



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

### GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 1 MARCH 2013

#### GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

##### **GCOOS Members Present at the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography Annual Meeting**

Members of GCOOS participated in the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography Annual Meeting in New Orleans from 18-22 February 2013. Ann Jochens presented a talk titled "What is it? Where is it? Where is it going? Working Together to Build a Harmful Algal Bloom Integrated Observing System for the Gulf of Mexico" Authors: A. Jochens, B. Kirkpatrick, S. Wolfe. Chris Simoniello presented a talk titled "Making Sense of Ocean Sensing: Translating Ocean Science Information for Diverse Audiences" Authors: C. Simoniello, S. Kobara, S. Walker, M. Howard, A. Jochens, D. Pendergast Baumer, R. Mullins-Perry. She also presented a poster titled "A Florida Red Tide Bloom Collaborative Response - Education and Outreach" Authors - C. Simoniello, B. Kirkpatrick, N. Slimak, A. Jochens. Ruth Mullins-Perry presented a talk titled "Building Toward An Sustainable, Integrated, and Operational Data Network in the Gulf of Mexico" Authors: R. Mullins-Perry and A. Jochens.

##### **USF IMaRS Offering New Products from VIIRS sensor on the SUOMI (NPP) Satellite**

The Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership (NPP), previously known as the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System Preparatory Project and NPP-Bridge is a weather satellite that was launched in October 2011. Operated by NOAA, it is the first in a new generation of satellites designed to replace NASA's Earth Observing System (EOS) satellites, which were launched from 1997 to 2011. Orbiting the Earth about 14 times each day, in a sun-synchronous orbit 824 km above the Earth, Suomi's imaging systems provide climate measurements that continue prior observations by the EOS satellites. These include Advanced Technology Microwave Sounder (global moisture and temperature models); Cross-track Infrared Sounder (moisture and pressure); Ozone Mapping Profiler Suite; Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS; ice movement, wildfires, landform changes); and Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System (reflected solar radiation and thermal radiation). It is the VIIRS, a 22-band radiometer, which a team from the University of South Florida's Institute for Marine Remote Sensing (IMaRS) is targeting to develop new ocean color and sea surface temperature (SST) products. Though currently not available in real time, the products developed from Level 1 and Level 2 data downloaded from NASA/NOAA databases to address regional needs in ocean science are available within a few days. As researchers catch up to processing the large volumes of data, Gabriel Quiles-Perez, IMaRS Computer Programmer and Analyst, and Dr. Frank Muller-Karger, Director of IMaRS, hope to make products available more quickly. This is the next generation of IMaRS applications developed from digital data obtained by satellite and airborne sensors to address ocean issues at local, regional and global scales. The new VIIRS products include images of the sea surface temperature, chlorophyll-a concentration, and other bio-optical observations of coastal and marine water quality in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and U.S. East Coast, and complement the historical archive of SST and bio-optical products available to the public via the IMaRS website going back to 1993. IMaRS VIIRS satellite data products can be found at <http://reef01.marine.usf.edu/viirs>. For more information or to request specialized products (e.g., additional areal coverage or different products), please contact Frank Muller-Karger at [carib@usf.edu](mailto:carib@usf.edu) or Gabriel Quiles at [gabrielq@marine.usf.edu](mailto:gabrielq@marine.usf.edu).

##### **World-Renowned Nobel Peace Prize Climate Scientists to Speak about Gulf Coast Communities**

Drs. Pier Vellinga and Henry Pollack, two of the world's leading experts about the latest science and projections for sea level rise and how we might adapt to or mitigate the risks, will be speaking at three venues

in Florida from 27-28 March 2013. The events are being sponsored by Rising Seas, a Southwest Florida-based initiative of Shafer Consulting, dedicated to advancing public understanding about the science of sea level change, vulnerabilities of our natural and built environments, and potential strategies to mitigate or adapt to the risks. Dr. Vellinga is a Professor in climate change and flood risk at Wageningen University and in climate change and societal implications at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. He is also the chairman of the Knowledge for Climate research program and vice chairman of the Climate Changes Spatial Planning program. Dr. Pollack is Professor Emeritus of geophysics at the University of Michigan and author of the 2010 publication *A World Without Ice*, a book which provides an analysis of climate change science. Vellinga was lead author on several chapters and Pollack a contributing author of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize-winning report published by the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The first venue will be in Sarasota March 27, 2013 at the Sarasota Tiger Bay Club where Vellinga and Pollack will join a panel to discuss the implications of sea level rise to business and community leaders. In the evening, they will deliver a presentation at New College of Florida on sea level rise and potential responses to the risk. On the following day, they will deliver a similar presentation at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg. Presentations will include examples of approaches being tried in other parts of the world. For more information and to make reservations to attend, visit [www.rising-seas.com](http://www.rising-seas.com) or contact Jennifer Shafer at [jennifer@shafer-consulting.org](mailto:jennifer@shafer-consulting.org).

### **The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is Recruiting Applicants** *(from the Times-Picayune)*

The [Gulf of Mexico](#) Fishery Management Council, which advises the NOAA's [National Marine Fisheries Service](#) on fish and fishing in the Gulf, is currently recruiting applicants for its advisory panels and scientific and statistical committees. The panels and committees provide information and guidance to the council on the development of federal fishery management plans. The council has 22 panels and committees composed of individuals who are engaged in the harvest of federally managed species or who are knowledgeable and interested in the conservation and management of the fishery. The [advisory panels](#) include recreational and commercial fishermen, seafood dealers and processors, non-governmental organizations, scientists, and concerned citizens. The [scientific and statistical committees](#) are comprised of economists, biologists, sociologists and natural resource attorneys who are knowledgeable about the technical aspects of fisheries in the Gulf. Appointments are for two years and will be made [during the council meeting in Gulfport](#), MS between April 15 to April 18. Applications must be submitted by April 8. Anyone interested in serving should submit a letter of interest to the council office, indicating the committee and/or panel of interest, along with a resume or description of qualifications. Letters of interest should be mailed to the [Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council](#), 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33607; faxed to 813.348.1711; or e-mailed to [AP-SSC.Applicant@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:AP-SSC.Applicant@gulfcouncil.org).

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

### **IOOS Vocabulary Development**

The development of a first version of the IOOS Platform vocabulary is near 90% completed. Most of the vocabulary content has been added; the next step is working on the vocabulary hierarchical structure. The draft vocabulary has been registered in the test area of the Marine Metadata Interoperability Ontology Registry and Repository [http://mmisw.org/orr/#http://mmisw.org/ont/ioos\\_test/platform](http://mmisw.org/orr/#http://mmisw.org/ont/ioos_test/platform)

### **Effects of the Sequestration on NOAA and Observational Programs**

The Deputy Secretary of Commerce, Rebecca M. Blank, summarized the effects of the sequestration on NOAA's observational programs. This letter can be found at:

[http://api.ning.com/files/LuE0p2I1yg-rAcjdIVrnyMSZpBvv9wPK4ZGNWQW8rH2SBeXvQTJgFgBA2sQHvFobOT7I9NBbXZFGQqLQPSiWg1DE\\*GuGv\\*dt/126052492DepartmentofCommerceSequestrationlettertoCongress.pdf](http://api.ning.com/files/LuE0p2I1yg-rAcjdIVrnyMSZpBvv9wPK4ZGNWQW8rH2SBeXvQTJgFgBA2sQHvFobOT7I9NBbXZFGQqLQPSiWg1DE*GuGv*dt/126052492DepartmentofCommerceSequestrationlettertoCongress.pdf)

### **Bamford Named New NOAA Assistant Administrator for National Ocean Service** *(from NOS)*

Holly A. Bamford, Ph.D., has been named the new assistant NOAA administrator for the agency's National Ocean Service, succeeding David M. Kennedy who was named the new NOAA deputy under secretary for operations. Prior to her appointment, Bamford served as deputy assistant administrator for NOS. As assistant administrator, Bamford oversees NOS, which serves as the lead federal agency providing science-based solutions to address economic, environmental, and social pressures on our oceans and coasts. NOS observes, measures, assesses, and manages the nation's coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes areas; provides critical

navigation products and services which contribute \$729 billion annually to the Gross Domestic Product, and conducts response and restoration activities to protect vital coastal resources.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Biloxi, MS, closing date: 12 March 2013**

<http://dmr.ms.gov/dmr-information/human-resources>

## COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

### 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

Capitol Hill Oceans Week, 4-6 June 2013 Knight Conference Center, Washington, D.C.

[“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](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)).