



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

### GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 24 FEBRUARY 2012

#### GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

##### **GCOOS BOD Meeting will be held at the Institute for Marine Mammals Studies in Gulfport, MS**

The GCOOS-RA will host the fourteenth meeting of the Board of Directors 14-15 March 2012 at the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies-Center for Marine Education and Research (IMMS-CMER), Gulfport, MS. The first day will be held jointly with the Annual Meeting of the Parties. Agenda items include prioritizing elements of the GCOOS Build-Out Plan for implementation planning and identifying a viable fiscal strategy. Invited speakers include representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the NOAA IOOS Office. Results of the GCOOS Board of Directors elections will also be announced. GCOOS-RA Parties with issues or topics they'd like discussed at the meeting should send them to Dr. Ann Jochens, Executive Director, at [ajochens@tamu.edu](mailto:ajochens@tamu.edu). Dr. Sharon Walker, IMMS-CMER Director of Education and Outreach, will provide a guided tour of the IMMS facilities. The provisional agenda is available at [http://gcoos.tamu.edu/meetingreports/2012\\_Mar/meeting.html](http://gcoos.tamu.edu/meetingreports/2012_Mar/meeting.html).

The Institute for Marine Mammals Studies became a party to the GCOOS MOA in April 2010. It was established in 1984 for the purposes of public education, conservation and research of marine mammals and sea turtles in the wild and under human care. The Institute is active in promoting public awareness of marine conservation issues through its involvement in the community and encouraging the public to be good stewards of the environment. To achieve its goals, the Institute believes that education is one of its most important functions, providing on site field trips, a community outreach program, and coming soon, a marine biology class and an internship program. For details on educational resources see <http://www.imms.org/forteacher.php>.

##### **Integrated Products and Services highlighted at the NOAA Regional Collaboration Team Meeting**

Dr. Chris Simoniello, GCOOS Education and Outreach Coordinator, represented the GCOOS-RA at the annual meeting of the NOAA Gulf of Mexico Regional Collaboration Team, held 8-9 February 2012 in St. Petersburg, FL, at the NOAA Southeast Regional Office. The goal of the team is to improve efficiencies within and across NOAA line offices. Three examples of collaborations demonstrating the development of integrated products and services resulting from the groups' efforts were highlighted: 1) The NOAA Engagement Working Group developed a web-based training tool to help NOAA employees understand what colleagues in other parts of NOAA are doing. The training tool includes website resources (<http://igulf.noaa.gov/>) and training webinars; 2) The Climate Community of Practice adopted the StormSmart Connect website (<http://stormsmart.org/groups/climate-outreach-community-of-practice>) as the main source of communication and created several issue-based webinars related to climate change preparedness; and 3) The Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas, an electronic catalog of information about the physical environment, marine resources, and economic activity in the Gulf of Mexico (<http://gulfatlas.noaa.gov/>) was launched. The atlas currently has 95 map plates in 31 different subject areas. There are plans to expand the atlas with information from non-federal data providers and Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) data (e.g., dissolved oxygen) in 2012. The Data Atlas Executive Committee will be meeting 29 February 2012 at Stennis Space Center, MS, to discuss lessons learned and plans for the next phase of the project. The GCOOS-RA staff and Council and Committee members have been actively engaged in the development of these RCT products.

## **Mitchell Roffer, GCOOS Products and Services Committee member, co-author on paper relating to Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill**

Mitchell Roffer, President of Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Services, Inc., in Miami and West Melbourne, FL, has co-authored a paper in Marine Pollution Bulletin with B.A. Muhling, J.T. Lamkin, G.W. Ingram, Jr., M.A. Upton, G. Gawlikowski, F. Muller-Karger, S. Habtes and W.J. Richards. The paper "Overlap between Atlantic Bluefin tuna spawning grounds and observed Deepwater Horizon surface oil in the northern Gulf of Mexico" explores the relationship between the 2010 oil spill and the Bluefin tuna spawning grounds. They found that less than 10% of spawning habitat was impacted by the surface oil. This finding could be associated with the spawning habits of the Bluefin tuna because extensive spawning activity also took place in the western Gulf of Mexico. Results of the study were presented at the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography 2012 Ocean Sciences meeting in Salt Lake City, UT. Funding for this research was provided by Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Services, Inc., NASA, NOAA, Florida Institute of Oceanography, and University of Miami's Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies. The paper can be accessed at the following website:  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2012.01.034>.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0025326X12000574>

## **Water Institute Begins Operations**

The Water Institute of the Gulf (TWIG) officially launched operations today as an independent, applied research organization dedicated to research advancing the understanding of coastal and deltaic systems and applying this knowledge for the benefit of society. Early efforts of the organization will revolve around world-class, independent science to inform and solve deltaic problems in Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico with a long-term vision that the science and solutions that are developed here in Louisiana and on the Gulf Coast by TWIG will be used to improve water management issues for the benefit of other coastal regions. The Water Institute of the Gulf board of directors named Charles "Chip" Groat, Ph.D., as the founding president and CEO. Groat is a globally recognized expert on earth sciences, energy, resource assessment, groundwater issues and coastal studies. TWIG was formed through the leadership of Gov. Bobby Jindal and the Louisiana Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority, along with the efforts of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and the office of U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu. For more information on the Water Institute of the Gulf, please see <http://www.waterinstitute.com>.

## **Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Names Chief Science Officer**

On February 24th, the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative named Dr. Charles "Chuck" A. Wilson as the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) Chief Science Officer. The Chief Science Officer is a new position created by the Research Board to provide scientific and research advice and leadership to the GoMRI. Dr. Wilson will coordinate the work of the GoMRI Research Board with the various administrative units implementing the research program and with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. Additionally, he will support the Research Board's efforts to ensure the intellectual quality, research effectiveness, and scientific independence of the \$500 million GoMRI research initiative. For more information, visit:  
<http://www.gulfresearchinitiative.org>.

## **IOOS/NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Upcoming NFRA/IOOS Annual Spring Meeting**

The NFRA/IOOS Annual Spring meeting will be held February 28-March 1, 2012 in Washington, DC. The meeting will include Regional Association (RA) reviews, a report from the IOOS Office on major accomplishments and issues, build out plan updates, and discussion of the goals for the coming year.

## **COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS**

### **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.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 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>

Meeting: "[Risk and Response: Sea Level Rise Summit, the Future of Florida and the Coast](#)" 21-22 June 2012, Marriott Boca Town Center, Boca Raton, FL.

<http://www.ces.fau.edu/SLR2012>

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](#)" University of North Carolina, Wilmington, North Carolina.

<http://www.mbari.org/earth/>

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

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### EPA Announces Availability of BEACH Grants

The Environmental Protection Agency has announced the availability of \$9,864,000 for 2012 Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act grants. Funding will be allocated based on an EPA formula to 34 states, territories, the District of Columbia and eligible tribes to support the implementation of coastal recreation water quality monitoring and public notification programs. The application deadline is 6 April 2012. For more information, see <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-02-06/pdf/2012-2607.pdf>.

## EMPLOYMENT

### NWS LMRFC seeks Hydrologist

The NWS Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center seeks a GS7, 9, 11, or 12 Hydrologist. The LMRFC is responsible for providing river and flood forecasts for the lower Mississippi River valley including most of the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee and portions of the neighboring states. The area encompasses over 200,000 square miles and affords the opportunity to learn about forecasting and hydrology ranging from fast-responding streams in the southern Appalachians to the mighty Mississippi River. In addition to forecast duties, hydrologists perform hydrologic/hydraulic model calibration, computer software development, and web-page development. Hydrologists are also involved in public outreach, helping to educate and inform the public/customers and users of our products/services. The LMRFC is in Slidell, LA, located about 35 miles from downtown New Orleans. The area encompasses over 200,000 square miles and affords the opportunity to learn about forecasting and hydrology ranging from fast-responding streams in the southern Appalachians to the mighty Mississippi River. The job announcement can be found at: MAP Announcement: NWS-SR-2012-0065  
<http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/309947400>

### Weeks Bay Foundation seeks Regional Training Coordinator

The Gulf Resilient Communities Regional Training Coordinator is a one year, full-time, grant-funded contract position that will be housed at the Weeks Bay Foundation office in Fairhope, Alabama. The training coordinator will work with the Gulf Coast National Estuarine Research Reserves' (NERRs) Coastal Training Programs (CTP) in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas to link the coastal community resilience goals of the NERRs and NOAA's Coastal Storms Program with the training and information needs of local communities. Preferred Qualifications: A Master's degree in environmental science, environmental policy, environmental studies, environmental psychology or environmental education, land use or conservation planning, marine or coastal science or policy, communication, a related field; Salary Range: \$40,000-50,000 commensurate with experience. How to Apply: Send resume including employment history with a description of prior paid and non-paid job-related work experience; education including high school, date of diploma or GED; college/university - major(s), type and year of degrees received; any other degrees or certificates; and a minimum of three references, at least one of which is from your professional experience. Candidates are encouraged to provide supplemental information in their experience statements and cover letter, which will be taken into consideration in the selection process. Send applications materials to:

Walter C. Ernest, IV, Executive Director, Weeks Bay Foundation, 1401 US Hwy 98, Fairhope, AL 36532



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)).