



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 27 JULY 2012

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Research Board Welcomes New Member

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) Research Board is pleased to welcome its newest member, Dr. Richard "Rick" Shaw. The Associate Dean of the School of the Coast and Environment and a professor in the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences at Louisiana State University (LSU), Shaw was nominated by the state of Louisiana and appointed by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to fill a vacant seat on the Research Board. Shaw has held a number of administrative positions at LSU, including 18 years as the Director of LSU's Coastal Fisheries Institute. Since joining LSU in 1981, Shaw has served as the University's representative to the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, the National Research Council's Assessment of Research Doctoral Programs, Louisiana's Coastal Sustainability Consortium, Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Artificial Reef Council. Recently, he was one of four members of LSU's Oil Spill Steering Committee; a group that oversaw the review and disbursement of \$10 million in BP research funds awarded to LSU shortly after the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

<http://gulfresearchinitiative.org/2012/gulf-of-mexico-research-initiative-research-board-welcomes-new-member/>

Gulf of Mexico Active in the Month of June

Several Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative consortia began their [cruise programs](#) in the Gulf of Mexico this June. The Deep- C consortium was able to complete its ecology cruise but had to postpone a geomorphology cruise due to Tropical Storm (TS) Debby. C-IMAGE and ECOGIG cruises were also interrupted by TS Debby. TS Debby did not affect the GISR cruise mission of deploying moorings that will serve as a platform for a variety of sensors and collecting samples to test for the presence of hydrocarbons. LUMCON began their "Marsh Madness" program, sampling sediments in both oiled and non-oiled sites in Louisiana's Terrebonne and Barataria Bays. CARTHE collected core samples and water samples along the continental shelf and at sites east of the spill site.

<http://gulfresearchinitiative.org/2012/gomri-at-sea-june-is-a-busy-and-challenging-month-for-research-cruises/>

GCOOS-RA Members to Make Presentations at the MTS/IEEE Oceans Conference

Members of the GCOOS-RA will make presentations at the [MTS/IEEE Oceans Conference](#) in Hampton Roads, VA, in October. M.K. Howard, R.L. Crout and R.F. Toll, Jr. will present "U.S. IOOS Program Office Quality Assurance of Real-Time Ocean Data Project". C. Simoniello, S. Walker, S. Kobara, M.K. Howard, R. Mullins-Perry, A. Jochens and L. Adams will present "Making Sense of Ocean Sensing: Translating Ocean Science Data for Diverse Stakeholders." R.L. Mullins-Perry, A. Jochens, C. Simoniello and S. Wolfe will present "From Rivers to the Coastal Ocean: A Model for Integrating Observing Systems of the West Florida Shelf". Ann Jochens, M.K. Howard, C. Hu, G. Kirkpatrick, C. Lembke, R. Weisberg, B. Kirkpatrick, A. Corcoran, J. Ivey, L. Campbell, C. Simoniello, R. Mullins-Perry and S. Wolfe's presentation is titled "Integrating Observing Systems to Benefit Stakeholders: A Case Study in the Gulf of Mexico". Early Bird registration for the conference and tutorials is open until 31 August. For more information on important dates please click [here](#).

<http://www.oceans12mtsieehamptonroads.org/index.cfm>

June 2012 Gulf of Mexico News Available on-line

The June 2012 edition of the Gulf of Mexico News is now available on-line. Along with stories on NOAA Gulf of Mexico News, this edition includes stories from the Gulf States, sources of information for the Gulf of Mexico region and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives for the Gulf of Mexico region.

<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/news/gomexnews.html>

Obama Administration Announces 20 Million Acre Oil and Gas Lease Sale Offshore Texas

As part of President Obama's all-of-the-above energy strategy to expand safe and responsible domestic energy production, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Director Tommy P. Beaudreau announced that BOEM will offer more than 20 million acres offshore Texas for oil and gas exploration and development in a lease sale that will include all available unleased areas in the Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area. Proposed Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 229, scheduled to take place in New Orleans on 28 November 2012, will be the first offshore sale under the Administration's new Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2012-2017 (Five Year Program). Announced last month, the Five Year Program makes more than 75% of recoverable energy resources in our oceans available for exploration and development, consistent with President Obama's commitment to continue to expand domestic energy production and reduce America's dependence on foreign oil.

<http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/obama-administration-announces-20-million-acre-oil-and-gas-lease-sale-offshore-texas>

IOOS/NATIONAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Ocean Acidification Program Comment Period Open

The Federal Register Notice notifying the public of an open comment period for the US OA Strategic Research Plan was recently posted. The Draft Research Plan presents a vision for how to move Federal agencies toward a better understanding of the process of ocean acidification, its effects on marine ecosystems, and the steps that could be taken to adapt marine resource management to account for it. The comment period is open until 10 September 2012. Should you wish to review or comment on the Research Plan, details can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/07/11/2012-16919/strategic-plan-for-federal-research-and-monitoring-of-ocean-acidification>.

EBM Tools Presentation: Esri's Emerging Natural and Ocean Sciences Agenda

The [Ecosystem-Based Management \(EBM\) Tools Network](#) will host a presentation on Esri's emerging natural and ocean sciences agenda by Dawn Wright, Esri's Chief Scientist, on 2 August at 2:00 pm EDT/11:00 am PDT/6:00 pm GMT. The presentation will highlight Esri's recently launched major ocean GIS initiative and projects in progress, including a new ocean basemap, a new ocean geodesign platform for coastal and marine spatial planning, and developing contributions to Conservation International's Ocean Health Index project. Visit the Esri [website](#) to learn more.

<http://www.ebmtools.org/>

<http://events.esri.com/uc/QandA/index.cfm?fuseaction=answer&conferecld=DD02CFE7-1422-2418-7F271831F47A7A31&questionID=3874>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

TNC RFP: Advancing Marine Stewardship in Federal Agencies

The Nature Conservancy is seeking proposals to research implementation of marine stewardship principles in federal agencies. The purpose of this project is to identify how marine stewardship principles can be utilized and leveraged via federal agency mechanisms (e.g. NEPA review, Secretarial Orders, agency rules, legal interpretation, guidance, directives, agency legal opinions, etc.) to advance better and more integrated ocean management. Please contact Will Murtha (wmurtha@tnc.org) for a more detailed description of the Request for Proposals (RFP). The deadline for response is 31 July.

Call for Proposals: The Ocean Project's Small Grant Program

The third round of The Ocean Project's Small Grant Program RFP is now open. This year, \$63,000 in funding is available to partner zoos, aquariums, and museums for demonstration projects that best integrate and test The Ocean Project's market research findings. Successful projects would clearly enhance meaningful participation in conservation action by youth and/or minorities. The deadline to apply is 1 September 2012.

http://theoceanproject.org/communication-resources/market-research/request-for-proposals/?utm_source=Small+grants+annc&utm_campaign=call+for+proposals&utm_medium=email

Oceanic Research Group Scholarship Program

Oceanic Research Group, Inc. is offering a scholarship for students pursuing marine-related undergraduate or graduate studies. Oceanic Research Group is a volunteer, 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, environmental organization based in Massachusetts. Its mission is to promote the conservation of the marine environment through education. The scholarship is open to undergraduate students entering the junior or senior year or graduate students with an overall GPA of at least 3.0/4.0 and demonstrated financial need. Students must be United States citizens and enrolled or accepted in an accredited United States college or university beginning with the 2012 fall term. The 2012 application is now available to [download](#). The application deadline is October 1, 2012. We prefer electronic submission.

<http://www.oceanicresearch.org/scholarship/scholarship.htm>

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

July

["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](http://ncseonline.org/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](http://www.gulfresearchinitiative.org/news-and-events/gulf-of-mexico-oil-spill-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/>

EMPLOYMENT

Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) seeks OPS Program Consultant

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) seeks an OPS Program Consultant. This 6-month position will be funded through an FDEP contract with the University of Miami Center for Computational Sciences, but will report to the GOMA Water Quality Team Chair to establish priorities, address issues, and ensure task completion. Qualified applicants should have a background and experience in natural sciences, GIS, and database development. This position is responsible for managing and facilitating population of the GOMA Catalog of Monitoring Programs. For more information, contact Kate Muldoon at 1-850-245-8579 or Kathryn.muldoon@dep.state.fl.us.



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).