



GOMC Council / Working Group Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, December 9, 2025
1 PM - 4 PM ET / 2 PM - 5 PM AT

Optional in-person US site:
NH Department of Environmental Services
222 International Drive, #175, Portsmouth, NH

Briefing Book

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Virtual Access to the Gulf of Maine Council Meeting

Topic: GOMC Council / Working Group Meeting

Time: Dec 9, 2025 01:00 PM Eastern Time / 2:00 PM Atlantic Time

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GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA Tuesday, December 9, 2025 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET / 2:00 PM – 5 PM AT Optional in-person US site: NH DES, 222 International Drive, #175, Portsmouth, NH		
ET 1:00 PM	GOMC Meeting - Welcome and Overview of Meeting Objectives <u>Meeting Chairs:</u> <i>Rene Pelletier or Steve Couture, NH Department of Environmental Services, and Todd Chaudhry or Marcel Belaval, U.S. Department of Interior</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New GOMC Council Member, Jocelyn Runnebaum, ME Department of Community Affairs 	
1:05 PM	Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft May 2025 GOMC Meeting Record of Decisions 	✓ For Decision
1:10 PM	Offshore Wind Canadian Update <i>Matthew Baker, Nova Scotia Department of Energy</i> Matthew will provide an update regarding Nova Scotia’s offshore wind planning activities. Presentation will be followed by Q&A.	✓ For Information ✓ Internal
1:40 PM	Exploratory Discussion About Coastal Restoration Challenges and Examples of Successful Approaches GOMC jurisdictions will discuss regulatory or other challenges associated with advancing coastal restoration or resource improvement projects, such as shoreline stabilization, living shorelines, salt marsh restoration, dam removal, shellfish restoration, etc. The purpose of this session is to informally discuss the status of this issue across jurisdictions and determine if GOMC would like to host a more in-depth session on this topic during the Spring 2026 meeting. <u>Questions to Help Inform Discussion:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some of the key challenges or hurdles for implementing restoration projects? • What permitting approaches are being used to streamline or incentivize implementation of restoration projects? • How can we identify successful projects? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How can we showcase successful projects without burdensome monitoring requirements? ○ Are there US and Canada examples of successful living shorelines that demonstrate what works well? • Is GOMC interested in hosting a more robust session on this topic for the spring 2026 meeting? If so, what topics should be included in that session? 	✓ For direction ✓ Internal

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2:05 PM	<p>New Brunswick Coastal Planning and Clean Water Act Update <i>Alison Smith, NB Dept. of Environment and Local Government</i> Alison will provide an overview of New Brunswick’s ongoing efforts to update the NB Clean Water Act and efforts to protect coastal communities through a collaborative initiative that addresses climate change impacts, strengthens resilience, and promotes sustainable coastal management. Presentation will be followed by Q&A.</p>	✓ For Information ✓ Internal
2:35 PM	BREAK	
2:45 PM	<p>GOMC Website Redesign <i>Jim Craddock, GOMC IT; and Joan LeBlanc, GOMC Coordinator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joan and Jim will provide a preview of a redesigned Gulf of Maine Council website. GOMC Council and Working Group members are asked to provide feedback to inform continued development of the site, which will launch in early 2026. 	✓ For Direction ✓ Internal
3:00 PM	<p>GOMC Plans for 2026 <i>Steve Couture, NH DES</i> GOMC will discuss the feasibility of hosting an in-person spring 2026 meeting and awards program in New Brunswick.</p>	✓ For Direction ✓ Internal
3:10 PM	<p>GOMC Highlights / Opportunities for Collaboration GOMC members are invited to share brief updates or announcements relevant to the Gulf of Maine. Opportunities for Gulf of Maine Council collaboration will be highlighted where applicable.</p>	✓ For Information ✓ Internal
4:00 PM	Adjourn	

GOMC May 28-29, 2025 Meeting – Draft Record of Decisions

GOMC Council and Working Group members participated in a two-day virtual meeting on May 28 and May 29, 2025.

Meeting Participants

Tori Aver, Nova Scotia Department of Intergovernmental Affairs; Carolina Bastidas, MIT Sea Grant; Marcel Belaval, USGS; Gardner Bent, USGS; Alison Brizius, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management; Priscilla Brooks, Conservation Law Foundation; Steve Couture, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; John Duff, University of Massachusetts, Boston; Demi Fox, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Janet Duffy-Anderson, Gulf of Maine Research Institute; Luke Gaulton, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Glen Herbert, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Don Hudson, The Chewonki Foundation; Kim Hughes, New Brunswick; Danielle Kamberalis, NOAA Marine Debris Program; Jake Kritzer, NERACOOS; Joan LeBlanc, Gulf of Maine Council; Regina Lyons, US Environmental Protection Agency; Jenna Miller, CLIMAtlantic/New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government; Deanna Moran, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management; Frederic Paillard, New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government; Rene Pelletier, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; Alison Smith, New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government; Natalie Springuel, Maine Sea Grant; Kate Swails, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Lauren Tisdale, US Environmental Protection Agency; Theresa Torrent, Maine Coastal Program; Kristin Uiterwyk, Urban Harbors Institute; Robert Van Kiper, Maine Coastal Program; Christie Ward, New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government

Opening Remarks

GOMC Co-Chair Chair Rene Pelletier, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, welcomed Council and Working Group members and outlined meeting objectives. Rene provided the following updates regarding GOMC members and recognized them for their valuable contributions to GOMC:

- Betsy Nicholson has stepped off the GOMC as she has retired from her position at NOAA
- Ellen Mecray has stepped off the GOMC as she has retired from her position at NOAA

Consent Agenda

The following consent agenda item was approved.

- Draft GOMC January 2025 Meeting Record of Decisions

DAY 1 – Coastal Resilience Session

The first day of the meeting focused on the theme of coastal resilience. Topics and key discussion points are highlighted below.

Massachusetts ResilientCoasts Initiative

Massachusetts Chief Coastal Resilience Officer Deanna Moran provided an overview of Massachusetts' comprehensive, state-wide strategy for coastal resilience in the Commonwealth. The 50-year plan was

launched in November 2023 to address coastal vulnerability and flooding risks. The plan covers 98 coastal communities and includes 15 coastal resilience districts, near-term adaptation areas, and guidance for seven coastal typologies. Key strategies include shifting to district/regional scale collaborations, increasing resilience in new development, state investment in climate-informed decisions, and supporting community risk assessments. The plan emphasizes that while complete risk elimination isn't possible, significant reductions can be achieved through proactive planning and investment. The draft ResilientCoasts Plan, now out for public comment, is available at:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/resilientcoasts-initiative>

Key Discussion Points

- Massachusetts is providing funds to help address key priorities in the resilience plan through the municipal vulnerability preparedness program (\$52 million in the last funding round) and the coastal resilience grants program (\$5-10 million per year). Future sources of additional funding will likely include a combination of loans and grants. Providing incentives for regional collaboration will also be a priority.
- Once the plan is final, Massachusetts intends to create an interactive map with data layers that may be accessible for download.
- The Massachusetts coastal flood risk model includes sea level rise and storm surge, but not fluvial flooding. The state is currently working with UMass Amherst to develop a compound flooding model.
- The plan includes some recommended actions regarding policies and regulations, such as looking at statutes associated with municipal financing, linking building codes to areas at risk for flooding and promoting resilience, and adjusting the Wetlands Protection Act to facilitate permitting of coastal resilience projects and incorporate future flooding risks.
- The plan cost approximately \$600,000 to develop.
- USGS has a compound flooding model for New York that may provide some insights for Massachusetts planning.

CLIMAtlantic's Coastal Adaptation Toolkit

Jenna Miller of the New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government provided an overview of CLIMAtlantic's Coastal Adaptation Toolkit – an interactive tool to support local decision-making around coastal resilience approaches. The toolkit includes two dynamic online tools - one for small coastal communities and another simplified version for property owners. The tools work by asking specific questions about the site in question, such as its location in one of the four Atlantic provinces, land use planning, and the timeline for adaptation. The toolkit adjusts its recommendations based on these answers, offering a range of adaptation options, including nature-based and engineering solutions. While thousands have downloaded the tool since its launch two years ago, Jenna noted they don't track specific projects that result from its use, though they have received positive feedback about its usability and have seen it influence decisions in places like Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia. The tool is available at: <https://climatlantic.ca/coastal-adaptation/>.

Key Discussion Points

- The toolkit has been accessed thousands of times since it was launched, with about 500 users completing the planning process. The tool doesn't have a thorough tracking process to document use.
- Several communities have found it helpful for informing efforts to identify suitable locations for living shorelines projects.

Maine Coastwise Approach

Robert VanRiper of the ME Coastal Program provided an overview of Maine's Coastwise Approach to achieving ecological resilience and climate-ready road crossings in tidal environments. Robert noted that 75% of structures in Maine are associated with salt marshes, and the program helps determine acceptable risk levels and provides guidance on salt marsh ecology. He highlighted the importance of salt marshes for coastal economies and discussed the challenges of managing infrastructure as sea levels rise. Robert highlighted a professional training program and ongoing projects, including work in Scarborough Marsh and the West Branch of the Pleasant River. While Maine has a water crossing fund, it is not sufficient for the scale of projects needed. Details about the program are available at:

<https://www.maine.gov/dmr/programs/maine-coastal-program/coastal-community-support/the-coastwise-approach>

Key Discussion Points

- The Natural Resources Conservation Fund provides a source of funding for implementing tidal crossing improvements. They are shifting toward funding restoration projects.
- Maine is working with the Army Corps on developing general permits for tidal habitat restoration projects.
- The state is also collaborating with Maine Audubon to create municipal-level training programs.

USGS Modeling Tool for Stream Crossing Replacement

Gardner Bent from the US Geological Survey, New England Water Science Center, shared information about the USGS's automated hydraulic modeling tool for stream crossing replacement projects in Massachusetts. The tool is available at: <https://streamstats.usgs.gov/ss/>. Gardner highlighted two main projects: a study of road stream crossings in riverine environments and tidal river work. The road stream crossing project, in collaboration with Mass DEP and UMass Amherst, aims to develop automated procedures for designing preliminary culvert designs for approximately 20,000 crossings in Massachusetts. The project uses LiDAR data and HEC-RAS modeling to create designs that meet various flood flow requirements and stream crossing standards. For tidal rivers, the team surveyed 24 different tidal rivers along the Massachusetts coast to develop regional regression equations for estimating tidal river geometry. Both projects are focused on improving stream crossing designs and providing tools for municipalities to make informed decisions about infrastructure improvements.

Key Discussion Points

- Scores are used to highlight the value of restoration potential, such as upstream spawning habitat. Projects with higher scores need to meet certain stream crossing standards.
- Cost estimates are not currently part of the tool.
- USGS is working with communities to get feedback on how the tool is used to inform future adjustments or enhancements.

Presentations from the coastal resilience session are available at:

<https://www.gulfofmaine.org/public/gulf-of-maine-council-on-the-marine-environment/about-the-council/meeting-documents/>

DAY 2 – Working Waterfront Session

The second day of the GOMC meeting focused on promoting resilient working waterfronts in the Gulf of Maine. Topics and key discussion points are summarized below.

National Working Waterfront Network

Kristin Uiterwyk from Urban Harbors Institute provided an overview of the National Working Waterfront Network and highlighted key takeaways from the Network’s conference earlier this year, which focused on preserving resilient working waterfront communities. Key areas of focus for the conference attendees included climate impacts, innovation, infrastructure, workforce development, and dredging. Network details available at: <https://nationalworkingwaterfronts.com/>

Storm Response + Preparedness in Maine’s Working Waterfront Communities

Natalie Springuel shared results from Maine Sea Grant’s recent series of regional convenings to assess and identify needs for storm response and preparedness in Maine’s working waterfront communities. This outreach effort was implemented as a follow-up to a series of destructive coastal storms that caused severe flooding, damaging homes, businesses, and other coastal and waterfront infrastructure throughout the state during 2023 and 2024. Outreach included ten regional conversations between November 2024 and February 2025, with more than 80 communities and 450 participants. Some of the key themes heard across the convenings were:

- Ineffective communication systems
- Lack of awareness around disaster protocols
- Critical coastal access and infrastructure are vulnerable
- Accessible data is crucial for risk awareness and planning
- Local heroes stepped up statewide
- Inaccessible funding stalls progress
- Insufficient capacity for planning, applying, and implementing repairs

More details about the project are available at: <https://seagrant.umaine.edu/workingwaterfrontstorms/>

Key Discussion Points - Working Waterfront Session

- NOAA's Coastal Resilience Challenge grant is providing some funding to support Maine's storm response efforts.
- One key challenge for communities is figuring out how to access tools and resources to prepare for and communicate about emergency response efforts.
- NH DES is working with the emergency management office to refine coastal resilience and storm response. Efforts will be completed in March 2026.
- Maine had a very strong response to the recent storms, including adjusting the permitting process to facilitate rebuilding efforts.

Presentations from the working waterfront session are available at:

<https://www.gulfofmaine.org/public/gulf-of-maine-council-on-the-marine-environment/about-the-council/meeting-documents/>

GOMC Roundtable Discussion

Council / Working Group members shared the following updates relevant to the Gulf of Maine.

Tori Aver, NS IGA

- Nova Scotia announced more supports to protect coastal properties, communities on April 15, 2025.
- New example municipal land-use planning bylaws will help municipalities regulate development along the coast to safeguard homes and communities. The example bylaws were informed by ongoing consultation with the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities and the municipalities they represent.
- Coastal communities and property owners now have more tools and resources to protect themselves from the effects of climate change.
- The example bylaws provide flexible options that municipalities can use to regulate development and building along the coast to protect homes, buildings and other infrastructure from coastal flooding, erosion and rising sea levels. They include regulatory options for municipalities to:
 - create a defined area where their coastal protection regulations would apply
 - set a minimum building elevation to protect from coastal flooding
 - create a buffer zone to protect buildings from coastal erosion.
- The government will also provide more funding to support municipalities. The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities will receive:
 - \$1 million over three years to help municipalities adopt the example bylaw text and customize it to their unique needs and climate change impacts
 - \$344,106 to create a climate change policy and sustainability analyst position to support municipalities in their work to make their communities resilient to climate change.
- More tools for property owners were also announced today, including:

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- a coastal hazard assessment report that gives coastal property owners information on potential coastal flooding and erosion risks on their property
- a guide on how to use trees, plants and other natural techniques to protect properties from erosion, rising sea levels and flooding
- the coastal hazard mapping tool, first launched in 2024 to show possible coastal flooding for the year 2100, has been updated to include information for the current year and for the year 2050, along with areas of potential coastal flooding beyond 100 metres inland from the coastline
- a checklist and education video for real estate agents to use to help their clients make informed decisions about buying coastal property, developed in partnership with the Nova Scotia Association of REALTORS.

Carolina Bastidas, MIT Sea Grant

- Despite some funding reductions, MIT Sea Grant continues to focus on implementing priority projects and programs with available resources. Sea Grant programs from Maine to New York recently met together to collaborate and share progress.
- MIT Sea Grant has also been meeting with coastal communities in Massachusetts (including Truro, Wellfleet, Salisbury, and Newbury) to promote coastal resilience efforts.

Marcel Belaval, USGS

USGS is focused on adapting its work to align with new federal priorities. Staffing across the agency is down by approximately 25% since January due primarily to voluntary separations. Staffing in the Northeast region is down by approximately 17%. USGS continues to produce science and provide information to inform decision-making and reflect public interest. The following product and program updates were shared during the meeting and included in the meeting packet:

- [Seafloor Mapping for Critical Minerals and Other Resources](#)- USGS scientists map, characterize, and sample the seafloor, helping to identify the areas most likely to contain important natural resources, including oil, gas, sand, and critical minerals.
- [Coastal Landscape Change Products](#)- The U.S. Department of Defense is supporting the geographic expansion of the USGS Coastal Change Likelihood and Coastal Landscape Response assessments. These assessments are critical to understanding future coastal landscape change that could impact military installations, sites, and infrastructure along the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.
- [Aligning Salt Marsh Science with Management Needs](#)- USGS marsh vulnerability work and related geospatial products are a testament to the power of participatory science. As our collaborative network expands, so does the utility of this work. Federal, state, and NGO scientists along the Atlantic coast and beyond are finding great use in the geospatial products they helped co-produce.
- [Distribution and disturbances of ditches across salt marshes of the Northeast U.S. with implications for management and restoration](#)- Effective management of valuable coastal systems, such as salt marshes, requires an understanding of the complex stressors influencing

their continued threat of drowning. However, efforts to determine the effects of one potential stressor, ditches, have produced diverging results, complicating management efforts.

- [Approaching Storms](#)- The USGS Coastal and Marine Hazards and Resources Program has various products that report near real-time coastal conditions and forecast an active storm’s path, intensity, and associated coastal change hazards. These tools provide local officials and emergency managers with the scientific information they need to help make life-saving decisions before a storm makes landfall.
- [Seabed Observation and Sampling System \(SEABOSS\)](#)—used to collect images, videos, and samples of the seafloor—is being updated to improve overall capabilities and allow for deep water deployment up to 500 meters.
- [EcoSHEDS Northeast Stream Temperature Database](#) - A crowd-sourced, regional database for discovering and downloading continuous stream temperature data across the northeast. Registered users can upload, manage, and perform QAQC reviews of their data. The database is relied on by many partners in Maine tracking water quality and habitats to conserve and protect native coldwater fish and recreational fisheries.
- [Flow Photo Explorer Tool](#) - An integrated database and machine learning platform to estimate relative streamflow from timelapse imagery. The goal is to develop new approaches for monitoring hydrologic conditions in headwater streams where flow data are historically sparse or non-existent. Overall, FPE has over 400 stations with 8 million images in collaboration with 289 unique users.

Steve Couture, NH DES

- Woods Hole Group is developing a hydrodynamic model for New Hampshire, slated to be completed in the fall of 2025.
 - New Hampshire received funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Coastal Resilience Fund to conduct vulnerability assessments for eight to ten high-priority assets in the coastal region.
 - Climate science for the model is being updated with NOAA capacity funding. Once that is complete, a guidance document for the model will be developed.
 - NH will share the model with GOMC once the model, climate science, and associated guidance are all complete in the spring of 2026.
- NH is pursuing two high-priority dam removals – one on the Oyster River and one on the Exeter River. The Oyster River dam, located at the head of tide in Durham, is expected to be removed in September 2025. The Pickpocket Dam on the Exeter River is likely to be removed in 2026, as the Town recently approved funding to cover all removal costs.

John Duff, UMass, Boston

- In December, John presented the Gulf of Maine Council’s inaugural ‘*Good Neighbor*’ proclamation to Prof. Ted McDorman. The award was much appreciated.

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- John is looking forward to embarking on a fall 2025 sabbatical looking at Gulf of Maine governance issues, particularly comparative and shared governance matters. Research questions/objectives include:
 - a comparative assessment of the Public Trust Doctrine's history and implementation in the three states (Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine) and two Canadian provinces (New Brunswick and Nova Scotia) that border the Gulf of Maine;
 - whether, when, and how ecological principles inform the emergence, evolution, and implementation of laws and policies that govern uses of Gulf of Maine natural resources, and ecosystem services; and,
 - the prospects and challenges of co-governance of Gulf of Maine resource use and conservation, including, *inter alia*;
 - federal-state (US)
 - federal-provincial (Canada)
 - multi-state (US) and multi-provincial (Canada)
 - bilateral US-Canada; and,
 - multilateral (*e.g.*, international shipping, endangered/migratory species protection; climate mitigation and adaptation).
- The Gulf of Maine Research Institute is kindly providing some office space in the Portland area while John engages in some of this research.
- If any of these matters resonate with other Council members, please contact john.duff@umb.edu for a follow-up conversation

Demi Fox, NOAA Marine Debris Program

- NOAA Marine Debris program will soon announce projects selected for funding of large-scale, marine debris removal and interception.
- The Virginia Institute of Marine Science, with support from the marine debris program, is soliciting applications for a second round of a nationwide fishing trap removal projects.
- NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration and the University of New Hampshire's Coastal Response Research Center will host a pre-production plastic pellet virtual webinar on June 3rd.
- NOAA is developing an updated Gulf of Maine Marine Debris Action Plan. Some GOMC members have been involved in this effort.

Glen Herbert, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

- Joanne Thompson is the Minister of Fisheries. With new government leadership in place, departments are starting to receive mandates - economic development and resilience are key priorities.
- There is a new Secretary of State for protecting nature who will work across agencies and departments. Key priorities include:
 - Recommitment to the protection of 30% of land and water by 2030. New sites will be selected for conservation of waters off the coasts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

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- Mapping ecological services across the country, including a focus on carbon storage in marine areas.
- Focus on Canadian self-reliance in terms of natural resources.
- Offshore wind is still a priority with the first call for bids expected later this year.

Don Hudson, Chewonki Foundation

- Don recently supported an updated survey of Alpine plant ecology in the Katahdin region. Results indicate ecological changes, such as a loss of species due to increased precipitation.
- The Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation completed an ecological assessment available here: <https://www.awwf.org/projects-programs/natural-resources-inventory-and-monitoring/>. The report includes recommendations to enhance conservation buffers along the river and tributaries. Related efforts are underway to protect the northern Maine Woods and provide incentives for protecting old-growth trees that are important for biodiversity.
- The Penobscot River Restoration Trust will stay in place until 2030 to monitor the success of the dam removal project on the Penobscot River. The Trust is now focused on removing two more dams on the Piscataquis River, which provides valuable salmon breeding habitat.

Jake Kritzer, NERACOOS

- Despite some funding reductions, NERACOOS' core systems remain in operation. This includes the oceanographic buoy network, high-frequency radar network that maps surface currents, coastal sensors, forecast models, data management, infrastructure, and data products.
- NERACOOS is updating its Mariner's Dashboard, which provides real-time data on weather and sea state conditions for mariners. Outreach will inform the redesign.
- As recommended by the National Weather Service, a new low-cost spotter buoy was added off Hampton Beach, New Hampshire.
- The Cape Cod / Buzzards Bay network, a set of assets on either side of and within the Cape Cod Canal, includes wave buoys and a current profiler. The network has been expanded to New Bedford with support from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. The system provides value to the Army Corps, Coast Guard, and Northeast Pilots Association.
- Expanding the network of low-cost water level sensors, mostly along the Gulf of Maine, has been a growth area for NERACOOS. Sensors are targeted toward infrastructure, natural resources, and cultural resources that need closer monitoring. Partners include NROC, Brown University, and GMRI.
- NERACOOS has also expanded its focus on marine life with a plankton monitoring program operated through a partnership with NOAA Fisheries. Data are being used in combination with other plankton monitoring programs to develop new data products. A similar monitoring effort with acoustic and soundscape data is informing right whale conservation concerns related to offshore wind development and fisheries management.

Kate Swails, NOAA

- NOAA is experiencing significant changes in staffing and funding levels and has been adapting work to align with the priorities of the new Administration.
- NOAA's National Geodetic Survey collected topographic and bathymetric LiDAR data along the coast of Maine and New Hampshire during the fall of 2022 and the spring of 2023. Following a period of processing, the data and products will be available on the digital coast website within a couple of months.
- NOAA's high-resolution C-CAP land cover data for Maine will be available soon.

Lauren Tisdale, US Environmental Protection Agency

- Mark Sanborn has been appointed as the new EPA Region 1 Administrator. He is from New Hampshire and has previous experience in state and federal government.
- Some National Estuary Programs have already received this year's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds, and base funding awards will be processed soon.
- EPA is receiving applications for programs that monitor the beaches for bacteria and alert the public when it's safe to swim. Once the final budget is approved, those awards will go out.

Theresa Torrent, ME Coastal Program

- The Maine Coastal Program is moving from DMR to a newly created Office of Community Affairs. This new office, which will come together this fall, brings several departments together to support municipal planning and implementation programs.
- The Office will also include a new State Resilience Office and staff, supported by a [\\$69 million climate resilience grant](#) from NOAA, which will allow Maine to expand state, regional, and local capacity for advancing coastal resilience.

Christie Ward, NB DELG

- Gilles LePage is the new Minister of Environment and Climate Change in New Brunswick. Current areas of focus include advancing coastal resilience and modernizing the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. New Brunswick is working across multiple agencies to implement these new mandates and will be conducting significant stakeholder engagement.
- As part of its climate action plan, New Brunswick is working on strategies to inventory and avoid loss of wetlands that have high carbon content. Significant wetlands mapping efforts are helping to inform protection efforts.
- Because New Brunswick doesn't have a regulatory framework that covers all of the coastal area, efforts are based more on advancing best management practices across local governments. The current mandate will consider whether a regulatory approach is needed.

Record of decisions prepared by Joan LeBlanc, GOMC Council Coordinator

Meeting materials are available at: <https://www.gulfofmaine.org/public/gulf-of-maine-council-on-the-marine-environment/about-the-council/meeting-documents/>