



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 15 JULY 2011

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

GCOOS-RA Receives EPA Gulf Guardian Award

The Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System-Regional Association (GCOOS-RA) will receive a 2011 Gulf Guardian Award in the Partnership category from the Gulf of Mexico Program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for their work on the integration of and regional enhancements to the GCOOS. A major achievement of the GCOOS-RA has been the development of the GCOOS Data Portal that integrates ocean and coastal data sets from many different data providers. Initially, twelve institutions were involved in the portal development, including researchers at Texas A&M University and the University of Miami who developed the portal architecture and researchers and information-technology staffs of ten non-federal data providers who provided their near real-time oceanographic data from around the Gulf of Mexico. The challenge for the portal development was to interface the diverse data and products via an automated system and through web-based interfaces for users. The ten initial data providers are the Central Gulf of Mexico Ocean Observing System (University of Southern Mississippi); Coastal Ocean Monitoring & Prediction System (University of South Florida); Dauphin Island Sea Lab - Mobile Bay Environmental Monitoring (Alabama); Earth Scan Laboratory (Louisiana State University); Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium Environmental Monitoring; Mote Marine Laboratory; Texas Automated Buoy System (Texas General Land Office; operated by Texas A&M University); Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network (Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi); Institute for Marine Remote Sensing (University of South Florida); and Wave-Current-Surge Information System for Coastal Louisiana (Louisiana State University). The EPA press release is at: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/917e9eea3aa955e7852578aa005e03f3!OpenDocument>

Gulf of Mexico Observing System Implementation Plan

The GCOOS-RA is preparing a detailed implementation plan for a 10-year build-out of the GCOOS. The infrastructure, human resources, and funding requirements for each of the subsystems of GCOOS will be defined. These subsystems are: observations, data management, modeling and analysis, outreach and education, RA governance, and input to needed research and development. The plan will mesh together the details of 17 elements identified by the GCOOS Board of Directors for inclusion in the build-out plan. The elements are: Surface Currents and Waves Network (HFR); Harmful Algal Bloom Integrated Observing System; Hypoxia Monitoring; The GCOOS Mooring Plan; Physical Modeling; Data Management; Ecosystem Modeling; Glider/AUV; Beach Quality Monitoring; Ecosystem Parameter Monitoring; Satellite Observations and Products; Bathymetry-Topography; Autonomous Meteorological Measurement; Monitoring of River Discharge to the Gulf; Water Level; Aircraft Observations; and Enhanced PORTS. Taken together, these elements address the initial requirements of the stakeholders and partners in the key societal themes of Safe and Efficient Marine Operations, Healthy Ecosystems and Water Quality, Public Health and Safety (including climate change), and Mitigation of Effects of Coastal Hazards. A draft of the build-out plan will be made available for comment in August 2011.

Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Awards \$1.5 Million in Grants

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GRI) Research Board announced that it had awarded 17 grants totaling \$1.5 million to support observations and the sampling of physical distribution, dispersion, chemical evolution, biological degradation, and environmental effects associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on the Gulf of Mexico. The funding will support work from July 1 to September 30, 2011. Additionally, \$7.5 million will be available under RFP-II, which will make smaller awards to individual or

small teams of researchers. The application requirements for RFP-II will be announced at a later date. For more information about the GRI and the recent grant recipients, visit: www.griresearchboard.org.

Installation of Sentinels along the Texas Coast

In February 2011, the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science (CBI), Division of Nearshore Research (DNR), at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, through a partnership with the NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) completed the installation of two (2) Sentinels of the Coast water level stations in Texas that will become part of the Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network (TCOON). The Sentinels, installed at Texas Point and the Galveston Entrance Channel North Jetty, were funded by the US Army Corps of Engineers due to the destruction of existing monitoring stations by Hurricane Ike in 2008. After the passage of Ike, the US Army Corps of Engineers initiated a requirement for the installation of stations that would withstand the forces of storm surge along the Texas coast, and the CO-OPS designed Sentinel was the answer. Through an active partnership between DNR, the US Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District, and CO-OPS, the Sentinel design was provided and approved for installation. CO-OPS provided site-specific Sentinel designs to DNR along with onsite technical representation during the construction and installation of the Texas Sentinels so that each structure met the CO-OPS standards. The DNR is in the process of upgrading all TCOON stations with instrumentation that meets CO-OPS National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON) operational standards. For this reason, CO-OPS provided instrumentation for the two new locations with the goal of identifying them as NWLON stations in the future. Both stations will be operational before the 2011 hurricane season. DNR currently provides operational support for all TCOON stations, and for all 10 NOAA Ocean Service, Office of Ocean & Coastal Resource Management NWLON stations in Texas (under contract with CO-OPS). For further information on the TCOON and CO-OPS water level observation networks, see the following links:

<http://lighthouse.tamucc.edu/TCOON/HomePage>

<http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/index.shtml>

Let Your Voice Be Heard

The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force continues to engage with local governments, tribes and the public to seek input into the development of the restoration strategy. The Task Force invites response to five key questions:

- Are these the right goals?
- What are the critical actions or major outcomes that need to be accomplished as part of this strategy in order to achieve the overarching goals?
- What new programs and actions (state, federal and private) are needed?
- What key policy changes will improve the processes necessary to support restoration?
- What would "success" look like, and how should it be measured and reported?

Read the full Strategy Background Document (PDF)

(<http://www.epa.gov/gulfcoasttaskforce/pdfs/discussiondocmobileal.pdf>). Please submit comments by 31 August 2011. <http://www.epa.gov/gulfcoasttaskforce/comments.html>

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Meeting: Biloxi, Mississippi

Previously scheduled for 29 August 2011, the next meeting of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force will be held on 30 August 2011, in Biloxi, MS. The meeting will further the task force's ongoing commitment to supporting the conservation and restoration of resilient and healthy ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico. It will be held at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum & Convention Center from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT and is open to the public. To pre-register for this meeting; please go to this link,

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e4aekwljefe91ecc&llr=lpkzsjfab>

Pre-registration will close on August 27, 2011. On-site registration will be available on Tuesday, August 30, 2011 starting at 7 a.m. CT.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment

Efforts to assess impacts to and determine appropriate restoration for natural resources impacted by the Deepwater Horizon blowout in the Gulf of Mexico have been submitted by members of the public and are currently being evaluated by NOAA and other federal and state agencies. The projects can be viewed [here](#). These project ideas are being evaluated as part of early restoration planning and also will be considered when a final BP oil spill restoration plan is developed. The inclusion of a project on this list does not indicate that it has been fully reviewed for meeting [project selection criteria](#), nor is it guaranteed to be

selected and approved. All projects approved by the trustees will be subject to public review and comment.

<http://www.gulfpillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration/give-us-your-ideas/view-submitted-projects/>
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2010-title15-vol3/xml/CFR-2010-title15-vol3-sec990-54.xml>

Spray Glider Deployed in Gulf of Mexico

A spray glider was deployed on 7 May in the Gulf of Mexico in collaboration with the Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, Baja California (CICESE), a SCCOOS partner. Measured variables include pressure, temperature, salinity, velocity, colored dissolved organic matter (CDOM). The CDOM sensor is a fluorometer that has been shown to be sensitive to hydrocarbons in water, most recently during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This is one of a planned fleet of three gliders anticipated to be deployed later this year.

FLCOOS Announces New Chair

Mitchell A. Roffer (President, Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Service, Inc.), member of both GCOOS-RA and SECOORA, has been named the Chair of the Florida Coastal Ocean Observing System (FLCOOS), which also is a GCOOS-RA member. This development will allow for increased coordination among GCOOS-RA, SECOORA, and FLCOOS who have been working closely in recent months to ensure consistent messaging to stakeholders.

IOOS NEWS

CMSP, IOOS, and Data: They Don't Have to be Four Letter Words

Dave Easter (NOAA IOOS Program) and Susannah Sheldon (SECOORA) are co-moderating a session focusing on IOOS and Coastal Marine Spatial Planning at the Coastal Zone 2011 conference in Chicago, IL. The Cafe, entitled "CMSP, IOOS, and Data: They Don't Have to be Four Letter Words", runs from 4:15 - 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 20 in Regency C at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. The session will highlight what IOOS can bring to CMSP, how the RAs are currently involved with CMSP efforts in their regions, and the most effective ways that the U.S. IOOS and RAs can partner with CMSP activities. If you have any questions, please contact Susannah at susannah@secoora.org or 843.696.6837. We hope to see you there! [Visit the Coastal Zone 2011 Web site.](http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/CZ11/index.htm) { <http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/CZ11/index.htm>}

NATIONAL NEWS

AGU Action Alert: Earth and Space Sciences at Risk

The American Geophysical Union needs your support. With looming budget cuts in the future (at least \$1.1 trillion over the next ten years) the AGU asks that you support their efforts to communicate to Congress and the Administration on the importance of science funding and the potential impact of these cuts to research programs. To find out what you can do as a scientist to assist the AGU in their efforts, please refer to [Action Alert: Earth and Space Sciences at Risk](#). Your efforts can truly make a difference. http://www.agu.org/sci_pol/asla/alerts/2011-15.shtml

NOAA Releases "State of the Climate Report"

NOAA released its annual "State of the Climate Report," describing trends in more than 40 climate variables. In addition to concluding that the 2010 global average surface temperature was among the two warmest on record, the peer-reviewed report also found that: Arctic sea ice shrank to its 3rd smallest area on record (for the first time in modern history, both the Northwest Passage and the Northern Sea Route were open for navigation in the month of September); the average sea surface temperature for 2010 was the 3rd warmest on record; the ocean heat content in 2010 was among the highest values in the record; sea level continued to rise across the world's oceans on average; and the oceans were saltier than average in areas of high evaporation and fresher than average in areas of high precipitation, suggesting an intensification of the water cycle. The full report and a highlights document are available online: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/bams-state-of-the-climate/2010.php>.

NRDC Releases Annual Beach Water Quality Report

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) [released](#) its annual survey of water quality and public notification at U.S. beaches. The survey found that the number of beach closings and advisories in 2010 reached 24,091 - the second-highest level since NRDC began tracking these events 21 years ago and up

29 percent from 2009. "Testing the Waters" analyzes government data on beach water quality testing at more than 3,000 beaches nationwide, focusing primarily on bacteria-related beach water quality concerns. This report also highlights closures, advisories, and notices issued at beaches impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. From the beginning of the spill until June 15, 2011 there have been a total of 9,474 days of oil-related beach notices, advisories and closures at Gulf Coast beaches due to the spill. For more information about the survey, including links to individual state summaries, visit: <http://www.nrdc.org/water/oceans/ttw/titinx.asp>.

Senior NOAA Official To Engage Ocean Business Community On Marine Spatial Planning

NOAA Policy Director, Sally Yozell, participated in the first-ever National Business Forum on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), on behalf of Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Undersecretary of Commerce and NOAA Administrator. The National Business Forum on MSP (13-14 July, Washington, D.C.) is for businesses that care about their future use of marine space and resources. The Forum is the only event that brings the ocean business community together to develop a strategy to address common concerns about MSP.

<http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/national-business-forum-on-marine-spatial-planning-in-u-s>

Save the Date: National Estuaries Day – September 24th

National Estuaries Day, observed on the last Saturday of September each year, celebrates the vibrant and essential coastal areas where rivers meet the sea. Events will occur across the country. For more information on planned events in your local estuary, visit: <http://www.estuaries.org/national-estuaries-day.html>.

Replacement of EOS-80 Definition of Seawater Properties with TEOS-10

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), with the endorsement of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) and the International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans (IAPSO), has adopted the International Thermodynamic Equation Of Seawater – 2010 (TEOS-10) as the official description of seawater and ice properties in marine science. All oceanographers are now urged to use the new TEOS-10 algorithms and variables to report their work. See (www.TEOS-10.org) for more information and <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001881/188170e.pdf> for the IOC manual.

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

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 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: "Joint Gulf of Mexico Alliance-Hypoxia Task Force Meeting" 2-4 August 2011. The Westin Canal Place, New Orleans, LA.

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e3krs9k5bb6993f7&llr=thgzaleab>

Meeting: "Oceans in Action", Imperial Palace Casino, Biloxi, MS, 22-23 August 2011. Learn how government agencies and universities are supporting both current and emerging oceanographic operations worldwide. <http://www.mtsociety.org/conferences/techsurge/oceansinaction.aspx>

Meeting: "Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force", Upcoming Task Force Meeting and Listening Session, 30 August 2011, Biloxi, MS. See <http://www.epa.gov/gulfcoasttaskforce/> for information.

Meeting: "OCEANS '11 MTS/IEEE", 19-22 September 2011, Hilton Waikoloa Village, Kona, HI.
<http://www.oceans11mtsieeeekona.org/>

Training: "ADCPS in Action 2011 User's Conference/Product Training" 2-5 October 2011, The Catamaran Hotel, San Diego, CA. <http://www.rdinstruments.com/aia2011.aspx>

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

Meeting: "World Lake Conference Lakes, Rivers and Coastal Area: Understanding Linkages", 31 October -4 November 2011, Austin, TX. <http://www.wlc14.org>

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: "NRDA for the Gulf: Improving Our Ability to Quantify Chronic Damages." 2-4 November 2011, National Aquarium, Baltimore, MD. For details click here.
http://app.bronto.com/public/?q=preview_message&fn=Link&t=1&ssid=2525&id=i54q5mei775lgk60s4aojgxzkvtrd&id2=16kbzuc8wgwmavs801ea1owop5hk0&subscriber_id=awmxryazphmbxsdbgypdnhdqjimpbjm&messageversion_id=baqwlfgzufatmelglaxwqmcjnxgobhm&delivery_id=amdxnkwgrgt

Workshop: NFRA/IOOS Regional Coordination Workshop, 14-17 November 2011, New England.

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>

Save the Date: The [MTS/IEEE Oceans 2012](http://www.ieee.org/conferences_events/conferences/conferencedetails/index.html?Conf_ID=16373) conference will be held at the VA Beach Convention Center 14-19 October 2012.
http://www.ieee.org/conferences_events/conferences/conferencedetails/index.html?Conf_ID=16373

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CMP Grant Cycle 17: Final applications are due October 12, 2011

In the past, the Council has used the §306/§306A [coastal management grant funds](#) to fund small-scale projects. While the Council will continue to fund individual small-scale projects up to \$100,000, the Council will also consider funding individual large-scale §306A projects up to \$400,000 for on-the-ground habitat protection/restoration and land acquisition projects. While the Council prefers to fund on-the-ground projects, it recognizes the need for applied research and technology development to help fulfill the goals of the CMP and other coastal programs (e.g., Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP), Coastal Erosion Planning and Protection Act Program (CEPRA) and Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP.)) Therefore, the Council is interested in funding specific types of research and technical projects, with a proactive outreach component, that have a tangible benefit to local, state and federal entities.

<http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cmp/grant-cycle.html>

NASA ROSES 2011

The NASA ROSES 2011 Terrestrial Ecology solicitation (A.4) has been released. Section 2.3 of this solicitation focuses on "Terrestrial Ecosystem Impacts of the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill." Notices of Intent to propose are due August 17, 2011, and proposals are due October 28, 2011.

Full text of the solicitation can be found on NASA NSPIRES at the following link:

<http://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/solicitations/summary.do?method=init&solld=%7B56FDA7EF-762A-114D-BDB4-5493E4AE2B8E%7D&path=open>

NOAA Climate Program Office FY2012

Federal Funding Opportunity: NOAA-OAR-CPO-2012-200304

12 competitions: (1) Climate Observations and Monitoring Program; (2) ESS - Understanding and Improving Prediction of Tropical Convection in Support of DYNAMO; (3) ESS - Global Carbon Cycle; (4) ESS - Aerosols, Atmospheric Chemistry, and Climate; (5) MAPP - Advance intra-seasonal to decadal climate prediction; (6) MAPP - Develop an experimental National Multi-Model Ensemble climate prediction system; (7) MAPP - Modeling of Intra-Americas Sea climate processes associated with extremes over North America; (8) CSI-International Research and Applications Project (IRAP); (9) CSI-Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) teams; (10) CSI-Sectoral Applications Research Program (SARP); (11) CSI-Coastal and Ocean Climate Applications (COCA); and (12) CSI-COCA and the National Estuarine Research Reserve System partnership on coastal adaptation.

Letters of intent are due by July 26, 2011. Full proposal due October 3, 2011.

Grant announcement <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=103313>

EMPLOYMENT

MARACOOS Executive Director

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System (MARACOOS) seeks an Executive Director to lead the operational aspects of the organization, under the guidance of the Board of Directors. The MARACOOS Executive Director will be based at the University of Delaware, Newark, DE. <http://maracoos.org/node/112>

Teledyne RDI Positions

Teledyne RDI has a variety of immediate employment opportunities for enthusiastic, forward-thinking professionals. Employees enjoy a challenging and rewarding work environment, with significant opportunities for career advancement, as well as time to enjoy the legendary Southern California sunshine and laid back San Diego vibe. They are currently seeking Systems Engineers, Manufacturing, Quality Engineers, Software Engineers, and Transducer Engineer. For nearly 30 years, Teledyne RD Instruments has been the industry's leading manufacturer of acoustic Doppler products for a wide array of underwater applications. Their products are used around the globe to obtain critical current, wave and precision navigation data for scientists, engineers and water resources professionals. Visit www.rdinstruments.com/careers to learn more about these openings.



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), 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).