



## NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 24 JUNE 2011

### GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

#### **2011 Forecast: Summer Hypoxic Zone Size, Northern Gulf of Mexico Released**

The "[2011 Forecast: Summer Hypoxic Zone Size, Northern Gulf of Mexico](#)" was recently released by the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium. With record-breaking floods along the Mississippi River in 2011 predictions are that the flooding will create the largest "Dead Zone" along the Louisiana shore. The prediction is that the "Dead Zone" will cover between 22,253 to 26,515km<sup>2</sup> of the bottom of the continental shelf off Louisiana and Texas. For further information on the 2011 Forecast, contact [Nancy Rabalais \(nrabalais@lumcon.edu\)](#) at LUMCOM.

<http://gcoos.tamu.edu/documents/2011HypoxiaForecast.pdf>

#### **Listening sessions in Galveston on 27 June**

The [Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force](#) will hold a day-long public meeting on 27 June 2011 in Galveston, TX. The National Ocean Council will hold a listening session for comments on the [strategic action plan](#) outlines for the national ocean policy at the Galveston Convention Center, Galveston, TX on the evening of 27 June. Please consider attending. Written comments can be provided to both Task Force at <mailto:gulfcoasttaskforce@epa.gov> and the National Ocean Council at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/sap/comments>  
<http://www.epa.gov/gulfcoasttaskforce/>  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/sap>

#### **Joint Meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance and the Hypoxia Task Force**

The date for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands meeting has been set for 2-4 August 2011. The meeting will be held at the Westin Canal Place in New Orleans, LA. It will be held in conjunction with the Hypoxia Task Force. See <http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/index.php> to obtain additional information on the meeting, register for the event, and find hotel information. There is no registration fee required.

#### **World Lake Conference: Lakes, Rivers and Coastal Areas: Understanding Linkages**

Meredith Blount Miller, at the River Systems Institute at Texas State University, is coordinating a few sessions at the [World Lake Conference: Lakes, Rivers and Coastal Area: Understanding Linkages](#). One session will focus on coastal habitat restoration and conservation that may showcase GOMA HCRT work; the other session will focus on fisheries management & climate change. She would also like to include a third session on coastal community resilience. Dr. McKinney, from the Harte Institute, is preparing a session devoted to the Horizon oil spill. Participants will come from over forty countries. Additionally there will be representatives from federal, state and local agencies. Dr. Blount Miller requests that the Gulf Coast community, especially GOMA, be well represented. The conference will be held in Austin, TX from 31 October to 4 November 2011. For more information, contact Meredith Blount Miller at [blountmiller@gmail.com](mailto:blountmiller@gmail.com) or [MaBlount@txstate.edu](mailto:MaBlount@txstate.edu).  
<http://www.wlc14.org>

#### **Gulf of Mexico Citizen Advisory Committee: Request for Nominations**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), invites nominations from a diverse range of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment to the Gulf of Mexico Citizen Advisory Committee (GMCAC). Vacancies are anticipated to be filled by August 30, 2011. Nominations

submitted by the end of July would be most helpful. More information is available here {<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-05-26/pdf/2011-13104.pdf>}. Submit nominations to Gloria D. Car, Designated Federal Officer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Gulf of Mexico Program Office, Mail Code EPA/GMPO, Building 1100, Room 232, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529. You may also e-mail nominations with subject line COMMITTEERESUME2011 to [car.gloria@epa.gov](mailto:car.gloria@epa.gov)

#### **Editorial by Dr. Bob Weisberg**

Bob Weisberg has written an interesting editorial titled "[The Loop Current may not have protected South Florida this year](#)" published in the St. Petersburg Times on 5 June 2011.

## IOOS NEWS

### **Dr. Sam Walker leaves US IOOS, accepts position at British Petroleum**

Dr. Sam Walker left US IOOS on 17 June after six years of service to the IOOS community. He accepted a new position and will be part of the Safety and Operations Risk Team at British Petroleum in Houston, TX. There, he will help lead the synthesis and development of their marine and ocean sciences capabilities in Texas. Sam was instrumental at US IOOS in setting up the subsurface monitoring unit and the Joint Analysis Group during the Deepwater Horizon blow-out. He provided IOOS expertise to many government, state and local organization as the DWH crisis continued throughout the summer of 2010. Prior to that he served as the Information Management Coordinator at SECOORA. We all wish him well in his new position.

### **CDR John Adler to assist with Sensors Innovation Project**

CDR John Adler will lend his expertise to the US IOOS's program to develop sensors that monitor changes in chemical, biological and physical parameters at multiple spatial and temporal scales in the oceans, coasts and Great Lakes. This program will be co-led by Gabrielle Canonico of the US IOOS Program Office. Their team will assess existing technology development programs; identify candidate technologies for transition to operations and funding; develop a program plan and determine ways to announce and distribute these funds.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### **National Oceans Month**

President Obama released a [proclamation](#) announcing that June 2011 is National Oceans Month. On June 2, 2011, the Obama Administration took another important step to implement the Nation's first comprehensive ocean policy by launching a series of events aimed at gathering public input from the communities and economies that depend on and care for our ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes. Click [here](#) to learn more and to get involved in the National Oceans Month public events.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/06/02/presidential-proclamation-national-oceans-month>

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/Press\\_Releases/June\\_02\\_2011](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/Press_Releases/June_02_2011)

### **Dept. of Commerce and NOAA Release New Aquaculture Policies**

On 9 June, the Department of Commerce and NOAA released new national sustainable marine aquaculture [policies](#). The new policies focus on: fostering sustainable aquaculture that increases the value of domestic aquaculture production; advancing sustainable aquaculture science; ensuring aquaculture decisions protect wild species and healthy coastal and ocean ecosystems; developing sustainable aquaculture compatible with other uses; and working to remove foreign trade barriers and enforcing U.S. trade agreements. Along with its new policy, the Department of Commerce and NOAA announced additional steps to support the development of the aquaculture industry, including: a National Shellfish Initiative in partnership with the shellfish industry to increase commercial production of shellfish; and a Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Plan for Aquaculture, which would include the regulatory infrastructure needed for offshore aquaculture development in the Gulf.

[http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110609\\_aquaculture.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110609_aquaculture.html).

### **JOCI Releases New Report: America's Ocean Future**

On 7 June, the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative Leadership Council (JOCI) released a new report calling on leaders to support effective implementation of the [National Ocean Policy](#). The report, "America's Ocean Future: Ensuring Healthy Oceans to Support a Vibrant Economy," highlights three fundamental components JOCI believes are essential for the National Ocean Policy to achieve its potential to improve

ocean governance: robust federal coordination; improved collection and delivery of science and data to support decision making; and immediate investments that increase government efficiency and effectiveness and strengthen critical information collection and delivery. The report is available on the JOCI website at: [www.jointoceancommission.org](http://www.jointoceancommission.org).

### **Save the Date: NRDA for the Gulf Symposium**

On 2-4 November 2011, the National Aquarium Conservation Center, Johns Hopkins University, and Mote Marine Laboratory will host a symposium on "NRDA for the Gulf: Improving Our Ability to Quantify Chronic Damages." Join scientists, researchers, NGOs, policy makers, and government leaders at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, where professionals will gather to hear the latest research outcomes and discuss approaches that will redefine standards for future NRDA practice and implementation. For details click [here](#).

[http://app.bronto.com/public/?q=preview\\_message&fn=Link&t=1&ssid=2525&id=i54q5mei775lgk60s4aojgxzkvtrd&id2=16kbzuc8wgwmavs801ea1owop5hk0&subscriber\\_id=awmxryazphmbxsdbgydpdnhdqjlmnpjm&messageversion\\_id=baqwlfgzufatmelglaxwqmcjnxgobhm&delivery\\_id=amdxcnkwwrgt](http://app.bronto.com/public/?q=preview_message&fn=Link&t=1&ssid=2525&id=i54q5mei775lgk60s4aojgxzkvtrd&id2=16kbzuc8wgwmavs801ea1owop5hk0&subscriber_id=awmxryazphmbxsdbgydpdnhdqjlmnpjm&messageversion_id=baqwlfgzufatmelglaxwqmcjnxgobhm&delivery_id=amdxcnkwwrgt)

### **NOAA Seeks Comment on Scientific Integrity Policy**

NOAA's [draft scientific integrity policy](#) is available for public review and comment until August 15th. The policy incorporates the principles of scientific integrity contained in the guidance provided by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and addresses how NOAA ensures quality science in its practices and policies, and promotes a culture of transparency, integrity and ethical behavior. NOAA is also seeking comments on the accompanying [handbook](#), which outlines procedures to respond to allegations of misconduct. Both documents can be found at: [www.noaa.gov/scientificintegrity](http://www.noaa.gov/scientificintegrity).

### **NOAA, States Discuss U.S. Tsunami Capabilities, Local Preparedness**

In June NOAA and its federal partners met with East Coast, Gulf and Caribbean state officials to discuss U.S. tsunami warning capabilities and the need for better local preparedness. Although rare, tsunamis can occur in the Atlantic basin, including the Gulf of Mexico. Conference speakers highlighted the importance of [NOAA's TsunamiReady program](#), which increases public awareness of the threat tsunamis pose, improves local hazard planning and strengthens warning communications between the public, the National Weather Service and emergency managers. For more information, see NOAA's press release, available online at: [http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110610\\_tsunamiconference.html](http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110610_tsunamiconference.html).

<http://www.tsunamiready.noaa.gov/>

## **COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS**

Meeting: "[Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force](#)", 27 June 2011, Galveston, TX. [Pre-register](#) for this meeting by 25 June 2011. On-site registration begins at 7:00 AM on Monday, 27 June 2011.

What: Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Meeting

When: 27 June 2011

Where: Galveston Island Convention Center, 5600 Seawall Boulevard, Galveston, TX

<http://www.epa.gov/gulfcoasttaskforce/>

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=lpkzsrfab&oeidk=a07e3vwlkq241b23da>

Training: "Water Words That Work", 28 June 2011, Port Aransas, TX. Register online at [GulfAllianceTraining.Org](#). The course is lead by its developer, Eric Eckl, who has over 15 years of marketing experience.

What: Translating Science for Communities: Words that Work

When: 28 June 2011

Where: University of Texas Marine Science Institute, 750 Channel View Drive, Port Aransas, TX

Meeting: "[National Business Forum of Marine Spatial Planning](#)" 13-14 July 2011, Monaco Hotel, Washington, DC.

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e3jb934c643c0a3d>

Meeting: "[First Community Environmental Summit](#)", 18 July 2011, Good Deeds Center, Gulfport, MS. For more information contact LaKeshia Robertson at [robertson.lakeshia@epa.gov](mailto:robertson.lakeshia@epa.gov) or call 228-688-3726.

<http://www.epa.gov/gmpo/pdf/savethedate-summit.pdf>

Meeting: "[Coastal Zone 2011](#)" 17-21 July 2011, Hyatt Regency, Chicago, IL.

US IOOS related sessions include:

19 July: 1:15-2:45 -Panel: US IOOS - New and Improved Tools for Coastal Managers' (\*Z. Willis, D. Dugan, J. Thomas, K. O'Brien, H. Kerkering )

20 July: 1:15-2:45 -'US IOOS: Tracking Water Quality' (\*Quintrell, Morrison, Newton, Porter, Read)

20 July: 2:45-5:00 pm: (Café) 'CMSP, IOOS, and Data: They Don't Have to be Four Letter Words' (\*Easter, Sheldon, Quintrell)

<http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/CZ11/index.htm>

Meeting: "[Oceans in Action](#)", Imperial Palace Casino, Biloxi, MS, 22-23 August 2011. Learn how government agencies and universities are supporting both current and demerging oceanographic operations worldwide.

<http://www.mtsociety.org/conferences/techsurge/oceansinaction.aspx>

Meeting: "[OCEANS '11 MTS/IEEE](#)", 19-22 September 2011, Hilton Waikoloa Village, Kona, HI.

<http://www.oceans11mtsieeeekona.org/>

Meeting: "[American Shore & Beach Preservation Association's Expanding Coastal Horizons](#)" 19-21 October 2011, New Orleans, LA.

[http://www.asbpa.org/conferences/conf\\_fall\\_11.htm](http://www.asbpa.org/conferences/conf_fall_11.htm)

Meeting: "[Using Modeling to Solve Engineering and Environmental Assessment Problems](#)", 7-9 November, 2011, The Renaissance Resort, St. Augustine, FL

<http://www.oce.uri.edu/ecm12/>

Meeting "[State of the Gulf Summit](#)", hosted by Harte Research Institute, 4-8 December 2011, Omni Galleria Hotel, Houston, TX.

<http://www.hareresearchinstitute.org/state-of-the-gulf-summit/>

Meeting: "[American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting 2011](#)", 5-9 December 2011, San Francisco, CA. Abstract due date is 4 August 2011.

<http://www.agu.org/fallmeeting>

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Harmful Algal Blooms

NOAA Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research Competitive Grants is accepting [proposals](#) for the Harmful Algal Bloom Programs (i.e. ECOHAB, MERHAB and PCMHAB). Letters of intent are required by 5:00 PM Eastern Time, 27 June 2011. The proposal submission deadline is 3:00 PM Eastern Time 24 August 2011.

[http://www.cop.noaa.gov/opportunities/grants/funding\\_grants.aspx](http://www.cop.noaa.gov/opportunities/grants/funding_grants.aspx)

## EMPLOYMENT

### NFRA Seeks Consultant to Assist with Synthesis of Regional Build Out Plans

The National Federation of Regional Associations for Coastal and Ocean Observing (NFRA) seeks qualified contractor to provide facilitation, analysis, and writing support to the development of a national synthesis of regional gaps analysis for coastal, ocean and Great Lakes Observing. View the [Request for Services](#).

### Australian Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) Positions

The Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS, [www.imos.org.au](http://www.imos.org.au)) is an Australian Government initiative to enhance Australia's marine research infrastructure in support of climate and marine science. IMOS deploys and coordinates a nationally distributed set of instrumentation, and data and information services, which collectively contribute to meeting the needs of marine research and other users in Australia for ocean observing systems. They are seeking a Data Services Specialist (HGN 184/11); Information Systems Architect (HGN 186/11); Software Engineer (HGN 185/11); and Project Officer / Data Scientist (2 positions) (HGN 183/11). Visit the [Web site](#) for more information.



GCOOS is the Gulf of Mexico regional component of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). Our mission is to provide timely, reliable, and accurate information on the open and coastal ocean waters of the Gulf of Mexico to ensure a healthy, clean, productive ocean and resilient coastal zone. Your input, guidance, support, and membership are important to the development of the data, products and services that you need. Contact GCOOS Coordinator, Ann Jochens ([ajochens@tamu.edu](mailto:ajochens@tamu.edu)), to become a GCOOS member and for more information.

We welcome your feedback. If you have an item that you would like to share with others, please email that item to Laura Caldwell ([lcaldwell@geos.tamu.edu](mailto:lcaldwell@geos.tamu.edu)).