



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

### GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 21 SEPTEMBER 2012

#### GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

##### **NOAA Gulf Sentinel Site Management Team Drafts Implementation Plan**

NOAA has initiated a Sentinel Site Program (SSP), starting with five cooperatives, to engage a continuum of NOAA capabilities to address local impacts of sea level change and inundation. The initial five cooperatives are in the following areas: Chesapeake Bay, Hawaii, North Carolina, San Francisco, and the Gulf of Mexico. Led by Dr. David Kidwell, Program Manager of the Ecological Effects of Sea Level Rise and Hypoxia Programs in NOAA's Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research, the Gulf Sentinel Site Management Team met on 12 September 2012 in Mobile, AL, to begin drafting an implementation plan that is anticipated to be completed by the end of September. Included in the plan will be a preliminary set of priority needs related to sea level rise science and adaptation that will ideally attract additional NOAA assets and capabilities to the region, and facilitate improved coordination among the many partner agencies and entities. The GCOOS-RA was invited to participate. Stephen Sempier, interim Chair of the Products and Services Advisory Council, and Dr. Chris Simoniello, Education and Outreach Coordinator, participated in the discussions focused on stakeholder needs. The goal of the SSP is to utilize existing assets, programs, and resources in a place-based, issue-driven approach to address priorities that affect NOAA Trust Resources and the surrounding communities. The initial effort is focused on leveraging the investments in National Marine Sanctuaries, National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRS), and Integrated Ocean Observing Systems. In the Gulf of Mexico Cooperative, early integration efforts include information served from the GCOOS Data Portal and from the NERRS System-Wide Monitoring Programs in the Apalachicola, Weeks Bay, and Grand Bay NERRS. Please contact Dr. David Kidwell at david.kidwell@noaa.gov for more information.

##### **GCOOS' Matthew K. Howard Participates in DMAC Workshop in Silver Springs, MD**

Dr. Matthew K. Howard (GCOOS) represented the GCOOS Data Management and Communications (DMAC) team at the U.S. IOOS Regional Data Management Workshop held 11-13 September 2012 at the U.S. IOOS Program Office in Silver Spring, MD. The DMAC leads from 11 Regional Associations (RAs) met together with representatives from IOOS, NODC, NGDC, CO-OPS, and USACOE. The purpose of the workshop was to review the current state of IOOS RA DMAC development, to discuss emerging technologies and upcoming requirements and to plan cooperative activities for the coming year. RA representatives gave a brief presentation on current RA DMAC activities, successes and challenges. System maintenance and product generation were frequently mentioned as challenges which may indicate regional systems are reaching similar mature states. Charly Alexander (IOOS) gave updates on the recent activities of the Ocean Observatories Initiative Cyberinfrastructure group and the IOOC DMAC Steering Team and Carl Gouldman (IOOS) talked about the rapidly approaching IOOS Summit. Dave Neufeld (NGDC) discussed the IOOS Service Registry and demonstrated an instance of the ESRI GeoPortal. Regions are asked to register their SOS and THREDDS endpoints with Dave. Derrick Snowden (IOOS) and Shane StClair (AOOS) discussed the development of the new 52North SOS service. Shane announced the first release was ready for early adopters to try which includes GCOOS. Kyle Wilcox (MARCOOS) discussed lessons learned from the SURA Testbed. Most of these involve the THREDDS Data Server (TDS). Steve Rutz and Ken Casey (both NODC), and Ted Habermann (NGDC) talked about the new netCDF feature templates for observed data types. These templates have the potential to greatly streamline data interchange. There was a team discussion on the vocabulary work most recently advanced by Sara Haines (SECOORA). The recommendation is that the RAs use the IOOS Parameter Vocabulary V2.0 in their web service offerings. Hassan Moustahfid (IOOS) discussed the IOOS Biological Project including the two

activities involving SECOORA and GCOOS and fisheries data and ERDDAP servers. Steven Li (CeNCOOS) discussed the pros and cons of putting elements of DMAC into the Cloud. One clear advantage is no upfront hardware costs — a big benefit for groups just starting out. Cloud storage costs are still quite high however so one wouldn't host archives there. The last day included a discussion on the U.S. IOOS QARTOD Program and its relation to the upcoming IOOS Certification requirements. Dissolved Oxygen was the first parameter considered. Waves and currents are likely to follow quickly. Quality tests will have to be performed and flags assigned to meet certification requirements. Rob Bochenek (AOOS) demonstrated an Ocean Workspace software project for collaborative science. The formal presentations concluded with an open discussion of the roles of RA DMAC which seem to fit in an increasingly narrow space between sub-regional providers and the Federal aggregation centers. The weather in Silver Spring was spectacular!

### **Positions available at Texas A&M University College of Geosciences**

Several positions are now available at Texas A&M University, College of Geosciences. These positions include faculty and professional staff positions. Among the faculty positions are [Geochemical and Environmental Research Group](#) Director and Professor in [Oceanography](#), Assistant Professor in chemical oceanography, Assistant Professor in hydrogeology, Assistant Professor in reflection seismology, Assistant Professor in rock mechanics/rheology/structure, Assistant Professor in sedimentology/stratigraphy, and Assistant Professor in weather analysis and forecasting. Professional staff positions include Assistant Research Scientist, Technical Team Lead, Ocean Observing Technician and two Glider Technicians. For faculty openings please see <http://geosciences.tamu.edu/job-listing/faculty-jobs>. For professional staff job descriptions and application instructions please see <http://geosciences.tamu.edu/job-listing/staff-positions>.

### **HRI Explores South Texas Continental Shelf in New Ship**

The Harte Research Institute (HRI) and TAMU – Corpus Christi will have an unprecedented opportunity to explore the south Texas continental shelf this fall. This opportunity was available by gratitude of Sylvia Earle, HRI Advisory Council Chair, and Tom Shirley, the former HRI endowed chair for Biodiversity and Conservation Science. This exploration will take place on the *R/V Falkor*, a newly retrofitted oceanographic research ship, provided by the Schmidt Ocean Institute. Established in March 2009, the Schmidt Ocean Institute seeks to advance ocean exploration, discovery, and knowledge, and catalyze sharing of information about the oceans. The Institute is devoted to the inspirational vision of our Founders that the advancement of technology and open sharing of information will remain crucial to expanding the understanding of the world's oceans.

### **Florida Keys Research Expedition Points to Success of Tortugas Ecological Reserve**

Scientists from the [Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary](#) and partner agencies recently completed a [nine-day research expedition](#) between Key West and the Dry Tortugas aboard the NOAA Ship *R/V Nancy Foster*. During the cruise, researchers mapped more than 266 miles of sea floor with multibeam sonar and recorded fish spawning behavior in the sanctuary's Tortugas Ecological Reserve. The mission further documented the return of a historic aggregation of spawning mutton snapper inside the reserve, which scientists attribute to the protection afforded by the reserve and changes to fishery regulations. Since the establishment of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve in 2001, the numbers of mutton snapper observed in the area of the reserve have slowly increased annually.

## **IOOS/NATIONAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS**

### **Advisory Committee Meeting Successful (*from the Z-Gram*)**

On 29-30 August, the newly established U.S. IOOS met for the first time. Dr. Sullivan kicked off the meeting by swearing in new members, and provided them with a charge from NOAA as the Lead Federal Agency for US IOOS. The IOOC Co-Chairs and IOOC Senior Agency Leadership spoke about the importance and challenges of implementing IOOS, and engaged in substantive discussion with the Committee. Rick Spinrad (Oregon State University) was elected Chair and Tom Gulbransen, (Battelle Memorial Institute) was elected as the Vice Chair. The Chair, the DFO, Zdenka Willis, and the Committee members all agreed the meeting was a great success and all left energized and ready to work. The Committee expects their next meeting to be in the Denver area in January 2013. All presentations and relevant post-meeting materials will be posted shortly on the IOOS website at: [http://www.ioos.gov/about/governance/ioos\\_advisory\\_committee.html](http://www.ioos.gov/about/governance/ioos_advisory_committee.html).

## **More than \$29 Million to Expand Refuge System, Conserve Wetlands**

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe today announced that the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has approved the investment of nearly \$11 million in revenue from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to add an estimated 10,640 wetland acres to seven units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The commission also approved \$18.4 million in federal funding to conserve more than 95,000 acres of wetlands and associated habitat in the United States under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). Two areas in Texas that will receive funding are San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge and Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge.

## **U.S. Seafood Landings Reach 17-year high in 2011**

U.S. seafood landings reached a 17-year high in 2011 thanks in part to rebuilding fish populations. , The value of landings also increased, according to a new report released today by NOAA. According to the report, [Fisheries of the United States 2011](#), U.S. commercial fishermen landed 10.1 billion pounds of fish and shellfish in 2011, valued at \$5.3 billion, an increase over 2010 of 1.9 billion pounds and more than \$784 million. Much of the increase is due to higher catches of Gulf menhaden, Alaska pollock, and Pacific hake, also known as whiting.

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **NORTEK Student Grants Announced**

NortekUSA is soliciting innovative proposals from graduate students for the 9th Annual NortekUSA equipment loan & travel fund grant. Students interested in measuring currents, turbulence or waves in the ocean, beach, estuary, lake, river or laboratory are encouraged to apply. Awards will include the requested equipment for a 3-month deployment, \$2,000 in travel funds to present project results at a national or international scientific conference and an invitation to attend the annual NortekUSA Technical Symposium to present scientific results from the project. Proposals should be format as a single PDF file and include student's CV and detailed three page description of intended research plan including scientific hypothesis, analysis methods, Nortek instrument requested, deployment time and location, and detailed plan indicating safe keeping and recovery of instrument. The proposal portion shall be no longer than 3 pages and the CV no longer than 3 pages (6 pages total maximum). The PDF filename should be format as: FirstLast\_UniversityName.pdf. Proposals and inquires should be directed to [inquiry@nortekusa.com](mailto:inquiry@nortekusa.com). All proposals are due by midnight 1 February 2013.

### **NOAA Announces \$4.5 Million in Environmental Literacy Grants to Support K-12 Science Education and Stewardship Projects**

NOAA announced today the results of its recent competitions for education grants to enhance science education activities in classrooms, aquariums, museums and other institutions across America. A total of \$4.5 million in grants from the [NOAA Office of Education](#)'s Environmental Literacy Grants Program will be awarded to support six unique, multi-year projects. Projects are designed to increase stewardship and informed decision-making within a diverse pool of educators, students and the public to help promote environmental literacy. The selected projects will partner with NOAA's research laboratories, National Marine Sanctuaries, Climate Program Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Weather Service, Pacific Services Center, Coral Reef Conservation Program and Sea Grant. These multi-year projects will focus on engaging formal and informal educators along with K-12 students. Project activities include formal K-12 educator training programs to help teachers incorporate NOAA data and other resources into experiential learning activities; service learning programs for K-12 students that combine standards-based learning with stewardship activities in students' local communities; and professional development to enhance informal science educators' effectiveness in increasing public understanding of complex ocean topics.

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

## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **AOOS Program Coordinator for Operations Development**

<http://www.aos.org/new-position-available-at-aos/>

### **Hydrographic Technician at NOAA in Silver Springs, MD**

<http://tbe.taleo.net/NA8/ats/careers/requisition.jsp?org=ERT&cws=1&rid=742>

## COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

### September

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

### October

"[Restore America's Estuaries 6<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration](http://www.estuaries.org/conference/)" 20-24 October 2012, Tampa, FL.  
<http://www.estuaries.org/conference/>

"[OCEANS '12 MTS/IEEE](http://www.oceans12mtsieehamptonroads.org/)" 15-19 October 2012, Hampton Roads, VA.  
<http://www.oceans12mtsieehamptonroads.org/>

### November

"[2012 Biennial Gulf Estuarine Research Society Meeting](http://www.gers.us/GERS2012meeting.html)", 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](http://www.iooc.us/summit/ioos-summit/)" 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/>

### March

"[Coastal GeoTools Conference](http://geotools.csc.noaa.gov/default.aspx)", 25-28 March 2013, Myrtle Beach, SC. Abstracts due 1 October 2012  
<http://geotools.csc.noaa.gov/default.aspx>



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)).