



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

### GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 2 NOVEMBER 2012

#### GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

##### **The GCOOS-RA Extends Concern to Friends and Colleagues Impacted by Super Storm Sandy**

Regardless of whether you call Sandy a Hurricane or Extratropical Storm, her impacts spanned nearly the entire U.S. eastern seaboard. From the ultimate cost of lives lost to significant loss of property, the storm wreaked havoc on millions of people. Making landfall on the evening of October 29 with the storm center just south of Atlantic City, NJ, and colliding with another low pressure front, the system landed the trifecta--high winds, record-setting storm surge, and snow to the west. Amidst all this chaos, we are grateful that colleagues aboard the HMS *Bounty*, a replica of the original sailing vessel dedicated to the educational mission of modern tall ships, have been brought to safety and mourn their loss of long-time captain Robin Walbridge and deckhand Claudene Christian. The ship was en route to her winter home port in St. Petersburg, FL, when she sank off the coast of North Carolina. As the massive recovery process commences, we wish all our family, friends, and MARACOOS, NERACOOS and SECOORA colleagues well and offer assistance to help in whatever capacity we can.

##### **GCOOS-RA Elect Members at the Board of Director's meeting in September**

The five newly elected members of the Board of Directors are Barb Kirkpatrick from Mote Marine Laboratory, Terry McPherson of the the Baldwin Group, Jennifer Wozencraft from the US Army Corps of Engineers, Worth Nowlin, a TAMU Emeritus Distinguished Professor, and Mike Spranger from the University of Florida. The executive committee is comprised of Jan van Smirren serving as President, Terry McPherson as first Vice-President, Alfredo Prelat as second Vice-President, Joe Swaykos as Secretary, and Worth Nowlin as Treasurer.

##### **GCOOS-RA and SECOORA Join Forces at the Second Annual St. Petersburg Science Festival**

More than 12,000 visitors took advantage of the opportunity to participate in nearly 100 fun, hands-on exhibits at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. Petersburg Science Festival held 27 October 2012 on the University of South Florida (USF) St. Petersburg campus. The festival was launched with the Mt. Zion Progressive Baptist Missionary Drum Line, followed by a welcome from GCOOS partner E. Howard Rutherford, Executive Director of The Pier Aquarium and Secrets of the Sea Marine Exploration Center and Aquarium, and a talk titled "Seven Minutes of Terror: Landing the Mars Rover Curiosity" by NASA astronaut Ann Micklos. The festival is a collaboration of the vibrant local science community that includes the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, USF St. Petersburg, USF College of Marine Science, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg College, Draper Laboratory, Progress Energy, Paramount Power, United States Geological Survey, NOAA, and media sponsors WEDU, BayNews 9, and WMNF-FM 88.5 Community Radio. Visitors of all ages played a game created by GCOOS Education and Outreach Coordinator Dr. Chris Simoniello to learn about ocean observing sensors and their applications. Instruments, compliments of former GCOOS Board of Directors member Dr. Mark Luther and technician Jeff Scudder, were made available, along with a USF Center for Ocean Technology glider and computer monitor streaming real-time data for the ongoing GCOOS-supported USF and Mote Marine Laboratory Harmful Algal Bloom mission in the Gulf of Mexico. Vembu Subramanian, SECOORA Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System Manager and past-Chair of the GCOOS Data Management and Communications Committee, was on hand to engage with the public, reinforcing the two Regional Associations cooperative efforts to build the Gulf observing system and to disseminate the data and products to provide education and outreach for the public. Noteworthy visitors challenging their ocean observing savvy

included NOAA Office of Response and Restoration Atlantic Emergency Response Management Application (ERMA) program's George Graettinger, and the Philadelphia Phillies minor league Threshers mascot, who did exceedingly well, despite having to pick up small game cards with over-sized fins.

### **NOAA Announces \$5.5 Million to Support Watershed Education Projects for K-12 Students**

NOAA announced the winners of its recent competition for education grants that will allow thousands of K-12 students around the country to get outside and participate in hands-on environmental education opportunities. A total of 59 projects will benefit from \$5.5 million in grants from the [NOAA Office of Education's Bay-Watershed Education and Training \(B-WET\) Program](#) that will support activities ranging from data driven field investigations in the Pacific Northwest to studies of storm water management and invasive species in the Great Lakes. All recipients of B-WET grants emphasize meaningful watershed educational experiences — sustained, hands-on activities that are aligned with academic learning standards and responsive to regional education and environmental priorities. Some 2012 student activities include learning about currents and marine debris on the coast of Hawaii with the Malama Kai Foundation, participating in field investigations in the Gulf of Mexico with the University of Texas, and developing urban schoolyard habitats with the Living Classrooms Foundation in Chesapeake Bay. [Gulf of Mexico](#) winners include: University of Texas at Austin (Austin, Texas), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Tallahassee, Fla.), University of South Florida (Tampa, Fla.), University of Texas - Pan American (Edinburg, Texas) and Audubon Nature Institute (New Orleans, La.)

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

<http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/grants/bwet.html>

### **Ceremony Marks Opening of Disaster Response Center in Mobile, AL**

On 15 October, NOAA leadership joined Sen. Richard Shelby (Alabama), as well as federal, state, and local emergency responders at the formal grand opening of the Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center in Mobile, AL. The event began with a flyover by NOAA's newest aircraft and concluded with an open house showcasing response capabilities, assets, and expertise. The Disaster Response Center allows NOAA to consolidate several programs in the Gulf region, streamlining response to emergencies. It will house navigation response crafts and their teams, as well as experts in oil and chemical spill response, incident meteorology, damage assessment, habitat conservation and restoration planning, marine debris, and navigation management.

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

### **National Geologic Map Database Gets a Face Lift**

In concert with the inaugural, multi-agency Geologic Map Day, the [USGS](#) and [AASG](#) are pleased to release a significantly updated infrastructure and a new "look" to the [NGMDB](#). For example, the [MapView](#) features a visually compelling new interface that uses the latest technology to portray the Nation's geologic maps published by the USGS, the state geological surveys, and many others. These maps, available from the NGMDB in several popular and easy to use formats, can be viewed in detail and downloaded from the various publishers. This online resource, mandated by Congress as a State-Federal partnership, is the result of a 17-year joint venture. The mandate is to provide rapid access for resource managers, scientists, and the general public to well-documented and standardized geoscience information that can be used to support research, understanding, and decisions on a wide breadth of societal needs. With this redesign, the NGMDB further enhances its ability to fulfill that mission. For more information, visit [The National Geologic Map Database website](#).

### **Society of Conservation Biology Marine Section: Call for Nominations**

The Society of Conservation Biology is [accepting nominations](#) for the next Board of Directors elections for the Marine Section. Three seats will be opening: Communications Officer, Education Officer, and Board Member-at-Large. Nominees must be members in good standing with the Society for Conservation Biology as well members of the Marine Section. Successful candidates will serve three year terms. In addition to their duties as officers, Board Members are expected to participate in numerous discussions via email and Skype and participate in at least two board meetings a year (including at least one face-to-face meeting). Apply by email to Dori Dick, Nominations Officer, at [doridick14@gmail.com](mailto:doridick14@gmail.com) by 8 November.

[http://conbio.informz.net/CONBIO/archives/archive\\_1894545.html](http://conbio.informz.net/CONBIO/archives/archive_1894545.html)

## COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

### 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 2013, New Orleans Marriott Hotel, New Orleans, LA.  
<http://www.gulfresearchinitiative.org/news-and-events/gulf-of-mexico-oil-spill-ecosystem-science-conference/>

#### February

"[ASLO Aquatic Sciences Meeting](http://www.aslo.org/meetings/neworleans2013/)", 17-22 February 2013, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA.  
<http://www.aslo.org/meetings/neworleans2013/>

#### March

GCOOS-RA Board of Directors Meeting, 13-14 March 2013, New Orleans, LA.

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

"[National Forum on Socioeconomic Research in Coastal Systems](http://www.cnrep.lsu.edu/)", 24-26 November 2013, New Orleans, LA. Abstracts are due 12 November 2012.  
<http://www.cnrep.lsu.edu/>

#### April

Inaugural National Adaptation Forum, 2-4 April 2013, Denver Marriott City Center, Denver, CO.  
<http://www.nationaladaptationforum.org>

#### May

"[Optimising Enhanced Oil Recovery](http://www.wplgroup.com/aci/conferences/eu-eor3.asp)", 7-8 May 2013, Doha, Qatar.  
<http://www.wplgroup.com/aci/conferences/eu-eor3.asp>

June

["World Conference on Disaster Management \(WCDM\)", 23-26 June 2013, Toronto, Canada.](http://www.wcdm.org/)  
<http://www.wcdm.org/>



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)).