



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

Working Group Meeting Briefing Packet

Version 2 • June 6, 2005

Exeter, NH • June 13-15, 2005



Table of Contents

Working Group agenda	2
March 2005 WG meeting decision and action items	5
Action Plan Grants report	7
Habitat Restoration Partnership Grant report	8
Contractor status report	9
Habitat Conservation Sub-committee	10
Habitat Monitoring Sub-committee	11
Habitat Restoration Sub-committee	12
Ecosystem Indicators Partnership	13
Sewage Management Task Force	23
Science Translation	25
Sustainable Maritime Activities: developing a plan of action	26
Program design and evaluation training: planning for September proposed session	27
Developing the Council's response to the Summit	28
Preparing a Council response to the Governors and Premiers on the Committing to Change proclamation	31
Three-year organization development strategy	32
Ocean Task Force Preliminary Organizing Principles	34
Accelerating Implementation of the Action Plan: Recommendations to Council	35
In-kind Donations Form	37



Working Group agenda

Monday, June 13, 2005, Exeter Inn and Conference Center, Exeter, NH

1:00 PM	<p>Welcome and introductions <i>Eric Williams, NH Department of Environmental Services and GOMC Working Group Chair</i></p>
1:10 PM	<p>Approval of consent agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. March 2005 WG meeting decision and action items review - <i>Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator</i> 2. Financial report - <i>Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association</i> 3. Action Plan Grants report - <i>Cindy Krum</i> 4. Contractor status report - <i>Cindy Krum</i> 5. Reference Handbook - <i>Pat Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour</i> 6. Committee, sub-committee, task force, and initiative reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee - <i>Steve Jones, University of NH and Peter Wells, Environment Canada, Committee Co-chairs</i> ▪ Public Education and Participation Committee - <i>Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office and Marilyn Webster, NS Department of Education, Committee Co-chairs</i> ▪ Habitat Conservation Sub-committee - <i>Marianne Janowicz, NB Department of Environment and Local Government and Katie Lund, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management, Sub-committee Co-chairs</i> ▪ Habitat Monitoring Sub-committee – <i>Hilary Neckles, US Geological Society and Reg Melanson, Canadian Wildlife Service</i> ▪ Habitat Restoration Sub-committee - <i>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 Marine Fisheries Service</i> ▪ Gulf of Maine Mapping initiative - <i>Susan Snow-Cotter and Brian Todd, Canadian Geological Survey, GOMMI Co-chairs</i> ▪ Climate Change Network - <i>Bill Burtis, Clean Air-Cool Planet and Gary Lines, Environment Canada, Task Force leads</i> ▪ Emerging Issues - <i>Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada, Emerging Issues Task Force lead</i> ▪ Geotourism Tourism Task Force - <i>Bruce Smith, Seascape Kayak Tours and Theresa Torrent-Ellis, task force co-chairs</i> ▪ Indicators - <i>Francine Rousseau, Environment Canada and Gerald Pesch, EPA</i> ▪ Marine Research and Innovation - <i>no lead currently designated</i> ▪ Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel - <i>John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection and Judith Pederson, MIT Sea Grant, Panel Co-chairs</i> ▪ Nutrients - <i>Suzanne Bricker, NOAA National Ocean Service, Task Force lead</i> ▪ Sewage Management Task Force - <i>Peter Wells and Pat Hinch, Task Force Co-chairs</i> ▪ Science Translation - <i>Liz Hertz, ME State Planning Office and Ted Diers, NH Department of Environmental Services, outgoing and incoming initiative leads</i>
1:35 PM	<p>Featured GOMC group: Science Translation <i>Peter Taylor and Ethan Nedeau, Science Translation contractors</i></p>
2:10 PM	<p>Introduction and demonstration: WiKi and Knowledgebase <i>Peter Taylor, Science Translator and Web Producer and Seth Barker</i></p>
3:00 PM	<p>Break</p>
3:15 PM	<p>Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management in the US Northeast - a pilot project <i>Chad Demarest, New England Fishery Management Council</i></p>
4:30 PM	<p>Sustainable Maritime Activities: developing a plan of action <i>Russ Henry, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture; Justin Huston, NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries; and David Keeley</i></p>
5:00 PM	<p>Time reserved for items removed from the consent agenda</p>



5:45 PM	Meet in conference center lobby to walk to go to supper as a group or groups
---------	---

Tuesday, June 14, 2005, Exeter Inn and Conference Center, Exeter, NH

8:30 AM	PEPC website and tool kit <i>PEPC contact TBD</i>
8:45 AM	Internal Grants Program: moving beyond the pilot year <i>Jane Tims, NB Department of Environmental and Local Government</i>
9:00 AM	Program design and evaluation training: planning for September proposed session <i>Betsy Nicholson, NOAA</i>
9:30 AM	Gulf of Maine Summit Developing the Council's response to the Summit recommendations <i>Marianne Janowicz</i> Preparing a Council response to the Governors and Premiers on the Committing to Change proclamation <i>David Keeley</i>
10:45 AM	Work plan and budget review and recommendation to Council to approve <i>Cindy Krum and Eric Williams</i>
11:45 AM	Three-year organizational development strategy: discuss scope, strategic direction, and possible methods of implementation <i>David Keeley</i>
12:30 PM	Lunch on your own
1:30 PM	Communications training: effective dialogue <i>Jane Tims</i>
2:00 AM	Gulfwatch Nine-year findings and status of peer review and report completion <i>Steve Jones</i>
2:30 PM	Ocean Task Force recommendations to Council <i>David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator</i>
3:15 PM	Council meeting scheduling and structuring process <i>Eric Williams</i>
3:30 PM	Open time for committee, sub-committee, and ad-hoc group meetings and forum preparation OR a group activity / field trip <i>No formal space has been arranged—please use common areas, local restaurants, etc.</i>
5:30 PM	Meet in conference center lobby to walk to go to supper as a group or groups



Wednesday, June 15, 2005, Exeter Inn and Conference Center, Exeter, NH

8:30 am	Emerging Issues Forum registration
9:00 am	Welcome <i>Michael Nolin, Commissioner, NH Department of Environmental Services and Council Chair</i>
9:10 am	Introduction to forum and context setting <i>Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada and Forum moderator</i>
9:20 am	Task Force Review and forum objectives: questions to be answered <i>Bill Burtis, Clean Air- Cool Planet and Gary Lines, Environment Canada; Climate Change Network Task Force Co-chairs</i>
9:30 am	Implications of Climate Change for the Gulf of Maine <i>Gary Lines, Environment Canada and Cameron Wake, University of New Hampshire</i>
9:50 am	Policy background: Regional Climate Change Action Plan <i>Joanne Morin, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and Working Group Member, New England Governors and Eastern Canada Premiers</i>
10:15 am	Break
10:30 am	Coastal Adaptation Issues <i>Real Daigle, Environment Canada</i>
10:50 am	Greenhouse gas reduction and energy issues Bill Burtis
11:15 am	Review of forum objectives and discussion <i>Larry Hildebrand</i>
12:00 pm	Lunch (on your own at the Exeter Inn or in town)
1:00 pm	Introduction of survey results to the Council <i>Bill Burtis</i>
1:30 pm	Discussion and determination for way ahead implications and opportunities for the Gulf of Maine <i>Larry Hildebrand</i>
2:00 pm	Adjourn

March 2005 WG meeting decision and action items

NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture, Fredericton, NS • March 17-18, 2005

Working Group members in attendance: Seth Barker, ME Department of Marine Resources; Steve Crawford, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point; Russell Henry, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture; Liz Hertz, ME State Planning Office, Coastal program; Pat Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour; Marianne Janowicz, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Steve Jones, University of New Hampshire; Gary Lines, Climate Change Division, Environment Canada; Hilary Neckles, USGS; Ann Rodney, US EPA New England Region; Jack Schwartz, MA Division of Marine Fisheries; Jane Tims, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Peter Wells, Environment Canada; and Eric Williams, NH Department of Environmental Services.

Others in attendance: Paul Currier, NH Department of Environmental Services; Lorraine Edes, GOMC Administrative Assistant; Kim Hughes, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Barry Jones, BoFEP; Paul Jordan, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; David Keeley, GOMC Policy Development Coordinator; Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association; Jane MacDonald, Health Canada; Marcia McNiff, USGA Biological Resources; Sam Ng'ang'a Macharia, University of New Brunswick; Betsy Nicholson, NOAA, National Oceans Service; Lee Swanson, N B Department of Environment and Local Government; Michele L. Tremblay, GOMC Coordinator; Danika van Proosdij, Saint Mary's University; Louise While, EQMC Coordinator; and Maxine Westhead, Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Decision items

1. The Consent Agenda was accepted by the Working Group with the exception of Item 6 and the following Item 7 bullets because there were no briefing notes submitted: DIMC, EQMC, PEPC, GOMMI, Geotourism, Indicators, Marine Research and Innovation, Science Translation, and Sewage Management. The Habitat Conservation Sub-committee report was removed for a five-minute presentation later in the agenda.

Action items

1. The Secretariat will have a large-format Gulf of Maine map made and assure that it is posted at all Working Group and Council meetings.
2. GOM jurisdictions should continue to identify representatives from their agencies or organizations to serve on the Sewage Management Task Force.
3. The Sewage Task Force will continue to ensure that its work is useful and practical and adds value to work being done within jurisdictions. To accomplish this, the Sewage Task Force asks for the Working Group's help in ensuring that jurisdictional interests are reflected in the Sewage Task Force workplan, by encouraging the continued involvement of representatives from each jurisdiction.
4. Sewage Management plan recommendations should be considered during the 2006-2011 GOMC Action Plan process.
5. The Gulfwatch Nine-year Report, up to and including 2001, will be completed by June in draft form. Annual data reports for 200, 2001, and 2002 will be completed by June. The peer review will begin in May and be completed in time to guide decisions about the fall sampling program." Recommendations for new monitoring protocols will be in place by the fall of 2005. In 2005-2006, the EQMC will continue to work on marketing to Scientists and resource managers with PEPC and Science Translation. The Peer review will begin in May and be completed in time to guide decisions about the fall sampling program.
6. The Sustainable Maritime Activities Scoping Group will be populated with jurisdictional representatives; representatives are still needed from NH and MA. The Task Force will develop a set of issues for the Council to consider at its June 2005 meeting. It will address the issue of sustainable maritime activities, how to engage marine industries in scoping the 2006-2011 Action Plan, and what should be included in the definition of "sustainable" and open the door to further discussion on what is sustainable.
7. Michele will distribute via the Working Group and Council listserves a save the date message for the June 2005 meetings and forum.
8. The final and full Gulf of Maine Summit report will be distributed to the Council before its June meeting. The Council's discussion and reaction to the report will be added to their June agenda.
9. Betsy Nicholson and Maxine Westhead will condense their ocean government PowerPoint presentation and distribute it to the Working Group. Working Group members will provide comments on Ocean Governance to David, who will present recommendations to Council in June for action.
10. Jane Tims will obtain an electronic version of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine habitats report and distribute it to the Working Group.



11. David Keeley will present a three-year development proposal for Council action in June.
12. David Keeley will ask the Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicators Partnership (ESIP) to revise its contract proposals, based on the following Working Group input: 1) the Assessment of *Tides of Change* task is not necessary, except for the first bullet: “document applications/uses of the report,” which could be added to the strategy task; and 2) The listening sessions and indicators strategy are important and should be fleshed out a bit more. The revised ESIP proposal will be sent to the Secretariat for distribution to the Working Group for comment. The ESIP will draft a terms of reference. The Coordinator will collect comments and the Management Committee will decide on the scopes of services and requests for proposals.
13. Jane Tims suggested that a copy of the *Priority Habitat in the Gulf of Maine* be converted to PDF format and posted on the GOMC website.
14. Marianne Janowicz will lead a process to collect Working Group responses to the Gulf of Maine Summit report and reactions to its eight recommendations for submittal to Council in June. A Sub-committee was formed to carry out this task. The members are: Marianne Janowicz, Chair, Maxine Westhead, Justin Huston, Jack Schwartz, Betsy Nicholson, Peter Wells, Liz Hertz, and Eric Williams. The timeframe is as follows: 3/18 – distribute final summit report; 4/1 – Subcommittee drafts Council response and sends to Working Group; 4/15 – Working Group provides comments to Subcommittee; 4/30 – Subcommittee synthesizes comments; 5/7 – Working Group gives thumbs up or down; 5/15 – Response submitted to Council.
15. A single RFP will be distributed for the \$150,000 Internal Grants Program during FY 2006. Two thirds of the funds will be allocated to accelerated action plan items, with the remainder open to all committees. Proposals must further the action plan, build capacity, and leverage funds.

Prepared by Lorraine Edes and submitted by Michele L. Tremblay



Action Plan Grants report

1. Projects will continue to focus on the GOMC action plan items.
2. Transferability/networking is one of the proposal scoring criteria. Two things that the committee intends to include under this criteria are:
 - Applicants must be familiar with research methods sanctioned by the Council and demonstrate how their project will be linked if applicable (need to be sure there is a method for them to get this information).
 - Applicants will determine if their project relates to a federal, provincial, or state mandate. If it does they will demonstrate how they will work with the appropriate agency throughout their project. Applicants may contact their jurisdictional review team member to help determine if their project relates to a mandate.
3. Funding the same project from year to year.

An organization that was funded in a previous year may submit a proposal for the following Grant round, however that proposal must be for a different project. Organizations will not receive funding from the Council for the same project from year-to-year.

50% rule
4. The 50 percent rule is – “The Council will fund at least one Action Plan Grant program proposal from each jurisdiction during each grant round as long as it falls in the top 50 percent of projects reviewed and is determined to be a viable project.”

It will be stated in the Action Plan Grants RFP that: “One project from each jurisdiction will be funded as long as it falls in the top 50 percent of projects reviewed. Otherwise, the Grant round is competitive.”
5. Habitat Restoration Subcommittee review.

The Subcommittee members will be asked to review the language in the Action Plan Grants RFP related to restoration to make sure that there is no overlap with their grants program.
6. There will be a U.S. federal representative invited to join the Action Plan Grants review team.
7. Question of listing Executive Summaries of all proposals on the web.

Since the Working Group entrusts the Action Plan Grants review team to recommend proposals for funding, the committee decided that this would not be necessary. Addition of a US Rep to the team should ensure that work does not duplicate other federal initiatives which was the primary concern.
8. Review time for Council members:

Decision item: Council and Working Group will be given two weeks for their review of recommended proposals for selection. The e-mail to Working Group and Council will list the review committee members and state that those members have a copy of each grant proposal if more information is needed on one of the projects.

Submitted by Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association for the Action Plan Grants Committee

Habitat Restoration Partnership Grant report

S/P	Applicant	Project Name	Project Description	Award Amount
MA	Salem Sound Coastwatch	Eastern Point Salt Marsh Post-Restoration Monitoring and Stewardship Project	Salt marsh monitoring for the Eastern Point Restoration to monitor hydrology, salinity, tidal flow, birds, fishes, plants, and macro invertebrates	\$10,000
MA	Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries	Feasibility Analysis for Willowdale Dam Fish Passage Improvement	Explore options for improving upstream and downstream fish passage at Willowdale Dam on the Ipswich River	\$25,000
MA	Straits Pond Watershed Assoc.	Tidal Pond Restoration of Straits Pond and Replacement of Culvert/Tidal Gate over Straights Channel	Increase tidal flushing to a 92-acre salt pond to restore functions	\$10,355
MA	Saugus River Watershed Council	Evaluation of Saugus River Fish Passage and Hydrology	Evaluate hydrology of the Saugus River to restore diadromous fish runs to the river	\$14,000
MA	Mass Audubon	Restoration of Lieutenant's Island Salt Marsh	Restore degraded salt marsh on Lieutenant's Island by restricting access and allowing natural revegetation	\$10,808
MA	Town of Eastham *	Boat Meadow Creek/Smith Lane Salt Marsh Restoration-Phase II	Restore normal tidal hydrology to 10 acres of salt marsh by replacing an undersized road culvert	\$75,000
NH	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	New Hampshire Marsh Monitors--Volunteer Saltmarsh Monitoring	Salt marsh monitoring volunteer program for New Hampshire marshes	\$20,000
NH	Jackson Estuarine Laboratory, UNH	Restoration Seminar and Baseline Data Collection at Addison, Maine	Develop and deliver a one-week course on salt marsh monitoring in 2005 and 2006 using field data from the West Branch Pleasant River Tidal Restriction in Addison, Maine	\$12,000
ME	Pemaquid Watershed Association	Pemaquid Salt Marsh Monitoring	Post-restoration monitoring of salt marsh culvert replacement	\$7,245
ME	Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary	Somesville Fish Passage Improvement Project	Improve passage for migrating alewives at existing fish ladder	\$20,500
ME	Town of Wells	Drakes Island Salt Marsh Restoration	Installation of self-regulating tide gate for salt marsh restoration at Drakes Island	\$66,000
ME	Project SHARE	Implementation of Palermo Bank Erosion Assessment and Recommendations	Riparian restoration and stabilization of a stretch of the Sheepscot River in Palermo	\$14,600
ME	Casco Bay Estuary Partnership	Smelt Hill Dam Riparian Buffer Restoration	Riparian restoration of the existing rip-rap river bank related to the Smelt Hill Dam removal	\$40,000
ME	Maine Dept. of IF&W	Geomorphic and biological survey of Grand Stream Lake for Diadromous fish habitat Identification	Assessment of habitat and American Eel population in Grand Stream Lake	\$16,106
ME	Penobscot River Restoration Trust *	Implementing the Penobscot Agreement at the Great Works Dam	Engineering assessment of redesign of the water intake at the GP mill, community outreach, and baseline water quality monitoring related to removal of the Great Works Dam	\$69,710
ME	Casco Bay Estuary Project *	New Meadows Lake Tidal Restoration Feasibility Study	Develop and evaluate restoration alternatives at the Bath Road Causeway to improve water quality and enhance intertidal and salt marsh habitat	\$72,841
	Total			\$484,165

*These projects were funded with 2005 supplemental earmark monies.

Submitted by Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association



Contractor status report

Contractor	Contract End Date	Position	Funds
Cynthia Krum		U.S. Association Executive Director	Indirect rate
Lori Hallett		U.S. Association Administrative and Bookkeeping/Accounting Support	Indirect rate
Michele Tremblay		Council Coordinator	Indirect rate and dues
Lorraine Edes		Council Administrative Assistance	dues
David Keeley	November 30, 2005	Policy and Development Coordinator	Indirect rate and dues
Michele Tremblay	September 30, 2005	Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel Program Manager	USF&W Grants
Maine State Planning Office (Jon Kachmar)		Habitat Restoration Project Coordinator	NMFS, NOAA Grant
Karin Hansen		PEPC Education and Marketing Coordinator	NOAA Grants
Ethan Nedeau		Science Translator	Mix
Peter Taylor		Science Translator/Web Producer/Web Portal	Mix
me3		Web Technical Services	NOAA
UNH (Steve Jones)		Gulfwatch Program Coordination	NOAA Grants
Louise White		Environmental Monitoring Coordinator	NOAA Grants
Andi Rierden		Gulf of Maine Times Producer	NOAA
Lori Valigra		Gulf of Maine Times Assistant Editor	NOAA

Submitted by Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association



Habitat Conservation Sub-committee

As of the Working Group meeting in March, the *Gulf of Maine Habitat Primer* was distributed to the persons or agencies in each jurisdiction identified as the contact. The Primer provides a foundation of information on marine habitats for those interested in learning more about the region's ecosystem and especially for resource managers and other decision-makers. Copies are still available and can be obtained by contacting Katie or Marianne.

Phase 2 of the Assessing impacts of human activities to the marine environment project has been the main focus of the sub-committee over the past several months. The intent of this project is to prioritize human impacts to marine habitats in the GOM and to identify management strategies to address these impacts. This will be carried out by:

- creating a catalogue of impact assessment projects and developing links with these activities;
- conducting a workshop to identify the key impacts and look at mitigation and management to reduce the impacts, and;
- begin developing a strategy for a conservation approach to protect marine habitats from human impacts.

Using funds awarded to the Subcommittee from NOAA's MPA Center, a contractor started work in early April to carry out these tasks. A workshop is now planned for late summer and is co-sponsored by the Nature Conservancy. This collaboration builds on two overlapping projects that the subcommittee and TNC are undertaking. The workshop fulfills the Council's objectives to identify primary habitat impacts and management approaches in the GOM and incorporates The Nature Conservancy's approach for testing key ecological attributes of marine habitats in the GOM. Key scientists and managers from the region will be invited to participate in workshop discussions.

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



Habitat Monitoring Sub-committee

The Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee continues to work with the Habitat Restoration Subcommittee on a booklet about salt marsh values, restoration, and monitoring. GOMC contractor Peter Taylor is synthesizing text provided by subcommittee members into an integrated treatment of "Salt Marshes in the Gulf of Maine: Human Impacts, Restoration, and Long-term Change Analysis". Information on salt marsh monitoring included in the booklet will then be reformatted into a HMSC fact sheet. The salt marsh monitoring fact sheet will form the first in a series 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. The intended deadline for completion of the salt marsh fact sheet is June 30, 2005.

Following an informative session at the March WG meeting on collaborative data sharing and information infrastructures, Hilary Neckles is pursuing collaboration with GOMOOS on linking regional habitat monitoring data to other data providers and ensuring interoperability via the Gulf of Maine Data Partnership. An initial information-sharing meeting with GOMOOS is scheduled for May 25, 2005.

Submitted by Hilary Neckles, USGS and Reg Melanson, Environment Canada, Habitat Monitoring Sub-committee co-chairs



Habitat Restoration Sub-committee

The Restoration Subcommittee, through the GOMC/NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership, has awarded \$484,165 for restoration projects throughout the Gulf for 2005. Please see the attached table for details of each of the projects funded.

The Subcommittee is anticipating two new products that will be used to enhance habitat restoration awareness and educate interests throughout the Gulf. The publications include detailed primers on the American eel's life cycle and the need for conservation and restoration of the species, as well as the functions and values of salt marshes including restoration options. Both of these publications were written and edited by GOMC Science Translators, and will include an associated fact sheet for widespread distribution. It is anticipated that both documents will be completed by June 30, 2005.

The Subcommittee is continuing to work with PEPC to increase outreach and public awareness of the GOMC habitat restoration initiatives. Staff for PEPC is currently working on fact sheets for projects funded by the Restoration Partnership. Each fact sheet will include a basic description of the project, what habitat type was restored, before and after photos of the site, and contact information for additional information. PEPC staff also continues to provide gulf-wide press releases for restoration grant awards and completed projects. Recent press releases include culvert replacements to restore salt marsh in Pemaquid and Wells, Maine.

Restoration efforts in FY 05-06 will continue to focus on the grants program for community-based restoration efforts. The annual work plan beginning in July 2005 will concentrate on the topic of developing protocols for riverine restoration efforts. This will focus the efforts of the Subcommittee, Science Translators, PEPC staff, and the Gulf of Maine Times—as they relate to restoration issues—on background information and outreach of river restoration topics. Central to the topic will be the development of a regional protocol for monitoring river restoration projects such as dam removals, fish passage improvements, and riparian buffer/channel enhancements.

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

Ecosystem Indicators Partnership

The Ecosystem Indicators Partnership (ESIP) is a trans-boundary group of participants working collaboratively on the further development and implementation of ecosystem health indicators for the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy region. This partnership was formed in mid January 2005 in response to a decision taken by our federal governments, at the 2004 Gulf of Maine Summit, to commit additional resources to this matter. At this time ESIP's three main tasks, as suggested by the Council, consist of addressing; (1) the development of an indicators and reporting management strategy, (2) an assessment of *Tides of Change* and (3) refining the draft Indicators.

During the past four months ESIP has invested resources in the following efforts:

- Solidifying ESIP Organizational Structure:
 - Found new representatives and/or replacements for retiring members: e.g., Max Westhead and Dr. Joe Arbour for DFO, Gary Matlock, National Center for Coastal Ocean Science will compliment EPA's presence.
 - ESIP members unanimously agreed that selected individuals should be recruited to provide periodic advice on indicator matters. These people have been asked to participate.
- Identification of national and sub-regional indicator efforts:
 - ESIP members concurred on the need to link with other indicator efforts.
 - Contact with people working in the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin & Great Lakes resulted in the establishment of regular teleconferences.
- Presentation at the March 17-18 Working Group:
 - Reviewed draft scopes of services, amended time frames, and clarified deliverables. Provided a revised organizational structure chart. Discussed potential contracts for Tasks 1 & 2 and possible processes for accomplishing them.
- Solicitation and hiring of two contractors:
 - **Contract#1:** This contract relates to both Tasks 1 and 2 and is designed to build on the solid foundation of the previous indicators workshop and materials prepared for and at the GOM Summit.
 - The contractor is to organize and convene small group listening sessions (one in Canada and one in the US) to engage a targeted indicators audience in assessing their needs and uses for regional ecosystems indicators. A final report will be delivered this fall.
 - The contractor will also assess the value of the *Tides of Change* report to the intended user community through phone surveys (prepared by the contractor in coordination with ESIP) with the targeted audience in each of the five states and provinces. Based on these interviews the contractor will:
 - Document application/uses of the report (e.g. policy & strategy setting);
 - Identify improvements, including a review of lessons-learned from similar reports produced elsewhere and;
 - Develop thematic recommendations for next chapters.
 - A final report is expected by the end of July.
 - **Contract#2:** This contractor develops a GOM indicators and reporting management strategy. The strategy report will be due in December 2005. Key elements of the Statement of Work include:
 - Identification and harmonization with related indicator and reporting efforts (e.g. internal and external to the GOM region)
 - Rationale for the appropriate phasing of the six indicator themes
 - Process for the development of indicators (partnerships, data management issues)
 - SOE reporting options and communication and outreach options to increase users
 - Preliminary annual budget estimates, timing and production schedules

Level of Activity

- Meetings:
 - ESIP Committee meetings (teleconference) have been held at least every two weeks since the inception of the partnership. During these calls, participants have discussed Summit work products for indicators, ESIP organizational structure, potential advisors, potential contracts and contractors and their scope of work, the development of a web presence, etc. ESIP has also held calls with the contractors to discuss logistics and requirements and how they can work collaboratively with ESIP and each other.
 - ESIP members also hold monthly Cross-border Learning Circle calls with people working on indicators and SOE reporting in the Great Lakes, Puget Sound/Georgia Basin, St. Laurence Waterways, and some of the more local organizations to learn from their struggles, mistakes, and successes. One session was dedicated to reviewing existing indicator and SOE reporting web sites via real-time Internet meetings. On other calls, experts have been asked to speak on the pros and cons of various software/hardware for



indicator and SOE reporting, electronic reporting models, conceptual models used in other regions, partnerships issues, etc.

- Contracts:
 - ESIP members worked with GOM staff to develop the proposals for the two contracts mentioned above. Members also 'targeted' the audience for the listening sessions and phone surveys by providing names of over 75 potential audience participants. In addition, members are also providing the meeting space, equipment, and refreshments associated with the listening sessions.
 - ESIP has already accumulated a lot of valuable material and information that will aid the contractor in developing a strategy. Members will also assist with further research, analysis, and writing of the strategy.

Possible Future Activities

In response to the third task the following ideas were brainstormed to help us understand possible approaches.

- Once the findings of the two above contracts have been reported they will be passed on to the six existing indicator work groups. This will allow the work groups to compare the results to the Summit out-puts, discuss next steps and develop and implement their 12 month work plan.
- A review of the gathering, organizing and displaying of data for selected indicators. Next steps would include finding people to populate indicators, forming partnerships with people who have the data, etc.
- More time could also be spent in investigating the theme of "user assessment/usability of web sites."



Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicator Partnership Organizational Structure

Ecosystem Indicator Partnership Leadership Team		
Canadian Co-chairs	Francine Rousseau Joe Arbour	Environment Canada Fisheries and Oceans Canada
US Co-chairs	Steven Hale Gary Matlock	Environmental Protection Agency 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	Hilary Neckles	USGS
Nutrients	Suzanne Bricker	NOAA
Climate Change	Gary Lines	Environment Canada
EIP Advisors		
Affiliation	Person	
Atlantic Coastal Zone Steering Committee	Mike Butler	
Clean Annapolis River Program	Steven Hawboldt/Andy Sharpe	
Conservation Council of New Brunswick	Janice Harvey	
Environment Canada	Peter Wells and Barb Buckland	
Environmental Protection Agency	Diane Gould	
Fisheries and Oceans Canada/Passamaquoddy	Hugh Akagi	
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Fred Page	
Gulf of Maine Council Environmental Monitoring	Louise White	
Mass Coastal Zone Management	Christian Krahforst	
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Ralph Cantral	
NH Department of Environmental Services	Phil Trowbridge	
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture	Justin Huston	
Ocean Conservancy	Susan Farady	
Regional Association for Research in the GOM	Jeff Runge	
United States Geological Survey	Susan Russell-Robinson	

Indicator Work Groups

Contaminants	Fisheries	Coastal Development	Aquatic Habitats	Nutrients	Climate Change
--------------	-----------	---------------------	------------------	-----------	----------------



Listening Session Master List

			Contaminants	Fisheries	Land Use	Represents	Confirmed	Interview	Region	Nominated By
	Name	4-5 decision makers, 2-3 scientists, 1-2 marine/coastal users								
d1	Boudreau	Ronald	X			Policy/tech staff/advisor, trade assoc, mun/cty assoc, sewage treatment plant manager		X	NB	Rousseau
d2	Colarusso	Phil	X	x		Agency scientist, tech staff to agency director (EPA)		X	MA	Gould
d3	Cote	Mel	X			Government regulator (EPA)		X	MA	Gould
d4	Fisk	Andrew	X			Government regulator (DEP)		X	ME	Gould
d5	Hawboldt	Steve	X	x	x	Interest group, mun/cty staff, NGO w/int (Clean Annapolis River Project)		X	NS	Max, Rousseau
d6	Liebman, Ph.D.	Matthew	X			Policy/tech staff, agency scientist, government regulator (EPA)		X	MA	Gould, Keeley
d7	MacKay	Art	X	x	x	Int group staff, mun/cty assoc, NGO w/int (ACAP St. Croix)		X	NB	Rousseau
d8	Russell-Robinson	Susan	X		x	Policy staff (USGS)			VA	Keeley
d9	Varney	Robert W.	X			Policy staff, government regulatory (EPA)		X	MA	Gould
d10	Vickers	Tim	X			NGO w/int (ACAP St. John)			NB	Max
d11	Young	Karen	X		x	NGO w/int (CBEP)		X	ME	Gould
4-6 scientists										
s1	Anderson	Paul	X			Academic scientist (Sea Grant)		X	ME	Gould
s2	Daborn	Graham	X	x	x	Interest group (BoFEP), academic scientist		X	NS	Rousseau
s3	Doggett	Lee	X			Agency scientist, government regulator (DEP)			ME	Keeley
s4	Leo	Wendy	X			Government regulator, agency scientist (MWRA)			MA	Keeley
s5	Nelson	Eric	X		x	Agency scientist (EPA)			MA	Gould
s6	Schwartz	Jack	X			Agency scientist (MA Div Marine Fisheries)			MA	Keeley
s7	Stahlnecker	Jim	X			Agency scientist? Government regulator? Policy/tech staff Me DEP)			ME	Keeley
s8	Townsend, Ph.D.	David	X			Academic scientist (UMO Dept Marine Science)			ME	Gould
s9	Waller	Donald	X			Interest group staff, academic scientist (Dalhousie, CtrforWaterResourcesStudies)		X	NS	Rousseau
2-4 users										
u1	Borland	Bill	X			Interest group staff (Irving Oil)			NB	Keeley



u2	Sprague	Phineas	X			Marina manager		X	ME	Gould
0-6 others										
o1	Currier	Paul	X		x	Government regulator (DES)			NH	Keeley
o2	Harvey	Janice	X	x	x	NGO w/int (Conservation Council of NB)			NB	Keeley, Max
FISHERIES										
4-5 decision makers, 2-3 user groups, 1-2 scientists										
8-10 decision makers										
d1	Brooks	Priscilla		X	x	NGO w/int, GOMC Council, economist			MA	Keeley
d2	Colarusso	Phil	x	X		Agency scientist, tech staff to agency director (EPA)		X	MA	Gould
d3	Etnier	David		X		Government regulator (DMR)		X	ME	Gould
d4	Harvey	Janice	x	X	x	NGO w/int (Conservation Council of NB)			NB	Keeley, Max
d5	Hawboldt	Steve	x	X	x	Interest group, mun/cty staff, NGO w/int (Clean Annapolis River Project)		X	NS	Max, Rousseau
d6	Huston	Justin		X	x	Policy/tech staff, agency scientist (NS Ag/Fisheries/CZM)		X	NS	Rousseau
d7	James	Byron		X		Government regulator (Deputy Minister NB Ag/Fisheries/Aq)			NB	Keeley
d8	Kaelin	Jeff		X		Policy staff, government liaison (Heritage Salmon)			ME	Keeley
d9	MacKay	Art	x	X	x	Int group staff, mun/cty assoc, NGO w/int (ACAP St. Croix)		X	NB	Rousseau
d10	Rose	Carol Ann		X		Government regulator (DFO)			NS/ B	Max
d11	Wilson	Steve		X		Government regulator (DFO)			NB	Max
4-6 users										
u1	Belle	Sebastian		X		Trade association (aquaculture)		X	ME	Gould
u2	Cooke	Glenn		X		Interest group staff, aquaculture facility manager (Cook Aquaculture)		X	NB	Rousseau
u3	Cormier	Guy		X		Trade assoc, interest group, fisherman, NGO w/int (Maritime Fishermen's Union)		X	NB	Rousseau
u4	Smith	Jamie		X		Aquaculture facility manager NB Salmon Growers Assoc)			NB	Keeley
2-4 scientists										
s1	Daborn	Graham	x	X	x	Interest group (BoFEP), academic scientist		X	NS	Rousseau
s2	Trowbridge	Phil		X		NH Est Indicators, policy/tech staff? Agency scientist? (NH DES)			NH	Keeley
0-6 others										
o1	Bull	Arthur		X		NGO w/int (Saltwater Network), fisherman			NS/ B	Keeley
o2	Farady	Susan		X	x	NGO w/int (Ocean Conservancy)			ME	Keeley
					19					
LAND USE										
4-5 decision makers, 2-3 planners, 2-3 development										
8-10 decision makers										
d1	Brooks	Priscilla		x	X	NGO w/int, GOMC Council, economist			MA	Keeley
d2	Butler	Michael			X	Interest group (BoFEP, SGStLawr), mun/cty assoc, NGO w/int		X	NS	Rousseau



						mun/cty assoc, NGO w/int			
d3	Davies	Peter			X	Policy/tech staff/advisor, mun/cty assoc, local planner	X	NS	Rousseau
d4	Hinch	Patricia			X	Policy staff (NS Dept of Env/Labour)	X	NS	Rousseau
d5	Huston	Justin	x		X	Policy/tech staff, agency scientist (NS Ag/Fisheries/CZM)	X	NS	Rousseau
d6	Janowicz	Marianne			X	Policy/technical staff, regional planner, agency scientist (NB Env/Local Gov Planner)	X	NB	Rousseau
d7	Leyden	Kathleen			X	Policy/tech staff (MeSPO, Me Coastal Program)	X	ME	Gould
d8	MackKay	Art	x	x	X	Int group staff, mun/cty assoc, NGO w/int (ACAP St. Croix)	X	NB	Rousseau
d9	Russell-Robinson	Susan	x		X	Policy staff (USGS)		VA	Keeley
d10	Young	Karen	x		X	NGO w/int (CBEP)			
2-3 planners									
p1	East	Judy			X	Regional land use (WCPC)		ME	Keeley
p2	Fuller	Chrystal			X	Policy/tech staff, mun/cty staff, regional/local planner	X	NS	Rousseau
p3	Kartez	Jack			X	Regional land use, academic (USM Muskie School)	X	ME	Gould
p4	Sturtevant	Roger			X	Policy staff, mun/cty staff, regional planner	X	NS	Rousseau
2-3 developers									
dv1	Feldman	Michael			X	Mun/cty official, realtor	X	ME	Gould
4-8 others									
o1	Currier	Paul	x		X	Government regulator (DES)		NH	Keeley
o2	Daborn	Graham	x	x	X	Interest group (BoFEP), academic scientist	X	NS	Rousseau
o3	Farady	Susan		x	X	NGO w/int (Ocean Conservancy)		ME	Keeley
o4	Harvey	Janice	x	x	X	NGO w/int (Conservation Council of NB)		NB	Keeley, Max
d5	Hawboldt	Steve	x	x	X	Interest group, mun/cty staff, NGO w/int (Clean Annapolis River Project)	X	NS	Max, Rousseau
o6	Logue	Ed			X	Government regulator (Me DEP)		ME	Keeley
o7	Nelson	Eric	x		X	Agency scientist (EPA)		MA	Gould
					26				



Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicator Partnership Regional Ecosystem Indicators Listening Sessions
Invitee Background Information

To be completed by ESIP:

Name:
Organization / Position:
Phone Number:
Email Address:
Mailing Address:

Represents / Works in: Contaminants Land Use/Coastal Development Fisheries

Invitee Characteristics (leader, role model, local knowledge, policy-maker, information network, etc.):

Invitee Represents:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Policy staff or advisors to elected official | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal or county association staff, advisor, or lobbyist | <input type="checkbox"/> Shellfish depuration facility manager |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Technical staff to elected official | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional land use planner | <input type="checkbox"/> Agency scientist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Policy staff or advisors to agency director | <input type="checkbox"/> Local land use planner | <input type="checkbox"/> Academic scientist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Technical staff to agency director | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism operator | <input type="checkbox"/> Private research scientist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal or county official | <input type="checkbox"/> Marina manager | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewage treatment plant manager |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trade association staff, policy advisor, or lobbyist | <input type="checkbox"/> Other for-profit marine sector | <input type="checkbox"/> Local health department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interest group staff, advisor, or lobbyist | <input type="checkbox"/> Fisherman | <input type="checkbox"/> Government regulator/ permitting staffer |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Lobsterman | <input type="checkbox"/> NGO with interest in regional indicators |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Shellfisherman | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental journalist |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquaculture facility manager | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic organization leader |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish processing manager | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreside business operator (marinas, boatyards, etc.) | |

Invitee Qualified to be Invited to Participate in Tides Of Change Survey: Yes No

Other Considerations:

Follow-up (To be completed by Beth & Liz)

Contact Date/Notes: _____ BDV LR

Invitee Can Attend: Yes No, but wants to respond to survey No

Date Workshop Invite /

Description Sent:

Pre-Session Survey: Sent: _____ Received: _____

Follow Up Notes: _____

Submitted by David Keeley, Policy and Development Coordinator

Ecosystem-based Management in the Gulf of Maine

Possible Roles for the Gulf of Maine Council

Introduction

The Ocean Task Force has prepared the following to stimulate discussion at the Council's June 16, 2005 panel on ecosystem-based management. The context for Council action lays in its inherent strengths and weaknesses.

Examples of these include:

Strengths

- Canada – US organization with 15-year history of collaboration and project management accomplishments
- A guiding principle and core philosophy of the Council since inception is to ignore political subdivisions and work in an ecosystem approach to issues in the Gulf of Maine.
- Contain representatives agencies (Provincial, state and federal) with jurisdictional responsibilities for the coastal and marine environment
- Capacity to design, organize and implement projects

Weaknesses

- Limited engagement with the private sector/marine businesses
- Inconsistent funding stream for Council activities and inability to support large projects
- Limited involvement in fisheries management issues other than marine habitat conservation
- Advisory forum with no legal authorities

Possible Roles

The Task Force suggests a continuum of possible actions exists. Arrayed below are examples ranging from the least to the most active actions.

- Convener -- hold forums for scientists, policymakers, marine users/business sector and other stakeholders to accelerate the application of EBM approaches

Examples

- a. Articulate policy objectives related to habitats of concern.
 - b. Assist policy-makers create specific policy statements about EBM objectives.
- Research and information delivery – collaborate with others to identify pressing EBM research needs, sponsor this work and effectively disseminate to users

Examples

- Create regional information system to collect and share data that builds on ACZSC, Ocean Data Partnership, Census for Marine Life, etc.
- Project sponsor – organize and support gulf-wide projects to demonstrate EBM practices

Examples

- a. Develop a work plan for a comprehensive ecosystem assessment/baseline (natural and socio-economic) for the NEPA process that people would commonly draw on,
- b. Foster interaction amongst the partners in development of marine zoning plans for key parts of the Gulf
- c. Prepare habitat plan for the GOM including mapping of benthic habitats
- d. Monitor the effectiveness of EBM approaches
- e. Develop a set of indicators of success/change, monitor and report back
- f. Multi-lateral agreement – conceive of and facilitate development of agreements

Examples

- a. Forge an agreement between GOM federal/state/provincial entities to create an active “learning network” of EBM practitioners that shares their approaches, successes and failures.
- b. Prepare and advocate for a Management Agreement that would coordinate and integrate agency mandates.
- c. Amend the GOM Agreement to restructure the Council and its functions



Gulf of Maine Ecosystem-based Management Initiatives

Working Draft – Comments Welcome

Name	Narrative	Scope	Contact Person
NOAA Pilot Project on an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management	Initiated in 12/04, four Fishery Management Councils, NOAA Fisheries Science Centers and NOS are conducting regional stakeholder meetings and developing EcoGIS, a spatial modeling tool to answer high priority ecosystem mgmt of fisheries questions. Once tested, NOAA plans on applying EcoGIS to broader ecosystem mgmt issues.	US Northeast region.	Chad Damarest @ WHOI for pilot in Northeast region.
NMFS Tool Development	The NMFS NE Fisheries Science Center is developing ecosystem tools	?	Jason Link, David Mountain and Mike Fogerty
Ecosystem Delineation	9/04 NOAA stakeholders workshop identified LME as useful delineation approach with inland watersheds (based on Sherman work).	US and Canada	Jack Dunnigan
NOAA-wide Coordination	Matrix management (draw on resources from more than one office) review of ecosystem management. Next step is to engage federal partners on national and regional level. (<i>any regional NOAA collaboration is internal at this point</i>) http://ecosystems.noaa.gov/	US	Jack Dunnigan & Ecosystem Goal Team
CLF – Habitat Priority Project	Reviewing information, creating a model, identifying areas needing protection	?	Judd Crawford
CLF/WWF Sea Scapes	A mapping initiative		
TNC – Northwest Atlantic Coastal and Marine Eco-regional Assessment	A comprehensive spatially referenced marine biodiversity and human use database.	North Carolina to Scotian shelf	Anthony Chatwin and Dan Morse
TNC – Non-fishing effects workshop	This summer to identify GOM marine conservation targets	GOM ?	Jay O'Dell
ESSIM	Preparing an ocean use atlas and GIS tools; human use indicators and ecosystem use indicators leading to integrated management plan for Eastern Scotian Shelf	Canada	Joe Arbour ?
DFO/NMFS Fish Management	Federal bi-national discussion forum on stock allocation.		Bellafontaine (Arbour) & Kurkel (Colosi)
DFO/NMFS Habitat Work Group	Developing criteria to define significant habitats	US – Canada GOM	Arbour/Colosi
Census for Marine Life	Bio-physical mapping project	US – Canada GOM	Evan Richert
SW New Brunswick		St. John to St. Andrews	
Maine Bay Management	Area approach to marine management	Taunton Bay and Muscongus Bay	Kathleen Leyden
Downeast Groundfish Initiative	This is a proposed 10-15 year pilot project in Downeast Maine. The long-term goals are to: 1) create the conditions that allow the	Hague Line to Penobscot Bay to EEZ (Downeast	Jim Wilson – UMaine Ted Hoskins



	groundfish stocks to rebuild in the downeast region, 2) restore diversified participation in the fishery, and 3) ensure a sustainable, environmentally responsible fishery into the future.	Coastal Current)	
FISHER Initiative	The Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership (MFP) is an umbrella organization of 17 local commercial fishing associations representing all gear and geographic sectors of the Massachusetts fishing industry. In conjunction with the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, Harvard University, University of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sea Grant College Program, Boston University's Marine Program, Tufts University, the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, and numerous commercial fishermen, the MFP commenced and is coordinating the multi-faceted FISHER Initiative that will conduct ecosystem research that may provide a scientific foundation for a future shift away from the single-species management that has received increasing criticism from fishermen and regulators alike. This initiative focuses on the sand lance as an important forage and possible keystone species in the marine environment in and around Stellwagen Bank and the Massachusetts Bay area. Their study is likely to reveal significant ecosystem patterns and relationships, and they appear to be an ideal ecosystem indicator.	Massachusetts	Olivia Rugo Collaborative Research Coordinator Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership 2 Blackburn Center Gloucester, MA 01930 Ph: 978-282-4847 or 888-282- 8816 Fax: 978-282-4798 www.fishermenspartnership.org
NE Governors	Proposed regional governance effort by RI Governor Carcieri	Northeast states	Contacts in respective Governors Offices

Sewage Management Task Force

Sewage management was first included in the 1996-2001 GOM Action Plan. The Action Plan called for Council sponsorship of a sewage management workshop to inform discussion on this topic and to assist in defining a role for the GOMC in sewage management within a regional context. The workshop was held in April 2002 at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, and was sponsored by the GOMC, hosted by NS Environment and Labour, and coordinated by Bluenose Atlantic Coastal Action Program. Council and Working Group subsequently recommended the development of an implementation plan and requested that the Sewage Task Force increase its membership to include representatives from each jurisdiction surrounding the Gulf of Maine. Council encouraged the Task Force to move forward on the implementation of its plan.

The purpose of the GOM Sewage Task Force is to:

- raise awareness and promote sharing of information and understanding of issues throughout the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy region, relating to sewage and waste water management;
- provide opportunities to discuss wastewater and sewage management issues and challenges (both current and emerging) and adopt approaches to address them;
- add value to work being conducted within Gulf of Maine jurisdictions;
- offer guidance and assistance where needed, requested, and appropriate within the context of jurisdictional policy, legislation and regulation; and
- benefit from the experiences of other jurisdictions by adapting/applying as appropriate, components of management strategies/approaches used throughout the Gulf, for jurisdictional use at home.

Activities over the past two years

Coordination:

- expanded its membership to include representatives from all jurisdictions surrounding the Gulf of Maine to ensure that jurisdictional interests are reflected in the Task Force workplan; and
- developed a terms of reference, workplan and GOM Internal Grants application for 2005-06 (currently all are in draft final form and under review by Task Force Members and jurisdictions – to be completed in June 2005)

Assessment :

- compiled some of the key literature pertaining to the fate and effects of sewage and municipal effluents (under contract- to be completed in June 2005);
- designed a framework for environmental risk assessment considering major components of sewage or sewage wastewaters (under contract – to be completed in June 2005);
- initiated a project with PEPC to develop a list of publications produced by government agencies within the Gulf region on public educational aspects, for website posting (ongoing).

Communication:

- discussed with PEPC, communication initiatives on the sewage management issue; developed a poster on the activities of the Sewage Task Force and implementation plan and presentation during 6th BOFEP Workshop 2004; and GOM Summit 2004;
- published Sewage Management in the Gulf of Maine: Workshop proceedings, Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, Hinch, P.R., S. Bryon, K. Hughes, and P.G. Wells (Editors). 2002. 52 pages (available on the GOMC website at: [http:// www.gulfofmaine.org](http://www.gulfofmaine.org). ISBN 0 -662-33594-5 CATNO: EN4-26/2002E);
- completed a fact sheet on metal contaminants in the Bay of Fundy with mention of sewage constituents – publication entitled :Contaminant Concerns: Heavy Metals and the Bay of Fundy, Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership, Fundy Issues #25, Percy, J. 2004. 12 pages. (available on the BOFEP website at: [ttp://www.bofep.org](http://www.bofep.org)); the Gulf of Maine Summit Conference, St. Andrews New Brunswick, Canada, Oct 26-29, 2004. Jones, S.H. 2004. in Wells, P.G. and G.G. Pesch, (Editors). 2004.
- included information on sewage and pathogens in the GOM Summit environmental report entitled: The Tides of Change. An Environmental Report on the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy. Prepared for the Gulf of Maine Summit Conference, St. Andrews New Brunswick, Canada, Oct 26-29, 2004. Jones, S.H. 2004. in Wells, P.G. and G.G. Pesch, (Editors). 2004.

In March 2005, the Working Group approved continued support to engage jurisdictions on this issue and agreed to consider inclusion of sewage management in the next 2006-2011 Action Plan.

Next Steps: Proposed Workplan 2005-06

Key elements of this workplan are as follows:

- a. prepare a reference jurisdictional status document – including a synopsis of jurisdictional activities, progress and achievements in sewage and wastewater management, topics of interest, information gaps, research needs, and questions to the Task Force for response and assistance. This information is intended to: form the baseline



- against which to track continued progress; facilitate information exchange and discussions on potential solutions, options, and approaches; and identify projects and activities to focus future workplan development.
- b. develop the framework for a public communication/outreach plan to provide a template for distribution of GOM materials, notices, announcements, educational messages and future outreach projects.
 - c. produce a list of government public education materials and programs offered by each jurisdiction in Gulf of Maine region for information sharing purposes with cross referencing on the GOMC website to the actual document/contact for further information.
 - d. develop a GOM Times article to promote awareness and understanding of the function of on-site systems, and the role of the public in ensuring proper installation, use and maintenance, and provide contacts for further information by jurisdiction.
 - e. review the key literature collection assembled under contract pertaining to the fate and effects of sewage and municipal effluents, and the environmental risk assessment framework, delineate next steps and develop a project proposal for inclusion in the next Action Plan.
 - f. conduct a key literature search of the socio-economic and environmental consequences of sewage discharge to the Gulf of Maine and prepare a synopsis report.

To conduct this work, the Task Force will seek funding support under the Internal Grants program 2005-06, to hire a contractor to coordinate collection of information and preparation of documents and provide technical and logistical support to the Task Force. The Task Force has partnered with the Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee and will be submitting a joint application in the near future.

Recommended action

The Task Force asks for Council help to ensure that jurisdictional interests are reflected in Task Force workplans by encouraging the continued involvement of representatives from each jurisdiction as active members on the Task Force.

Submitted by Patricia Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour and Task Force co-chair



Science Translation

From April - June 2005, Science Translation was focused on a habitat restoration. Peter Taylor worked with a small group made up of members of the habitat restoration and habitat monitoring subcommittees on the development of a single outreach piece. This booklet, Salt Marshes in the Gulf of Maine: Human Impacts, Restoration, and Long-term Change Analysis, is targeted at managers and integrates habitat restoration needs around the GOM and the importance of monitoring at restoration sites and reference sites to inform and improve restoration projects and techniques. He also worked on design and content of the Habitat Restoration Web Portal. He has moved forward with me3 on database design for a “clickable map” that will show restoration sites around the Gulf and allow access to supporting information on individual sites. Ethan Nadeau has been working with a small group from the habitat restoration subcommittee on a piece on American Eels, a species of concern in the GOM. This piece will address the natural history of the eel, needs, and restoration opportunities. Ethan has completed research, text development, layout, and design.

Submitted by Liz Hertz and Ted Diers outgoing and incoming science translation contract managers



Sustainable Maritime Activities: developing a plan of action

At the December 2004 meeting of the Gulf of Maine Council there was renewed interest in pursuing Action Plan tasks (p. 24) related to sustainable maritime activities. The Plan calls for the Council to "... strengthen maritime activities that do not involve resource extraction, particularly marine research and nature-based tourism." The Council directed the Working Group to create an Ad-Hoc Committee on Sustainable Maritime Activities and for the committee to develop recommendations for the 2006-2011 Action Plan by March 2006.

During the past 12-18 months the Council has invested resources in the following two tasks:

- Marine research needs – The Council deployed a survey to coastal managers in the Gulf of Maine requesting their input on marine research priorities. Based on the approximately 70 responses it partnered with the Regional Association for Research in the Gulf of Maine, the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership, GOM Ocean Observing System and NOAA in convening a September, 2004 focus group of managers and scientists. These results were presented at the October 2004 GOM Summit. In December 2004 the Council requested a presentation on this topic at their June 2005 meeting.
- Nature-based tourism – The Council has contributed resources to form a Task Force and to conduct a workshop. These efforts led to the October, 2004 pre-Summit session on Geo-tourism.

These efforts provide the basis for follow-up Council actions. In addition the Council spoke of their role in sharing innovative "best practices" that the jurisdictions are using to support resource-based maritime activities.

Possible Activities

In response to the Council's December request the following ideas were brainstormed to help us understand possible approaches.

- Compile a summary of environmental initiatives pursued by the fishing community
- Explore linkages between fisheries management and ecosystem management efforts
- Identify environmental threats to fisheries and possible responses
- More effectively engage industry in monitoring programs
- Identify the role of wild and farm fishers in coastal zone/integrated management
- Compile information on new products from the marine environment and identify roles for the Council

Action Requested

1. Form "scoping group" -- The Working Group should request the following individuals to assist in scoping this effort. This group will dissolve at the June 2006 Council meeting.
Justin (NS), Russ (NB), Jim Connors (ME), (NH), ?? (MASS) David (GOMC staff), DFO and Maggie Ernst (NOAA).
2. Engage partner organizations – Marine users, economic development organizations, trade associations, marine extension specialists, and the research community will be solicited for their advice and recommendations on actions the Council could support between 2006-2011.
3. Prepare a Terms of Reference – Using the Council's template the scoping group will develop a Terms of Reference for an Ad-Hoc Committee on Sustainable Maritime Activities.
4. Identify prospective members – They will propose a roster of 10-12 representatives distributed throughout the Gulf of Maine that are commercial users of the marine environment and from the research community.
5. Identify resources – They will identify prospective sources of support for .2 FTE for nine-months (July 2005 to March 2006). (Approximately \$8-10,000 US)

Submitted by David Keeley



Program design and evaluation training: planning for September proposed session

As the Gulf of Maine Council moves into its 2006-2011 Action Plan revision process, I propose there is a need for the Working Group to be trained in better organizing how to identify our goals and how to reach them. NOAA's Coastal Service Center offers an excellent training course, Program, Design and Evaluation, that will provide coastal resource management and education professionals with the knowledge, skills, and tools to design and implement projects that have measurable impacts on the audience they want to reach. This interactive curriculum can help increase the effectiveness of our projects by applying valid instructional design theory to their design. After attending the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Describe the context of project design and evaluation within the scope of agency and organization missions, strategic plans, and established program niches
- Apply appropriate instructional design theory and practices to project development
- Explain the role of logic models in project design and evaluation and create logic models for their projects
- Use performance measurement as part of project evaluation
- Describe three types and four levels of evaluation that can be applied to extension and education projects

Having been through this training myself, I believe this opportunity will help the Working Group focus on desired outcomes of both the upcoming Action Plan process and the broader GOMC goals so that we may approach the coming year with clarity, unified objectives, and an effective way to measure the success of our programs. In this session, I will discuss the course in more detail and propose several dates around the September GOMC Working Group for which we can schedule a 1 ½ day training session for only GOMC WG members (i.e., closed to the public) should there be sufficient interest.

Submitted by Betsy Nicholson, NOAA

Developing the Council's response to the Summit

Recommendations to Council on Moving Forward from Summit

The following proposed actions for Council have been developed by working group members who volunteered to take the recommendations from the Summit and identify actions to reflect the intent of the recommendations.

A. Cooperation and Interaction:

1. Summit Recommendation:

Support local, watershed, and bi-national collaboration - The single most important ingredient that participants identified as needed to sustain this regional dialogue was increased funding. Participants are currently contributing their time and passion every day to advance the issues discussed at the Summit. To accelerate this work new resources are needed to build capacity and advance the agenda flowing from the Summit.

Proposed Action for Council:

Build local and regional capacity for understanding and utilizing regional indicators and State of the Environment (SoE) reporting. Specifically:

- Develop a technical assistance program that provides hands-on technical assistance on indicators and reporting to enable local efforts to feed into regional Gulf of Maine SoE reporting.
- This program could be proposed to national-level interests as a regional pilot project;
- Funding sources for this program should be diversified to reflect true partnership efforts.
- The program would help develop the link between the micro and the macro environments. Efforts at a local scale need to be rolled up into a larger framework. Likewise this regional scale needs to incorporate local level priorities and efforts.
- Our goal would be to build capacity at all scales (e.g., a watershed group to a provincial agency). We would set a 3-year horizon in regard to desired outcomes of the TA program and have an explicit exit strategy
- Develop and increase capacity to use the indicators by providing timely and pertinent information on indicators and SoE reporting to the public, decision-makers, managers, industry, etc. (fact sheets, sharing BMPs, information pamphlets, webpage, etc.)

2. Summit Recommendation:

Build effective and sustainable partnerships - To successfully launch a regional, indicators-based ecosystem health monitoring and reporting initiative, participants recommended that the Council focus specifically on building effective and sustainable partnerships. Participants strongly recommended widening the circle of stakeholders to represent greater diversity, including industry, developers, and realtors; municipal, state and provincial officials; Native American populations; local watershed groups; academia; and others. Participants recognized there are not many venues for these diverse groups to come together to better understand the issues and to develop collaborative strategies for improvement.

Proposed Action for Council:

- Develop an engagement "lens" or check list for all Council outreach activities to ensure participation and meaningful stakeholder involvement. This "lens" would provide concrete tools and suggestions on how to best engage and work with various stakeholder groups.
- The Ecosystem Indicators Partnership (ESIP) may have a role in developing a working definition of "partnership" and the necessary ingredients for a successful partnership.

3. Summit Recommendation:

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

Proposed Action for Council:

- ESIP is an excellent means to address this recommendation. It needs the necessary support to be as effective as possible. Work has commenced on an indicators management and strategy that will be presented to the Council in December 2005. This will directly address ways to communicate and use indicators. It will use success stories in other regions (e.g., Great Lakes – SOLEC) to market idea (including funds the region was able to obtain based on their successful environmental reporting).implementation

4. Summit Recommendation:

Coalesce indicator efforts - Participants called on the Council to substantively engage groups developing indicators at the sub-regional/watershed scale, regional and national levels in the creation and dissemination of Gulf of Maine ecosystem indicators. These efforts should be used across the region to trickle both up and down the ladder of decision-making. People repeatedly remarked on the need to think at the regional level, in addition to the state/provincial and federal level.

Proposed Action for Council:

- While Council is aware of the many entities that are already engaged in populating indicators based on their political or regulatory responsibilities (federal agencies, in particular), Council has the opportunity to *coordinate* these existing indicator efforts as well as determine remaining gaps in knowledge. ESIP is an appropriate vehicle and has the capacity to create a framework for advancing sub-regional to regional indicator reporting.

5. Summit Recommendation:

Strengthen state/provincial networks - Summit participants asked for each of the five jurisdictions to develop/strengthen mechanisms within each state and province that would foster networking, innovation and sharing of best practices, and efficiency. Within this approach each jurisdiction should have clearly identified “champions” that are accessible.

Proposed Action for Council:

- Identify champions within each jurisdiction to enhance networking and share the value of the Council’s work. (Champions are “gate keepers” to an interest group, that is, someone who feels the pulse of that group and can serve as an information conduit.)
- Market why it makes sense to network and coordinate around the theme of ecosystem-based management
- Continue crosswalk activities so jurisdictional/agency priorities are reflected in Council activities and visa versa. This exercise will increase participation and expand access to funding.
- Support the formation (or enhancement of existing) of networks that are related to the themes of the three indicators. The Council should request each jurisdiction to identify what applicable networks exist, what’s needed, and how to get the work done (see #2 above on partnerships).

6. Summit Recommendation:

Ongoing communication - Participants asked the Council to facilitate a high level of communication amongst the Summit participants after the event. They wanted more information about the structure of the Council and its partners, and asked to become more involved in Council activities. Participants felt the Council needed to develop some widely publicized implementation plans that contained very specific calls to action. Participants wanted to be called to act!

Proposed Action for Council:

- The process of revising the Action Plan will serve as a mechanism to broaden Council outreach and participation. It is an important way for additional groups to directly contribute to the goals and priorities of the Council over the next 5 years, therefore feeling they have something tangible to gain from staying involved. This outreach should happen within each jurisdiction.
- Place the Council’s matrix of Action Plan accomplishments (2001-2004) on website.
- Develop concise and engaging Council annual reports that provide a snapshot of progress, successes, and areas for further emphasis within the 5-year Action Plan, highlighting opportunities for input and participation.

B: Indicators and Reporting

1. Summit Recommendation:

Clarify scope of indicators initiative - Participants called for a common framework for documenting and reporting on the health of the coastal environment and the human communities it nourishes. They noted some inherent conflicts between the goals of sustainable fisheries (and the people that depend on them); healthy communities, where people have well-paying jobs and where human culture is sustained; and a healthy ecosystem. Participants called for the Council to define and publicize key terms such as ecosystem integrity. Further, they called on the Council to assess the effectiveness of the *Tides of Change* report before commencing work on the next set of priority issues. Participants noted that the focus of future work needs to consider the impact of watershed activities on coastal and marine environments.

Proposed Action for Council:

- The Ecosystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP) will be defining key terms for the public --- An update of the Partnership activities will be provided.

2. Summit Recommendation:

Develop and implement indicators management and communication strategy - Participants understood that a regional indicators and reporting initiative was an ongoing effort requiring a sustained decadal commitment. They welcomed the interest expressed by Environment Canada and the Environmental Protection Agency to co-lead the Gulf of Maine indicators effort. Participants also felt there were many people and institutions that have been working on ecosystem management, in addition to the Great Lakes and Puget Sound/Georgia Basin initiative, who could help us adapt the Great Lakes model to better fit our circumstances within the Gulf of Maine. Participants called on the Council to develop, in partnership with others, an integrated package of indicators and a communication strategy that was segmented by the particular audience/user. This strategy would be founded on a firm understanding of who the users are and what they need.



Proposed Action for Council:

- ESIP is doing this.

3. Summit Recommendation:

Understanding the connection to the Gulf of Maine ecosystem - Participants recommended that the Council support initiatives that help people understand the connection between the quality of their lives and the Gulf's leading issues (e.g., contaminants, fisheries and aquaculture, land use, etc.) Specifically, they need to know what they can do to improve their portion of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem.

Proposed Action for Council:

- Request PEPC to review community-based social marketing techniques to get the Council message out:
- There is a need for consistent messaging
- A forum or workshop for Council participants (including committees) may be a method for forwarding social marketing techniques
- Ongoing communication could involve fact sheets, web pages that make the link between quality of life and ecosystem health/quality

Submitted by Marianne Janowicz



Preparing a Council response to the Governors and Premiers on the Committing to Change proclamation

The Governors and Premiers Committing to Change proclamation released at the 2004 Gulf of Maine Summit directs the Gulf of Maine Council to implement the proclamation. At its December meeting the Council requested an implementation strategy be developed and that it be forwarded to the Governors and Premiers at their summer 2005 meeting in Newfoundland.

The Working Group has drafted a strategy that is set within the context of the Council's 5-year planning and implementation process so that activities can be resourced, their progress monitored, and periodic reports prepared to the Governors and Premiers. Attached is a draft implementation strategy that is responsive to the proclamation.

Action Requested

1. The Gulf of Maine Council's Secretariat prepare a cover letter and work with the NEGC/ECP Environment Committee to have the implementation strategy included in the Governor's and Premier's summer meeting packet.
2. The Secretariat be requested to work with a member of the Gulf of Maine Council that will be at the meeting and NEGC/ECP to briefly present the Council's response and respond to questions.

Submitted by David Keeley

Three-year organization development strategy

Draft annotated table of contents¹

Executive Summary

- Targeted/measured response to regional issues via organizational & human capacity and projects/activities
- 70% on “strengthening the core” and 30% on “growing beyond the base”

I. Introduction & Purpose

- Rationale for strategy – build on our past, position us for greater success in the future, long-term vs. triage approach,
- Outcomes & outputs – healthy ecosystem with sustainable & vibrant coastal communities; effectively address/respond to gulf-wide issues requiring a regional response; strong & vigorous regional organization with project portfolio;

II. Council raison d’être

- mission, vision, values/principles, objectives
- defining the regional agenda
 - Council role enacted through 5-year Plan
 - Other regional partners

III. Background & Current Conditions

- Council self-assessment², lessons-learned, optimum organization based on issues
- Review of regional partners
- Crosswalk of jurisdictional & agency priorities with regional agenda (e.g., common and distinguishing characteristics)
- Jurisdictional investments (time, money, etc.)
 - Supportive/consistent with regional agenda
 - as a result of regional agenda
- Urgency of the regional agenda/compelling needs statement (e.g., implications, costs and benefits of participation)

IV. Development Strategy

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

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

- Introduction – need to strengthen internal commitments and lead by example before seeking support from others,
 - Action #1: Gulf of Maine Council Governance
 - Title:
 - Issue/Background/Context:
 - Methods/Strategy:
 - Timeframe to Respond:
 - Responsible Parties (Council role and others):
 - Resources Required to Manage and Implement:
 - Action #2: Scope of the Regional Agenda
 - Action #3:

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

² Intention is to prepare a survey instrument and administer it to current and selected past Council members. Contents may include current understanding of purpose, perceived relevance to jurisdictional and agency mission & priorities, Council strengths and weaknesses, recommendations, etc.



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

- Introduction – need to engage external partners with shared interest in regional agenda
- Action #1:
 - Title:
 - Issue/Background/Context:
 - Methods/Strategy:
 - Timeframe to Respond:
 - Responsible Parties:
 - Resources Required:

VII. Implementation Plan

- Multi-year marketing strategy to achieve success (e.g., customized materials to target audience, role of Secretariat and others, message development & delivery, etc.)

Appendices

Submitted by David Keeley

Ocean Task Force Preliminary Organizing Principles

1. Ecosystem-based management is a tool or an approach to accomplish something.
2. We have an acceptable definition (R.E. Grumbine 1994)
ecosystem management integrates scientific knowledge of ecological relationships within a complex sociopolitical and values framework toward the general goal of protecting native ecosystem integrity over time.
3. We have some broad goals (R.E. Grumbine 1994)
 - Maintain viable populations of all native species in situ
 - Represent native ecosystem types in protected areas
 - Maintain evolutionary and ecological processes
 - Manage over periods of time of sufficient duration
 - Accommodate human use within these constraints
4. *Other Ecosystem-based Management Goals (Jamieson et al. 2001)*
 - *To conserve enough components (ecosystems, species, populations, etc.) so as to maintain the natural resilience of the ecosystem*
Note -- within the bounds of natural variability
 - *To conserve each component of the ecosystem so that it can play its historic role in the food-web (i.e., not cause any component of the ecosystem to be altered to such an extent that it ceases to play its historic role in a higher order component)*
Note – maintain primary production and the mean generation times of species within the bounds of natural variability & maintain trophic structure so that individual species/stages can play their historic role in the food-web
 - *To conserve the physical and chemical properties of the ecosystem (e.g., conserve critical landscape and bottomscape features, water column properties, water quality and biota quality)*
5. We have agreement we want to collaborate with others (e.g., ESSIM, NEFMC/Habitat Committee, NOAA/Ecosystem Management, etc.) and to use what they have done.
6. We agree that an approximate GOM ecosystem boundary is the head of coastal watersheds to the offshore boundary of the EEZ.
7. We have a touch of pragmatism. We know that we cannot address every issue at every scale and consider all ecological relationships within an ecosystem at the same time. We need to choose focal points or priorities.
8. We know that determining the ecological baseline (e.g., ecosystem processes that are maintaining the ecosystem) on which goals and objectives for an ecosystem is challenging. Further, this baseline is constantly changing/moving and the time of change often is different than the appearance of these changes.
9. We know that the GOM ecosystem has historically had a low diversity (in comparison to warm water/coral reef areas) which means its resilience is inherently low. These factors make it highly susceptible to change.
10. We know that not all things in the sea are equal. We need to identify the organisms that matter (e.g., what they do & why they are important). Then we need to identify the processes that are having an effect on these organisms (e.g., growth and stress, disturbance levels, productivity, competition, predation, etc.).
11. Then we can devise management strategies that respond to these processes (e.g., stop catching the big fish, reduce C02 inputs, etc.).

Questions

1. What is our baseline?
We need to define what our baseline is so that we can set an ecosystem response target.
2. What are the pivotal/dominant organisms and processes affecting them?
Working with others we need to define the leading organisms/foundation species and identify the natural and anthropogenic processes affecting them.
3. What is our ecosystem?
To determine what geographic ecosystem we seek to apply these goals to we need to define what resources and/or issues need (or are best addressed through) a regional ecosystem-based response. Examples include:

Issues/Resources	Geography/ecosystem scale
Spread of marine invasive species	Harbor to world-wide
Atmospheric deposition of pollutants	Ohio to Georges Bank
Abundance of commercial fisheries	In-shore stocks vs. East coast of North America (and beyond)
Recreational fisheries	In-shore stocks vs. East Coast of North America (and beyond)
Marine mammals	East coast of North America
Anadromous fish habitat restoration	Head of watershed to open ocean

Submitted by David Keeley

Accelerating Implementation of the Action Plan: Recommendations to Council

The Working Group, at its March meeting, allocated \$100,000 in the NOAA grant to accelerate work on 14 items in the Action Plan. Betsy, Jane and David were asked to develop recommendations on the tasks to be supported and the process for allocating the funds.

During the spring of 2004 the Council initiated a review of their progress in addressing the 51 priority actions in the Plan. At their June 2004 meeting they decided that while good progress had been made in many areas of the Plan they chose to accelerate work on 14 actions between 2004-2006. These included:

- # 2. Develop and promote the use of habitat information and displays
- # 4. Document the research and educational tools most needed for managers to improve habitats;
- #8. Convene those working on climate change impacts to develop adaptation strategies, encourage research and disseminate information to managers;
- #11, 12, 14, & 15. Create and implement a 5-year Gulf of Maine marine mapping strategy;
- #18. Seek increased funding for habitat restoration planning, implementation and monitoring;
- # 30 & 51. Enhance links among organizations by using the Council's Nongovernmental Organization Directory
- # 35. Engage the region's residents in preparing State of the Gulf materials;
- # 36. Develop and implement a regional marine research plan responsive to leading coastal and marine research issues;
- # 37. Expand environmental monitoring by integrating and building on existing programs;
- # 45. Formulate environmental health indicators;

Recommendations

We recommend the fourteen tasks be consolidated into seven specific projects. We developed the following projects using criteria from the 2005-06 Internal Grants Program as well as three additional criteria.³ For each project we have identified a "responsible entity". We suggest they be asked to submit a work plan by August 1st.

1. Habitat conservation and restoration – Possible projects responding to the Action Plan (#2, 4, & 18) include marketing and outreach of the Council's 2004 Restoration Strategy or development of riverine monitoring protocols to compliment salt marsh protocols.
Responsible entity: Habitat Restoration Subcommittee
Preliminary allocation: \$10,000
2. Climate change – Possible projects responding to the Action Plan (#8) relate to the expansion of the Council's "Knowledge-Base" on its web site.
Responsible entity: Climate Change Network
Preliminary allocation: \$5,000
3. Marine habitat mapping -- Possible projects responding to the Action Plan (#11, 12, 14, 15) include development and implementation of a GOMMI Business Plan and seed-funds to leverage the \$1M NOAA acoustic data gathering commitment.
Responsible entity: GOMMI
Preliminary allocation: \$15,000
4. Linking NGO community -- Possible projects responding to the Action Plan (#30 & 51 include networking land conservation, watershed planning, or estuary groups via a project that enhances and uses the NGO Directory as the backbone.
Responsible entity: PEP Committee in partnership with selected committee
Preliminary allocation: \$10,000
5. Indicators and environmental reporting -- Possible projects responding to the Action Plan (#35 & 45) include technical assistance to ESIP and the Indicator Work Groups to begin populating the indicators with data, development of the ESIP web interface, and production of ESIP materials.
Responsible entity: GOM EcoSystem Indicators Partnership
Preliminary allocation: \$40,000
6. Marine research priorities -- Possible projects responding to the Action Plan (#36) that will assist in the development of a regional research plan flow from the Council's 9/04 Habitat Change and Land Use Focus Group report recommendations.

³ Internal Grants – Satisfactory report from previous year, leverage funds, link to AP goals, build committee capacity, demonstrate excellence & deliverable. Additional criteria: urgency/timeliness to move to next step, project addresses a national or international imperative (e.g., there is external support to move this issue forward on a regional scale), build on previous investment/momentum, and require provision of match (minimum of 1:2) -- in kind support can contribute to match and should be calculated in detail as such.



- Responsible entity: Ad-Hoc Marine Research Group⁴
Preliminary allocation: \$5,000
7. Environmental monitoring -- Possible projects responding to the Action Plan (#37) relate to implementation tasks flowing from the Council's 12/02 NE Atlantic Monitoring Workshop.
Responsible entities: Environmental Quality & Habitat Monitoring committees
Preliminary allocation: \$15,000

Submitted by Betsy Nicholson, Jane Tims, and David Keeley

⁴ BoFEP, GOMC, GoMOOS, Maine Sea Grant, NOAA/NOS, MCZM, RARGOM



In-kind Donations Form

US Gulf of Maine Association

PO Box 2246

South Portland, ME 04106

Description

Time in hours

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Value in Dollars

Travel (taxi, tolls, gas, hotel, flight etc)	_____
Meals	_____
Facility Rental	_____
Office Supplies	_____
Telephone	_____
Printing & Copying	_____
Postage	_____
Other (please describe) _____	_____

Organization Name: _____

Date _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip _____

Signature _____

Printed Name _____