



Gulf of Maine
Council on the
Marine Environment

Gulf of Maine Council

Press Release

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Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
Releases new Action Plan

February 1, 2007 - The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment released the 2007-2012 Action Plan last night at a ceremony in Halifax, Nova Scotia honoring this year's recipients of the Gulf of Maine Visionary Awards. Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Ron Chisholm and Environment and Labour Minister Mark Parent presented two Gulf of Maine Visionary Awards and two Nova Scotia Bay of Fundy Awards.

The Council, a U.S.-Canadian partnership of government and non-government organizations works to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations.

Developed by incorporating public input and the findings of numerous studies, workshops, and key policy developments, including Canada's Oceans Action Plan, and the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, the Action Plan describes the goals, outcomes, and activities that the Council will pursue through its committees and partnerships in the next five years.

The [2007-2012 Action Plan](#) contains three overarching, long-range goals:

Goal 1- Coastal and marine habitats are in a healthy, productive, and resilient condition.

Goal 2- Environmental conditions in the Gulf of Maine support ecosystem and human health.

Goal 3- Gulf of Maine coastal communities are vibrant and have marine-dependent industries that are healthy and globally competitive.

The Gulf of Maine Council is committed to these long-term goals, recognizing that it will take many years to fully realize them. *"For nearly twenty years the Gulf of Maine Council has enabled the region's governments to be more effective stewards of the marine environment by supporting trans-boundary dialogue and helping to focus efforts on those issues requiring a regional response,"* said Governor John E. Baldacci, Maine.

NH Department of Environmental Services Commissioner and Gulf of Maine Councilor, Thomas S. Burack said, “We look to the Gulf of Maine Council for leadership on marine environment issues that require regional solutions. We will continue to work with our neighboring states and provinces toward a sustainable marine environment that supports a vibrant economy.”

The Council organizes conferences and workshops; offers grants and recognition awards; conducts environmental monitoring; provides science translation to management and raises public awareness about the Gulf of Maine. At the December 2006 meeting, the Councilors approved the new Action Plan and the release of \$100,000 in grants for local projects.

Detailed information about the Council’s activities, the Action Plan, grant opportunities and the multi-year work plan are available at www.gulfofmaine.org.

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The mission of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations. For more information visit the Council’s website at www.gulfofmaine.org