



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 15 FEBRUARY 2013

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

GCOOS - Highlighting Glider Research in the Gulf of Mexico

GCOOS has started a multi-part feature to highlight glider research in the Gulf of Mexico. The first story focuses on the new Slocum gliders at Texas A&M University. Read the full story: http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=3597

University of Southern Mississippi and Liquid Robotics Re-Launch the Wave Glider in the Gulf of Mexico

The University of Mississippi and Liquid Robotics re-launched the Wave Glider in early February to study ocean acidification in the Gulf of Mexico. Follow the Wave Glider and the data collection in real-time!

<http://gcoos.org/products/maps/waveglider/usm/#.URp-nqWHMbQ>

In an effort to investigate the feasibility of new technologies in the Gulf of Mexico to monitor changes in ocean acidity related to CO₂ fluxes between the atmosphere and ocean, physical oceanographer Dr. Stephan Howden, University of Southern Mississippi (USM), is partnering with ocean engineers at Liquid Robotics, an ocean data services provider credited with developing the world's first wave-powered, autonomous marine robot called the Wave Glider.

GCOOS Members Present Talks at the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference held 21-24 January 2013 in New Orleans.

Dr. Matthew Howard (GCOOS) and Dave Reed (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) Co-chaired the session titled "Data Management and Informatics: Supporting Gulf of Mexico Research" at the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference held 21-24 January 2013 in New Orleans. Howard (GCOOS-DMAC lead) gave a talk on "Controlled-Vocabularies and Metadata Content Standards and the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Information and Data Cooperative (GRIIDC) Data System". Felimon Gayanilo (GCOOS-Systems Architect) gave a talk on "Enabling Large Data Transfer on Standard Networks". Julie Bosch (NCDDC) spoke on "Supporting Gulf of Mexico Research with Historical Data" and Scott Cross (NCDDC) presented "NOAA's Management of Subsurface Monitoring Data from the Deepwater Horizon Event. Dr. Howard's talk is available in [pdf](#).

2013 Community-based Restoration Projects Announced for the Gulf

The Gulf of Mexico Foundation is excited to announce and kick off the 12th year of the Gulf of Mexico Community-based Restoration Partnership (GCRP). They are delighted to announce that they have funded four habitat restoration projects, which is thanks to support from the NOAA Restoration Center and the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program, both long-term GMF partners. The following projects received funding: 1) Oyster Reef Restoration in Texas: Enhancing Walter Filtration Capacity (Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, \$80,000); 2) Habitat Restoration Raccoon Island, Isles Denieres Barrier Island Refuge using Gulf Saver/Dune Saver Bags (Restore The Earth Foundation, Inc., \$100,000); 3) Seagrass Restoration & Protection on Horn Island, Mississippi (The Nature Conservancy of Mississippi, \$54,998); and 4) Deer Island Restoration Project Phase II (Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, \$55,040). These new projects will result in the restoration of

vital habitat for both commercially and recreationally important coastal species, assist in improving water quality in estuaries, and further reduce erosion along our estuarine shorelines. To read more about the new projects, or to find out more information about the GCRP, please visit <http://www.gulfmex.org/conservation-restoration/>

CMSP Advancement Training, Gulf of Mexico: 4-7 March 2013

Gulf of Mexico regional coastal decision-makers who have or will participate in the region's marine spatial planning efforts are invited to register and attend the Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) Advancement Training scheduled for March 4-7, 2013, at 5 Rivers Alabama's Delta Resource Center in Spanish Fort, Alabama. Participants will: (1) engage and learn from an all new CMSP Curriculum that includes region-specific sharing opportunities, interactive game-theory based activities and other innovative educational approaches; (2) develop a peer-to-peer network of regional coastal management professionals in an educational setting; (3) enjoy a variety of social activities while exploring the coastal region; and (4) participate in a private tour of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. A limited number of seats remain available for this training. Registrations will be reviewed in an effort to equitably distribute class room participants from across the Gulf of Mexico region.

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e6wfii3ub31a3d74&llr=tkrsmlbab>

NOAA Seeks Comment on Regulations to Protect Marine Mammals during Navy Training and Testing in Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico

NOAA's Fisheries Service is seeking comments for a proposed rule requiring the United States Navy to implement protective measures during training and testing activities in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico to reduce effects on marine mammals. The Navy has requested an authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, because the mid-frequency sound generated by active sonar, the sound and pressure generated by detonating explosives, and other associated activities may affect the behavior of some marine mammals, or cause a temporary loss of their hearing sensitivity or other injury. Under the authorization, the Navy would have to follow mitigation measures to minimize effects on marine mammals, including:

1. Establishing marine mammal mitigation zones around each vessel using sonar;
2. Using Navy observers to shut down sonar operations if marine mammals are seen within designated mitigation zones;
3. Using mitigation zones to ensure that explosives are not detonated when animals are detected within a certain distance;
4. Implementing a stranding response plan that includes a training shutdown provision in certain circumstances, and allows for the Navy to contribute in-kind services to NOAA's Fisheries Service if the agency has to conduct a stranding response and investigation; and,
5. Using specific mitigation measures at certain times to reduce effects on North Atlantic right whales.

The proposed rulemaking is posted on their website:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#aftt>

NOAA Fisheries will accept comments through 11 March 11 2013. Comments should be addressed to:

P. Michael Payne, Chief

Permits and Conservation Division

Office of Protected Resources

National Marine Fisheries Service

1315 East-West Highway

Silver Spring MD 20910-3225

Electronic comments can be sent via the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> using the identifier 0648-BC82.

IOOS/NATIONAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

IOOS Association Launched New Website

The IOOS Association launched their new website - Check it out <http://www.ioosassociation.org/>. The IOOS Association was formerly known as NFRA, the National Federation of Regional Associations of Coastal and Ocean Observing.

Coastal GeoTools 2013 Preliminary Program Now Online

The Coastal GeoTools 2013 Preliminary Program is now available online. Coastal GeoTools is a conference series focusing on the technical information needs of the nation's coastal programs. The 2013 conference will focus on building the Digital Coast, a Web platform that provides access to geospatial data, tools, and technical training. Coastal GeoTools 2013 will be held 25-28 March at the Embassy Suites at Kingston in Myrtle Beach, SC. Learn more and register online at: <http://geotools.csc.noaa.gov/default.aspx>.

PICES Summer School on "Ocean Observing Systems and Ecosystem Monitoring"

This 2013 PICES summer school offers up to 40 students an opportunity for an introduction to hi-tech ocean observing. The week-long school (19-23 August 2013) will feature a mix of classroom lectures, laboratory demonstrations of inter-disciplinary ocean sensors, an introduction to ocean observing platforms (moorings, coastal stations, sea-floor landers, autonomous underwater vehicles), and field work on a research vessel to deploy ocean observing equipment at sea. The school will cover a range of sensors and sampling equipment used to measure physical, biological and chemical properties of the ocean. The utility of time-series datasets generated by moored monitoring stations to estimate net ecosystem metabolism for estuarine and coastal habitats will also be demonstrated. The application deadline is 15 March 2013. More information about applying can be found on the PICES website at http://www.pices.int/meetings/summer_schools/2013_summer_school/2013-Newport-ss/2013-Newport-ss-main.aspx.

The 2013 Marine Technology Society (MTS) Student Scholarship Program is Now Open

MTS is pleased to offer thousands of dollars' worth of scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students who are studying in the marine science, marine engineering and/or marine technology field. Scholarships are for MTS student members only. For membership information, please visit <https://www.mtsociety.org/membership/new/add.aspx>. Student Membership is for full-time college students and high school seniors and is only \$25 per year. For more information, please visit MTS's website: <http://www.mtsociety.org/education/scholarships.aspx>. Applications must be postmarked no later than 15 April 2013.

2013 Educator Workshops

Legacy is pleased to announce the 2013 Educator Workshop Series. The series is designed to give educators the opportunity to experience the wonder of Alabama's diverse environment all the while equipping them with the knowledge and resources to take their experiences back into the classroom. For more information, please visit their website at http://www.legacyenvd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=49:2

NOAA Announces Free Nautical 'BookletCharts' for Boaters

One of NOAA's handiest navigation products, especially for recreational boaters, has been Coast Survey's experimental [BookletCharts™](#) -- nautical charts that are easy to download and print from home computers. Coast Survey has now moved the BookletCharts from experimental stage into official production. Nearly a thousand newly updated BookletCharts are available free on the Web. NOAA's new official BookletCharts cover the 95,000 miles of U.S. coastline and the Great Lakes. The BookletCharts contain most of the information found on NOAA's full-scale nautical charts, but it is presented as reduced-scale.

Louis W. Uccellini Selected as the Next Director of NOAA's National Weather Service

Louis W. Uccellini, Ph.D., will become the next NOAA administrator for weather services beginning 10 February and the 16th director of [NOAA's National Weather Service](#), which marks its 143rd anniversary this Saturday.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Nature Conservancy: Gulf of Mexico Program Director

https://careers.nature.org/psp/P91HTNC_APP/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL

Louisiana Sea Grant (LSG) is seeking applications for an Assistant/Associate Executive Director for Research.

<https://lsusystemcareers.lsu.edu>

Coastal States Organization Seeks Operations Coordinator

<http://www.coastalstates.org>

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

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 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/>

[5th Carbon Capture and Storage](#), 15-16 May 2013, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Interactive Platform for International Debate on CCS Developments & Innovations
<http://www.wplgroup.com/aci/conferences/eu-ecc5.asp>

June

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

July

National Marine Educators Association, 22-26 July 2013, Mobile, AL.
<http://nmea.disl.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).