



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 29 JUNE 2012

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

GCOOS-RA and Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation co-sponsor Water Quality Workshop

The Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System Regional Association and the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation's (SCCF) Marine Laboratory hosted a workshop on integration of water quality data on 28 June in Sanibel, FL. Invited were representatives from Southwest Florida organizations that are currently collecting water quality data in coastal, nearshore, and inland tidal-influenced environments and are not current GCOOS data providers. GCOOS representatives talked about the GCOOS vision for integrating local water quality data into a Gulf-wide network and described how to submit data to the GCOOS data portal. In addition, organizations presented on their data collection process and the type of data collected. GCOOS-RA Board Member, Dr. Worth Nowlin, GCOOS-RA Data Coordinator, Dr. Matthew K. Howard, and GCOOS-RA Education and Outreach Coordinator, Dr. Chris Simoniello, together with Dr. Eric Milbrandt, Director of SCCF's Marine Lab, led the workshop. A summary of the workshop will be included in a future GCOOS News article and on the website.

Next Meeting of the GCOOS Board of Directors

The next GCOOS Board of Directors Meeting will be held on 26-27 September at the Harte Research Institute in Corpus Christi, TX. The open session will be on 26 September 2012. The business portion, including executive committee meeting, will be on 27 September. More information on the meeting will be provided with the agenda in the next few weeks. If you are interested in attending please register at the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?pli=1&formkey=dDVoMG5yNDZSbG1GekhpWlozYWwzROE6MQ#gid=0>

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance 2012 All Hands Meeting

The GOMA 2012 All Hands Meeting was held in Corpus Christi, TX on June 19. Dr. Matthew Howard, Dr. Chris Simoniello, and Ruth Mullins-Perry represented GCOOS at the three-day meeting. The meeting also brought together agencies, foundations, academics, and institutions actively working in the Gulf of Mexico. Commissioner Buddy Garcia of the Texas Railroad Commission and Jerome Zeringue, Executive Director of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and GOMA Management Team Chair, gave welcome addresses. Keynote speakers included Senator Mary Landrieu (Louisiana); Eileen Sobeck, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department of Interior; David Kennedy, Assistant Administrator NOAA's National Ocean Service; Ben Scaggs, Director, EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program; and Duane Armstrong, Chief of Applied Science and Technology NASA. Keynote addresses highlighted current and future activities of each of the respective agencies in the Gulf of Mexico. The first day of the conference presentations focused on GOMA integration with regional initiatives, public-private partnerships, and monitoring in the Gulf of Mexico. A panel discussion was also conducted to discuss working relationships with business and industry, which included panelists from Shell Oil Company, Alabama Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau, Port of Corpus Christi, and the Florida Coast Charters, Inc. An evening reception was held at the Texas State Aquarium. The second day included GOMA achievements, oil spill-related research activities, and progress in building resilient communities. Presentations during the meeting will soon be available at

<http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/index.php>. For more information from the meeting about GOMA, please visit gcoos.tamu.edu and <http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org>. We will include additional information from the meeting on our website in the next few days. See: <http://gcoos.tamu.edu>

Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference 2013

[The Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science conference](#) sponsors share a goal to improve society's ability to understand the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem, which includes humans, to ensure its long-term environmental health. One important aspect is understanding the impacts of petroleum pollution and related stressors on the marine and coastal ecosystems, as it will support future response, mitigation, and restoration following spills. The Gulf is a dynamic and complex system that is facing several issues, such as non-petroleum pollution, hypoxia, coastal development, erosion and inundation, and climate change. This conference will engage and build a community of researchers working on all aspects of Gulf of Mexico ecosystem science and initiate dialogue with the users of that information. Through conference plenary and breakout sessions, the conference will provide a forum for the research community in the Gulf of Mexico (nationally and internationally, funded through the GoMRI program as well as other federal and non-federal support) to share their latest scientific results to: bring greater context and integration to ongoing research; share scientific information with state and federal agencies and other stakeholders to initiate dialogue about how research will impact processes for policy, conservation, and management; and enhance public understanding of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. The conference will also highlight student research. Abstract submission and registration is now open. <http://www.gulfresearchinitiative.org/news-and-events/gulf-of-mexico-oil-spill-ecosystem-science-conference/>

Presenters sought for Bays and Bayous Symposium

The program committee for the 2012 Mississippi-Alabama [Bays and Bayous Symposium](#) is seeking presenters for oral presentations and poster presentations. The symposium will be held 14-15 November at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in Biloxi, Mississippi. Scientists, natural-resource managers, students, business people, educators, outreach specials and individuals from non-governmental organizations are invited to submit a presentation abstract related to the following session topics: climate and hazard resilience, Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill science, habitat management and restoration, living estuarine resources, and water quality and quantity. Individuals wishing to present are invited to submit a proposal abstract no later than 1 September 2012. Please see the Guidelines for Abstracts and Guidelines for Abstract Submission [here](#).

11th Symposium on the Coastal Environment as part of 2013 AMS Annual Meeting

The 11th Symposium on the Coastal Environment, sponsored by the American Meteorological Society, and organized by the AMS Committee on the Coastal Environment, will be held 6-10 January 2013, as part of the 93rd AMS Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas. Preliminary programs, registration, hotel, and general information will be posted on the AMS Web site (<http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/annual/>) in late-September 2012. The symposium organizers are soliciting papers on advances in predicting coastal conditions, encompassing meteorology, oceanography and hydrology. Abstracts are due on 1 August. Dr. Rich Signell of the USGS will present a session titled "Regional Coastal Ocean (EEZ) Circulation (& Related) Models Running in Real-Time in Academia and Industry"

NOAA reports the uncertainty in predicting this year's GOM dead zone

A team of NOAA-supported scientists is predicting that this year's [Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone](#) could range from a low of approximately 1,197 square miles to as much as 6,213 square miles. The wide range is the result of using two different forecast models. The forecast is based on Mississippi River nutrient inputs compiled annually by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The actual size of the 2012 hypoxic zone will be released following a NOAA-supported monitoring survey led by the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium between July 27 and August 3. Collecting these data is an annual requirement of the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force Action Plan. Additional NOAA-supported surveys led by the National Marine Fisheries Service and Texas A&M University will also provide an indication of the progression of the dead zone during the year.

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2012/20120621_deadzone.html

C2ES Releases Report on Climate Impacts and Adaptation in the Gulf

A new report from the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES), [Impacts and Adaptation Options in](#)

[the Gulf Coast](#), examines the risks that climate change poses to the region's energy and fishing industries, as well as to residents and local governments. The convergence of several geographical characteristics—an unusually flat terrain both offshore and inland, ongoing land subsidence, dwindling wetlands, and fewer barrier islands than along other coasts—make the Gulf Coast region especially vulnerable to climate change. The report's lead author is Hal Needham, a researcher at Louisiana State University's Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP) and an expert on hurricane storm surges in the Gulf Coast. The co-authors are David Brown, an assistant professor in LSU's Department of Geography and Anthropology, and Lynne Carter, associate director of SCIPP. The full report is available [here](#). For more information, see the C2ES [press release](#) or visit: <http://www.c2es.org/>.

IOOS/NATIONAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

NOAA Commissions High-Tech Coastal Mapping Ship (*from NOS*)

On June 8, NOAA commissioned the *Ferdinand R. Hassler*, a state-of-the-art coastal mapping vessel to detect and monitor changes to the sea floor. Data collected by the ship will be used to update nautical charts, detect potential hazards to navigation, and further enhance our understanding of the ever-changing marine environment. *Ferdinand R. Hassler* will operate mainly along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, Caribbean Sea, and Great Lakes in support of the NOAA Office of Coast Survey's mission. The vessel will measure water depths along U.S. coasts, acquiring the data necessary to produce navigational charts that help to position America for the next century of maritime economic growth. *Hassler* will also join the fleet of NOAA vessels that search for underwater dangers to navigation after hurricanes and other emergencies.

<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/weeklynews/june12/hassler.html>

New Analysis Shows only Eight Percent of U.S. Marine Waters are Protected (*from NOS*)

A recent analysis of updated data shows that eight percent of our U.S. marine waters are currently designated as marine protected areas (MPAs). The majority of these areas are open to fishing and other activities. U.S. sites are catalogued in the recently updated [MPA Inventory](#). Developed with extensive input from state and federal MPA programs and drawn from other publically available data, the MPA inventory contains information on more than 1,700 sites and is the only such comprehensive dataset in the nation. Information in the inventory is current as of March 2012. Data in the updated MPA Inventory can be viewed online through an [interactive MPA mapping tool](#).

Transportation Bill Conference Report, Agreement Reached

On 28 June, the House and Senate Conference Committee, charged with reconciling the differences between the two chambers' versions of the *Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2012* (H.R. 4348), reached an agreement and released the final [Conference Report](#). The Conference Report includes a version of the "RESTORE Act," calling for the use of 80 percent of the Clean Water Act penalties from the Gulf oil spill to establish a trust account to restore the economic and environmental health of the Gulf Coast.

2012 Fall American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting announces Session IN035

Session IN035: Near Real Time Data Uses for Earth Science and Space Weather Applications: Near real time data from satellite, airborne, and surface sensors are transforming existing end-user applications and spawning new ones. These applications demonstrate the utility of timely data in diverse Earth and space science disciplines including weather prediction, geologic hazards, wildfires, flooding, invasive species, agriculture, homeland security, oceanic and space weather applications. In addition to traditional computer analyses, the use of apps for smartphones and tablet computers presents an opportunity to improve and expand the timely usage of data products and services. This session seeks contributions that demonstrate the benefit of near real time data and identify gaps in current capabilities. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 8 August 2012.

<http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2012/>

NOAA Coastal Services Center: Social Coast Webinar

At 2:00 pm EST on July 11th, the NOAA Coastal Services Center will host *The Social Coast - Social Science, Simply Explained and Applied*, a webinar to provide a guided tour of the Social Coast website and share real-world success stories on using demographic and economic data in coastal management. To register, see the Digital Coast Webinar Series [website](#).

Ocean Frontiers Premiere in Washington, DC - July 26th

Green Fire Productions, the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, Coastal States Organization, Gulf of Mexico Alliance, and the American Association of Port Authorities invite you to the Washington, DC, premiere of the film *Ocean Frontiers*. The screening will be held from 6:00-9:00pm on 26 July at the Carnegie Institution for Science (1530 P Street, NW). The event is free and open to the public, but RSVPs are requested [here](#). For more information contact Karen Meyer, Executive Director, Green Fire Productions at karen@greenfireproductions.org or (503) 709-5467.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

ROSES-12 Amendment 9: Final text for Appendix A. 29, Airborne Instrument Technology Transition

AITT seeks to upgrade mature instruments developed under NASA's Instrument Incubator Program, or by similar NASA programs or activities, for operation from various platforms supported by the Airborne Science Program. This opportunity provides for engineering activities leading to the integration of instruments to airborne platforms that will deploy them as part of organized airborne science campaigns which typically involve multiple instruments and/or platforms. The goal is to upgrade existing operating instruments to campaign-ready airborne configuration(s). No funding is available for research and development of new instrumentation. Proposals submitted to this announcement shall support the objectives of one or more of the Earth science Focus Areas. Examples of previous field campaigns can be found at the Airborne Science Website. In late June this Amendment to the NASA Research Announcement Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES) 2012 (NNH12ZDA001N) will be posted on the NASA research opportunity home page at <http://nspires.nasaprs.com/> and will appear on the RSS feed at: <http://nasascience.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/grant-solicitations/roses-2012> .

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

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](#)", 9-12 July 2012, Cairns, Australia.
<http://www.icrs2012.com>

The Social Coast – Social Science, Simply Explained and Applied, NOAA Webinar. 11 July 2012.
To register, see the [Digital Coast Webinar Series website](#).

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

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

August

"[Oceans in Action 2012: Marine Technology Advances in the Wake of Deepwater Horizon](#)", 13-14 August 2012, IP Resort, Biloxi, MS
<https://www.mtsociety.org/conferences/Oceansinaction2012.aspx>

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"](#) 20-24 October 2012, Tampa, FL.

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

["OCEANS '12 MTS/IEEE"](#) 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.

["Bays and Bayous Symposium"](#) 14-15 November 2012, Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, Biloxi, MS

<http://masgc.org/page.asp?id=717>

December

2012 American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, 3-7 December 2012, San Francisco, CA.

<http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2012/>

2013

January

American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting, 6-10 January 2013, Austin, TX.

<http://annual.ametsoc.org/2013/?CFID=420872&CFTOKEN=99740603>

["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>

["Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science Conference"](#), 21-23 January 2012, New Orleans Marriott Hotel, New Orleans, LA.

<http://www.gulfresearchinitiative.org/news-and-events/gulf-of-mexico-oil-spill-ecosystem-science-conference/>



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).