



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 14 DECEMBER 2012

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

Happy Holidays

All of us in the GCOOS office join in saying 'Thank you' for all your efforts in 2012 to make the Gulf of Mexico a sustainable international treasure. We want to take this opportunity to let you know how much you are appreciated. Best Wishes to all for a wonderful holiday. We look forward to sharing many successes in the New Year.

EPA Seeks Gulf Guardian Award Nominees

Gulf of Mexico Alliance partners and friends should take note that nominations for the 2013 Gulf Guardian Awards are being accepted now through 8 March 2013. Awards are given in the following categories:

- Business & Industry
- Environmental Justice/Cultural Diversity
- Civic/Non-Profit Partnerships
- Youth Environmental Education
- Individual
- Bi-National Partnerships

To make a nomination, go to the Gulf of Mexico Program's web site (www.epa.gov/gmpo) and complete the application.

Research, Response for Future Oil Spills: Lessons Learned from Deepwater Horizon

A special collection of articles about the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill provides the first comprehensive analysis and synthesis of the science used in the unprecedented response effort by the government, academia, and industry. Papers present a behind-the-scenes look at the extensive scientific and engineering effort — teams, data, information, and advice from within and outside the government — assembled to respond to the disaster. And, with the benefit of hindsight and additional analyses, these papers evaluate the accuracy of the information that was used in real-time to inform the response team and the public. Two overview papers and 13 specialty papers constitute a special section of the prestigious [Proceedings of the National Academy of Science](#). For more information, see http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2012/20121203_dwh.html

Updates on Current Biological Observation Projects with GCOOS/SECOORA

Project teams are making good progress on standardizing data access protocols per the independent survey data from NOAA Fisheries CAGES data base (Comparative Assessment of Gulf Ecosystems) that encompasses independent survey data from five states in the Gulf of Mexico (NCDDC, GCOOS, OBIS) and the MARMAP (Marine Resources Monitoring Assessment, and Prediction) data base per the south Atlantic region (OBIS, SECOORA).

NOAA to Offer Free Online ISO Metadata Training

The NOAA National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC) is offering Introduction to Geospatial ISO Metadata, a free, online training series beginning in January 2013. NCDDC set out to meet the increased needs of data managers as many organizations transition from FGDC to ISO standards. Working with other

metadata trainers within the community, the NCDDC Metadata Team has developed a complete package of training materials for the transition to ISO metadata standards. NCDDC conducted two prior metadata training series online in which over 1500 participants from 18 countries on five continents took part. The success of these efforts has led to the continuation and expansion of the training with two series of Introduction to Geospatial ISO Metadata and two series of Transitioning from FGDC to ISO Metadata already planned for 2013. Registration is now open for the next series which will be held every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m-10:30 a.m. CST from January 15 until March 5, 2013. The series will start with an introduction to metadata, and cover topics such as XML basics, tools, and data discovery. All materials will be made available online, and instructors will be available by request for special one-on-one "My Metadata" sessions to answer specific questions for individual participants. To register, please visit: <http://www.ncddc.noaa.gov/metadata-standards/metadata-training/course-one/>. For more information, please contact Jacqueline Mize at NCDDCMetadata@noaa.gov.

IOOS/NATIONAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

NFRA Changes Its Name

The NFRA Board of Directors voted to change the organization's name to the IOOS Association on 12 November. This more inclusive name reflects the connectivity between the regions and the federal components. They will be rolling out a new web site and logos in the coming months.

IOOS Advisory Committee

The next meeting of the IOOS Advisory Committee has been scheduled for 6 February 2013 in Denver, CO. As they become available more details will be posted at: www.ioos.gov/advisorycommittee. Note the public may now email comments to the Committee at IOOS.Advisorycommittee@NOAA.gov.

National Weather Service Tests New, Simpler Winter Hazard Communications

NOAA's National Weather Service is testing new language to communicate winter weather hazards in its forecasts. From now through 31 March 2013, alternative messages in winter hazard forecasts will run on a [test website](#) for 26 weather forecast offices throughout the country. Currently the National Weather Service issues [14 different types](#) of winter hazard forecasts. Customer satisfaction surveys and agency service assessments have revealed that some of the public may not be able to distinguish between a watch, an advisory, or a warning. The test proposes a [new set of terms](#) that replace watches and advisories while clarifying language used in warnings. Comments are welcome to either validate this particular alternative, suggest others, or to express a preference for the current Watch, Warning and Advisory System. Comments may be submitted by filling out a [brief survey](#) through 31 March 2013.

http://nws.weather.gov/haz_simp/

http://nws.weather.gov/haz_simp/winter_products.shtml

http://nws.weather.gov/haz_simp/#proposed

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=WHSD>

Save the Date for the Sustainable Ocean Summit in 2013

The Sustainable Ocean Summit 2013 is designed to attract leadership companies from the diverse range of ocean industries: shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, offshore renewable energy, ports, dredging, mining, cables and pipelines, marine science, engineering and technology, the maritime legal, financial and insurance communities, and others - as well as ocean stakeholders from the government, inter-governmental, academic and environmental communities. The summit will address priorities for cross-sectorial industry leadership and collaboration in ocean sustainability, including: ocean policy, regulations and governance; marine spatial planning; the role of industries in ocean and climate observations; biofouling, biosecurity and invasive species; responsible use of the Arctic; sound and marine life; marine debris; marine mammal interactions; and the roles of the finance, insurance and legal sectors in ocean sustainability.

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

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>

Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) 212, 22-24 April 2013, Washington, DC
<http://www.oceancouncil.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).