



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 23 SEPTEMBER 2011

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

Manatees Grace the GCOOS Board Meeting

The GCOOS-RA Board of Directors held its fall meeting at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, FL, on 15 and 16 September. Discussions were focused on the 10-year build-out plan for the GCOOS observing system. Board member Stephan Howden described our successful meeting with SECOORA on planning for the west Florida shelf observing system, which will be cohesive and consistent. Suzanne Skelley of NOAA IOOS Office and Josie Quintrell of NFRA were on hand to discuss the national perspective on the build-out efforts of the 11 RAs. Porfirio Alvarez-Torres of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem Project brought the international perspective of a whole-Gulf system and the trans-boundary issues being addressed by the project; these include a very active Mexico-US collaboration. He also discussed the tri-national nature of the Gulf of Mexico, a theme that also was addressed by Board member Mike Spranger, who described academic exchanges between US and Cuban institutions. Spranger emphasized that, because drilling will begin soon in Cuban waters adjacent to the Florida coast, it is extremely important for that ocean observing become truly tri-national in nature. After a delightful lunch, tour of the Mote Aquarium, and the treat of seeing Florida Manatees up close (thank you Barb Kirkpatrick!), we turned to the very important local perspective for ocean observing. Jim Ivey of FL Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and Alex Rybak of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation each presented information on their respective locally-focused efforts to observe the coastal-estuarine-riverine connections. The GCOOS build out plan itself was summarized by Ann Jochens. Gliders will be an important component of the plan, so Gary Kirkpatrick of Mote provided us with a tour of his glider control lab (thank you Gary!). Additional details will be included in the minutes of the meeting that soon will be posted on the GCOOS web site.

The Harte Research Institute to Host 2011 State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit

The [Harte Research Institute](http://www.hartheresearchinstitute.org/) will host the [State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit](http://www.sgmsummit.org/) in Houston, TX, from 4-8 December. The goals of this years Summit are 1) to develop a unified vision for the future condition of the Gulf of Mexico that is economically and ecologically sustainable, 2) to adopt a science-based metric, a Report Card, to chart progress toward that vision, 3) to establish an on-going process to assure the best science, most effective policies, and most efficient actions to realize that common vision and 4) to promote international cooperation in restoration and conservation. The Summit will bring together a broad cross-section of science and academic experts, non-governmental organizations and businesses to focus attention on the Gulf of Mexico. <http://www.hartheresearchinstitute.org/>
<http://www.sgmsummit.org/>

Dr. Nancy Rabalais: Recipient of the 17th Annual Heinz Award

Dr. Nancy Rabalais (GCOOS Board Member, Director Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium) has received the prestigious Heinz Award. The award is presented annually by the Heinz Family Foundation to honor 10 individuals whose life and work is devoted to the environment. Dr. Rabalais receives the award "for her pioneering research of severe oxygen depletion in the Gulf of

Mexico and commitment to reduce water pollution through education and public policy". The press release notes "Motivated by her lifelong studies of aquatic environments, Dr. Nancy Rabalais is on the forefront of efforts to develop and implement large-scale restoration plans for the beleaguered Gulf Coast waters. For decades, she has continued to be the driving force behind identifying and characterizing the dynamics of the Gulf's dead zone, which exhibits dangerously low oxygen levels to support vibrant marine life."

For more information see: <http://www.heinzawards.net/recipients/nancy-rabalais> and the Times-Picayune profile in

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2011/09/louisiana_scientist_receives_h.html

Congratulations, Nancy!

METOCEAN Awareness Course offered from 18-20 October in Houston, TX

The Society for Underwater Technology is delighted to announce the dates for the next Houston METOCEAN AWARENESS COURSES organized by the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology which are due to take place from 18 - 20 October in Houston, TX. The course is aimed at those who require a greater understanding of metocean conditions worldwide and how they might impact the effectiveness of their work. For all offshore industries, the effects of meteorology and oceanography (metocean) have a major impact on design and operations. The events of 2005 in the GOM particularly emphasized this, and brought into sharp focus the impact the weather can have on oil industry activities offshore, not only in the Gulf but also wherever the industry operates. Register at www.SUTHouston.com under the "Events" Calendar listed on the Home page - all major credit cards are accepted or call: 713-995-5156.

<http://www.suthouston.com/event/METOCEAN-Awareness-Course-Register-NOW/634491865910625000>

IOOS NEWS

Funding Awards Update

Congratulations to ACT, MARACOOS, GCOOS, NERACOOS and SURA (US IOOS Modeling Testbed) on FY11 Awards. PaCIOOS, SCCOOS, and UC Santa Cruz (animal tagging and telemetry data management work - co-funded by ONR) have been approved and are awaiting recipients to pick up their awards.

Regional Build Out Plans

The IOOS Regional Associations (RAs) are currently working to complete 10 year build out plans for ensuring initial, barebones capabilities to address priority needs. These build out plans will not only help fulfill the Integrated Coastal Ocean Observation System Act requirements for an independent cost estimate and annual regional gaps analysis but will provide important information for the National Ocean Policy #9: Strengthen and integrate Federal and non-Federal ocean observing systems, sensors, data collection platforms, data management, and mapping capabilities into a national system and integrate that system into international observation efforts. Moreover, the plans will provide the detailed information and rationale to support budget requests and to enumerate the impacts of budget decisions. When the information from the Regions is compiled, the coordinated national plan will present a comprehensive national picture of the regional needs for observing assets. NFRA, the IOOS office, and the RAs have been working for the past 2 months on common templates to complete the build out plans.

Connecting Regional RCOOS to Coastal Managers.

NOAA's Office of Coastal Resources and Management held a Coastal Strategies workshop that brought state coastal managers together to hear from NOS offices. The US IOOS Program Office staff provided a brief introduction on U.S. IOOS at the plenary and led three panel sessions, Implementation of Regional IOOS, the National HFR Surface current network, and Supporting Shellfish growers address Ocean Acidification. This activity represents the effort that the National Office is taking to connect the US IOOS Regional Coastal Ocean Observing Systems with programs across NOAA.

NATIONAL NEWS

Senators Announce Formation of Ocean Caucus at Press Conference on 13 September

Washington, DC - With our oceans and coastal resources, and the economies and jobs they support, facing constant and increasingly direct pressure from a variety of sources, a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators met to form a new [Senate Oceans Caucus](#). The Caucus will work to increase awareness and find common ground in responding to issues facing the oceans and coasts, which support millions of jobs in America and contribute more to the country's GDP than the entire farm sector, grossing more than \$230 billion in 2004. The members announced that U.S. Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) will serve as Caucus Co-Chairs. Senators Mark Begich (D-AK) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME), as Chair and Ranking Member of the Commerce Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries and Coast Guard, will serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the Senate Oceans Caucus to promote effective coordination with the subcommittee. Other Caucus members are Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Scott Brown (R-MA), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Tom Carper (D-DE), Chris Coons (D-DE), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Daniel Inouye (D-HI), John Kerry (D-MA), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Patty Murray (D-WA), and Ron Wyden (D-OR). The senators have adopted a founding charter, which lays out the principles for the Caucus, and discussed the following issues: international and domestic fisheries policy, gaps in ocean science, and challenges to ocean and coastal resource management.

<http://whitehouse.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/?id=01d918d1-3b1f-44ec-a6bb-eb7e3fce90ed>

The NOAA Coastal Services Center Launches New Digital Coast E-Newsletter

The new, quarterly Digital Coast e-newsletter provides information on recent additions to the Digital Coast, as well as upcoming events and training opportunities. Sign up to receive the newsletter using the NOAA Coastal Services Center online mailing list form at:

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/publications/subscriptions.html>.

Restore America's Estuaries Releases Landmark Coastal Jobs Report

The report, "[Jobs & Dollars: Big Returns from Coastal Habitat Restoration](#)," lays out a powerful case for government and private investment in the nation's coasts and estuaries, drawing on national and regional studies of coastal and estuarine restoration projects and setting out its findings in restoration case studies.

Special Session #109: Integrating Oceanography and Animal Tracking – The Ocean Tracking Network to be held at 2012 Ocean Sciences Meeting

There will be a special session at the 2012 Ocean Sciences meeting in Salt Lake City in February 2012. Special Session #109: Integrating Oceanography and Animal Tracking – The Ocean Tracking Network. This session aims to bring together marine biology and oceanography researchers and managers to improve our understanding of the linkages between physical, chemical, and biological oceanographic conditions and the population structure, dynamics, movement, and critical habitat of key marine organisms. Full session description is below and can also be found at http://www.sgmeet.com/osm2012/special_sessions08.asp.

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

September

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: "Mercury Forum 2011: Managing Mercury in the Gulf of Mexico" 18-19 October 2011, EPA Gulf Breeze Laboratory, Pensacola, FL. For hotel accommodation contact the Hilton, Pensacola Beach Gulf Front. Deadline for registration is 30 September. For more information contact Steve Wolfe at Steven.Wolfe@dep.state.fl.us.

Meeting: "[Ocean Innovation 2011](http://www.oceaninnovation.ca/Themes/2011/Content/index.php)" 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](http://www.asbpa.org/conferences/conf_fall_11.htm)" 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](http://www.masgc.org/gmrp/documents/oiljsost.pdf)" 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=awmxryazphmbxsdbgydnhdqjlmjbjm&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.harterresearchinstitute.org/state-of-the-gulf-summit/)", hosted by Harte Research Institute, 4-8 December 2011, Omni Galleria Hotel, Houston, TX.
<http://www.harterresearchinstitute.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://www.ams.confex.com/ams/92AM/)", 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](#)", 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](#)" 22-24 February 2012, Capella, Singapore
<http://www.economistconferences.asia/event/world-oceans-summit>

Conference: "[Oceanology International](#)" 13-15 March 2012, London, England. Oceanology International is the global forum where industry, academia and government share knowledge and connect with the marine technology and ocean science community, improving their strategies for measuring, exploiting, protecting and operating in the world's oceans.

ABSTRACTS DUE DATE: 30 SEPTEMBER 2011
<http://www.oceanologyinternational.com/>

Meeting: "[2012 Defense Security + Sensing](#)" 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 "[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 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.icrs2012.com>

Meeting: "[OCEANS '12 MTS/IEEE](#)" 15-19 October 2012, Hampton Roads. VA.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NOAA Gulf of Mexico B-WET Proposals

The National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Region is now seeking proposals under the Gulf of Mexico NOAA Bay-Watershed Education and Training (Gulf B-WET) Program. The full FY12 Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) can be found at [Grants.gov](#) or the following Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office URL: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/grants/B-Wet.htm>. Applicants should apply through [Grants.gov](#). Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on October 14, 2011 to be considered for funding. The Gulf of Mexico B-WET program is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning in the K-12 environment. Funded projects provide meaningful watershed educational experiences (MWEEs) for students, related professional development for teachers, and help to support regional education and environmental priorities in the Gulf of Mexico.

EPA funding opportunity for graduate students in Environmental Studies

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Center for Environmental Research (NCER), invites applications for the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Fellowships for graduate environmental study for master's and doctoral level students. The deadline is November 8, 2011 at 4:00 PM ET for receipt of paper applications, and November 8, 2011 at 11:59:59 PM ET for submittal of electronic applications via [Grants.gov](#). Subject to availability of funding and other applicable considerations, the Agency plans to award approximately 80 new fellowships by July 31, 2012. Master's level students may receive support for a maximum of two years. Doctoral

students may be supported for a maximum of three years, usable over a period of five years. The fellowship program provides up to \$42,000 per year of support per fellowship. For more information see <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppld=122693>

2012 MATE/UNOLS Six-Month Internship

This spring/summer (February/March – August 2012), the MATE center and the University National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) fleet will sponsor one marine technical internship onboard two research vessels: R/V Kilo Moana and R/V Endeavor (<http://www.unols.org/info/vessels.htm>). Interns will work with marine technicians on shore and at sea, learning how to operate and maintain a variety of scientific and navigational equipment in support of shipboard scientific research. For more information about marine technician careers, please visit http://www.oceancareers.com/2.0/career_description.php?career_id=62. The closing date for application is 24 October 2011. For more information please see: <http://www.marinetech.org/education/internships/applications.php>

EMPLOYMENT

ASMFC Hiring Fisheries Systems Programmer

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is currently recruiting a Fisheries Systems Programmer to serve in the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP). The ACCSP Fisheries Systems Programmer is responsible for providing information systems software development, maintenance, and operations associated with the program. The position is based in Arlington, VA. To learn more about the position and how to apply, visit: <http://www.asmfc.org/jobAnnouncement/sept2011ACCSPFisheriesProgrammer.pdf>

IODP-USIO Diversity Internship

The Consortium for Ocean Leadership together with the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program - U.S. Implementing Organization (IODP-USIO) is accepting applications for the Diversity Internship, an initiative designed to expose university minority students to careers in scientific ocean drilling by providing them with a 10-12 week educational and career-building experience. Full details about the internship and application process are available [here](#). The deadline to apply is 21 October 2011.

<http://www.oceanleadership.org/education/diversity/iodp-usio-diversity-internship/>

Minorities in Scientific Ocean Drilling Fellowship

The Minorities in Scientific Ocean Drilling Fellowship is funded through the U.S. Implementing Organization (USIO) for the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) to encourage minority graduate students studying geoscience or engineering to complete research in topics related to scientific ocean drilling. The deadline to apply is 31 October 2011. Further details are available [here](#).

<http://www.oceanleadership.org/education/diversity/minorities-in-scientific-ocean-drilling-fellowship/>

Horizon Marine Seeks Oceanographers

Horizon Marine, Inc., a leader in commercial oceanography providing services of real-time ocean current monitoring and forecasting for the offshore industry, is hiring a Physical Oceanographer - [Eddy Watch/Route Watch Analyst and Route Watch Operations Analyst](#).



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).