



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

### GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 4 NOVEMBER 2011

#### GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

##### **Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas Available**

NOAA's National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC) has released the initial prototype of the developing Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas (<http://gulfatlas.noaa.gov>). In 1985, NOAA's National Ocean Service published the Gulf of Mexico Coastal and Ocean Zones Strategic Assessment Data Atlas, which has served as one of NOAA's primary references for the spatial footprint of key ecosystem components. The newly released data atlas is comprehensive, high-resolution, and Internet-based. This initial release has 95 map plates in 31 different subject areas. Additional maps are under development and planned for inclusion in 2012. The atlas is designed to provide information necessary to answer questions regarding the current conditions of the coastal/marine environment, coastal infrastructure, and the socioeconomic status and trends of the Gulf of Mexico. "Though published by NOAA, the Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas is truly a collaborative effort," said Russell Beard, Director of NCDDC. "The Atlas has data from federal, state, non-governmental agencies, and academia. We also had representatives from a cross section of those data providers on the Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas Prototype Executive Steering Committee who provided guidance on the plates and the supplementary information." Dr. Matthew K. Howard, GCOOS Data Manager, is an active member of the Atlas' Executive Steering Committee. "GCOOS prepared and provided a comprehensive, oxygen data set containing observations from 14 cruises of the Mechanisms that Control Hypoxia Program," said Howard. "We provided this data set to the NCDDC group that prepared the oxygen plate." Dr. Shinichi Kobara, GCOOS GIS Manager, prepared a plate on GCOOS-RA for NCDDC that is planned for addition in 2012.

##### **GOMA Monitoring Forum Success**

The Water Quality Priority Issue Team of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance held its 2011 Monitoring Forum in Pensacola, FL, on 1-3 November 2011. The theme of this year's forum was *Making a Commitment to a Long-term Monitoring Collaborative in the Gulf of Mexico*. The goal was to identify an overall framework for Gulf monitoring, critical monitoring questions, and the elements of a core monitoring system. The information then would be used by the state leads to establish GOMA Gulf-wide priorities for implementation of long-term monitoring and by all participants to form strong collaborations for monitoring. A report on the meeting, including speaker presentations, will be posted by GOMA in the near future. "This forum brought together state and federal agencies and others who are working to develop collaborations for monitoring the quality of our Gulf waters so necessary for ecosystem and public health," said Dr. Ann E. Jochens, GCOOS Executive Director. "We examined the challenges for these collaborations and identified ways to overcome them." Jochens was a member of the steering committee for the forum. She gave a presentation on *Ocean Observing Monitoring Needs and Efforts in the Gulf of Mexico* and a poster on *A Sustained, Integrated Ocean Observing System for the Gulf of Mexico (GCOOS): Infrastructure for Decision-making*. She also facilitated the break-out group that discussed application of existing and developing common data standards and web services for managing, storing, and sharing data.

##### **Report of the GCOOS Board of Directors Meeting Posted**

The [Thirteenth Meeting of the GCOOS Board of Directors Minutes](#) are posted on-line. The meeting was held at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, Florida, from 15-16 September 2011. The BOD discussed both national and international efforts to build ocean observing systems. Also discussed was building and

enhancing GCOOS. More details are available at [http://gcoos.tamu.edu/meetingreports/2011\\_Sept/minutes.html](http://gcoos.tamu.edu/meetingreports/2011_Sept/minutes.html).

To find the minutes from previous 2011 GCOOS meetings (the April PSC/DMAC and the March GCOOS-RA Board of Directors and the Annual GCOOS Parties Meeting) click [here](#).  
<http://gcoos.tamu.edu/meetingreports.html>

### **The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) works to complete plan**

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) staff has been working hard to complete a draft [Agency Strategic Plan](#) for 2012-2016. Nick Wiley is excited about the vision and conservation direction presented in this plan and would like to share it with you. Wiley said "We want our final strategic plan to serve as a compass to guide FWC actions for fish and wildlife conservation over the next five years. With your help, our partners and stakeholders, we can make this vision a reality. Please note this is a draft document. We are sending this draft document out today to sincerely seek your comments and suggestions. Your input will help us make sure the final strategic plan clearly reflects the interests and values of Florida's conservation community to the greatest extent possible." They appreciate you taking the time to review this document and provide constructive input. After your review is completed, please return it to [executivedirector@myfwc.com](mailto:executivedirector@myfwc.com) by 14 November 2011.

### **Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's Compact News available now**

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's Compact News, volume 22, number 1, is now available on-line. To download this publication click [here](#). Articles include "Regional Traceability Program for Gulf Seafood Underway", "Commission Completes First Regional Study of the Economic Performance of the Inshore Shrimp Fishery throughout the Gulf" and "GSMFC and FWRI to Test New Data Collection Technology".

[http://www.gsmfc.org/pubs/GSMFC\\_Compact\\_News\\_Sep\\_2011.pdf](http://www.gsmfc.org/pubs/GSMFC_Compact_News_Sep_2011.pdf)

### **Gulf Coast to Host Restore America's Estuaries 2012 Conference**

The 6<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration will be held in Tampa, Florida, on 20-24 October 2012. The theme of the conference is *Restoring Ecosystems, Strengthening Communities*. Restore America's Estuaries has called for proposals for dedicated sessions, presentations, and posters (see <http://program.estuaries.org/>). Proposals are to be submitted through the conference website at <http://program.estuaries.org/> by 1 February 2012.

## **IOOS NEWS**

### **EARTH 2012 Hosted by MBARI & SECOORA 8-13 July at University of North Carolina, Wilmington**

The Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) and SECOORA are currently soliciting applications for the 2012 EARTH workshop to be held at UNCW. The focus of the 2012 workshop will be on ocean observatories and South East Coastal Research. If you have an interest and would like to be contacted about the 2012 workshop, please send an email to [George Matsumoto](#). A requirement of the application process is to trial an EARTH activity, complete the rubric, and mail the rubric to George. Ten of the twenty participants will be from SECOORA states (North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia); if you are from one of these states, please send your application to [Lisa Adams](#) - you can contact Lisa if you have any questions. Applications are due by March 21, 2012 and selections will be made by early April. [Learn more about EARTH](#).

### **US IOOS and National Marine Protected Area (MPA) Task Team Results**

US IOOS is pleased to announce that it has completed the Final Recommendations from the MPA and IOOS Task Team report. You can find the report "Building and Strengthening Linkages between the National System of Marine Protected Areas and the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)" at <http://www.mpa.gov/>. Overall recommendations focused around three main areas: identifying key end user products; key environmental parameters and processes; and expanding partnerships. Recommendations highlight the importance of using MPAs as platforms for ocean monitoring both inside and outside MPA boundaries. In addition, scientific and technical experts consulted in the process recommended the use of MPAs to monitor impacts of climate change.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### World Ocean Council Launches “Smart Ocean / Smart Industries” Program on Ocean & Climate

Maersk, Transocean and other leadership companies are joining forces to create an international program for data collection from vessels and platforms. Leading ocean companies are working to expand and better coordinate the collecting of ocean and atmospheric information from ships and offshore structures through the “[Smart Ocean / Smart Industries](#)” program developed by the World Ocean Council (WOC). The UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) is hosting the initial WOC workshop on 12-13 December 2011 in Paris. The need to better understand and monitor the ocean and climate has never been greater. Government and scientific institutions have limited facilities and resources to obtain marine and atmospheric data. Shipping, offshore oil and gas and other ocean industries, e.g. ferries, fisheries, offshore wind, aquaculture and others, operate thousands of vessels and platforms. These provide tremendous potential for cost-effectively collecting ocean and climate data. Expanded information will help improve the modeling and predictability of weather, ocean conditions and climate change, and will support responsible use of ocean space and resources – with clear benefits for science, government, society, and business. The IOC will host the initial WOC “Smart Ocean / Smart Industries” workshop. The meeting will convene industry, science and government representatives to develop: a) a shared understanding of the program need and opportunity, b) the initial design of the process and institutional framework and c) the roadmap and workplan for moving forward. The workshop will bring together representatives from: a) shipping, oil and gas, ferry, offshore wind, mining, fisheries, navies, etc; b) existing voluntary observation programs; c) marine technology, instrumentation, IT/communications; and d) international and national oceanographic/metrological organizations. Space is limited. Interested parties should contact: [paul.holthus@oceancouncil.org](mailto:paul.holthus@oceancouncil.org).  
[http://www.oceancouncil.org/site/smart\\_ocean.php](http://www.oceancouncil.org/site/smart_ocean.php)

### National Water Quality Monitoring Council to have Web Seminar

The National Water Quality Monitoring Council offers a free Web seminar on State, Regional and Tribal Monitoring Councils, Partnerships and Alliances, a multi-disciplinary list of data elements for environmental monitoring: can we all speak the same language? The web seminar will be on 7 November 2011 at 1:00 PM ET. Please login 10 minutes early to see instructions to join the webinar. The call in number is 1-866-299-3188, access code 5661187#. To join in the webinar go to:  
<https://usgs.webex.com/usgs/j.php?ED=164732982&UID=480781817&RT=MIMxMQ%3D%3D>

### NERRS Science Collaborative Awards \$6.1 Million

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) Science Collaborative has awarded \$6.1 million to fund collaborative projects that address a coastal management problem identified as a priority for a NERRS Reserve and a community that it serves. Guana Tolomato Mantanzas, Mission Aransas, and Rookery Bay NERRS received funding. [View all projects funded in 2011](#).

## COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

### November

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.harterresearchinstitute.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>

Workshop: "[Workshop for "Smart Ocean/Smart Industries"](#) Program on Ocean and Climate Observations, 12-13 December 2011, Paris France.

[http://www.oceancouncil.org/site/smart\\_ocean.php](http://www.oceancouncil.org/site/smart_ocean.php)

## 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>

Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> Annual GCOOS Parties Meeting and 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of GCOOS Board of Directors" 14-15 March 2012, Gulfport, MS. Details to follow later.

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](#)" 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](#)" 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](#)", 3-6 June 2012, Hyatt Regency, Miami, FL.

<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](#)", 9-12 July 2012, Cairns, Australia.

<http://www.icrs2012.com>

Meeting: "[Restore America's Estuaries 6<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration](#)" 20-24 October 2012, Tampa, FL.  
\*DUE DATE FOR SUBMITTAL: 1 FEBRUARY 2012\*  
<http://www.estuaries.org/conference/>

Meeting: "15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the GCOOS-RA Board of Directors" 26-27 October 2012 in Corpus Christi, Texas. Details to follow later.

Meeting: "[OCEANS '12 MTS/IEEE](#)" 15-19 October 2012, Hampton Roads. VA.  
<http://www.oceans12mtsieeehamptonroads.org/>

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Resource Conservation Special Solicitation Defense Coastal/Estuarine Research Program

On 20 September 2011, SERDP released a new solicitation for the Defense Coastal/Estuarine Research Program (DCERP). SERDP requests proposals to perform fundamental ecological research on estuarine, coastal, and associated terrestrial ecosystems that are necessary to sustain military readiness. The desired outcome of the requested research is to: (1) understand the effects of military activities and infrastructure on these ecosystems and (2) support their sustainable and adaptive management. The DCERP is an existing SERDP program that involves the execution of ecological research within the context of military land and other resource use. DCERP has been executed since late 2006 at Marine Corp Base (MCB) Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. This call for research proposals is intended to fund a new DCERP effort for a period of five years and also provide new thematic directions to guide the research effort. Information on the extant DCERP effort can be found via the links below. Researchers from Federal organizations, universities, and the private sector can apply for SERDP funding by responding to the appropriate solicitation below. PROPOSALS ARE DUE 5 JANUARY 2012.

<http://www.serdp-estcp.org/Funding-Opportunities/SERDP-Solicitations/Resource-Conservation-Special-Solicitation>

## EMPLOYMENT

### SECOORA Job Opportunity

The Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA), a regional non-profit organization based in Charleston, South Carolina, seeks a professional to provide business management services. The Business Manager is responsible organizing and coordinating office operations and procedures in order to ensure organizational effectiveness and efficiency. She/he will work with the Executive Director to coordinate with the accounting firm on financial matters, manage grants and contracts, and support staff with travel reimbursements, benefits, etc. [View the announcement for details.](#)



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)).