



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 16 DECEMBER 2011

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

Season's Greetings!

The GCOOS Staff wishes all of you very Happy Holidays, with a productive, successful New Year to come.

Mote Continues Monitoring Southwest Florida Waters for Red Tide Algae

In late September 2011, Mote Marine Laboratory (MML) detected *Karenia brevis* (Davis) G. Hansen and Moestrup, the organism that causes Florida red tide, in water collected from an area offshore of Sarasota County, FL. Since then, the Lab has continued to monitor for *K. brevis* in local waters, and has collaborated with the University of South Florida (USF) College of Marine Science on a coordinated glider mission through the bloom. The USF glider *Bass* was retrieved in early November (see <http://cotprojects.marine.usf.edu/data/plots.html> ; Mission 54). MML deployed its autonomous underwater vehicle nicknamed "Waldo" along with *Bass* about 36 miles west of Manasota Beach to patrol for harmful algae in a zigzag course ranging from Manasota Beach to Captiva Island. Data from *Waldo*, acquired with an optical sensor designed by MML researchers to detect algal species, combined with *in situ* water samples and satellite images showing chlorophyll *a* concentrations, show that as of November 23rd, the bloom extended alongshore and offshore of Sanibel Island (southern Lee County) and Collier County, stretching at least 30 miles alongshore and 30 miles offshore, with the highest concentrations detected alongshore of Sanibel Island at Lighthouse Beach. Data acquired by MML are provided to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), which posts bi-weekly updates on Florida red tide by region (see <http://myfwc.com/research/redtide/events/status/statewide/>). The last significant red tide bloom for Sarasota County was in 2006. There was also a short-lived event that did not notably affect wildlife or humans reported in winter 2009.

Call for Nominations: GCOOS-RA Board of Directors

The Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS) Regional Association is seeking nominations for candidates for election to the GCOOS-RA Board of Directors. Terms are for three years and begin with the summer/autumn Board meeting. The Board meets twice annually. It also meets by telephone every two months, as well as when priority situations arise. More regarding the activities of the Board, including copies of the minutes of past meetings, can be seen at the GCOOS web site (<http://www.gcoos.org>). The election will be held in February-March 2012, prior to the Annual Meeting of the Parties on 14 March in Gulfport, MS.

The Board consists of a balance between representatives of the government, academic, private, and education/outreach sectors. The election will be for 2 private sector reps and 1 rep each from academic, government, and education/outreach sectors. The current Board members whose terms expire in summer 2012 will be standing for re-election (see <http://gcoos.tamu.edu/board-members.html> for a listing of Board members and their terms).

If you wish to nominate one or more candidates, please check to be sure that the nominee is willing to serve if elected and is a party to the GCOOS-RA. If so, send your nomination and the sector to which you are nominating them to Susan Martin (srmartin@tamu.edu). **Nominations must include** the nominee's affiliation, email address, telephone number and one or two paragraphs detailing their work and interests as related to the GCOOS Regional Association for use as information on the ballot; nominations without all of this information will not be considered. **Self-nominations are accepted.**

Nominations will close on Friday, February 17, 2012 at 5 p.m. Central Time. The election ballot then will be prepared and emailed to the GCOOS-RA voting Parties on Wednesday, February 22, 2012. Voting will close Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at 5 p.m. Central Time. The Membership Committee will oversee the voting process, count the electronic votes, and determine who has been elected. Results will be announced on 14 March 2012 at the Annual Parties meeting in Gulfport, MS.

GCOOS Funding Update

In late August, GCOOS was awarded \$1.4M for FY11 by the U.S. IOOS Program Office to continue the development of the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System. The project is a partnership of 27 Gulf Coast Principal Investigators from 16 organizations over a 5-year period. The funding for FY12-15 is subject to the federal appropriations for those years. Subawards for the 18 Principal Investigators from 12 institutions funded in FY11 have been set up.

The overarching goal of the project is to build a robust, user-driven, sustained, operational Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS) that integrates data (including physical, meteorological, biological, geochemical, and bathymetrical) from diverse providers; assures consistency, quality, and accuracy of the data; creates new data products needed by users; and provides data, products, and services to IOOS, decision-makers, a wide range of stakeholders, and the public in a timely and efficient manner. The specific goals of this project are to maintain the existing GCOOS capabilities and, as funding allows, to augment the existing observations to fill gaps and provide enhanced products and services.

The Principal Investigators funded for FY11 are: Lei Hu at Dauphin Island Sea Laboratory, Kevin Speer at Florida State University, Chris Simoniello and Sharon Walker at the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies, Chunyan Li and Nan Walker at Louisiana State University, Nancy Rabalais at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, Eric Milbrant and Alex Rybak at the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, Ann Jochens and Matt Howard at Texas A&M University, Gary Jeffress and Paul Montagna at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Bob Leben at the University of Colorado, Felimon Gayanilo at the University of Miami, Stephan Howden at the University of Southern Mississippi, and Mark Luther and Frank Muller-Karger at the University of South Florida. Additional partners in FY12-15 are: Mike Dardeau and Kyeong Park at Dauphin Island Sea Laboratory, James Ivey at Florida Fish & Wildlife Research Institute, Lisa Campbell at Texas A&M University, Sara Graves at University of Alabama-Huntsville, Clint Padgett at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Barb Kirkpatrick and Robert Currier at Mote Marine Laboratory, and Jan van Smirren at Fugro-GEOS, Inc.

Message from the Executive Director

Message from the Executive Director: 2011 has been an eventful year that has seen an increase in the strengthening of ties between stakeholders with needs for ocean observations and products for our Gulf of Mexico. GCOOS is a partnership that depends on the integration of the resources of all of you in the Gulf of Mexico community. I hope that 2012 will continue to see the strengthening of our ties to each other as we build the GCOOS System of Systems. With strong partnerships in academia, government, and the private sector, new resources will become available with which to build our joint vision of the integrated Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System. Thank you all for your work over 2011 to help advance the development of our GCOOS. I look forward to working with you in 2012. This is the last *GCOOS News* to be issued in 2011. In the New Year, we will continue to provide the *GCOOS News* on a biweekly basis, beginning with the January 13th issue. *Ann Jochens, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System*

U.S. IOOS Program Office Designates Dave Easter as the GCOOS Official Point of Contact

The U.S. IOOS Program Office is endeavoring to improve lines of communication between the regions and the IOOS Office. To keep the communications open, the IOOS Office has designated a staff member as the point of contact for each Regional Association. Dave Easter will serve as the point of contact for GCOOS. He will field questions and exchange information between the IOOS office and GCOOS as needed. This will give Dave and, through him, the IOOS Office a better understanding of the GCOOS activities and challenges. Dave is also the point of contact for SECOORA and, so has agreed to participate in the monthly calls of the GCOOS and SECOORA staffs. Dave is also the contact for the Alaska (AOOS) and Great Lakes (GLOS) regions. Welcome aboard, Dave!

Gulf Summit Focuses on Policy, Science and Strategies for a Healthy Gulf

The Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies hosted the second State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit on 4-8 December 2011 in Houston, Texas. With more than 400 registrants, 80 speakers,

and 30 sponsors, Summit 2011 was a resounding success. Key speakers included EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality Nancy Sutley, and former first lady Laura Bush. In the audience were scientists and policy makers from all five Gulf states, the US federal government, and Mexico. Topics of discussion at the Summit included: defining a healthy Gulf of Mexico; implementation of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Plan and A Gulf of Mexico Report Card; a healthy Gulf economy, mitigating and adapting to sea level rise in the Gulf; policy implications of coastal and ocean management in the Gulf; metrics for assessing the health of the Gulf; partnerships for a sustainable Gulf; and the Gulf of Mexico University Research Consortium. Additional information is available in the Fall 2011 HRI Newsletter (<http://harteresearchinstitute.org/newsletter/fall2011/email.html>) and the Summit web site (<http://www.sgsummit.org/>). Presentations will be posted to the web site soon and videos of several keynote speakers are available.

GCOOS was a Silver Sponsor of this important event. Dr. Ann Jochens, GCOOS Executive Director, attended the Summit and participated on the panel on Metrics to Assess Gulf Health. She gave a presentation on "A Foundational Monitoring System to Inform the Gulf of Mexico Report Card," describing the role of an integrated observing system in a Gulf of Mexico Report Card process. Her messages were three-fold. First, a successful environmental report card for the Gulf of Mexico will require integration of diverse information, including physical, biological, chemical, geological, and meteorological data, that can be used to assess the state of the ecosystem being evaluated. Second, the foundational monitoring system needed to provide the information must be built through the integration of assets of a multi-entity partnership of government agencies, academic and research institutions, and private industries. Third, the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS) is such a foundational monitoring system. GCOOS is envisioned as an integrated, operational observing system for the Gulf of Mexico that will integrate data collected by diverse entities using scientifically sound methods, make data and products widely accessible for many uses and user groups, and provide information readily understandable by policy-makers, stakeholders, scientists, and the public—all requirements for a successful environmental report card.

Gulf Report Card: Determining our success or failure in protecting the Gulf

Dr. Wes Tunnell, HRI Associate Director, and Dr. Larry McKinney, HRI Executive Director, have been thinking over the past several years about establishing a Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Report Card. Tunnell reports that, until the big oil spill in 2010 and the subsequent restoration planning, there was little interest by others in the concept. Now, however, others see the value for a metric to assess our success in restoring and protecting the Gulf. Using funding from the Walton Foundation, HRI developed a Prototype Report Card for roll-out at the Summit. To demonstrate the Report Card concept and framework for the future, a three-fold brochure was presented to all Summit participants, demonstrating the utility of the Report Card by using Gulf-wide examples of Brown Pelicans and seagrass habitat (see http://harteresearchinstitute.org/newsletter/docs/gulfofmexico_reportcard_brochure.pdf). The Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies is fully committed to the development of an ecosystem-wide Report Card and, depending on future funding, hopes to start that larger process of development during 2012. For Tunnell's discussion of the Report Card see the Fall 2011 HRI Newsletter (<http://harteresearchinstitute.org/newsletter/fall2011/email.html>).

Leadership Torch of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Passes to the State of Louisiana

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance Management Team (AMT) officially passed the "leadership torch" of GOMA to the State of Louisiana. Mr. Jerome Zeringue (LA Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration) replaces Dr. Bill Walker (MS Department of Marine Resources) as the AMT lead. Dr. Walker and Trudy Fisher (MS Department of Environmental Quality), co-chairs of the AMT, were given awards at the Gulf of Mexico Summit for their years of service to the Alliance.

Gulf Coast Task Force Releases Final Ecosystem Restoration Strategy

During her keynote address at the 2011 State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit on 5 December 2011, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson announced the release of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force final strategy for long-term ecosystem restoration for the Gulf Coast. The strategy is the first restoration blueprint ever developed for the Gulf with the full involvement of all of the essential parties throughout the region, including the states, tribes, federal agencies, local governments and thousands of involved citizens and organizations. The plan represents a commitment by all parties to continue to work together in an unprecedented collaboration to prepare the Gulf region to transition from response to recovery as well as to address the decades-long decline that the Gulf's ecosystem has endured. To view the strategy, visit <http://www.epa.gov/gulfcoasttaskforce>.

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces \$50 Million for Gulf Coast Restoration

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on 5 December that USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is launching an innovative water and wildlife conservation effort along the Gulf Coast of the United States as part of the Obama Administration's efforts through its Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. The new Gulf of Mexico Initiative will focus up to \$50 million, over three years, in conservation assistance to farmers and ranchers in priority areas along seven major rivers that drain to the Gulf. All five states along the Gulf Coast are part of this effort, and many communities and cities along these rivers will benefit from the cleaner water, more abundant wildlife, and healthier fisheries produced by this project. The full news Release No. 0499.11 is at http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2011/12/0499.xml&navid=NEWS_RELEASE&avtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&deployment_action=retrievecontent

NRDA Trustees Seeking Comment on Draft Early Restoration Plan

The trustees of Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process for the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill have announced the availability of the *Draft Phase I Early Restoration Plan*, which is the first of a series of draft early restoration plans for public comment. The trustees value your input on this plan, so that restoration of Gulf of Mexico resources injured by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill can begin. The 60-day public comment period is open from 15 December 2011 to 14 February 2012. To access the plan, learn more, or comment on the plan, see <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration/early-restoration/>.

IOOS NEWS

Regional Build Out Plans

The eleven IOOS Regional Associations (RAs) have completed 10-year build out plans for initial, barebones capabilities to address priority needs. Ann Jochens, is serving on the Build-Out Plan Steering Committee, used the GCOOS Board build-out plan to provide the GCOOS inputs. The plans were discussed at the annual IOOS/Regional Workshop, held in Portland, ME, on 16-17 November. GCOOS was represented by Board member, Dr. Stephan Howden. The workshop focused on developing a national synthesis of the 11 regional build out plans. The goal of the workshop was to identify common elements, highlight regional differences, and develop a synthesis that describes the national network of regional systems. Holly Price and Leslie Rosenfeld were hired as consultants hired to analyze each plan and compile a draft synthesis. Their detailed work set the stage for the discussion on commonalities. They identified over 100 common products needed to address the concerns of marine operations, tracking climate variability, ecosystem, fisheries, and water quality, and hazards. A draft report of the National Synthesis is expected in mid-January 2012, and the final in April.

NFRA Annual Meeting

On 15 November NFRA representatives from all 11 IOOS Regional Associations gathered in Portland, Maine, for NFRA's 6th Annual Meeting. GCOOS was represented by Ann Jochens, who participated by telephone. The Board elected officers below.

NFRA Officers: Chair - Julie Thomas, SCCOOS; Vice-Chair - Ru Morrison, NERACOOS; Secretary - Debra Hernandez, SECOORA; and Treasurer - Chris Ostrander, PacIOOS

Executive Committee Members: NFRA Officers plus Bill Boicourt, MARACOOS; Frank Kudrna, GLOS; Molly McCammon, AOOS; and Jan Newton, NANOOS.

Finance Committee: Chris Ostrander, PacIOOS; Ann Jochens, GCOOS; Heather Kerkering, CeNCOOS; and Roy Watlington, CaRA.

NATIONAL NEWS

National Ocean Council Launches Federal Data Portal

The National Ocean Council (NOC) is working to make Federal data resources available for the coastal and marine spatial planning process. NOC has launched a portal providing data, information, and tools to support people engaged in planning for the future of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes

(<http://www.data.gov/ocean>). The goal for the portal is for it to be a one-stop hub to support planners and to provide useful information to the public. NOC welcomes comments on the portal and suggestions on what would make the site most useful to you as the content is expanded.

House Committee Holds Hearing on “Coastal Jobs Creation Act”

On 1 December the House Committee on Natural Resources held a full Committee hearing to review pending legislation, including the “Coastal Jobs Creation Act” (H.R. 594) and several bills that would amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The “Coastal Jobs Creation Act” would authorize \$80 million annually through FY 2016 to provide employment opportunities for coastal communities by increasing support for: cooperative research and monitoring; the revitalization of coastal infrastructure; recreational fishing registry programs; marine debris removal; and restoration of coastal resources. Information about the panelists and an archived webcast of the hearing are available online at <http://naturalresources.house.gov/Calendar/EventSingle.aspx?EventID=270186>

The American Geophysical Union to hold Inaugural Science Policy Conference

On 30 April – 3 May 2012 for AGU’s first [Science Policy Conference](#) to be held in Washington, D.C. Scientists, policy makers, and stakeholders will be present to discuss natural hazards, natural resources, oceans, and Arctic science that informs policymakers’ decisions. Communicating the important role of science in these subjects is vital to ensuring the continued investment in the research that supports our economy, public safety, and national security. The [agenda](#) includes a day of communications training for scientists, two days of conference sessions, and one day reserved for congressional visits. Scientists should attend the Monday, 30 April training session on how to best communicate with policymakers, media, and the public. The day will end with a congressional science briefing on Capitol Hill. Tuesday, 1 May conference sessions will include Natural Hazards, Natural Resources, and Arctic Forum tracks followed by a reception on Capitol Hill. The second day of sessions will include Natural Hazards, Natural Resources, and Ocean tracks. Scientists will have an opportunity to visit their congressional offices on Thursday, 3 May. The Natural Hazards sessions and Arctic Forum sessions are presented in collaboration with the American Meteorological Society and the Arctic Research Consortium of the United States, respectively. All sessions will be held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center conveniently located near the White House, Capitol Hill, and mass transit. Registration information will be posted in January of 2012, with abstract submissions due by 22 February 2012. Be sure to check the conference home page for updates!

<http://sites.agu.org/spconference/>

<http://sites.agu.org/spconference/agenda/>

Oceans and Human Health Reauthorization Act Introduced in the House

On 6 December Congresswoman Lois Capps introduced the “[Oceans and Human Health Reauthorization Act](#)” (H.R. 3570), which would amend the Oceans and Human Health Act to strengthen the interagency oceans and human health research program, include the coasts and Great Lakes, and ensure the delivery of information, products, and services to reduce public health risks and enhance health benefits from the ocean. The bill would authorize \$6 million annually through 2015 to administer the program.

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h112-3570>

National CMSP Workshop Report Published

The National Ocean Council has published a National Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) Workshop Report Summary that can be accessed [here](#). The report summary captures the themes that emerged over the three-day workshop, includes responses to participant questions, and provides the CMSP Simulation Exercise materials and other associated speaker presentations. To view the plenary sessions webcasted during the public session of the Workshop, visit: <http://www.livestream.com/interior>.

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

January

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".

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

February

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, 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>

March

Workshop: "[9th ONR/MTS Buoy Workshop](#)", 5-8 March 2011, Victoria's Marriott Inner Harbour, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

<http://www.whoi.edu/buoyworkshop/2012/index.html>

Meeting: "GCOOS Annual Parties Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting" 14-15 March 2012. Institute for Marine Mammal Studies, Gulfport, MS. More details will be posted soon.

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/>

April

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>

Conference: "[Inaugural AGU Science Policy Conference](#)" 30 April-3 May 2012, Ronald Regan Building and International Trade Center, Washington, DC.

<http://sites.agu.org/spconference/>

Summit: "[Coastal Cities Summit](#)", 30 April – 3 May, St. Petersburg, FL.

<http://www.coastalcities-ioi.org/>

May

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.

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

June

Meeting: "[The Coastal Society's 23rd International Conference](#)", 3-6 June 2012, Hyatt Regency, Miami, FL.

<http://thecoastalsociety.org/conference/tcs23/index.html>

July

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>

September

Meeting: "GCOOS-RA Board of Directors Meeting" 26-27 September 2012, Corpus Christi, TX.

October

Meeting: "[Restore America's Estuaries 6th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration](http://www.estuaries.org/conference/)" 20-24 October 2012, Tampa, FL.

DUE DATE FOR SUBMITTAL: 1 FEBRUARY 2012

<http://www.estuaries.org/conference/>

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

<http://www.oceans12mtsieehamptonroads.org/>

EMPLOYMENT

MARCO Hiring Program Manager

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) is seeking a full-time Program Manager to coordinate the activities of the MARCO Management Board. This person will be responsible for organizing and facilitating MARCO projects and Management Board meetings; representing MARCO at regional and national forums; developing and implementing outreach and communications strategies; assisting with strategic planning; and coordinating with MARCO's Federal partners, especially for coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP). The successful candidate will be a highly motivated, self-starter with at least five years of experience in project management and experience in coastal or ocean policy, planning, and/or management. For full details and application instructions, see <http://www.midatlanticocean.org>.

Marine Spatial Analyst – Stennis Space Center, Mississippi

CSS-Dynamac is seeking a person with academic training in marine biology, ecology, fisheries, and spatial or landscape ecology is being sought for a full-time contract position with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment (CCMA), Biogeography Branch. The Branch conducts ecological studies that map, characterize, assess, and model the spatial distributions and movements of estuarine and marine organisms across habitats throughout the United States and Island Territories. For more information on this position please visit: <http://jobs-consolidatedsafety.icims.com/jobs/1349/job>.

NortekUSA seeks motivated team player to head up sales, support and development

NortekUSA is seeking a motivated team player with oceanographic background to head up sales, support and development of Nortek's oceanographic product line along the Gulf Coast. Our customers are scientists, engineers and field technicians in academia, private industry and government research. The product line is state of the art acoustic Doppler instruments used to measure ocean currents, waves, and laboratory flow. We expect you to take an active role in demonstrating products, acting as a consultant for the user, interactively help specifying the right product, work with the procurement department, and provide one-on-one user training. The candidate should have a background where he/she feel confident talking to scientists and researchers, have enough technical knowledge to understand the implementation of Doppler instruments and how it applies to the marine environment. Minimal educational level is a college degree in a related field. Field or measurement experience is a must. US citizenship or permanent residency required. The place of work will either be at the main NortekUSA office in Boston or at a location within the sales region. The position comes with a competitive salary and benefit package. Please send your resume to inquiry@nortekusa.com. Application dead line 2 January 2012.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Request Grant Proposals

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) Research Board has issued a new request for proposals, RFP-II, which will provide up to \$7.5 million per year for research grants to individual investigators or small groups of researchers. The funding is part of BP's commitment to provide \$500 million over ten years to support independent scientific research into the effects of the *Deepwater Horizon* incident on the Gulf of Mexico and to develop innovative new technologies and tools to respond to and mitigate future oil spills. It is anticipated that grants awarded through the RFP-II competition will range between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000 per year. Grants may be awarded for a one to three year period. All applications will be evaluated using a peer-review process similar to that of the United States National Science Foundation. Individuals and small groups interested in submitting a grant application should consult RFP-II (<http://www.gulfresearchinitiative.org/request-for-proposals/rfp-ii/>) for specific guidelines and requirements. A Letter of Intent must be submitted by 9:00 p.m. EST on 17 January 2012. A final grant application will not be accepted if GoMRI did not receive a Letter of Intent. The Letter of Intent provides essential information required by the GoMRI to avoid conflicts of interest in the establishment of lists of potential reviewers and for determining the number of reviewers needed for the application evaluation process. All application deadlines and requirements are clearly identified in the official RFP-II guidance document.

Call for Applications: 2012 NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship Program

NOAA [Coastal Management Fellowship Program](#) provides on-the-job education and training opportunities in coastal resource management and policy for postgraduate students. The two-year fellowship program matches postgraduate students with state coastal resource agencies to work on projects proposed by the state and selected by the NOAA Coastal Services Center. The list of state projects selected for 2012 is available here. Any student completing a master's, doctoral, or professional degree in natural resource management or environmental-related field from an accredited U.S. university between January 1, 2011, and July 31, 2012, is eligible to apply. Application packages are due to local Sea Grant directors by January 27, 2012. To learn more, visit www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows.html, or contact the NOAA Coastal Services Center's Fellowship Coordinator at csc.fellowships@noaa.gov.
<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows.html>



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), 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).