



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 20 APRIL 2012

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

Felimon Gayanilo, GCOOS Data Portal Systems Architect, Strengthens GCOOS Ties with the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative

Felimon 'Nonong' Gayanilo, Systems Architect with the Center for Computational Science at the University of Miami, has accepted the position of Systems Architect for the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Information and Data Cooperative (GRIIDC) at the Harte Research Institute (HRI), Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. His primary role will be to lead the GRIIDC technical team in the development of a comprehensive Research Database for the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI; <http://www.gulfresearchinitiative.org>). Working in close collaboration with the scientists and researchers collecting and analyzing data on GoMRI-funded projects, the GRIIDC will ensure a data and information legacy that promotes continual scientific discovery and public awareness of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. To optimize utility, GRIIDC will develop a series of services to facilitate the discovery and distribution of data. "I have worked with ecological, biological, socioeconomics, ocean observing, chemical and many other data types but never at this magnitude. This job presents new challenges, and I look forward to the realization of the Research Database." said Mr. Gayanilo, who currently is a technical consultant to GRIIDC. Mr. Gayanilo will start work at HRI in July.

Mr. Gayanilo is the System Architect of the Gulf of Mexico Coastal and Ocean Observing System (GCOOS) Data Portal, which is based at Texas A&M University in College Station and supported by the U.S. IOOS Program. HRI and the GCOOS Regional Association reached an agreement to enable Mr. Gayanilo to continue his services with GCOOS when he moves to his new post. "We are happy with this change as it will strengthen the ties between GCOOS and GoMRI activities, particularly with respect to integration of Gulf data sets," said Dr. Ann Jochens, GCOOS Executive Director, "and it will enhance the GCOOS partnerships so vital for the continuing development and maintenance of the GCOOS Data Portal—partnerships recognized by the U.S. EPA through the 2011 Gulf Guardian Awards at the 2011 Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hand's Meeting. Dr. Matthew Howard, GCOOS DMAC Manager, also represents GCOOS as a subject matter expert on the GRIIDC technical team. GRIIDC Director, Dr. James Gibeaut of HRI, said "Mr. Gayanilo's leadership and technical talent will be instrumental in making GRIIDC a success, and we are delighted that he will join HRI."

***Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Trustees Announce Major Progress in Gulf Restoration Effort**

On April 18, 2012, the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Trustee Council announced that an estimated \$60 million in early restoration projects soon will begin along the Gulf Coast. With the finalization of the *Deepwater Horizon Phase I Early Restoration Plan & Environmental Assessment*, eight restoration projects will be implemented, including projects that provide for marsh creation, coastal dune habitat improvements, nearshore artificial reef creation, and oyster cultch restoration, as well as the construction and enhancement of boat ramps to compensate for lost human use of resources. The NOAA Gulf Spill Restoration web site (www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov) provides additional information about restoration planning and a status update on the ongoing damage assessment. The full announcement is available at

<http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2012/04/major-progress-in-gulf-restoration-effort/>

Virtual Seafloor Exploration of the Gulf of Mexico

Celebrate Earth Day by watching live undersea video and listening in as ocean explorers at sea and ashore

comment in real-time as they observe marine species, visit natural gas seeps, and map poorly known areas of the northern Gulf of Mexico. Through telepresence technology, satellite and high-speed Internet pathways between ship and shore, scientists ashore will view information from sensors and high-definition cameras as it is collected at sea and help guide how the expedition unfolds. Using a computer or mobile device, the public can join the expedition as virtual explorers live online <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/oceanos/media/exstream/exstream_04.html>. Live streams will be sent from the ship, NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*, 24 hours a day from now through 28 April, and weather permitting, the streams between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. EDT will include video from high-definition cameras on the expedition's undersea robots—ROVs (remotely-operated vehicles). The ROVs send video images and sensor data to the ship to be relayed ashore by satellite. More information is available at http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2012/20120419_okeanusexplorer.html

EPA Announces New Director for the Gulf of Mexico Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the selection of Ben Scaggs as the Director of the Gulf of Mexico Program. In his new role, Scaggs will be responsible for overseeing a broad program designed to facilitate collaborative actions to protect, maintain, and restore the health and productivity of the Gulf of Mexico in ways consistent with the economic well-being of the Region. He joined the EPA in 1991 and currently serves as EPA's Office Director overseeing the Agency's operation in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, which is the largest agency presence outside of Washington, DC. The Gulf of Mexico Program began in 1988 to protect, restore, and maintain the health and productivity of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem in economically sustainable ways. The program is financially supported by the EPA and is a non-regulatory, inclusive consortium of state and federal government agencies and representatives from the business and agricultural community, fishing industry, academics, environmentalists, and communities from all five Gulf States. Scaggs will assume his new duties on 23 April 2012.

***Deepwater Horizon* Primary Investigator Workshop Report Available**

Scientific investigators from academia, private research institutes, and governmental agencies who are actively conducting *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill-related research, monitoring and sampling met in St. Petersburg, FL, on 25-26 October 2011, at a conference sponsored by the National Science and Technology Council's Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (NSTC SOST). The goal was for researchers to provide a one-year update on their work and share these with each other and representatives from the NSTC SOST agencies to foster new collaborations, compare initial results, and discuss recommendations for longer term research activities. Recommendations from the meeting have since been provided to the President's Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology. The report and workshop presentations approved for distribution are available on the conference website: <http://www.marine.usf.edu/conferences/fio/NSTC-SOST-PI-2011/>.

USGS Seminar: Valuation of Oyster Reef Ecosystem Service Restoration in GoM

The U.S. Geological Survey Science and Decisions Center will host a webinar by Dr. Timm Kroeger, Senior Environmental Economist at The Nature Conservancy. The webinar "Valuation of Oyster Reef Ecosystem Service Restoration in the Gulf of Mexico" will be on 23 April 2012 from 12:15-1:30 PM EST. Two large reef restoration projects in Mobile Bay, AL will be discussed in terms of estimating the economic value in terms of fishery enhancements, wave attenuation, and nitrogen removal services. Following the presentation there will be a 30-40 minute question and answer period. For those interested in attending in person, the seminar will be held in the Visitors Center Conference Room at the USGS National Center in Reston, VA. To join via webinar, go to <http://usgs.webex.com>, navigate to 23 April and select the meeting "(40) SDC Seminar." Access the audio conference by dialing (703) 648-4848 and entering the code 10294#.

The March 2012 edition of the Gulf of Mexico News is now on-line

The March 2012 edition of the Gulf of Mexico News is now on-line at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/news/gomexnews.html>. Included in this issue are articles on NOAA's activities in the Gulf (i.e., chemical measurements confirm official estimate of Gulf oil spill rate, new coastal LIDAR data added to the digital coast, MPA Center and NCCOS develop new spatial analysis tool) as well as other sources of information for the Gulf of Mexico region and landscape conservation cooperatives for the Gulf of Mexico region. Announced in this newsletter is the Texas Coastal Management Program Grant Cycle 18. For more information on this program please see <http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cmp/grant-cycle.html>

First Regional Operational Forecast System Available for the Northern Gulf of Mexico

On 3 April, the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services unveiled the new [Northern](#)

[Gulf of Mexico Operational Forecast System \(NGOFS\)](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ofs/ngofs/ngofs.html) developed in a joint partnership with the Office of Coast Survey's Coast Survey Development Laboratory, the NWS' National Centers for Environmental Prediction and the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth. NGOFS is NOAA's first regional ocean model, encompassing the shelf and coastal areas from Pensacola, Florida, to Corpus Christi, Texas. The model provides nowcasts and forecasts of water level, currents, temperature and salinity four times per day and includes wind nowcasts and forecasts guidance derived from the NWS North American Mesoscale system. Spatial animations of the entire Northern Gulf of Mexico domain and time series at 93 stations or points of interest are available for the five parameters - water level, winds, currents, temperature, and salinity.
<http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ofs/ngofs/ngofs.html>

Florida Keys Sanctuary Issues Permits for Transplant of 80,000 Protected Coral Colonies (ONMS)

On 26 March, the [Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary](#) issued the [NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries](#) general permits to [The Nature Conservancy](#) and [The Coral Restoration Foundation Inc.](#) for the transplant and monitoring of a potential 80,000 protected elkhorn and staghorn coral colonies in the sanctuary. The Nature Conservancy's permit allows proposed offshore staghorn coral nursery and restoration activities as part of a larger, regional restoration project funded by a grant from the NOAA Restoration Center using American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds. The Coral Restoration Foundation's permit allows a proposed broad scale coral restoration project within the sanctuary that builds upon previous offshore coral nursery and restoration work conducted under sanctuary permits. Both projects aim to relocate wild-collected, nursery-reared corals to restoration areas in the Florida Keys NMS where these specific species of corals had been depleted.

IOOS/NATIONAL NEWS

Request for information on *E. huxleyi* bloom and calcite data products

Christopher Brown (Christopher.w.brown@noaa.gov) asks for input from people or groups that would be interested in using a product that would identify the locations of *Emiliana huxleyi* blooms in satellite ocean color radiometry imagery and the associated map of calcite concentrations. If you would potentially use these products, please contact him at your earliest convenience. Send him your name, the product(s) you would use and a brief description of how the product(s) would be used.

StormSmart State Discussions: TX, LA, MS, AL, FL

The four StormSmart state discussion sessions for Texas (11:00am CDT, April 25th), Louisiana (2:00pm CDT, April 25th), Mississippi and Alabama (11:00am CDT, April 26th), and Florida (2:00pm CDT, April 26th) will focus on addressing the challenges of storms, flooding, sea level rise, and climate change. The goal of these webinars is to provide a forum for sharing experiences and challenges, and to seek answers from area experts. Each discussion will start with a few short case studies, examples, and resources specific to the state. Following the short presentation, there will be an open forum for discussion among participants. These discussion sessions follow four StormSmart training courses focused on coastal management across the Gulf Coast. The Gulf-wide training presentations can be downloaded at <http://stormsmart.org/groups/stormsmart-training/>. For additional information about StormSmart Coasts and all of these trainings, visit <http://stormsmart.org/webinars>.

National Ocean Economics Program: Updated Data Now Available

The National Ocean Economics Program (NOEP) recently updated the data available on its website. NOEP's Ports & Cargo section now contains marine-based import and export shipping volume and value data for 1997 through 2011. The data query page allows users to select data by year, state, and port. NOEP's Population and Housing section has also been updated to include population and housing data for the nation and all coastal states and their counties from 1990 through 2010, including the decennial years from 1970. Learn more at <http://www.oceanomics.org/>.

EBM Tools Demonstration: Uncertainty Analysis using SLAMM

The Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Tools Network will host a demonstration of Uncertainty Analysis using the Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM) by Marco Propato and Jonathan Clough of Warren Pinnacle Consulting on Wednesday, May 9th, at 1:00pm EST/10:00am PST/5:00pm GMT. The integration of a stochastic uncertainty analysis module into SLAMM allows users to examine wetland coverage results as distributions. This addition makes it possible to examine the effects of uncertainty and data errors in model parameters, including sea level rise, uplift/subsidence, tide ranges, and accretion and erosion rates, as well as feedbacks between sea level rise and accretion. The SLAMM Uncertainty Viewer provides a

map-based interface that analyzes future wetland-coverage probabilities for a user-defined region. Graphical outputs provide quantitative results that can assist in planning and decision-making. Learn more about SLAMM at <http://warrenpinnacle.com/prof/SLAMM>, and reserve your webinar spot at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/603814280>.

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

April

“[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>

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

“[Offshore Technology Conference](#)” 30 April – 3 May 2012, Reliant Park, Houston, TX.
<http://www.otcnet.org/>

“[Coastal Cities Summit](#)”, 30 April – 3 May, St. Petersburg, FL.
<http://www.coastalcities-ioi.org/>

May

“[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>

“[SECOORA Annual Meeting](#)”, 7-9 May 2012, Miami, FL.
<http://secoora.org/news/2012annualmeeting>

“[METOCEAN Awareness Course](#)”, 8-10 May 2012, MCS Kenny 15115 Park Row, 3rd Floor, Houston, TX.
<http://www.suthouston.com/Events>

“[From Stem to Stern](#)”, 15-17 May 2012, Clearwater Beach Marriott Suites on Sand Key, Clearwater, FL.
<http://www.flseagrant.org/boating/StemtoStern/>

June

“[The Coastal Society’s 23rd International Conference](#)”, 3-6 June 2012, Hyatt Regency, Miami, FL.
<http://thecoastalsociety.org/conference/tcs23/index.html>

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

“[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>

“[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

“[2012 ASLO Summer Meeting](#)” 8-13 July 2012, Lake Biwa, Otsu, Japan.
<http://aslo.org/meetings/japan2012/>

“[EARTH Workshop](#)” 8-13 July 2012, University of North Carolina, Wilmington, North Carolina. Hosted by MBARI and SECOORA.
<http://www.mbari.org/earth/>

"[12th International Coral Reef Symposium](http://www.icrs2012.com)", 9-12 July 2012, Cairns, Australia.
<http://www.icrs2012.com>

"[5th Annual International Ecosystem Services Partnership \(ESP\) Conference](http://www.esconference.org/ESP_Conference/78852/5/0/60)" 31 July – 4 August 2012, Portland, OR.
http://www.esconference.org/ESP_Conference/78852/5/0/60

September

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

October

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

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

November

"[IOOS Summit 2012 - A new Decade of Integrated and Sustained Ocean Observing](http://www.iooc.us/summit/ioos-summit/)" 13-16 November 2012, Herndon, VA. WE NEED YOUR HELP - Please visit <http://www.iooc.us/summit/ioos-summit/> to see how you can help.

EMPLOYMENT

Technician/Data Manager Deep-C Research Consortium

The Florida State University Coastal and Marine Laboratory seeks a [Technician/Data Manager](#) to provide technical expertise for effective data input, management, and access in support of the fisheries ecology section of the Deep-C Research Consortium related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

<http://www.marinelab.fsu.edu/news/openings.html> - 5



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).