



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 7 SEPTEMBER 2012

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

Report on the March 2012 GCOOS Annual Meeting of the Parties and Board of Directors Available Online

The report from the 7th Annual Meeting of the Parties to the GCOOS Regional Association Memorandum of Agreement, held in conjunction with the 14th Meeting of the GCOOS-RA Board of Directors, is now available on the GCOOS website at http://gcoos.tamu.edu/meetingreports/2012_Mar/meeting.html. Held 14-15 March 2012 at the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies (IMMS) in Gulfport, MS, highlights included active engagement of the Board with regional federal partners from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to identify and pursue common activities. The GCOOS-RA Board of Directors and Staff are greatly appreciative of the warm welcome and evening social hosted by the gracious IMMS staff, including Dr. Moby Solangi, President and Executive Director, Dr. Sharon Walker, GCOOS Board member and IMMS Director of Education and Outreach Programs, Ms. Samia Ahmad, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Institute, and Ms. Johnnette Bosarge, Administrative Assistant for the Institute. The 15th Meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for 26-28 September 2012 at the Harte Research Institute, Corpus Christi, TX.

GCOOS Members complete second GOM summer hypoxia survey cruise

Researchers and graduate students from Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University-Galveston, and University of Texas Marine Science Institute recently completed a survey cruise covering more than 1,200 miles from Texas to Louisiana. The team found no hypoxia off the Texas coast, but did find hypoxia near the Mississippi River delta on the Louisiana coast. The most severe hypoxia levels were found near Terrabonne Bay and Barataria Bay off the southeast Louisiana coast. Dr. Steve DiMarco stated "in all, we found about 1,580 square miles of hypoxia compared to about 3,400 square miles in August 2011". He attributes the low summer area to the drought, which caused very little freshwater runoff and nutrient loading to the GOM coast. These findings confirm similar small area measured during their cruise in June and also generally agree with findings conducted during the midsummer cruise estimate published by GCOOS members at Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium. This survey effort is funding by NOAA's Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research. To read more about the summer surveys, please visit hypoxia.tamu.edu.

GOMA Announces Inaugural Business Council

In response to large economic indicators, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) is pleased to announce the inaugural members of the newly-formed GOMA Business Advisory Council. The Gulf Coast region's economy is highly intertwined with its natural resource base, including oil and gas deposits, commercial and recreational fisheries, and waterways for ports and waterborne commerce. In fact, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the five states of the Gulf of Mexico Coast Region was almost 2.4 trillion dollars in 2009, representing 17% of the nation's GDP (Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2011). The purpose of the GOMA Business Advisory Council is to ensure industry-sector participation and advisement in regional environmental initiatives. The Council will provide a fundamental connection between policy and applied management decisions.

IOOS/NATIONAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

EBM Tools Demonstration: Habitat Climate Change Vulnerability Index

On 25 September 25th, the EBM Tools Network will host a demonstration of the Habitat Climate Change Vulnerability Index by Pat Comer of NatureServe at 1:00 p.m. Eastern/10:00 a.m. Pacific. The Habitat Climate Change Vulnerability Index (HCCVI) documents series of indicators of vulnerability to climate change. NatureServe recently piloted the HCCVI with major ecosystem types in the Mojave and Sonoran deserts, and applied results in a workshop with regional specialists to identify appropriate strategies for climate adaptation. Register for the webinar at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/998022600>.

New NOAA awards to fund studies of weather warnings, social media, Internet tools and public response

How do people sift important weather information out of the incessant buzz of 24/7 social media, text messages, smart phone app alerts, overflowing email inboxes, the blogosphere, and traditional print and broadcast media? Four new research awards funded by NOAA seek to answer this question and to improve the way potentially life-saving weather warnings reach those who need to act on them.

The awards, totaling about \$879,000 for four, two-year projects, are being awarded by the [Office of Weather and Air Quality](#) in the [NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research](#) with funding from the [U.S. Weather Research Program](#) and the [NOAA National Weather Service](#) (NWS).

BOEM Authorizes the Use of OCS Sand for Louisiana Coastal Restoration Projects

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced that it executed an agreement to use more than 10 million cubic yards of sand from the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) for coastal restoration projects in Cameron and Lafourche parishes. BOEM signed two separate negotiated noncompetitive leases with the state of Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority for the projects earlier this month. One of these projects, the Cameron Parish Shoreline Restoration Project, will restore more than eight miles of beach and dune habitat extending from the town of Holly Beach east to Calcasieu Pass. The Caminada Headland Shoreline Restoration Project, located in Lafourche Parish, will restore 280 acres of beach and dune habitat using up to 5.2 million cubic yards of OCS sand from Ship Shoal, located approximately 10 miles offshore of Terrebonne Parish and 27 miles from the project site. The project will protect the important interior wetlands within the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary and the significant offshore energy production and support infrastructure at Port Fourchon. <http://www.boem.gov/BOEM-Newsroom/Press-Releases/2012/Press08202012.aspx>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NSF Coastal Seas Initiative solicitation

The NSF Coastal Seas Initiative solicitation has been released, and proposals are due in January 2013. There are two tracks for proposals from inter/trans-disciplinary teams: Track 1: Incubator Research Proposals. These proposals bring new or emerging inter/trans-disciplinary teams together to develop ideas and approaches. Incubator proposals should be in the range of \$200-600K over 2 years. Track 2: Research Proposals. These proposals support inter/trans-disciplinary teams to conduct major new integrated coastal systems research. These may include theoretical, field, laboratory and/or modeling activities. Research proposal budgets can be up to \$3 million over 5 years. Please see the link below for more information: <http://nsf.gov/pubs/2012/nsf12594/nsf12594.htm>

FY13 Community-based Marine Debris Removal FFO Announcement

Through NOAA's Marine Debris Program, the NOAA Restoration Center administers the Community-based Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Grants Program. This funding supports locally driven, community-based marine debris prevention and removal projects that benefit coastal habitat, waterways, and wildlife. The FY13 Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) is now available at: http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/pdf/ffo_marine_debris.pdf. Proposals can be submitted online at www.grants.gov (Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NMFS-HCPO-2013-2003477).

Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Education Regional Grants -- Solicitation Notice for 2012 Grant

The purpose of the Environmental Education (EE) Regional Grant Program is to increase public awareness and knowledge about environmental issues and provide the skills that participants in its funded projects need to make informed environmental decisions and take responsible actions toward the environment Applications

must be postmarked by November 21, 2012, 11:59 pm local time or submitted electronically via www.grants.gov by November 21, 2012, 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time (EST) in order to be considered for funding. See Section IV(D) for more details about the deadline.
<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppld=195033>

EMPLOYMENT

West Coast Governors Alliance seeks a Project Coordinator

The RFP can be accessed on the State of California Department of General Service's website at:
<http://www.bidsync.com/DPX?ac=view&auc=1927016>.

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.oceans12mtsieeehamptonroads.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”](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.



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).