



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 18 MAY 2012

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

The Nature Conservancy of Texas

The GCOOS-RA welcomes new member The Nature Conservancy (TNC) of Texas. With State Director Laura Huffman at the helm, TNC continues growth of the chapter's land, marine and freshwater conservation work. Texas boasts 367 miles of coastline along the Gulf of Mexico, a number that jumps to more than 3,000 once bays, lagoons, and estuaries are included. These are biologically diverse regions, subject to numerous stressors from the 18 coastal counties that accommodate nearly 25% of the state's population, and several of the busiest sea ports in the country. Dr. Jorge Brenner, Associate Director of Marine Science at TNC in Texas, has worked diligently to develop online resources to aid conservation efforts in the Gulf of Mexico. These include tools to help decision makers with issues like climate change, sea level rise, storm surge and coastal resilience (see Gulf of Mexico Alliance's sea-level rise data platform, <http://stormsmart.org/goma/slr/interface/index.html> and the Gulf Restoration Decision Support Tool (<http://gulfmex.coastalresilience.org/>); and other interactive climate maps from TNC at <http://www.climatewizard.org/>). For more information on TNC's online products and database, please contact Dr. Jorge Brenner at jbrenner@tnc.org. The GCOOS-RA looks forward to working with TNC to determine useful linkages between data that will enhance conservation and restoration activities in coastal Texas and the Gulf of Mexico.

2012 GOMA All Hands Meeting

Join GOMA and its partners for three days of collaboration and networking at the [2012 GOMA All Hands Meeting](#) from 19-21 June at the Omni Bayfront & Marina, Corpus Christi, TX. Plenary sessions will include keynote speakers and presentations by Alliance Management Team members, National Ocean Council, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force members, and others. Regional issues include national ocean policy, Gulf restoration and Gulf of Mexico research. Break-out sessions are being planned around topical issues such as climate change and sea-level rise. Priority Issue Team meetings will also be conducted.

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e5iilc9sb1da6277&llr=thgzaleab>

Public comment period begins for NOAA proposed rule to protect sea turtles from certain trawling activities

[NOAA's Fisheries Service](#) is accepting public comments on a proposed rule requiring [turtle excluder devices](#) (TEDs) for skimmer, pusher-head, and wing-net shrimp trawls in Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic shrimp fisheries. The proposed rule can be found at

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/turtles/regulations.htm>.

NOAA Fisheries Service will hold five public hearings in May and June at which public comments will be taken; four are in the Gulf States. For locations please see:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/05/10/2012-11201/sea-turtle-conservation-shrimp-trawling-requirements-h-12ea-turtle-conservation-shrimp-trawling-requirements>

Public comment on the proposed rule may be submitted in writing until July 9 at

<http://www.regulations.gov>, or by fax to 727.824.5309, attention Michael Barnette. All comments will be part of the public record, and are generally posted without change for public viewing.

IOOS/NATIONAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

New publication assists communities in planning

[Incorporating Sea Level Change Scenarios at the Local Level](#), a recent publication from NOAA's Coastal Services Center, outlines eight steps a community can take to develop site appropriate scenarios when considering impacts from sea-level rise on community planning. The report was prepared by NOAA's Coastal Services Center, Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services, National Geodetic Survey, and Office of Coast Survey
<http://csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/publications/slcsenarios>

New Viewer for NOAA's Historical Shoreline Surveys

NOS Special Projects has developed, in collaboration with the National Geodetic Survey and NOAA's Coastal Services Center, a new tool to view NOAA's collection of historical shoreline surveys. There are approximately 7,800 surveys going as far back as 1841. These surveys can be viewed in Google Earth. With each survey is a link to download the original scan and the metadata associated with it. Comparisons of each view provide invaluable historical information about how the shoreline has evolved through both natural and man-made changes over the last 170 years. For more information about this new tool go to: <http://specialprojects.nos.noaa.gov/tools/shorelinesurvey.html>

Ocean Data Portal Newsletter

The national information management system being developed by the National Ocean Council under the National Ocean Policy provides a centralized location for federal ocean data and information exchange and is designated to ensure national consistency and minimum data standards. The portal is found at ocean.data.gov. Recently released was the first ocean.data.gov newsletter, which is an informal way of keeping up-to-date on the continued portal development to support ocean, coastal and Great Lakes planning activities. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter please email laura.muhs@navy.mil with the subject line "ADD ME"

FEMA Releases National Preparedness Report

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released the [National Preparedness Report](#) summarizing the progress made toward building, sustaining, and delivering the 31 core capabilities for responding to national emergencies described in the National Preparedness Goal. Overall, the report found that the nation has increased its collective preparedness and identifies several significant areas of national strength. It also identified opportunities for national improvement, notably in long-term recovery. The report can be accessed through FEMA's online library at <http://www.fema.gov/library/index.jsp>.

House Approves Fiscal Year 2013 CJS Spending Bill

During appropriations deliberations regarding the House Commerce, Science, and Justice Bill -- which funds NOAA, NASA, NSF, and NIST -- a number of amendments were passed which have an impact on the scientific community. In total, the legislation contains \$51.1 billion in funding for these agencies. This represents a \$1.6 billion decrease from fiscal year 2012 levels and is \$731 million below the President's request for these programs. A full list of amendments adopted to H.R. 5326 are available on the House Appropriations Committee [website](#).

National Council for Science and the Environment's Environmental Disaster Conference

The National Council for Science and the Environment will host the [13th National Conference: Environmental Disasters: Science Preparedness and Resilience](#) in Washington, DC, in January 2013. The conference will address the increasing occurrence of environmental disasters and the science, technology and decision-making needed to more effectively prepare, respond and make our communities more resilient. For more information contact conference@ncseonline.org.

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

June

["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>

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

["The Gulf States Hurricane Conference"](http://conference.ext.msstate.edu/ema2012/2012_hurricane_conference.html), 6-8 June 2012, Biloxi, MS.
http://conference.ext.msstate.edu/ema2012/2012_hurricane_conference.html

["Gulf of Mexico Alliance 2012 All Hands Meeting"](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e5iilc9sb1da6277&llr=thgzaleab), 18-21 June 2012, Omni Bayfront & Marine Towers, Corpus Christi, TX.
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e5iilc9sb1da6277&llr=thgzaleab>

["Risk and Response: Sea Level Rise Summit, the Future of Florida and the Coast"](http://www.ces.fau.edu/SLR2012) 21-22 June 2012, Marriott Boca Town Center, Boca Raton, FL.
<http://www.ces.fau.edu/SLR2012>

["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

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

["EARTH Workshop"](http://www.mbari.org/earth/) 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>

["Fourth International Conference on Climate Change"](http://on-climate.com/conference-2012/), 12-13 July 2012, The University of Washington, Seattle, WA
<http://on-climate.com/conference-2012/>

["5th Annual International Ecosystem Services Partnership \(ESP\) Conference"](http://www.espconference.org/ESP_Conference/78852/5/0/60) 31 July – 4 August 2012, Portland, OR.
http://www.espconference.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.oceans12mtsieehamptonroads.org/) 15-19 October 2012, Hampton Roads, VA.
<http://www.oceans12mtsieehamptonroads.org/>

November

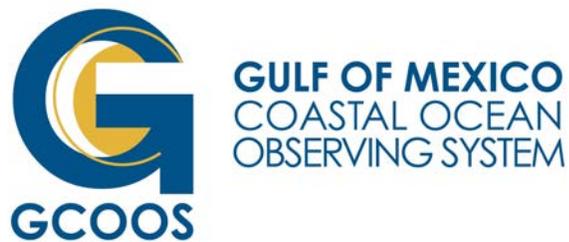
"[IOOS Summit 2012 - A new Decade of Integrated and Sustained Ocean Observing](#)" 13-16 November 2012, Herndon, VA. WE NEED YOUR HELP - Please visit <http://www.iooc.us/summit/ioos-summit/> to see how you can help.

2013

January

"[2013 National Conference: Environmental Disasters](#)", 15-17 January 2013, Washington, DC. Sponsored by the National Council for Science and the Environment.

<http://ncseonline.org/2013-national-conference-environmental-disasters>



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).