



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

### GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 1 JUNE 2012

#### GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

##### **GCOOS members to participate in Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands Meeting**

Dr. Matthew Howard, Dr. Chris Simoniello, and Mrs. Ruth Mullins-Perry will participate in the Gulf of Mexico Alliance 2012 All Hands Meeting in Corpus Christi, TX, from 19-21 June 2012. Keynote speakers Jerome Zeringue, Director, Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority, David Kennedy, Assistant Administrator, NOAA National Ocean Service, Eileen Sobeck, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior, and Ben Scaggs, Director, EPA Gulf of Mexico Program, will share their vision for GOMA. Four sessions are planned to 1) integrate GOMA with regional initiatives such as Gulf Restoration; 2) integrate better with business and industry; 3) explore examples of successful public-private industry partnerships; and 4) discuss monitoring efforts in the Gulf, particularly hypoxia monitoring. Dr. Quenton Dokken, GCOOS Party Member from the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, will discuss public-private industry partnerships and the Gulf Restoration Center. Dr. Porfirio Alvarez-Torres of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization will present on monitoring related to the GOM Large Marine Ecosystem Collaboration. Dr. Felimon Gayanillo, GCOOS Sr. Systems Architect, has recently relocated to Corpus Christi. He will meet the GCOOS team while they are in Corpus Christi to discuss upcoming projects.

##### **GCOOS interested in SOS Web Services**

The IOOS Program Office is coordinating two SOS server development projects. GCOOS and PacIOOS have met to scope out a plan for engagement with the RA DMAC developers in order to plan for server installation. These two RAs have shown interest as early adopters for these projects. IOOS will contact other RAs to gauge interest in the project.

##### **NOAA increases Gulf of Mexico red snapper catch limit**

Following a recent assessment that shows the population of traditionally overfished Gulf of Mexico red snapper is rebounding, NOAA is increasing the 2012 commercial and recreational fishing catch limits for the species from 7.53 million pounds to 8.08 million pounds. The new rule takes effect 1 June. As the population of red snapper grows and average fish length increases, it is anticipated that recreational fishermen will catch their quota faster, resulting in a shorter season. The 2012 recreational season will last 40 days, from 1 June through 10 July. Although this is shorter than the 48-day season in 2011, this year's recreational season would have been shorter without the new catch increase. NOAA will begin work on a [new population assessment for red snapper](#) in August.

[http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/Sedar\\_Workshops.jsp?WorkshopNum=31](http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/Sedar_Workshops.jsp?WorkshopNum=31)

#### IOOS/NATIONAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

##### **IOOS Summit to be held in Washington, D.C., in November**

The Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Summit, being held 13-16 November at the Hyatt Dulles, will bring together researchers, policy experts, industries, and other stakeholders in the ocean observation community to reaffirm existing IOOS priorities and inform IOOS strategy for the coming decade. Over the next year, contributors will be able to engage before, during, and after the Summit. The

Summit will provide the opportunity for two hundred representatives of the observing community and the users of ocean observations, to debate and refine white papers prepared prior to the event. After the Summit, contributors will finalize the proceedings to celebrate achievements and guide future strategy; shaping the next decade for an enhanced Integrated and Sustained Ocean Observing System. For more information and to submit an expression of interest please visit our website at <http://www.iooc.us/summit>. The deadline for submitting an Expression of Interest form is 30 June 2012. Expressions of Interest include submitting a White Paper, attending as a community representative, serving as a writing group member or contributing as a moderator/speaker/panelist.

### **Update on QARTOD**

At the QARTOD Board of Advisors meeting on 14 May, the discussion focused on plans for analysis of existing procedures for the next set of core variables; temperature, salinity, conductivity, dissolved oxygen and turbidity. Dick Crout, QARTOD Project Manager, and Ray Toll, GCOOS Board of Directors member, will have subject matter experts selected by mid-June. As part of the US IOOS DMAC core services, the US IOOS Program Office has initiated a sustainable, community-based project to establish authoritative procedures for quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) of real-time ocean sensor data collected for US IOOS. This project will be based on the QARTOD (Quality Assurance of Real Time Ocean Data) effort, existing community-based QA/QC efforts, and existing QA/QC standards developed by Federal Agencies and the US IOOS Regional Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (RCOOS). This project will retain the name of QARTOD. All of the known QA/QC programs in existence today provide parts to the solution, but none consolidates the various parts. This document outlines how QARTOD will be administered and funded. The result of this effort is to develop standards that can become formal IOOS data standards for data from the Regional Associations. "It is envisioned that QARTOD will support the entire ocean observing community, and thus subject matter experts will come from a wide variety of backgrounds" said Ray Toll, NDBC Regional Coordinator and GCOOS Board member.

### **New model will help NOAA forecasters study the eyewall of hurricanes this season**

When hurricanes emerge from the Atlantic Ocean or Gulf of Mexico this season, NOAA will use a new statistical model to help predict the start of the "eyewall replacement cycle," a key indicator that a storm's strength and size is about to change dramatically. This new tool adds to a suite of forecast products NOAA uses to warn coastal communities of imminent threats. The model predicts the start of the developing eyewall replacement cycle by measuring key aspects of the storm's structure and environment and relating these to the conditions observed during past replacement cycles. The model uses data from NOAA's Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES) to identify hurricane structure patterns related to eyewall replacement cycles. Microwave images from NOAA's polar orbiting satellites were incorporated extensively to create the model using past data.

[http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2012/20120530\\_eyewall.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2012/20120530_eyewall.html)

### **NOAA launches new inundation analysis tool**

NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) launched an innovative new tool for coastal resource managers at the Association of State Floodplain Managers' annual conference in San Antonio this week. The [Inundation Analysis Tool](#) is a web-based application that analyzes data collected at NOAA tide gauge stations to provide statistical summaries of the historical frequency and duration of observed high waters. Learn more at:

<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/weeklynews/may12/inundation.html>.

### **Study: Coastal sea grass traps carbon more efficiently than forests (from [Reuters](#))**

According to [research](#) recently published in the journal *Nature Geoscience*, coastal sea grass can sequester carbon dioxide more efficiently than forests. A global team of scientists found that sea grasses can trap 83,000 metric tons of carbon per square kilometer - two to three times as much as a typical forest. These grasses take up less than 0.2 percent of the world's oceans but account for more than 10 percent of all the carbon absorbed by sea life. While access to the full study requires a subscription to *Nature Geoscience*, the abstract can be viewed online at:

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ngeo1477.html>.

### **NOAA's new online viewer available**

Sea floor maps, and other data on the world's coasts, continental shelves and deep ocean floor are now available [online](#). The new online data viewer compiles sea floor data from the near shore to the deep

blue, including the latest high-resolution bathymetric data collected by [NOS Office of Coastal Survey](#). Because this viewer does not require specialized software to convert data into maps and other products, the images are available to a wider audience. In fact, anyone with internet access can now explore the oceans and seas.

<http://maps.ngdc.noaa.gov/viewers/bathymetry/>

<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/>

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Funding available for restoration projects in the Gulf

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center and the Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant College Programs have announced a request for proposals for a grant competition to fund tidal hydrology restoration projects. To be considered, projects must remove or modify human-built barriers (such as culverts, dikes, and dams) to restore historic tidal estuarine and freshwater exchange to benefit coastal and marine fisheries habitat. Projects also must be located from Key West, Florida to Brownsville, Texas. Local, county and state governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, communities, homeowner associations and universities are eligible. Projects can receive up to \$100,000, and a match of at least \$1 of nonfederal money per \$1 requested is required. The deadline for proposals is 17 August 2012. Go to <http://masgc.org/gulfhydrorestoration/rcrfp12.htm> for submission details.

## COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

### June

[“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>

[“Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2012”](#) 5-8 June, Washington, DC

<http://www.nmsfocean.org>

[“The Gulf States Hurricane Conference”](#), 6-8 June 2012, Biloxi, MS.

[http://conference.ext.msstate.edu/ema2012/2012\\_hurricane\\_conference.html](http://conference.ext.msstate.edu/ema2012/2012_hurricane_conference.html)

[“Gulf of Mexico Alliance 2012 All Hands Meeting”](#), 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”](#) 21-22 June 2012, Marriott Boca Town Center, Boca Raton, FL. The purpose of this summit is to highlight the interrelationships between sea level rise, limestone geology, and water management in Florida; share the ongoing responses and adaptation planning of agencies, institutions, and civic society to sea level rise; and compare the Florida situation and response with other vulnerable localities in the U.S. and worldwide.

<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/>

[“12<sup>th</sup> International Coral Reef Symposium”](#), 9-12 July 2012, Cairns, Australia.

<http://www.icrs2012.com>

[“Fourth International Conference on Climate Change”](#), 12-13 July 2012, The University of Washington, Seattle, WA

<http://on-climate.com/conference-2012/>

[“5<sup>th</sup> Annual International Ecosystem Services Partnership \(ESP\) Conference”](#) 31 July – 4 August 2012, Portland, OR.

[http://www.esconference.org/ESP\\_Conference/78852/5/0/60](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 6<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration”](#) 20-24 October 2012, Tampa, FL.

<http://www.estuaries.org/conference/>

[“OCEANS ’12 MTS/IEEE”](#) 15-19 October 2012, Hampton Roads. VA.

<http://www.oceans12mtsieeehamptonroads.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](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)).