



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

### GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 18 JANUARY 2013

#### GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

##### **GCOOS Call for Nominations: Closing date 8 February 2013**

The Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS) Regional Association is seeking nominations for candidates for election to the GCOOS-RA Board of Directors. Terms are for three years and begin with the summer/autumn Board meeting. The Board meets twice annually. It also meets by telephone every two months, as well as when priority situations arise. More regarding the activities of the Board, including copies of the minutes of past meetings, can be found at the GCOOS web site (<http://www.gcoos.org>). The Board consists of a balance between representatives of the government, academic, industry, and education/outreach sectors. This year five members are up for election. The current Board members, whose terms expire in summer 2013, standing for re-election are: Steven Buschang (Governmental Sector), Stephan Howden (Academic Sector), Jan van Smirren (Industry Sector), and Sharon Walker (Education/Outreach Sector). If you wish to nominate someone, please check to be sure that the nominee is willing to serve if elected and is a Member of the GCOOS-RA. The Membership list can be found at [http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page\\_id=2031](http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=2031). If the candidate is a Member (or works for a Member) and is willing to serve, please send their name, affiliation, a short bio (2-3 paragraphs detailing their work and interests as related to the GCOOS Regional Association), email address, and telephone number to Susan Martin ([srmartin@tamu.edu](mailto:srmartin@tamu.edu)) with a copy to Jerry Boatman ([jerry.boatman@qinetiq-na.com](mailto:jerry.boatman@qinetiq-na.com)), Chair of the Membership Committee. Self nominations are encouraged and welcomed. Nominations without all the required information will not be accepted. Nominations will close on Friday, 8 February 2013 at 5:00 pm Central Time. The election ballot will be prepared and sent to voting Members on Wednesday, 13 February 2013. Voting will close Friday, 1 March 2013 at 5:00 pm Central Time. Results will be announced on 13 March 2013 at the Annual Members meeting in New Orleans, LA.

##### **The GCOOS-RA Welcomes Mexican Colleagues**

The GCOOS-RA welcomes the Ingenieria y Desarrollo Empresarial de Tobasco (IDET) S.A. de C.V. as an Associate Party to the GCOOS Memorandum of Agreement. Signed by Edi Moreno Limon, the company was established in August 2011 to offer support services to Petroleos Mexicanos or Pemex, the world's second largest non-publicly listed company by total market value, under control of the Mexican government. Based in Tobasco, IDET offers services to the Pemex Exploration and Production (PEP) division. These range from providing a supply of drilling fluids and spill mitigation options, to filtration and washing of oil wells and construction and maintenance of equipment used by the oil and gas industry. A fully developed GCOOS, connected to the Global Ocean Observing System, is recognized as a valuable asset to IDET leaders because of the interconnectivity of Gulf and Caribbean waters. The ongoing work of GCOOS Board members to forge domestic and foreign partnerships that span disciplinary and institutional boundaries, in this case NEOSGeosolution's Alfredo Prelat's efforts with colleagues at the Universidad Juarez Autonoma de Tobasco, is instrumental in positioning the GCOOS-RA to respond to domestic and international crises and to minimize accidents in the oil and gas industry by providing readily accessible meteorological and oceanographic information. Because political barriers often translate to slow progress, the value of established, trusted relations prior to an incident cannot be overstated. For more information about IDET, please contact Edi Moreno Limon at [edi.moreno@idetsa.com](mailto:edi.moreno@idetsa.com).

### **GCOOS Associate Party Member PROEMAC is a leader in Public Engagement**

The GCOOS-RA welcomes the Mexican company Profesionales Especialistas en Medio Ambiente, Asociacion Civil (PROEMAC) as an Associate Party to the GCOOS Memorandum of Agreement. PROEMAC is a civil organization of environmental experts, committed to integrating various societal sectors, including public and private sectors, with the purpose of promoting sustainable development, tools and education for environmental protection, and conservation of Mexico's natural resources. PROEMAC seeks to generate investment and research projects in Mexico, and has the ambitious goal of changing attitudes and behavior related to environmental education. The Association works to improve the legal framework for environmental sustainability practices, and works closely with the media to communicate knowledge, experiences, and proposal opportunities. They strive to integrate all sectors to support capacity building for social projects, and offer sustainable alternatives that address social and economic barriers to remedy current destructive environmental practices. PROEMAC President Leon Mauro Gutierrez Ferretis, recognizing that sustainable development of shared Gulf of Mexico resources is fundamental to both U.S. and Mexican interests, signed the GCOOS MOA to foster communication and collaboration. It is anticipated that the strong commitment to education and outreach by GCOOS and PROEMAC will lead to examples of international collaboration. Each can learn much from the other.

### **GCOOS Staff Attends AMS Career Fair**

GCOOS staff members Dr. Matthew Howard and Ruth Mullins-Perry attended the American Meteorological Society (AMS) Annual Meeting and Student Career Conference in Austin, TX from January 5 - 7<sup>th</sup>. GCOOS-RA partnered with IOOS to host a recruiting booth for the Student Conference. Zdenka Willis, Director of the U.S. IOOS Program Office, Dr. Gerhard Kuska, Executive Director of MARACOOS, and GCOOS staff manned the booth and interacted with more than 100 undergraduate and graduate students at the two-day Student Conference. The AMS event provided an opportunity for GCOOS-RA, MARACOOS and IOOS Program Office staff to interact with students interested in careers in ocean observing in the United States. For more information about the GCOOS-RA's participation at AMS, please visit <http://www.gcoos.org>.

### **Environmental Law Institute's Overview of Transocean's \$1.4 billion settlement**

The Washington, D.C.-based Environmental Law Institute (ELI) is an independent, non-profit research and education center that seeks to advance environmental protection by improving law, policy, and management. ELI recently released a short overview of the settlement announced last week between the US Department of Justice and Transocean. Their Transocean Settlement Fact Sheet can be viewed at the following url: <http://eli-ocean.org/gulf/files/Transocean-Settlement.pdf>. The goal is for the information to help people understand the key terms of the civil and criminal portions of the settlement. For more information about ELI and Gulf restoration and recovery, visit the website: [www.eli-ocean.org/gulf](http://www.eli-ocean.org/gulf).

### **EPA Gulf of Mexico Program Seeks Gulf Guardian Award Nominations for 2013**

Gulf of Mexico Alliance partners and friends should take note that the deadline for the 2013 Gulf Guardian Awards is fast approaching: 8 March 2013! To complete a nomination application for 2013, go to the Gulf of Mexico Program's web site at [www.epa.gov/gmpo](http://www.epa.gov/gmpo).

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

### **IOOSians and friends of IOOSians One and ALL - WE NEED YOU!**

Show your support for US IOOS by signing onto the US IOOS Summit Declaration. Representatives of the US Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) community convened in Herndon, VA in November 2012 to develop a strategy for the next decade of US IOOS. Over four days, workshop participants reviewed the progress achieved over the last decade, validated the need for an integrated observing system, and identified opportunities for growth in the coming ten years. The first result of this effort is the US IOOS Summit Declaration. Over 150 Summit attendees have already signed; we invite you to show your continued support of US IOOS by signing the declaration.

Download the US IOOS Summit Declaration at:

<http://www.iooc.us/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/IOOS-Summit-Declaration.pdf>

Support US IOOS by Signing the Summit Declaration at:

<http://www.iooc.us/summit/the-us-ioos-summit-declaration/>

### **QARTOD Dissolved Oxygen QA/QC Manual Announcement**

The publication of a new US IOOS quality control procedures manual for dissolved oxygen, *Quality Assurance and Control Standards for Real-Time Dissolved Oxygen Measurements*, is now available. The manual, which is the first publication from the US IOOS QARTOD project, can be downloaded at:

<http://www.ioos.gov/qartod/welcome.html>. The document provides a check list of 10 QC procedures for data from automated, *insitu* dissolved oxygen concentration sensors that use either semi-permeable membrane or fluorescent-based technologies, and includes control steps for the sensors which are critical to maximizing quality of the data. This publication represents a major step forward for US IOOS on documenting best practices for QA/QC for the ocean observing community. It was written in close collaboration with experts from the ocean observing community, including Dr. Dick Crout, , Ray Toll, Dr. Mark Bushnell and Helen Worthington. The dissolved oxygen manual is the first in a series of quality control manuals that IOOS will publish, each focused on a different oceanographic variable. Manuals for waves, currents and temperature/salinity will be published later this year.

### **App-lifying and Enhancing USGS Earth Science Data**

USGS scientists are looking for your help in addressing some of today's most perplexing scientific challenges, such as climate change and biodiversity loss. To do so requires a partnership between the best and the brightest in Government and the public to guide research and identify solutions. The vehicle to achieve this is [Challenge.gov](http://www.challenge.gov), the contest platform administered by the General Services Administration. Challenge.gov is aimed at facilitating creative applications for government agencies to address a range of societal issues more effectively. The USGS is seeking help via this platform from many of the Nation's premier application developers and data visualization specialists in developing new visualizations and applications for datasets. Submissions will be accepted from January 9, 2013, to April 1, 2013. Winners will be announced on April 26, 2013 and will be invited to present at the [USGS The National Map Users Conference/Community for Data Integration Workshop](http://www.usgs.gov/the-national-map-users-conference-community-for-data-integration-workshop) (May 21-24, 2013, in Denver, Colo.), where their applications will be demonstrated to USGS scientists and program managers. To learn more, visit: <http://applifyingusgsdata.challenge.gov>.

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Climate Funding Opportunities**

The following pdf summarizes climate funding opportunities.

[pcjv.org/docs/Climate%20Funding%20Opportunities.pdf](http://pcjv.org/docs/Climate%20Funding%20Opportunities.pdf)

### **Sea Grant Call for Proposals for Gulf States**

Calls for proposals for each of the Gulf states has been issued by Sea Grant for each Gulf state for the FY 2014 - 2016. See the links below for the individual proposal solicitations.

Texas - <http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu/WhatWeDo/Proposals2014-2016.html>

Louisiana - <http://www.laseagrant.org/rfp/statements.htm>

Mississippi-Alabama - <http://www.masgc.org/page.asp?id=20>

Florida - <http://flseagrant.org/faculty-funding/request-for-proposals>

## **COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS**

2013

**January**

[“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 Integrated Water Quality Network Workshop for data providers, 12 March 2013, Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, New Orleans, LA.

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.

<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), 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>

[“AGU Meeting of the Americas”](#), 14-17 May 2013, Cancun, Mexico

Abstract due date: 6 February 2013

<http://moa.agu.org/2013/>

#### 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](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)).