



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 24 AUGUST 2012

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

Community White Papers Selected for IOOS Summit

More than 100 Community White Papers were submitted (see <http://www.iooc.us/summit/white-paper-guidelines/community-white-paper-submissions/>) in preparation for the 2012 IOOS Summit, to be hosted by the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee (IOOC) 13-16 November at the Hyatt Dulles, VA. From these, approximately 30 primary authors were invited to participate in the Summit, which will include participation from 200 representatives cross-sectioning the diverse and expansive ocean observing community. The IOOC is coordinating the effort to bring together ocean observing stakeholders at the regional, national, and global levels to address the following challenges and shape the next 10 years of IOOS: 1) Enhance the integration and delivery of information to save lives, enhance the economy and protect the environment; 2) Disseminate seamless information across regional and national boundaries; and 3) Harness technological innovations for new opportunities. Approximately one third of the papers selected to provide expert guidance and future implementation of IOOS include authors from the GCOOS region. Among these are papers focused on Harmful Algal Bloom sensor development, animal telemetry, observations to quantify air-sea fluxes, satellite remote sensing in support of IOOS, establishing a national glider network, creating education and outreach opportunities, and defining the role of fixed platforms in an integrated and interdisciplinary ocean observing system. For more information about the IOOS Summit, please contact IOOC Program Manager Josh Young at jyoung@oceanleadership.org.

BP-Sponsored Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Awards New Grants

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative, or GoMRI, announced that it has approved funding for 19 grants that will support studies of the effects of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill on the Gulf of Mexico. Roughly \$20 million will be awarded to these researchers over the next three years. The research proposals being funded were submitted in response to the GoMRI's RFP-II initiative. For more information on these awards, please see: <http://gulfresearchinitiative.org/2012/bp-sponsored-gulf-of-mexico-research-initiative-awards-new-grants/>

Shell Oil Launches Glider in the Gulf of Mexico (from Z-Gram)

On 30 July, Shell Oil achieved a successful launch of an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle or *Seaglider*. The glider was launched approximately 15 miles east of Shell's Auger platform. The sensors on board the glider measure temperature, conductivity, salinity, dissolved oxygen and dissolved organic matter. The glider is expected to be out to sea through November. Data can be found at: http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=48911

Bays and Bayous Symposium 2012

The deadline for abstracts for the 2012 Mississippi-Alabama Bays and Bayous Symposium to be held 14-15 November in Biloxi, MS, is 1 September 2012. Abstracts should be sent to abstracts@masgc.org. There is a \$50 registration fee. The theme of the symposium is "Finding a Common Currency: National Resource Economics, Ecology and Culture." There will be five sessions: climate and hazard resilience, Deepwater *Horizon* Oil Spill science, habitat management and restoration, living estuarine resources, and water quality and quantity. If you have difficulty identifying an appropriate session for your presentation, contact a program committee chair (Chris Boyd at cboyd@ext.msstate.edu or Bill Walton at billwalton@auburn.edu) for assistance.

To learn more about the symposium, visit <http://masgc.org/bb2012>. For details about formatting your abstract, see <http://masgc.org/page.asp?id=776>. The Bays and Bayous Symposium is sponsored by the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, NOAA Coastal Services Center, University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Lab, EPA Gulf of Mexico Program, Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Alabama State Port Authority, Ocean Conservancy and Volkert and Associates, Inc.

Registration Open for Metocean Awareness Courses in Houston

The Society for Underwater Technology has announced the dates for the next Houston METOCEAN Awareness courses organized by the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology. Scheduled to take place from 10-12 October in Houston, TX, the course is aimed at those who require a greater understanding of metocean conditions worldwide and how they might impact the effectiveness of their work.

For all offshore industries, the effects of meteorology and oceanography (metocean) have a major impact on design and operations. Delegates will learn why metocean is important to the offshore industry and learn how to engage better with stakeholders on metocean matters. This transfer of knowledge is essential as the crew change in staff across the industry continues to gather momentum despite the recent economic downturn. Space is limited so we urge you to register soon at www.SUTHouston.com. IMarEST & SUT members can save up to \$400.00 on registration fees. For more information, call 832-875-3463 or Email sutadmin@SUTHouston.com.

IOOS/NATIONAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

NOAA Provides easy access to Historical Hurricane Tracks *(from NOAA News)*

Visualizing the location and frequency where hurricanes have hit is a powerful way to emphasize hurricane preparedness messages. A NOAA website, Historical Hurricane Tracks, lets users insert their zip code and see a map that contains more than 150 years of Atlantic hurricane tracking data. The site also contains global hurricane data from as far back as 1842. The Historical Hurricane Tracks website, <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/hurricanes>, includes tropical cyclone data and information on coastal county hurricane strike data through 2011 while also providing links to detailed reports on the life history and effects of U.S. tropical cyclones since 1958. In addition to the tracks of storms, the site provides insight to the increasing number of U.S. citizens and infrastructure at risk for hurricanes, detailing population changes for U.S. coastal counties from 1900 to 2000. As the population continues to grow, so too has the number of storms with multi-billion dollars in damages to coastal infrastructure and property.

NOAA names Gerd Glang Nation's Hydrographer, Director of Coast Survey *(from NOAA News)*

Gerd Glang was appointed Director of the [NOAA Office of Coast Survey](#) and the nation's chief hydrographer, responsible for mapping and charting all United States coastal waters. Glang responsibilities include overseeing NOAA's hydrographic services, vital to the nation's \$1.9 trillion maritime economy and supporting President Obama's National Export Initiative. Glang has extensive experience in the hydrographic surveying and seafloor mapping sciences that are the foundation of Coast Survey's primary mission. Most recently, Glang served as NOAA Ship *Ronald H. Brown* Commanding Officer during an 18-month sea tour focused on mapping the ocean in support of tsunami modeling and conducting deep water coral studies. Glang is a recipient of the Department of Commerce Silver Medal and the Coast Guard Commendation Medal. He graduated in 1984 from the State University of New York Maritime College with a bachelor's degree in engineering. He also received a graduate certificate in ocean mapping from the University of New Hampshire Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, and is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School Senior Executive Fellows program.

New Director for NOAA Corps and Office of Marine and Aviation Operations Appointed *(from NOAA News)*

Acting Secretary of Commerce Rebecca M. Blank appointed NOAA Rear Adm. Michael S. Devany Director of the [NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps](#) and the [NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations](#).

Devany will be responsible for the agency's fleet of research and survey ships and aircraft, as well as guiding the 311 uniformed officers and about 1,000 civilian personnel assigned to the NOAA Corps and the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. A NOAA Corps officer since 1990, Devany has more than 20 years of experience in environmental restoration, response, compliance, and data acquisition in the marine environment. He also has extensive experience in collaborating with the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, the Environmental Protection Agency, and coastal states in planning and response to oil spills and releases of

hazardous materials. Devany has been recognized on numerous occasions for his outstanding service, receiving multiple NOAA special achievement awards and NOAA Corps commendation medals. While serving in the U.S. Navy, he was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in the Persian Gulf. Devany holds a master's degree in public health from the University of South Florida and a bachelor of science degree in biology from the University of Washington. He is a NOAA working diver, and holds a U.S. Coast Guard 1,600-ton masters license for ocean vessels.

C-CAP Land Cover Atlas

This online data viewer provides user-friendly access to regional land cover and land cover change information developed through NOAA's [Coastal Change Analysis Program \(C-CAP\)](#). The Land Cover Atlas eliminates the need for desktop geographic information system software, or advanced technical expertise, by processing C-CAP data for the user and providing easy access to that distilled information. The tool summarizes general change trends (such as forest losses or new development) and can highlight specific changes of interest (salt marsh losses to open water, or evergreen forest losses to development, for instance). A geographic information system (GIS) data visualization application such as ArcGIS Explorer is not necessary to view the land cover information, but is needed to download shapefiles.

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/lca>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Ocean Acidification Funding Available

The National Science Foundation has solicited proposals for research on Ocean Acidification. Submit full proposals via FastLane on the grants.gov website. For this award, NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide, Part I: Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) Guidelines apply. The complete text of the GPG is available electronically on the NSF website at: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg.

A guide for the preparation and submission applications is available on the grants.gov website and also on the NSF website at http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=grantsgovguide. The full proposal deadline is 4 December 2012.

US Weather Research Program Joint Hurricane Testbed (JHT) Proposals

NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) published a Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) soliciting Letters of Intent under the U.S. Weather Research Program, as administered by the USWRP Joint Hurricane Testbed (JHT). OAR is looking for researchers to submit proposals to test and evaluate, and modify, in a quasi-operational environment, their own scientific and technological research applications. Projects satisfying metrics for success and operational constraints may be selected for operational implementation by the operational center(s) after the completion of the JHT-funded work. The period of the award is from one to two years. The closing date for applications is 7 December 2012. For the full announcement, please visit <http://grants.gov>. The announcement number is NOAA-OAR-OWAQ-2013-2003469. If you have difficulty accessing the full announcement electronically, please contact: Dr. Jiann-Gwo Jiing, Director, Joint Hurricane Testbed, Tropical Prediction Center, 11691 SW. 17th St., Miami, FL 33165. Office Tel.: [305-229-4443](tel:305-229-4443). E-mail: jiann-gwo.jiing@noaa.gov.

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

September

[“GCOOS-RA Board of Directors Meeting”](#) 26-28 September 2012, Corpus Christi, TX.
http://gcoos.tamu.edu/meetingreports/2012_Sep/meeting.html

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.oceans12mstsiieehamptonroads.org/>

November

"[2012 Biennial Gulf Estuarine Research Society Meeting](#)", 8-9 November 2012, The Dauphin Island Sea Labs, Dauphin Island, Alabama
<http://www.gers.us/GERS2012meeting.html>

"[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).