



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

### GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 21 OCTOBER 2011

#### GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

##### GCOOS Web Pages for Boaters and Fishermen

Real-time weather and ocean data from the GCOOS are now available for boaters and fishermen in the U.S. sector of the Gulf of Mexico. The experimental website (see <http://gcoos.tamu.edu/products/maps/boaters/>), consisting of oceanographic and meteorological conditions and forecasts out to seven days, will provide a one-stop shop of information. The website is the product of stakeholder workshops hosted by the GCOOS-RA in 2009 targeting the recreational boating and fishing communities. In 2010, the GCOOS Education and Outreach Council dedicated its annual meeting to developing the conceptual design of the web pages, which was subsequently implemented and enhanced by GCOOS product developer Dr. Shin Kobara. Incorporating information from GCOOS data providers and several NOAA Offices, the suite of information offered includes: near real-time weather radar, satellite cloud coverage, sea surface and air temperature, wind speed and direction, surface current speed and direction, and water depth. Users can select map layers to show nautical charts, marine hazard warnings, and habitat maps such as Essential Fish Habitat and Marine Protected Areas.

##### Monitoring in the Gulf of Mexico

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance Water Quality Priority Issue Team is holding the forum, *Making a Commitment to a Long-term Monitoring Collaborative in the Gulf of Mexico*, on 1-3 November 2011, at the Crowne Plaza in Pensacola, FL. The forum brings together the Gulf State resource and environmental managers, federal agencies, and non-governmental and academic groups to identify monitoring needs. Goals of the forum are to: (1) identify an overall framework for Gulf monitoring, (2) identify critical monitoring questions, (3) identify the elements of a core monitoring system, and (4) establish Gulf-wide priorities for implementation of long-term monitoring. Ann Jochens, Executive Director of the GCOOS Regional Association, will discuss the build-out planning for the GCOOS and how these plans will incorporate the GOMA priorities. She also will facilitate the discussions of the data management breakout group. The forum is especially timely given the possibility of increased funding support for long-term monitoring as a result of the BP *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill and the efforts of the Gulf Restoration Task Force.

##### NOAA Gulf of Mexico News

The September 2011 edition of the Gulf of Mexico News is now available online at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/news/gomexnews.html>.

##### News on HABs

Information on harmful algal blooms off southwest Florida and Texas is available at <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/>

##### Comments on Restoration Types to Restore the Gulf

Earlier this year, the trustees for the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill asked the public for input on the types of restoration needed to address impacts from the spill. The comments were collected as part of the [Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement \(PEIS\)](#) process. The PEIS will serve as the core planning

document for restoration associated with the oil spill. Comments were collected at public meetings in the Gulf region and Washington, DC, as well as online and verbal submissions. A total of 7,773 comments were received, with nearly 70 percent of those coming from Gulf residents and organizations. The comments focused on three main categories: implementation approaches, marine mammals and turtles, and offshore resources.

<http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration/whats-a-peis/>

## IOOS NEWS

### **An Update on IOOS 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 (ICOOS 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. At the IOOS Regional Workshop in Portland, ME in November, the RAs will review the templates, look for trends, determine if more information is needed, decide how to synthesize and write an action plan, and write the executive summary.

### **IOOS Animal Telemetry Observing Network**

The U.S. IOOS Toward Animal Telemetry Observing Network Workshop Synthesis Report is now available on the IOOS web site [http://www.ioos.gov/observing/animal\\_telemetry/welcome.html](http://www.ioos.gov/observing/animal_telemetry/welcome.html).

### **SECOORA Data Management In Action**

The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill recently completed an update to the SECOORA Vocabulary. This vocabulary, now expanded to nearly 200 terms, improves the accessibility and understanding of data and observations of winds, tides, currents, water quality, and chemistry of our coastal waters and oceans. The Vocabulary is based on the IOOS Parameter Vocabulary (130 terms). However, terms on fish and zooplankton species and abundance were not included in this version. The [SECOORA Vocabulary](#) and the [IOOS Parameter Vocabulary](#) are both registered with Marine Metadata Initiative's Ontology Registry and Repository.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### **Reorganization of BOEMRE**

On October 1, 2011, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), formerly the Minerals Management Service (MMS), was replaced by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) as part of a major reorganization. BOEM (<http://www.boem.gov>) is responsible for managing development of the nation's offshore resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way. Functions include: Leasing, Plan Administration, Environmental Studies, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Analysis, Resource Evaluation, Economic Analysis and the Renewable Energy Program. BSEE (<http://www.bsee.gov>) is responsible for safety and environmental oversight of offshore oil and gas operations, including permitting and inspections, of offshore oil and gas operations. Its functions include the development and enforcement of safety and environmental regulations, permitting offshore exploration, development and production, inspections, offshore regulatory programs, oil spill response and newly formed training and environmental compliance programs. More information is at <http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/Interior-Department-Completes-Reorganization-of-the-Former-MMS.cfm>.

## Comments Sought on the Future of Oceanic and Atmospheric Science & Technology at NOAA

OAR's [draft Strategic Plan](#) (FY12-18) is available for public review and comment\*. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) completed its [Next Generation Strategic Plan \(NGSP\)](#) (<http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/ngsp/>) in December of 2010. The NGSP outlines NOAA's long-term goals and objectives. The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) has developed its new strategic plan in line with the NGSP and is working to ensure OAR science, technology and service remains relevant into the future. The OAR Strategic Plan will guide future research and resource decisions to foster an innovative, integrated research enterprise that advances our understanding of the oceans and atmosphere and strengthens NOAA's science and services. The draft incorporates OAR's mission and vision, and characterizes its goals and objectives over the next six years. These goals and objectives will provide guidance and strategic direction for program and laboratory planning. Public comments are due by 5 p.m., EST, November 11, 2011. They must be submitted to [OAR.Plan@noaa.gov](mailto:OAR.Plan@noaa.gov). The draft document can be found electronically at: <http://www.oar.noaa.gov/aboutus/strategic.html>. Those without computer access can call 301-734-1048 to request a copy of the draft strategic plan and instructions for returning written comments by U.S. Postal Service. For further information contact: The NOAA Strategic Planning Team at [OAR.Plan@noaa.gov](mailto:OAR.Plan@noaa.gov).

\*Citation: Federal Register/Vol. 76, No. 201/Tuesday, October 18, 2011/Notices [Docket No: 111003608-1608-01]

[http://gcoos.tamu.edu/documents/FedReg\\_draft\\_OAR\\_Strategic\\_plan.pdf](http://gcoos.tamu.edu/documents/FedReg_draft_OAR_Strategic_plan.pdf)

## Digital Coast Webinar: Mapping/Visualizing SLR and Coastal Flooding Impacts

On 2 November (2:00 p.m. EDT/11:00 a.m. PDT), Douglas Marcy of the NOAA Coastal Services Center will present a brief history of previous sea level change visualization pilots and detailed discussion of new methods, featuring a demonstration of the Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Viewer. In this webinar, participants will learn about: the benefits of providing interactive maps online for visualizing inundation risks and potential impacts; new mapping techniques that incorporate high-resolution data sources; and the methods used to develop the Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Viewer, its current status, and plans for expanding the tool to the rest of the coastal U.S. To register and to learn more about other upcoming events in the Digital Coast webinar series, visit:

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/webinar/>.

## Visualize Inundation in the Coastal Inundation Toolkit

The "Visualize" section is now available in the [Digital Coast's Coastal Inundation Toolkit](#). Learn how different types of visualizations can help communities understand their inundation risks and vulnerabilities. The "Picture It" page offers tools and local examples of how photos, maps, and mapping viewers can be used to visualize the extent and impacts of inundation. The "Graph It" page directs users to tools and websites that can be used to visualize trends, such as sea level rise, and spatial relationships for complex data sets. For the more technically advanced, the "Build It" page directs users to training, data, and guidance that can get them started with creating their own visualizations. Visualizing inundation is important in understanding the potential extent of inundation and the risks it poses on the community. Being able to visualize inundation allows communities to prepare and plan for these events in the future.

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/inundation/>

## COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

### October

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.

<http://gcoos.tamu.edu/documents/MonitoringForumAgenda.pdf>  
<http://gcoos.tamu.edu/documents/MonitoringForumRegistrationForm.pdf>

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=awmxryazphmbxsdbgypdnhdqjlpbjm&messageversion\\_id=baqwlfgzufatmelqlaxwqmcjnxgobhm&delivery\\_id=amdxcnkwrqgt](http://app.bronto.com/public/?q=preview_message&fn=Link&t=1&ssid=2525&id=i54q5mei775lgk60s4aojgxzkvtrd&id2=16kbzuc8wgwmavs801ea1owop5hk0&subscriber_id=awmxryazphmbxsdbgypdnhdqjlpbjm&messageversion_id=baqwlfgzufatmelqlaxwqmcjnxgobhm&delivery_id=amdxcnkwrqgt)

Meeting: "[Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation](#)" 6-10 November 2011, Ocean Center, Daytona Beach, FL.

<http://www.sgmeet.com/cerf2011>

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: "2011 Southern Association of Marine Educators Annual Meeting", 12 November 2011, Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, New Orleans, LA.

For more information please contact [Chris Verlinde](#)

To register go to: [2011same.eventbrite.com](http://2011same.eventbrite.com)

Symposium: "[6<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Harmful Algae in the US](#)" 13-17 November 2011, Austin, TX. For more information contact Deanna Erdner or Lisa Campbell at [ushabsymposium@gmail.com](mailto:ushabsymposium@gmail.com).

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

## December

Meeting "[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](#)", 5-9 December 2011, San Francisco, CA. The keynote address will be delivered by Simon Winchester on 5 December in the Moscone Center North.

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

## 2012

Meeting: "[AMS 92<sup>nd</sup> 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".

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

Meeting: "[Social Science For Coastal Decision-Making](#)" 15-16 February 2012, Francis Marion Hotel, Charleston, SC.

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/socialcoastforum/>

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

<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.

<http://www.oceanologyinternational.com/>

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

Meeting "[National Water Quality Monitoring Council's 8<sup>th</sup> National Monitoring Conference - Water: One Resource - Shared Effort - Common Future](http://acwi.gov/monitoring/conference/2012/index.html)" 30 April - 4 May 2012, Portland, OR.  
<http://acwi.gov/monitoring/conference/2012/index.html>

Meeting: "[The Coastal Society's 23<sup>rd</sup> International Conference](http://thecoastalsociety.org/conference/tcs23/index.html)", 3-6 June 2012, Hyatt Regency, Miami, FL.  
\*ABSTRACT DUE DATE: 24 OCTOBER 2011\*  
<http://thecoastalsociety.org/conference/tcs23/index.html>

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

Symposium: "[12<sup>th</sup> International Coral Reef Symposium](http://www.icrs2012.com)", 9-12 July 2012, Cairns, Australia.  
<http://www.icrs2012.com>

Meeting: "[OCEANS '12 MTS/IEEE](http://www.oceans12mtsieehamptonroads.org/)" 15-19 October 2012, Hampton Roads, VA.  
<http://www.oceans12mtsieehamptonroads.org/>

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### NOAA Sea Grant Community Climate Adaptation Initiative 2011

NOAA Sea Grant expects to make available up to \$1 million for a national competition to fund climate adaptation efforts for FY 2012-2013 as part of an overall plan to enhance climate adaptation in coastal communities. The [Federal Funding Opportunity](http://www.grants.gov/search/synopsis.do;jsessionid=4XHDTpnc4Tylm6NYJdjWz08SnfvKjWbLfdJQNsR3RB2VQzmvwZp4!1867521226) includes information on how to apply and criteria for climate adaptation projects requesting a total of up to \$100,000 in federal funds (matching funds are required). Climate adaptation projects are expected to be conducted in partnership with local community governments and state and federal agencies. Projects selected in this competition will be awarded and funded in FY 2012-2013 and must be completed by January 31, 2014. Eligible Entities: Sea Grant Institutional Programs, Sea Grant College Programs, the Guam Sea Grant Project, and the Lake Champlain Sea Grant Project. Other interested parties are encouraged to work with the Sea Grant programs in their region to explore opportunities for partnering. The deadline to apply is November 22nd.

<http://www.grants.gov/search/synopsis.do;jsessionid=4XHDTpnc4Tylm6NYJdjWz08SnfvKjWbLfdJQNsR3RB2VQzmvwZp4!1867521226>

## EMPLOYMENT

### Pew Charitable Trust - Senior Associate and Manager, Global Campaign to End Illegal Fishing

Pew Charitable Trust is currently recruiting a Senior Associate and a Manager to join its Global Campaign to End Illegal Fishing. These positions are based in Washington, DC and will report to the Director of the Global Campaign to End Illegal Fishing. The Campaign is designed as a two-year effort, subject to renewal by the Pew Charitable Trust board at the end of the second year. These positions currently are approved for a 24 month period through March 2013, with an option to extend should the board renew it at the end of its second year. See the full job descriptions to learn more about the desired qualifications and how to apply.

<https://jobs-pct.icims.com/jobs/2648/job>

<https://jobs-pct.icims.com/jobs/2646/job>

### Sea Level Rise Outreach and Training Coordinator

Florida Sea Grant is searching for a full-time Sea Level Rise Outreach and Training Coordinator. We are looking for a highly motivated person to lead a program focused on effects of sea level rise on coastal natural resources. Prospective applicant can visit <https://jobs.ufl.edu/> and use Requisition No. 0809463.



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 Executive Director, 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)).