



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 30 NOVEMBER 2012

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

IOOS Summit Held in Herndon, VA

Approximately 200 people representing global, national, and regional U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System interests met from 13-16 November 2012 in Herndon, VA. Seven GCOOS-RA representatives attended the Summit to represent GCOOS efforts and each contributed to plans intended to shape the next decade of the U.S. IOOS Program. The attendees were Board of Directors members Jan van Smirren, Joe Swaykos, and Dr. Nancy Rabalais, Ray Toll (past Board Member), Dr. Matt Howard (Data Management and Communications Coordinator), Dr. Chris Simonello (Education and Outreach Coordinator), and Membership Committee Chair Jerry Boatman (Membership Committee Chair). Acknowledging the foundational work of pioneers of the Global Ocean Observing System such as Drs. Tom Malone and Worth Nowlin, Summit co-Chairs Drs. Jan Newton, Ru Morrison, Paul DiGiacomo, and Eric Lindstrom developed a compelling agenda that included thought-provoking presentations and opportunities anticipated over the next decade. These included science and technology products for the reinsurance industry, using living organisms as sampling platforms, and an overview of Navy innovations. Recommendations from the Summit will be synthesized and included as appendices in the IOOS chapters written prior to the meeting. For more information about the IOOS Summit, please visit <http://www.iooc.us/summit/>.

Environmental Law Institute Shares Views on the BP Agreement

On 15 November 2012, the U.S. Department of Justice announced an agreement with BP to resolve criminal charges against the company related to the *Deepwater Horizon* disaster. The [Environmental Law Institute](http://eli-ocean.org/gulf/) summarizes this agreement on their website. The summary contains details on the fines, recoveries and probation conditions of the criminal plea agreement. <http://eli-ocean.org/gulf/>

Obama Administration Offers Over 20 Million Acres in Western Gulf of Mexico for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development

As part of President Obama's energy strategy to continue to expand safe and responsible domestic energy production, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management held the Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 229, which offered over 20 millions acres and attracted \$133,767,074 in high bids for 116 tracts covering 652,522 acres on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) offshore Texas. A total of 13 offshore energy companies submitted 131 bids. The Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale builds on two major Gulf of Mexico lease sales in the past year alone, a 21 million acre sale held last December and a 39 million acre sale held in June.

<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/obama-administration-offers-over-20-million-acres-in-western-gulf-of-mexico-for-oil-and-gas-exploration-and-development.cfm>

September 2012 Gulf of Mexico News Online

The September 2012 edition of the Gulf of Mexico News is available online at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/news/gomexnews.html>. This edition picked up our story on the interactive kiosks that are now helping the public understand how the Gulf of Mexico influences the lives and

livelihoods of residence in the Gulf States.

IOOS/NATIONAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

DoE Offshore Energy Workshop Report

In April 2012, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, together with the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, hosted an Offshore Energy Knowledge Exchange Workshop in Washington, D.C. This workshop brought together representatives from the oil and gas and offshore wind energy industries to share best practices and lessons learned for offshore energy design, development, and operation. The expert panelist presentations and working group discussions from this meeting can be found in the workshop report, which is available online at:

http://www.wind.energy.gov/pdfs/offshore_energy_knowledge_exchange_workshop_report.pdf.

New Web Resource for Teachers from National Ocean Services

A new [web resource](#) for teachers has been launched to explain the physics and application of tides and currents knowledge to real-world situations, and the impacts of tides and currents on climate, environment, and society. Cooperatively developed with CO-OPS (spell out acronym) and the National Science Teachers Association, the new module has over 130 links for teacher and students, along with nine new lesson plans integrating real-time tides and currents data, the effects of tides and currents on oil spills, and how climate change is related to tides and currents.

<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/pd/tidescurrents/>

New data Prompts NOAA Fisheries to Withdraw Proposed Rule to Require Turtle Excluder Devices in Certain Shrimp Trawls

Based on new data collected this summer, NOAA is withdrawing a proposed rule to require turtle excluder devices (TEDs) for skimmer trawls, pusher-head trawls, and wing-net trawls in the southeast shrimp fisheries. NOAA observers collected data that showed the devices may not prevent small sea turtles from being caught in nets as previous data suggested. The proposed rule would have affected 2,600 fishermen, and has not yet taken effect. TEDs are very effective at allowing turtles to escape from otter trawl nets operating offshore, but the device may need to be modified to work effectively for the inshore trawl fisheries. Typically, skimmer trawls fish in shallow areas where they tend to encounter smaller, young turtles, while otter trawls fish in both shallow and deeper waters so on average they tend to encounter larger turtles. NOAA fishery observers found that turtles captured in skimmer trawls are so small that they are not necessarily able to escape through the TED door. Instead, the smaller turtles can pass through the bars of the TED and get caught inside the end of the net, potentially causing them to drown rather than allowing them to escape as intended. During the observed period, all of the turtles were released alive with one turtle assumed dead following release due to its behavior on the boat.

<http://www.noaa.gov/newsarchive.html>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Coastal Physical Oceanographer, Tenure Track Faculty Position at the Physics Department at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA

<http://www.calpolyjobs.org>

Texas A&M University, Geochemical and Environmental Research Group (GERG) and Oceanography Department:

GERG Director and Professor in Oceanography

Assistant Professor in Chemical Oceanography

<http://geosciences.tamu.edu/job-listing/faculty-jobs>

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

December

2012 American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, 3-7 December 2012, San Francisco, CA.

<http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2012/>

2012 SECOORA Board Meeting, 5-6 December 2012, Atlanta, GA.

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 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](#)”, 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](#)”, 25-28 March 2013, Myrtle Beach, SC.
<http://geotools.csc.noaa.gov/default.aspx>

“[National Forum on Socioeconomic Research in Coastal Systems](#)”, 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](#)”, 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/>



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).