



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 10 FEBRUARY 2012

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

Dave Easter, Ann Jochens and others discuss guidelines for certification

Dave Easter, US IOOS Program Office, worked with NRFA to establish a small team to discuss the promulgation of guidelines for certification. Team members across the Regions include Ann Jochens, Executive Director of GCOOS, Josie Quintrell of NFRA, Jen Read of GLOS and Chris Ostrander of PaCIOOS. The objective of the team is to identify and discuss approaches and issues to the development of guidelines for implementation of the certification criteria. The first meeting will be 10 February 2012.

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Celebrates Change in Leadership

Jerome Zeringue has become the new management Chair of the [Gulf of Mexico Alliance](http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org), taking an active lead on behalf of Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal. Louisiana takes over following a long and active tenure by Dr. Bill Walker and Ms. Trudy Fisher with the State of Mississippi. The Chair's role is to act on behalf of the states' governors to oversee Alliance direction to address the six regional issues identified as priorities by all five Gulf States.

[http:// www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org](http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org).

Town Hall discussion on GOM to be held at 2012 Ocean Sciences Meeting

Monty Graham, Mike Roman, Joe Montoya and Stephan Howden have organized a Town Hall meeting on 20 February 2012 from 6:00-9:00 PM in Ballroom B. The topic for discussion is "Developing Strategies for Long-Term Research in the Gulf of Mexico". Population growth, coastal and watershed engineering, fisheries yield, oil and gas production, nutrient discharge from large rivers and climate change have resulted in long-term, chronic pressure on Gulf of Mexico ecosystems. The Gulf has also experienced a number of acute natural and human-caused injuries. As policy-makers move toward implementing long-term Gulf of Mexico restoration strategies, there remains a critical need for comprehensive, long-term science, monitoring, mapping and observation that is planned, operated and managed with input from the scientific community. For more information on this Town Hall meeting, contact Monty Graham at monty.graham@usm.edu.

NATIONAL NEWS

EPA Releases Climate Ready Estuaries Progress Report

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the publication of the "Climate Ready Estuaries 2011 Progress Report," which describes program accomplishments as well as the new National Estuary Program projects launched during 2011. The progress report also uses examples from Climate Ready Estuaries projects started in 2008-2010 to show how the risk management paradigm can be used for climate change adaptation. Climate Ready Estuaries is an EPA program intended to help the National Estuary Programs and coastal managers plan for climate change. Climate Ready Estuaries works with National Estuary Programs to: (1) assess climate change vulnerabilities, (2) develop and implement

adaptation strategies, and (3) engage and educate stakeholders. The "Climate Ready Estuaries 2011 Progress Report" is available at: <http://epa.gov/cre/>.

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting (2/23/12)

The 27th Meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force will be held on Thursday, 23 February at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington D.C. For more information visit: <http://www.coralreef.gov>. Additional information will be posted as available. To register please go to: <http://nmsf.wufoo.com/forms/us-coral-reef-task-force-meeting-2012/>.

Save the Date: 19th Annual Coastal & Ocean Celebration

CSO is pleased to announce that the [19th Annual Coastal and Ocean Celebration](#) will be held from 6:00pm-8:00pm in Room 902 of the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, DC. The 2012 Celebration is particularly significant as it will serve as the kick-off event for the 40th anniversary celebration of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA). The anniversary of these landmark statutes provides an excellent opportunity to not only strengthen existing partnerships, but also build new ones around the successes and lessons learned from the past 40 years of the CZMA and CWA. Joining CSO in hosting the Celebration will be: Senator Sheldon Whitehouse; Congresswoman Donna Christensen; Association of National Estuary Programs; Consortium for Ocean Leadership; National Estuarine Research Reserve Association; Ocean Conservancy; and Sea Grant Association. Current sponsors and contributors include: American Association of Port Authorities; Association of State Floodplain Managers; National Association of Clean Water Agencies; [National Federation of Regional Association for Coastal & Ocean Observing](#); The Coastal Society; and the Urban Coast Institute, Monmouth University. Please [RSVP](#) by 22 February 2012.

<http://www.usnfra.org>

<http://coastalandoceancelebration.eventbrite.co.uk/?ebtv=C>

Congressional Briefing: Regional Ocean Partnership Updates

The Senate Commerce Committee and CSO will be co-hosting a Congressional Briefing with the Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROPs) on Tuesday, 28 February, from 1:30pm-2:30pm in Room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building. Come hear updates from the ROPs: Northeast Regional Ocean Council; Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean; Governors' South Atlantic Alliance; Caribbean Islands; Gulf of Mexico Alliance; Great Lakes Regional Collaboration; West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health; and Pacific Islands.

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

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.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](http://www.oceanologyinternational.com/)" 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](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>

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

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

Summit: "[Coastal Cities Summit](http://www.coastalcities-ioi.org/)", 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](http://acwi.gov/monitoring/conference/2012/index.html)" 30 April – 4 May 2012, Portland, OR.

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

Meeting: "[From Stem to Stern](http://www.flseagrant.org/boating/StemtoStern/)", 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 23rd International Conference](http://thecoastalsociety.org/conference/tcs23/index.html)", 3-6 June 2012, Hyatt Regency, Miami, FL.

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

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

<http://www.nmsfocean.org>

Conference: "[National Marine Educators Conference](http://www.coseealaska.net/nmeaconference2012/)" 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: "[12th 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 6th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration](#)" 20-24 October 2012, Tampa, FL.
<http://www.estuaries.org/conference/>

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

EMPLOYMENT

Communications Manager, Oceana

Oceana is looking for a communications professional to provide day-to-day support for its North American campaigns. The Communications Manager works to help Oceana's North America Office advance its campaign goals by increasing visibility and public awareness of ocean issues. The principal responsibility of this position is to assist Oceana's campaign directors to bring attention to relevant issues through media coverage. In addition to obtaining media coverage, the position also assists the campaign directors in all forms of communication and outreach to targeted audiences. The communications manager also establishes key relationships with the media on behalf of Oceana's campaigns. Candidates must thrive in fast-paced environments that require quick decision-making under pressure and strong multi-tasking skills. Learn more at: <http://na.oceana.org/en/about-us/employment-opportunities>.

Environmental Defense Fund seeks Regional Director

The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) is seeking a Regional Director for the organization's [Gulf and Southeast Oceans Program](#). The Director will be responsible for developing and implementing strategies related to EDF's initiatives in Gulf and South Atlantic fisheries. This is an excellent opportunity for someone who has expertise in fisheries and oceans policy and a demonstrated success managing regional teams and affecting environmental policy change. The Director will report to the Associate Vice President for Regional Programs and ideally be based in EDF's Austin, Texas office. The complete position description is attached. If you have questions about the position, please contact Laura Viggiano at laura@ceaconsulting.com. You can also view the complete position description and apply directly on EDF's website: <http://www.edf.org/jobs/regional-director-gulf-and-south-atlantic-oceans>.
<http://www.edf.org/jobs/regional-director-gulf-and-southeast-oceans-program>



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).