



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

### GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 27 JANUARY 2012

#### GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

##### **Canterbury School of Florida Named First Cousteau Divers School**

The GCOOS-RA congratulates partners SRI International and the University of South Florida's (USF) Center for Ocean Technology for their recent role in demonstrating the power of collaboration in educating and training the next generation of ocean scientists. Working with Ms. Jenna Cummings, Director of Marine Studies at the Canterbury School of Florida, the Canterbury Marine Science Advisory Committee (MSAC) convinced Pierre-Yves Cousteau, son of legendary ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau, that Canterbury would be an ideal choice for the first Cousteau Divers school. Cousteau Divers is an international not-for-profit organization fostering scientific programs that monitor and conserve marine biodiversity around the world. Students will catalog and track biodiversity in the Gulf of Mexico, create wildlife guide books for the Gulf and monitor water quality through data loggers. The MSAC, which has numerous representatives including the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, Tampa Bay Watch, the Pier Aquarium and the GCOOS-RA, was able to demonstrate strong community commitment to environmental education; the signature of downtown St. Petersburg, which is home to several colleges and universities, and numerous local, state and federal resource organizations. Dr. Chris Simoniello, GCOOS Education and Outreach Coordinator and Canterbury MSAC member, is working with Ms. Cummings to explore the feasibility of having the GCOOS Data Portal host the student-collected data. The Canterbury marine education center has been renamed the Cousteau Marine Studies Education Center in honor of the marine conservation and exploration work done by the Cousteau Family.

##### **Louisiana 2012 Coastal Master Plan Released**

On 12 January, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) released the draft version of Louisiana's 2012 [Coastal Master Plan](#), which is available for public comment through 25 February. The draft Master Plan is based on a two year analysis involving some of the state's best scientists as well as national and international specialists. The plan also reflects feedback provided through extensive outreach activities, which involved participation by industry, civic associations, and community groups. The draft Master Plan presents a list of 145 high performing projects that could deliver measurable benefits to Louisiana's communities and coastal ecosystem over the coming decades. <http://www.coastalmasterplan.la.gov>

#### NATIONAL NEWS

##### **National Ocean Council Releases National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan**

On 12 January, the National Ocean Council (NOC) released a draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. The plan, which is available for public comment through 27 February, outlines key milestones, identifies responsible Federal agencies, and indicates the expected timeframe for completion of Implementation Plan actions including: streamlining ocean and coastal permitting processes, beginning with aquaculture; improving water quality; providing climate-change forecasts and vulnerability assessments for coastal communities; and improving environmental response management in the Arctic. The actions reflect feedback provided to the NOC through two public comment periods and 12 regional listening sessions. To read the draft Implementation Plan, see the full range of proposed actions, and

submit comments, visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/oceans>. Comments received will be posted on the NOC website, and the NOC will review and incorporate comments before finalizing the Plan in 2012.

#### **UPDATE: President Calls on Congress to Reinstate Authority to Reorganize Government**

Last week, President Obama asked Congress to reinstate the authority that past Presidents had to reorganize the Federal government. The President's first proposed use of that authority would be to merge several agencies that have overlapping trade and business development responsibilities – the trade sections of the Commerce Department, the Small Business Administration, United States Trade Representative, the Export-Import Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Trade and Development Authority – into a single department tasked with boosting American business and promoting competitiveness. During a press gaggle with Press Secretary Jay Carney and OMB Deputy Director for Management Jeff Zients, Mr. Zients suggested that NOAA would be moved to the Department of Interior as part of this reorganization effort. NOAA, however, was not included in the President's announcement or the Government Reorganization Factsheet. CSO will continue to monitor this effort. To learn more, visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/01/13/making-it-easier-do-business-america>.

#### **House Deficit Reduction Bill Includes Coastal and Ocean Sustainability and Health Fund (COSH)**

Introduced by Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), the “[Deficit Reduction, Job Creation, and Energy Security Act](#)” (H.R. 3710) would establish in the Department of the Treasury a fund dedicated to enabling the long term economic viability of the nation's coasts. The Coastal and Ocean Sustainability and Health (COSH) Fund would fund grants to address coastal and ocean disasters as well as programs and activities that restore, protect, maintain, manage, or help understand marine resources and their habitats, and ocean, and coastal resources. Monies will be deposited into the COSH fund from interest accrued on OCS royalties, rents, revenues, and fees that will remain, for the period of one year, in the COSH fund before the entirety of the principle is moved to the general Treasury. The bill authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to make grants for such purposes. The provisions establishing the COSH fund begin on page seven of the bill.

#### **Draft National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy Now Available for Comment**

In partnership with state, tribal, and federal agency partners, the Obama Administration released the first draft national strategy to help decision makers and resource managers prepare for and help reduce the impacts of climate change on species, ecosystems, and the people and economies that depend on them. The [draft National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy](#), is available for public review and comment through March 5th. Comments can be submitted online and or by mail to the Office of the Science Advisor, Attn: National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive Suite 222, Arlington, VA 22203. In addition, there will be five public information sessions and two webinars to provide details and encourage dialogue on the strategy and its development. To register for these meetings and for more information on the draft strategy and public comment process, visit: <http://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov>.

#### **NMFS Draft EIS on the Effects of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic Ocean**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has released the Effects of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic Ocean Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) analyzing the impacts of oil and gas offshore exploration activities (including seismic surveys and exploratory drilling) in Federal and state waters of the U.S. Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. Comments on the DEIS will be accepted at public hearings as well as via email (<mailto:arcticeis.comments@noaa.gov>), mail (Director, Office of Protective Resources, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910), or fax (301-713-0376) during the public comment period. Comments will be accepted through February 28, 2012. The full DEIS and information about upcoming public hearings are available on the project website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/eis/arctic.htm>

#### **Ocean Yearbook: Volume 27 -- Call for Papers**

The Ocean Yearbook editors are now inviting submissions for Volume 27. Articles on one or more of the following topics will be considered for publication: Issues and Prospects; Ocean Governance; Living Resources of the Ocean; Non-living Ocean Resources; Transportation and Communications; Environment and Coastal Management; Maritime Security; Military Activities; Regional Developments; Training and Education; Polar Issues. Submissions should be between 4,000 and 20,000 words in length, written in

English, typed and doubled spaced on letter-size paper, with full bibliographic citations in the form of Chicago style footnotes. See the citation guidelines for more information. The deadline for submission for Volume 27 is March 31, 2012. See the full [Call for Papers](#) for more information.

### **Call for Nominations: 2012 Walter B. Jones Memorial Awards**

Nominations are now being accepted for the Walter B. Jones Memorial awards. As part of the reauthorization of the CZMA in 1990, the late Congressman Walter B. Jones provided NOAA with the authority to honor the people and organizations of America for their dedication and outstanding contributions in helping the nation maintain healthy coastal and ocean resources and balance the needs of these resources with human use. At that time, Congressman Jones identified three award categories: excellence in local government; excellence in coastal and marine graduate study; and coastal steward of the year. For more information, visit: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/programs/ocrm/jones-noaa-awards.html>.

### **Offshore Wind Economics and Risks Training Course**

On 21 February, Green Power Academy will be hosting an Introduction to Offshore Wind Economics & Risks training course in Boston, MA. The one-day course is targeted to business and commercially-focused professionals and will provide attendees with an introduction to the economics of offshore wind and the investment risks that it presents. Participants are encouraged to stay in Boston for the Offshore Wind Power USA Conference, which will be held 22-24 February. The draft agenda and registration information for the Conference is available online, [here](#). Registration is open for both the training course and the 3-day Conference.

<http://www.greenpowerconferences.com/EF/?sSubSystem=Prospectus&sEventCode=TWE1202US&sSessionID=4b91d87f46207fd8afb74ae258750498-8695989>

### **Eighth National Monitoring Conference to be held in Portland, OR, this spring**

The National Water Quality Monitoring Council's 8th National Monitoring Conference - Water: One Resource - Shared Effort - Common Future on 30 April - 4 May 2012. This national forum provides an exceptional opportunity for federal, state, local, tribal, volunteer, academic, private, and other water stakeholders to exchange information and technology related to water monitoring, assessment, research, protection, restoration, and management, as well as to develop new skills and professional networks. For more information on registration and to view the agenda, visit <http://acwi.gov/monitoring/conference/2012/>.

### **Digital Coast Webinar Series: Coastal County Snapshots (2/1/12) and Data Access (3/7/12)**

The upcoming webinars in the NOAA Coastal Services Center's (CSC) Digital Coast webinar series will cover two tools found on the Digital Coast: Coastal County Snapshots and the Data Access Viewer. From 2:00-3:00pm EST on 1 February, Carrie Clingan (National Association of Counties), Lori Cary-Kothera (CSC) and Danielle Bamford (CSC) will introduce users to the Coastal County Snapshots product line, the data and information contained in these products and other related CSC products. The Coastal County Snapshots tool provides brief, county-level overviews of key resource management issues, including coastal flooding, ocean-related employment, and the benefits of wetlands in the coastal environment. From 2:00-3:00pm EST on 7 March, Erik Hund (CSC) will introduce users to a number of the data sets available through the Digital Coast Data page and provide a short demonstration of the Data Access Viewer. To learn more and register for these, as well as upcoming Digital Coast webinars, visit: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/webinar/index.html>.

## **COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS**

### **January**

Meeting: "[Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council](#)" 30 January - 2 February 2012, Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, Mobile, AL.

[http://www.gulfcouncil.org/council\\_meetings/index.php](http://www.gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/index.php)

### **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: "[9<sup>th</sup> ONR/MTS Buoy Workshop](#)", 5-8 March 2011, Victoria's Marriott Inner Harbour, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada  
<http://www.who.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 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: "[From Stem to Stern](#)", 15-17 May 2012, Clearwater Beach Marriott Suites on Sand Key, Clearwater, FL.  
<http://www.flseagrant.org/boating/StemtoStern/>

### June

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: "[Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2012](#)" 5-8 June, Washington, DC  
<http://www.nmsfocean.org>

Conference: "[National Marine Educators Conference](#)" Co-Hosted by AOOS, 24-28 June 2012, University of Alaska Anchorage Campus, Anchorage, AK.  
<http://www.coseealaska.net/nmeaconference2012/>

## July

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

Workshop: "[EARTH Workshop](http://www.mbari.org/earth/)" University of North Carolina, Wilmington, North Carolina.  
<http://www.mbari.org/earth/>

Symposium: "[12<sup>th</sup> International Coral Reef Symposium](http://www.icrs2012.com)", 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.oceans12mtsieeehamptonroads.org/)" 15-19 October 2012, Hampton Roads, VA.

<http://www.oceans12mtsieeehamptonroads.org/>

## EMPLOYMENT

### USCG Seeks Two Maritime Policy Post-Docs

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy, located in New London, Connecticut, invites applications for two part time (32 hours per week) Post - Doctoral Fellows in Maritime Policy, Maritime Governance, or Maritime Studies beginning on or about 30 July 2012. The term of each fellowship will be 2 years, not to exceed 8 August 2014. Duties will include undergraduate teaching at the upper division level and research in maritime studies. Applicants must: (a) possess a Ph.D. degree in their academic discipline by the time of appointment; (b) demonstrate a record of research and/or publication related to maritime policy, maritime studies, or maritime governance; and (c) possess college teaching experience or demonstrate the aptitude for successful college teaching. To learn more about the fellowship and how to apply, visit the Coast Guard Academy website [here](http://www.uscga.edu/display.aspx?id=19987). The deadline to apply is 25 February.

<http://www.uscga.edu/display.aspx?id=19987>

### Paid Internship with NWF's Wildlife and Climate Change Safeguards Team

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is seeking a Wildlife and Climate Safeguards Intern to support NWF's Climate Change Safeguards team, which focuses on climate change adaptation, wildlife protection and responsible renewable energy development. The intern will play a role in the development of a new program that will work with cities to promote the use of nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation. The full time, 11 month, paid position is expected to start in February or early March and is based in Washington, DC. For more details and to apply, visit:

<http://sj.tbe.taleo.net/SJ12/ats/careers/requisition.jsp?org=NWF&cws=1&rid=417>.

### American Samoa Government Hiring GIS Specialist

The American Samoa Government, Department of Commerce (DOC), is looking for GIS Specialist to assist with the implementation of computer technologies, databases, software applications, and tools to produce an integrated information system. The GIS Specialist will report directly to the Manager of the American Samoa Coastal Management Program (ASCMP) and will utilize GIS for the purpose of data management and analysis, as well as organizing and enhancing existing systems. The GIS Specialist will lead the territory's GIS users' group to create policies directing territory-wide GIS activities (data sharing,

standardized coordinate and datum scheme, and update responsibilities). A full position description, including how to apply, can be found online at: [http://www.asbar.org/employment/GIS Specialist.pdf](http://www.asbar.org/employment/GIS_Specialist.pdf).

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES) 2012

NNH12ZDA001N, entitled "Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences - 2012 (ROSES-2012)," will be available on or about 14 February 2012, by opening the NASA Research Opportunities home page at <http://nspires.nasaprs.com/> (choose "Solicitations" followed by "Open Solicitations"). This NASA Research Announcement (NRA) solicits proposals for supporting basic and applied research and technology across a broad range of Earth and space science program elements relevant to one or more of the following NASA Research Programs: Earth Science, Heliophysics, Planetary Science, and Astrophysics. Proposal due dates are scheduled starting on 4 May 4 2012, and continue through 22 March 2013. Electronically submitted Notices of Intent to propose are requested for most program elements, with the first such due date being 16 March 2012. Electronic submission of proposals is required by the respective due dates for each program element and must be submitted by an authorized official of the proposing organization. Electronic proposals may be submitted via the NASA proposal data system NSPIRES or via [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov).

### NOAA Small Business Innovative Research Funding Opportunity

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is seeking proposals from small business firms for participation in Phase I of the Fiscal Year 2012 NOAA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program. The solicitation is geared towards stimulating technological innovation in the private sector and strengthening the role of small businesses in meeting Federal research and development needs. NOAA expects to make multiple Phase I awards, each with a period of performance of six months and not to exceed \$95,000.00. The 2012 solicitation includes a specific sub-topic (research area) on "Quantification of Green House Gas Fluxes in Coastal Ecosystems." This sub-topic is intended to address the lack of scientific information on the rates of flux of carbon (emissions and storage) in marine coastal ecosystems through the development of field technology/instrumentation/software that can improve carbon or greenhouse gas quantification (measuring flux and sequestration rates) for different coastal types. See the [full solicitation](#) to learn more. The deadline to apply is 1 February.



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)).