



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 9 SEPTEMBER 2011

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

GCOOS-RA Working With SECOORA for Consolidated Observing System Plan for the Florida Gulf Coast

The Florida Gulf Coast is unique in its natural beauty and its importance to the nation's economy. It is also unique in that two IOOS Regional Associations, GCOOS-RA and SECOORA, are working closely together to provide a seamless observing system for Florida – from the Gulf of Mexico through the Florida Strait and on up the east Florida coast. Dr. Ann Jochens, GCOOS-RA Regional Coordinator, and Dr. Stephan Howden, GCOOS-RA Board member, joined GCOOS-RA/SECOORA Board member, Dr. Mike Spranger, in a meeting on 8 September 2011 with the SECOORA Board to plan the regional coastal ocean observing system for the Florida Gulf Coast. "The goal is to have consistent plans that meet the needs of the Florida Gulf Coast stakeholders in a seamless way," Jochens commented. "We reviewed current ideas of the two RAs and identified commonalities, of which there were many, as well as unique aspects that result from particular expertise of each RA, and we identified a small working group, to include both the SECOORA Executive Director, Debra Hernandez, and myself to work out specifics for the operational Florida Gulf Coast observing system." Both Regional Associations are developing regional build-out plans for their respective regions. The Florida Gulf Coast plan will be one that has been vetted with the members and stakeholders of both the GCOOS-RA and SECOORA.

GRI Awards \$112.5 Million for Research Consortia's to Study Effects of Deepwater Horizon on Gulf of Mexico

Research on the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico took a major step forward today with the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GRI) Research Board's announcement that eight Research Consortia will be funded for the next three years. A total of \$112.5 million over three years will support this portion of the GRI research effort. These teams will investigate the fate of petroleum in the environment, the impacts of the spill, and the development of new tools and technology for responding to future spills and improving mitigation and restoration. The grants awarded today were in response to RFP-I, a request for proposals the GRI Research Board issued on April 25, 2011. This request for proposals solicited applications from Research Consortia – groups of researchers with compatible expertise from four or more institutions – to address one or more of the five intellectual themes established by the GRI Research Board. One of the funded consortia included Texas A&M University led by Piers Chapman, Head of the Department of Oceanography. Other participating institutions include Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, University of California at Berkeley, North Carolina State University, University of Texas at Austin, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, University of Hawaii at Manoa, University of Maryland and Georgia Institute of Technology. The seven other funded consortia are led by The University of Texas at Austin, Marine Science Institute, Florida State University, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, University of South Florida, University of Miami, Tulane University and University of Mississippi.

Stand Up With Purpose

GCOOS EOC member Brent Gaskill and his stand-up paddle board companions will paddle 24 miles from Ft. DeSoto County Park, St. Petersburg, to Longboat Key, Sarasota to raise money for those with spinal cord injuries. Through the Life Rolls On flagship program They Will Surf Again, a subsidiary of the Dana And Christopher Reeve Foundation, Gaskill and paddling buddies Hal Dearing, Marc Shen, Brody Welte, and Bailey Braddock will make this unprecedented paddle 17 September 2011. While marathoners routinely cover this distance, in addition to weather, the paddlers will have to contend with tides, currents, waves, and an abundance of marine life, not to mention having to traverse the Port of Tampa shipping channel, Florida's largest tonnage cargo port. In order to 'stack the odds' in their favor, Gaskill, a member of the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS) Education and Outreach Council (EOC), consulted with GCOOS data providers to determine the ideal time to host the fundraising event, Stand Up with Purpose. Looking at historical marine records and seasonal oceanographic patterns, 17 September 2011 was selected. The propensity of tropical storms notwithstanding, this time of year, the water is warm, currents are favorable and slack tide in the shipping channel occurs at a time that fits the paddling schedule. Captain Gaskill, a fourth generation Tampa Bay native, owner and operator of [Summer Vacation Fishing Charters](http://www.summervacationcharters.com/charter_info.html) and former high school educator, has worked closely with the developers of the [GCOOS Data Portal](http://gcoos.tamu.edu/products/maps) and the EOC to design the experimental web pages that target the recreational fishing and boating communities, now available on the GCOOS.

http://www.summervacationcharters.com/charter_info.html

<http://gcoos.tamu.edu/products/maps>

<http://gcoos.tamu.edu/documents/StandUp.pdf>

GCOOS Member Organizing Session on Ocean Sensing and Monitoring

GCOOS member Mitchell Roffer of Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Service is a member of the program committee that is organizing a [session](#) on remote sensing and monitoring at the SPIE International Conference in Baltimore MD in April 2012. The Call for Papers is out and Abstracts are due October 10, 2012. Links to the call for papers are given under meetings below.

Gulf of Mexico Alliance "All Hands" meeting

The annual Gulf of Mexico Alliance "All Hands" meeting was different this year. The Mississippi River Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force (Hypoxia Task Force) met in conjunction with the All Hands conference in order to draw focus about strategies for reducing hypoxia. There were several other regionally important issues, so the format was changed to conference-style with PIT working meetings on the final day. In addition to hypoxia, the other regionally important issues that were discussed in depth included: Gulf restoration, coastal & marine spatial planning, ecosystem services valuation, International integration, Gulf research opportunities, and the proposed Gulf Report Card. Conference presentations are being posted to the Alliance website at www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org.

University of Miami Center for Computational Science (CCS) to partner with GCOOS

GCOOS-RA would like to welcome our newest member, the Center for Computational Science (CCS) at the University of Miami. The CCS is a unique environment bringing together core expertise in high performance computing and software development with scientific focus areas such as computational biology, computational chemistry, physical sciences and engineering, data mining, visualization, and social systems informatics. Additional information can be obtained from visiting the Center's website at www.ccs.miami.edu.

New Science Targets Areas to Improve Water Quality

The USGS has released an online, interactive decision support system that provides easy access to newly-developed regional models describing how rivers receive and transport nutrients from natural and human sources to sensitive waters, such as the Gulf of Mexico. SPARROW (SPATIally Referenced Regression on Watershed attributes) models were developed for seven major regions on the conterminous U.S., including the Lower Mississippi, Arkansas-White-Red and Texas Gulf and the South Atlantic-Gulf and Tennessee. These models confirm the importance of urban and agricultural sources as major contributors of nutrients to streams, but provide new information about local and regional differences in nutrient contributions from contrasting types of agricultural (farm fertilizers vs. animal manure) and urban (wastewater vs diffuse runoff from

developed land) sources. These regional nitrogen and phosphorus SPARROW models have been incorporated into the interactive, online decision support system so water managers, researchers, and the general public can access SPARROW models and map predictions of long-term average water quality conditions, track transport to downstream receiving waters, and evaluate management source-reduction scenarios. Further information is available at <http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/sparrow/mrb/index.html>.

Campaign Targets Gulf Coast Homeowners

Developed by a partnership between the Gulf of Mexico Alliance's [Environmental Education](#) and [Nutrient Reduction Priority Issue](#) Teams, *Smart Yard, Healthy Gulf* is a new public education campaign designed to reduce fertilizers entering local waters by helping people make responsible lawn fertilizer decisions. The campaign was kicked off this summer and includes guidelines for fertilizer and lawn care in three of the five Gulf States.

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

<http://gulfofmexicoalliance.org/issues/nutrients.html>

<http://smartyardhealthygulf.com>

NATIONAL NEWS

Senate Oceans Caucus Inaugural Reception

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) cordially invites you to the Senate Oceans Caucus Inaugural Reception on 13 September from 6:00 – 8:00 PM in the Hart Senate Office Building, Room 902 to celebrate the launch of the Senate Oceans Caucus. This newly founded Senate Oceans Caucus is an important, bi-partisan group that will increase awareness and find common ground in responding to issues facing the oceans and our coasts. The Caucus members will work to ensure a sustainable, science-based and efficient approach to the utilization of our ocean and coastal resources. RSVPs can be sent to <mailto:senateoceansreception@oceanleadership.org>.

MESP Presentation on Marine Ecosystem Services Database

The Marine Ecosystem Services Partnership (MESP) is a web-based portal to help policy makers find data on marine ecosystem services and the researchers who conduct these studies. Launched in May 2011, the MESP [website](#) offers a dynamic mapping tool that spatially represents the MESP database of over 2,000 values of economic valuation data. MESP will be hosting a webinar to discuss the Marine Ecosystem Services Database at 1:00 pm Eastern/10:00 am Pacific on 15 September. To learn more and register for this webinar, visit:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/439569360>.

Digital Coast: CanVis Web-based Training

The NOAA Coastal Services Center will offer a free, web-based CanVis training session from 1:00-4:00 pm Eastern on 21 September. The three-hour, instructor-led training will provide an introduction to CanVis concepts and functionality, hands-on exercises, and a discussion of potential tool applications. After completing this course, participants will be able to discuss basic visualization concepts and options; acquire their own imagery for visualizations; identify ethical and legal issues associated with photo-realistic simulations; demonstrate basic knowledge of what CanVis is, as well as its advantages and limitations; understand which scenarios work best with CanVis; create visualizations using many of the software's tools and functions; and explore future project ideas and potential applications. To learn more and register, visit:

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/canvis/training.html>.

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

September

Training: "NOAA's Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (PMN) is giving a phytoplankton collection and identification workshop for folks interested in volunteering with PMN." USM Gulf Coast Research Lab, Friday, 9 September 1:00 pm to 5:00 PM in MEC-4. Below is a link to more in depth information about the volunteer program:

http://www.chbr.noaa.gov/pmnm/vpros_whatisininvolved.aspx

Contact Sharon Hodge (shodge@ngi.msstate.edu) if you would like to participate.

Meeting: "[GCOOS-RA Board of Directors](#)" 15-16 September 2011, Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, FL.

Meeting: "[OCEANS '11 MTS/IEEE](#)", 19-22 September 2011, Hilton Waikoloa Village, Kona, HI. Of special interest on Wednesday from 8:20-09:40 Emerging Ocean Observing Technology Forum: This will be an interactive question/dialog with a panel from industry and US IOOS on the emerging/existing observing needs for the emerging technologies could meet. It will be open to ALL registrant and the goal is to foster closer relationships with the Industry sector of the US IOOS.

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

National Estuaries Day, 24 September. To find out more about National Estuaries Day and the events scheduled on that day please visit their website.

<http://estuaries.gov/GetInvolved/Default.aspx?ID=153>

October

Conference: "[ADCPS in Action](#)" 2-5 October 2011, The Catamaran Hotel, San Diego, CA. The conference will focus on these three themes: Marine Measurements Detailed Training, Water Resources and Navigation. Please visit their [website](#) for more on these schedules.

<http://www.rdinstruments.com/aia2011.aspx>

Meeting: "[Ocean Innovation 2011](#)" 18-21 October, Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada.

<http://www.oceaninnovation.ca/Themes/2011/Content/index.php>

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: "[Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Principal Investigator One Year Update Workshop](#)" 25-26 October 2011, Don CeSar Resort, St. Petersburg, FL. Topical areas include impacts and mitigation, use of in situ and remote sensors, sampling and systems for assessing the extent, fates, impacts and mitigation of oil/dispersant, oil/dispersant-extent and fate.

<http://www.masgc.org/gmrp/documents/oiljsost.pdf>

November

Meeting: "Monitoring Forum 2011: Making a Commitment to a Long-term Monitoring Collaborative in the Gulf of Mexico" 1-3 November 2011, Pensacola, FL. Sponsored by the Water Quality Priority Issue Team, Gulf of Mexico Alliance.

Meeting: "NRDA for the Gulf: Improving Our Ability to Quantify Chronic Damages" 2-4 November 2011, The National Aquarium, Baltimore, MD.

http://app.bronto.com/public/?q=preview_message&fn=Link&t=1&ssid=2525&id=i54q5mei775lgk60s4aojgzkvtrd&id2=16kbzuc8wgwmavs801ea1owop5hk0&subscriber_id=awmxryazphmbxsdbgydnhdqjlmobjm&messageversion_id=baqwlfgzufatmelglaxwqmcjnxgobhm&delivery_id=amdxnkwqrgt

Meeting: "[Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation](http://www.sgmeet.com/cerf2011)" 6-10 November 2011, Ocean Center, Daytona Beach, FL.
<http://www.sgmeet.com/cerf2011>

Meeting: "[Using Modeling to Solve Engineering and Environmental Assessment Problems](http://www.oce.uri.edu/ecm12/)", 7-9 November 2011, The Renaissance Resort, St. Augustine, FL.
<http://www.oce.uri.edu/ecm12/>

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

December

Meeting "[State of the Gulf Summit](http://www.hartheresearchinstitute.org/state-of-the-gulf-summit/)", hosted by Harte Research Institute, 4-8 December 2011, Omni Galleria Hotel, Houston, TX.
<http://www.hartheresearchinstitute.org/state-of-the-gulf-summit/>

Meeting: "[American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting 2011](http://www.agu.org/fallmeeting)", 5-9 December 2011, San Francisco, CA. The keynote address will be delivered by Simon Winchester on 5 December in the Moscone Center North.

ABSTRACT DUE DATE: 4 AUGUST 2011.

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

2012

Meeting: "[AMS 92nd Annual Meeting](http://ametsoc.org/meet/annual/)", 22-26 January 2012, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA. This year's theme is "Technology in Research and Operations - How We Got Here and Where We're Going".

ABSTRACT DUE DATE: 1 August 2011.

<http://ametsoc.org/meet/annual/>

Meeting: "[2012 Ocean Sciences Meeting](http://www.sgmeet.com/osm2012/submittal.asp)", 19-24 February 2012, Salt Lake City, Utah. Please contact Lynda West (lyndaw@sgmeet.com, Tel: 254.776.3550) at the conference office if you have any questions.

(<http://www.sgmeet.com/osm2012/submittal.asp>)

REGISTRATION AND ABSTRACT DUE DATE: 7 October 2011.

<http://www.sgmeet.com/osm2012>.

Meeting: "[World Ocean Summit 2012](http://www.economistconferences.asia/event/world-oceans-summit)" 22-24 February 2012, Capella, Singapore
<http://www.economistconferences.asia/event/world-oceans-summit>

Meeting "National Water Quality Monitoring Council's 8th National Monitoring Conference - Water: One Resource - Shared Effort - Common Future" 30 April - 4 May 2012, Portland, OR.

ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL DUE DATE: 23 SEPTEMBER 2011.

<http://acwi.gov/monitoring/conference/2012/index.html>

Meeting: "[2012 Defense Security + Sensing](http://spie.org/x6765.xml)" 23-27 April 2012, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD. This meeting is sponsored by SPIE, the International Society for Optics and Photonics.

ABSTRACT DUE DATE: 10 October 2011.

<http://spie.org/x6765.xml>

Meeting: "2012 ASLO Summer Meeting" 8-13 July 2012, Lake Biwa, Otsu, Japan.

Symposium: "12th International Coral Reef Symposium", 9-12 July 2012, Cairns, Australia.

<http://www.coralcoe.org.au/icrs2012/NewsCoral2012/CoralNews.htm>

Meeting: "OCEANS '12 MTS/IEEE" 15-19 October 2012, Hampton Roads, VA.

EMPLOYMENT

Ohio State University Extension Sea Grant Seeks County Extension Educator

The Extension Educator will work collaboratively with the team of Extension Sea Grant professionals and provide overall leadership to developing and conducting proactive applied research and education programs in Clean Marinas, Clean Boaters, Non-Point Source Lake Erie Water Quality, and Lake Erie issues. To learn more, please see the complete [job description](#). To receive full consideration for this position, qualified applicants must complete the OSU online [application](#) and email the following items to bahnsen.9@cfaes.osu.edu: cover letter; resume; list of at least three professional references (include email address, name, address, and phone number); and official graduate and undergraduate transcripts showing the dates conferred (copies are acceptable). Additional application instructions are available at <http://extensionhr.osu.edu/career/apply.htm>. All materials must be submitted by 18 September.



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).