



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 7 OCTOBER 2011

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

NRDA for the Gulf: Improving Our Ability to Quantify Chronic Changes

It's been more than a year since the *Deepwater Horizon* oil rig was capped after leaking more than 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico in one of the nation's worst environmental disasters. As in the scientific community continues to investigate the impact of the spill on the Gulf and its animal and plant populations, it is important that we come together to discuss methods and technologies that will help us uncover the impacts, on both macro and micro scales. To discuss some of these methodologies, Mote has joined with the National Aquarium and Johns Hopkins University to present "NRDA for the Gulf," a 2-4 November conference to discuss the NRDA process and the latest research on quantifying outcomes. Dr. Kumar Mahadevan encourages you and your colleagues to consider attending this conference. Information about the conference and the preliminary program is now available online at <http://aqua.org/symposium.html>. To register for the conference, please go to <http://aqua.org/symposium-registration.html>.

Gulf Coast Task Force Releases Ecosystem Restoration Strategy for Public Review

WASHINGTON - The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, chaired by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, today released for public review and feedback its [comprehensive preliminary strategy](#) for long-term ecosystem restoration. The strategy, which will be presented to President Obama at the end of the public review period, represents an historic opportunity for addressing long-standing issues contributing to the deterioration of the Gulf's critical ecosystem. The preliminary strategy is the first effort of its kind to be developed with the involvement of parties throughout the region, including the states, tribes, federal agencies, local governments and thousands of interested citizens and organizations. The plan strategy, which builds upon on-going efforts underway in the Gulf Coast states includes specific steps for on-the-ground action and represents the Task Force's commitment to putting Gulf coastal restoration on an equal footing with other national priorities. For more information on the Preliminary Strategy document, please see http://gcoos.tamu.edu/documents/GCERTF_Preliminary_Strategy_10042011_508.pdf

Congratulations! to Nick Shay of RSMAS: Recognized for Research on Hurricane Intensity Changes

University of Miami (UM) Professor, Lynn "Nick" Shay, Ph.D., has been elected a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), the nation's leading professional society for scientists in the atmospheric and related sciences. Shay teaches meteorology and physical oceanography at the UM Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science. He serves on the GCOOS Observing Systems Committee. The honor of Fellow is given to an individual for recognition of outstanding contributions to the atmospheric or related oceanic or hydrologic sciences, or their applications, during a substantial period of years. Dr. Shay is a part of a select group of individuals who have been awarded this honor. For more on Dr. Shay's many accomplishments, please see this press release.

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-10/uomr-urs100611.php

Jochens named GCOOS Executive Director

The GCOOS Board of Directors has named Ann E. Jochens to the position of GCOOS Executive Director. She had served as the Regional Coordinator.

***Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill Principal Investigator One-Year Update Workshop**

This two-day [workshop](#) focuses on research conducted in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) and its coastal communities in response to the 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* Mississippi Canyon 252 (DWH) oil spill. The workshop will 1) update results of studies that were in progress during the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST) coordinating conference in October 2010; 2) share results of more recent projects; 3) provide input to future GOM research directions; and 4) foster collaborative partnerships. The second day of the workshop will consist of breakout sessions discussing research progress, implications and needs. For more information on the breakout sessions please contact Cathy Tortorici, cathy.tortorici@noaa.gov or John Lamkin, John.lamkin@noaa.gov.
<http://www.marine.usf.edu/conferences/fio/NSTC-SOST-PI-2011/>

Pew Environmental Group Releases Report on Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem

On 28 September 2011, The Pew Charitable Trusts released a new report, *A Once and Future Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem*. The report was prepared as a result of the 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. The Pew Environment Group assembled a team of 18 preeminent ocean scientists and other leading experts to identify strategies and specific actions for a successful recovery of the Gulf of Mexico. The report presents this working group's recommendations for recovering Gulf resources and restoring this natural system. More information is available online at http://www.pewtrusts.org/our_work_report_detail.aspx?id=85899364520 and the report itself is available at http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Protecting_ocean_life/Pew-Environment-Gulf-of-Mexico-report.pdf.

Mobile Bay Storm Surge Stations Go Live on Tides Online (CO-OPS, IOOS®)

Real-time data from the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) are now fully available for the first three stations in the Mobile Bay Storm Surge Monitoring Network in Alabama. The stations were installed by members of the Integrated Ocean Observing System. The Dog River Bridge, East Fowl River Bridge, and West Fowl River Bridge stations were posted to [Tides Online](#) on 2 September and were added to the [Mobile Bay Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System \(PORTS®\) website](#) on 15 September. Mobile County officials were notified of the availability of data so they could refer to the data on Tides Online for emergency planning as Tropical Storm Lee affected the water levels from Louisiana to Florida. The new water-level network, consisting of five new strategically located stations, will provide real-time storm surge data to Mobile County's emergency managers, weather forecast office, and others. The remaining two stations are being installed and will be online later this fall.

Senate EPW Committee Approves RESTORE Act

On September 21st, the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee approved the "[Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourism Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act](#)" (RESTORE Act - S. 1400) and reported the bill to the full Senate for consideration. The RESTORE Act would establish a Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund, which would dedicate funding to address the ecological and economic damage caused by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. At least 80 percent of all civil penalties paid by BP or any other responsible party in connection with the spill will be deposited into the Trust Fund. The bill would also establish a Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, a Comprehensive Plan for the Gulf Coast, a Long Term Science and Fisheries Endowment, and Gulf Coast Centers of Excellence. In addition, the bill as amended would require 50 percent of the interest earned by the trust fund, and proceeds from investments made by the fund in the preceding fiscal year, to be transferred to a National Endowment for the Oceans. The endowment would be used to make grants to regional ocean and coastal planning entities, to allocate funds to coastal states, and to develop and implement a national grant program for oceans and coastal waters. The funds could only be used for grants for

activities to restore, protect or maintain living marine resources and their habitats in oceans and coastal waters.

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c112:S.861:#>

“Rigs to Reefs Habitat Protection Act” Introduced in the Senate

On 14 September, Senator David Vitter (D-LA) introduced the “[Rigs to Reefs Habitat Protection Act](#)” (S. 1555), which would authorize the use of certain offshore oil and gas platforms in the Gulf of Mexico for artificial reefs. In September 2010, the U.S. Department of the Interior issued guidance for decommissioning and removing non-producing offshore oil and gas platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. The “Rigs to Reefs Habitat Protection Act” would require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an assessment of each of the platforms to determine whether there are coral populations or other protected species in the vicinity and identify any species in the vicinity of the platform that have recreational or commercial value. Platforms with substantial reef ecosystem in the vicinity would be allowed to remain in the Gulf as artificial reefs. The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112s1555is>

IOOS NEWS

FY11 Awards

Congratulations to PaCIOOS, SCCOOS, and UC Santa Cruz (animal tagging and telemetry data management work - co-funded by ONR) and CIMEC-CORDC (HF Radar work) who have all received their awards. The final award to NFRA has been signed by the NOAA Grants Office and is being worked by our Grants office and Finance to get this to the recipient.

NATIONAL NEWS

AGU announces Nancy Rabalais will give Rachel Carson Lecture at the 2011/2012 Ocean Sciences Meeting

Nancy Rabalais from LUMCON has been chosen to present the Rachel Carson Lecture at the 2011/2012 Ocean Sciences meeting in Salt Lake City in February 2012.

South Atlantic Alliance Workshops focus on Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters

The South Atlantic Alliance will host four workshops that focus on clean coastal and ocean waters: exploring opportunities in Florida. The goals of these workshops are to learn what resources are available, what efforts or programs are currently underway in Florida that will contribute to implementing the South Atlantic Alliance's plan, and to provide the opportunity to initiate partnerships throughout the state to strengthen our efforts to protect and conserve our coastal and ocean resources. [Learn more!](#)

2011 OneNOAA Science Seminars

There is an ongoing joint effort by several NOAA seminar partners to help share science and climate seminars and information across NOAA and its constituents. Seminars are held throughout the month and many are available via webinar. Please [visit the Web site](#) to learn more and sign up for updates.

NOS Online Hurricane Tools

The National Ocean Service maintains a wide range of [online tools](#) to monitor hurricanes and deliver relevant data before, during, and after a storm. The tools include water levels, observing systems, imagery and long-term planning.

<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/features/sep11/hurricanetools.html>

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

October

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=i54q5mei775lgk60s4aojgxzkvtrd&id2=16kbzuc8wgwmavs801ea1owop5hk0&subscriber_id=awmxryazphmbxsdbgydpnhdqjlmphbjm&messageversion_id=baqwlfgzufatmelglaxwqmcjnxgobhm&delivery_id=amdxnkwrgt

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](#)”, 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.

EMPLOYMENT

Center for the Inland Bays (CIB) Seeks Executive Director

The Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, one of 28 National Estuary Programs, was established as a nonprofit organization in 1994 by the Delaware General Assembly. The Center is seeking a new Executive Director. View [position description](#).

Graduate Assistantship in Environmental Science related to Agricultural Practices

An exciting graduate research assistantship is available at Arkansas State University in cooperation with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service in Jonesboro, Arkansas. The research is related to preserving water availability and water quality associated with agriculture in the Lower Mississippi River Basin. Research will lead to an M.S. in Environmental Science and completion of a thesis will be required. For more information contact Michele Reba at <mailto:michele.reba@ars.usda.gov>



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).