier Island Nature Preserve: Stewardship Program
- Planning Alliance of the Damariscotta River Estuary, ME, \$5,200 for publication & dissemination of model municipal erosion control & storm water management ordinances



- Salem Sound 2000, MA, \$4,414 for Beach Buddies Program
- Salisbury Beach Betterment Association, MA, \$8,895 for dune restoration and public education initiative
- The Lobster Conservancy, ME, \$10,000 for Gulf of Maine Volunteer-based Lobster Monitoring Program
- Town of Ogunquit, ME, \$1,810 for public education on clam resource protection
- University of New Hampshire/Jackson Estuarine Laboratory, NH, \$9,996 for habitat restoration of South Mill Pond to improve fisheries and water quality The Council is working to secure funding for future grant rounds.



Longard Award Richard C. Wheeler

About the Longard Award



*Art Longard
1942-1997*

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment annually bestows the Longard Gulf Volunteer Award to an outstanding citizen volunteer living within the Gulf's watershed. To receive this award, an individual must have made significant contributions through their work as a volunteer, to environmental protection and sustainability of natural resources within the marine, near shore, or watershed environment of the Gulf of Maine.

The award is presented in the memory of Art Longard, who's personal and professional life was dedicated to the management and improvement of the Gulf of Maine. As an employee of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries, Art committed countless hours to the conservation of marine life in the Gulf of Maine. Art was convinced that government and citizens need to work collaboratively and that citizen volunteerism is an essential ingredient to ensuring the sustainability of the Gulf's natural resources. His unwavering professional dedication to Gulf conservation blended with his personal interest in yacht racing and pleasure sailing. Art was one of seven people who conceived of and ardently supported the international Gulf of Maine program, and the Council is proud of his accomplishments.

Richard C. Wheeler

The 2000 Longard Volunteer Award was presented to Richard C. Wheeler for challenging people, through his unique journeys, to consider the beauty, complexity and value of the natural marine environment.

During the fall of 2000, Richard Wheeler inspired children and adults alike through his solo circumnavigation of Cape Cod in a rowboat. Through the three-week trip Wheeler demonstrated how the Cape can be used as a classroom laboratory. At the same time, he raised funds for the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History's "Naturalist in the Schools" program through the collection of "per-mile" pledges. Along his route, Wheeler visited school children and kept a daily log that appeared in a local newspaper and on the Museum's web page. He personally met with more than 60 elementary school classes to talk about the wildlife he observed and the signs of human impact he encountered along the way. As part of his classroom visits, he asked students to imagine what he might have observed on the same route 100 years ago and what will be seen 100 years in the future.



Richard C. Wheeler

In 1991, Wheeler completed a four-month, 1,500-mile solo kayak trip from Funk Island, Newfoundland to Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts along the seasonal migration route of the Great Auk. Wheeler compared the 1844 extinction of the flightless bird, an easy target for food and feathers, with the recent decline of other species in the Gulf of Maine. The trip was featured in a PBS Nova science program and is now available in videocassette, enabling thousands of people each year to retrace Wheeler's journey at home and in the classroom. In October of 1998, Wheeler was honored by Time magazine as a "hero for the planet" for his journey on behalf of the Great Auk.



Visionaries Recognized

About the Visionary Award

The Gulf of Maine Visionary Awards are presented annually to individuals or organizations within each of the five bordering jurisdictions. The awards recognize innovation, creativity and commitment to marine protection. Businesses, environmental organizations, or individuals making a difference to the health of the Gulf of Maine are eligible for the award. Activities may be of a scientific, educational, conservationist, or policy nature. Two awards are presented to each state and province bordering the Gulf.

Maine Visionary Award Winners

Craig Pendleton for his work with the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance, an organization dedicated to transforming the way individuals and institutions interact to manage marine resources. Mr. Pendleton is committed to forging a consensus among diverse groups and to developing collaborative approaches to managing the Gulf of Maine's resources.

The Coastal Conservation Association of Maine, a recreational saltwater angling organization. The Coastal Conservation Association dedicates itself to providing the public with saltwater angling opportunities, conserving marine fisheries, restoring rivers, and returning anadromous fish to the Gulf of Maine watershed.

Massachusetts Visionary Award Winners

Henry Lind who consistently goes beyond the call of duty to sustain and enhance the environmental resources of his corner of the Gulf of Maine. In addition to serving as Director of Natural Resources, Henry is the town's Shellfish Officer, Harbormaster and Conservation Commission Agent. Through his 25 years in these positions, he has become the town expert on coastal issues ranging from oil spills to marine mammal strandings to boat moorings. Henry's easy-going but determined nature combined with his extensive and broad expertise of coastal issues has earned him the respect of his peers in adjacent towns, state agency personnel and local citizens.

Maria Van Dusen has long-recognized the importance of taking a watershed approach to environmental management in Massachusetts and the greater Gulf of Maine. Through her work both with the Riverways and Watershed programs, Maria's "big picture" vision and forthright "on the ground" approach have made an indelible imprint on the Massachusetts environment. Never hesitant to speak her mind, Maria has demonstrated that far-reaching change is made with a combination of hard work and clear vision.

New Brunswick Visionary Award Winners

When staff at **Southern Carleton Elementary School** near Woodstock, New Brunswick learned in 1998 that the small hardwood stand adjacent to the playground was an example of Appalachian Hardwood Forest containing many plants rare or uncommon in the province, they immediately began to look for ways the school could protect and benefit from this unusual asset. Over the next two years, with the support of the Nature Trust of New Brunswick and the cooperation of a neighbour who owned the portion of the woodland not owned by the school, staff members developed a plan for the woods to serve as an outdoor "ecological classroom". They identified and marked trees and understorey plants, established very low impact paths, and, perhaps most important, developed kits for teachers demonstrating how the ecological



classroom could be used within the curriculum at each grade level. By protecting this stand of rich hardwood forest in a way that teaches children to recognize and appreciate its value, Southern Carleton Elementary School has an influence, which extends well beyond the school and far into the future. Southern Carleton's AHF woodland is part of the ecologically rich watershed of the Meduxnekeag River, a tributary of the St. John River, the largest river flowing into the Gulf of Maine.

As President of the Meduxnekeag River Association, **Stephen Wilson** has spearheaded the work of this nonprofit organization in developing community stewardship of the ecologically rich Meduxnekeag watershed. Beginning with fish and habitat surveys and water quality monitoring in the river itself, the Association then expanded its approach to include tributary stream restoration and riparian zone activity. In the Fall of 1998, when an ecologically-significant 150-acre wooded property with more than 2-km of shoreline came onto the market, Stephen Wilson played a crucial role organizing members and supporters of the Association to guarantee a \$125,000 bank loan. This enabled the Association to purchase the property as a nature preserve. Continued local fundraising placed the Association ahead of schedule in its 5-year plan to pay off the loan, and members are looking ahead to the next opportunity to protect more of one of the most ecologically rich watersheds in the Gulf of Maine ecosystem.

New Hampshire Visionary Award Winners

Linda Kukis Scherf for her untiring commitment to protecting the Gulf of Maine watershed, by sharing her knowledge of the environment with others and taking direct actions to safeguard environmental quality. As a teacher at Saint Mary Academy in Dover, New Hampshire, Scherf brings her passion about the environment to her students. They have "adopted" Wallis Sands in Rye, NH and organize coastal clean ups at that site throughout the year. Scherf is a long-time participant in the Great Bay Coast Watch, a volunteer water quality monitoring program, and her students sample water quality on the Cocheco River as part of that program. Scherf and her students participate in the Gulf of Maine Institute Without Walls youth stewardship program. When she is not teaching, Scherf serves as Chair of the Cocheco River Watershed Coalition. She samples water along the Mad and Cocheco Rivers for the Coalition's "Cocheco River Watch", which is part of the state's Volunteer River Assessment Program. Scherf also serves as a member of the Dover Conservation Commission.

The University of New Hampshire Marine Docents for 20 years of increasing public awareness of the marine environment through their volunteer efforts as trained community outreach volunteers. The Docents create and present programs that include descriptions of New Hampshire's rocky shores, salt marshes, and beaches, as well as aquaculture and technical aspects of wave and tidal action. Many Docents work with school children, bringing presentations about the marine and coastal environments to schools, 4-H clubs, and scout groups. The Docents also conduct tours of the Shoals Marine Laboratory and Jackson Estuarine Laboratory, and act as field guides and instructors at the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, and the Sandy Point Discovery Center in Stratham on Great Bay. Over 400 Docents have been trained over the history of the project. The Docents currently reach between 15,000 and 20,000 people per year.

Nova Scotia Visionary Award Winners

Dr. Mike Brylinsky in recognition of many years of environmental education, dedicated scientific research and publications on estuarine, marine, and freshwater ecosystems of the Bay of Fundy, and for his involvement in community-based initiatives providing scientific advice and promoting understanding of ecosystem functions, dynamics, and sustainable management practices.

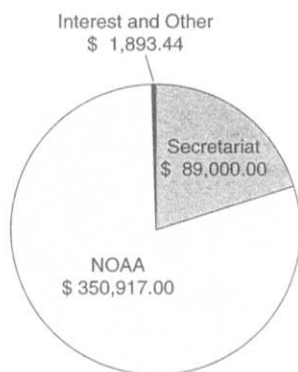
Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Centre in recognition of their success as a community-based institution providing facilitation services, capacity development and technical support to enable communities to assume a greater role in integrated management of coastal resources.



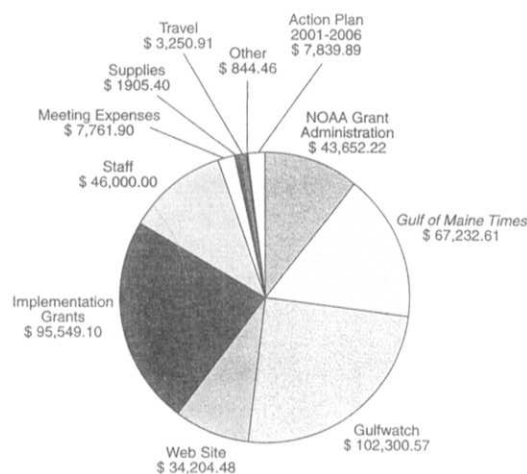
2000-2001 Financial Summary

Income 2000-2001

Congressional appropriation administered through NOAA	\$ 350,917.00
Secretariat operations	89,000.00
<i>(Annual contributions from state and provincial agencies: \$75,000.00; from federal partners: \$14,000.00; \$64,000 allocated toward annual Secretariat Operations; \$25,000 is designated toward "special project," which supported the development of Action Plan 2001-2006)</i>	
Interest income, other	1893.44
Total	\$ 441,810.44



Income 2000-2001



Expenses 2000-2001

Expenses 2000-2001

Administration of NOAA grant	\$ 43,652.22
Gulf of Maine Times (NOAA)	67,232.61
Gulfwatch (NOAA)	102,300.57
Web site / GOMINFOEX (NOAA)	34,204.48
Implementation Grants (NOAA)	95,549.10
Staff (Secretariat operations)	46,000.00
Meeting expenses (Secretariat operations)	7,761.90
Supplies (Secretariat operations)	1,905.40
Travel (Secretariat operations)	3,250.91
Other (Secretariat operations)	844.46
<i>bank fees \$49.46, conference calls \$795.00</i>	
Action Plan 2001-2006 Preparation (Secretariat operations)	7,839.89
Total	\$ 410,541.54



Other Expenses

Additionally, the Council provided funding to support activities of its committees and other programs in the Gulf of Maine region. The projects were funded through unexpended Secretariat funds remaining from prior years, and were not part of the 2000-2001 Congressional allocation or Secretariat operations.

The Council provided \$4,000.00 to its Aquaculture Committee for preparations for a September 2001 workshop on physical remediation. This included the preparation of a paper on the current status of shellfish and broodstock movement and disease transfer risks in the Gulf region [http://gulfofmaine.org/council/pdf/aquac_shellfpaper.pdf].

The Council's Public Education and Participation Committee received approximately \$2,830.00 to create two Gulf of Maine Council displays (see page 8). The displays will be used at conferences, workshops, and other venues to educate the public about the Gulf of Maine and the Council. For information about using a display, contact Laura Marron at 603-225-5544.

Over \$3,000 was provided to co-sponsor the April 10-11, 2001 "Gulf of Maine Regional Habitat Restoration Workshop" (see page 9). Subsequently, the Council decided to reestablish a Habitat Committee.

The Council provided \$10,000 to support the 2001 Summer Institute of the Gulf of Maine Institute Without Walls (IWW). The IWW is an educational program designed to bring youth to the forefront as environmental stewards in the Gulf of Maine region and its watersheds. During the school year, students in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts work on a variety of projects "at home" using the KIDS Consortium (Lewiston, ME) "KIDS as Planners" service-learning model. In the summer, the 11-21 year olds gather together as "citizens of the Gulf" to share experiences and to engage in new service-learning projects together.



Publications

Many of the publications of the Gulf of Maine Council are available on the World Wide Web and can be downloaded at <http://gulfofmaine.org/library/>. *The Gulf of Maine Times* can be viewed online at <http://gulfofmaine.org/times/>.

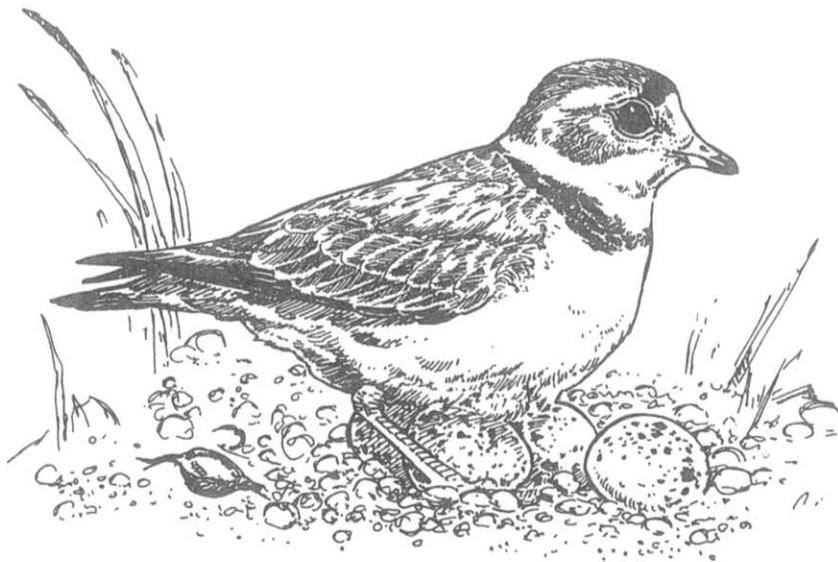
Additional materials are housed at the Council's library, located at the Maine State Planning Office. For additional information, contact Lorraine Lessard at 207-287-1486.

The following brochures and posters are available. Please contact the Secretariat, or the jurisdictional lead in your state or province. See contacts on pages 26-27.

A Sea Beside the Sea (1995). Full-color brochure/poster for general readers describing the marine resources in the Gulf of Maine and activities and programs of the Council.

Gulf of Maine Watershed Map (R. Kelly, 1999). Poster-size map of the Gulf of Maine as a watershed. Political boundaries are not indicated.

Undersea Landscapes of the Gulf of Maine (Dest, Steneck, Kelley). Poster-size map that focuses on the landscapes, geology, and biology of the Gulf of Maine. Council and Working Group Membership 2000-2001



Council and Working Group Membership 2001-2002

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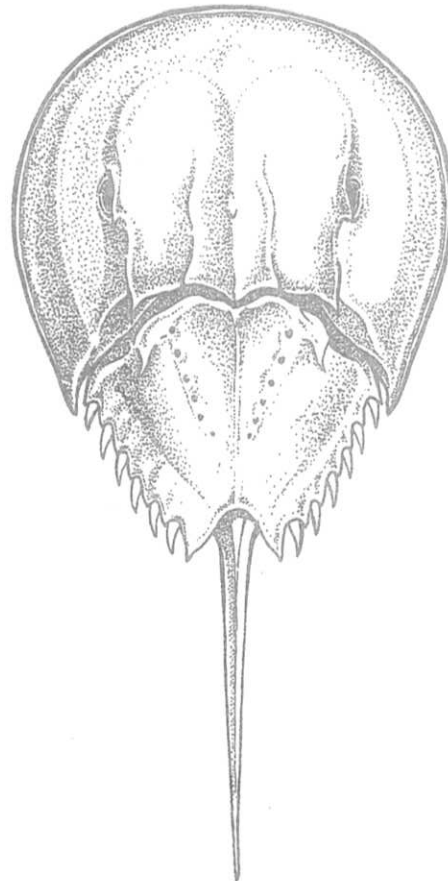
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