



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 19 APRIL 2013

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

IOOS Biological Observations Data Project Workshop (IOOS BDP)

Hassan Moustahfid (US IOOS Program Office), Matthew Howard (GCOOS-RA) and Vembu Subramanian (SECOORA) organized and hosted the second IOOS Biological Observations Data Project Workshop from 21-22 March 2013 at Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission/Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWC/FWRI) in St. Petersburg, FL. Subject matter experts, data providers, and data users from academic, industry, federal and state agencies attended the workshop. A demonstration of the implementation and access to biological datasets via the Environmental Research Division's Data Access Program (ERDDAP) web services was provided.

Felimon Gayanilo visits Mireles Elementary School in Corpus Christi, TX

Felimon Gayanilo, GCOOS Data Portal Manager and GRIIDC System Architect for the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative, was invited to give a presentation to the kindergarten students at Mireles Elementary School in Corpus Christi, TX, on 11 April 2013. His talk focused on his role in the Gulf of Mexico as Data Portal Manager for the GCOOS-RA. He explained his roles in the design, development, and deployment of information systems for the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Gayanilo described the difficulties in obtaining data maintained under a variety of data standards and archival schemes, while his young audience participated. He asked selected kids to draw an ear or a nose, exchange the drawings among the participating audience, and describe what they have received. This simple exercise demonstrated the challenges of understanding and managing such diverse data. Felimon found talking to children to be demanding, as he had to explain complex topics in the simplest possible way. The children asked many questions, but the most prominent was a question asked by a six-year old student, "What would happen if you make a mistake?" It took Felimon awhile to respond, explaining to the student that the GCOOS Data Portal, and hence his job, has real-life consequences impacting other's lives.

BOEM Completes Final Supplemental Review for Proposed Oil & Gas Lease Sales in the Gulf of Mexico

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has released a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for proposed Oil and Gas Lease Sales 233 and 231, the third and fourth sales scheduled in the current 2012-2017 Five Year Program. As part of the Obama Administration's "all of the above" energy strategy, domestic oil and gas production has grown each year the President has been in office. Domestic oil production is currently at the highest level in two decades and natural gas production is at the highest level ever. Renewable electricity generation from wind, solar, and geothermal sources has doubled and foreign oil imports now account for less than 40 percent of the oil consumed in America - the lowest level since 1988. The final SEIS Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2013-2014 (OCS EIS/EA BOEM 2013-0118) is available to view online: <http://boem.gov/Environmental-Stewardship/Environmental-Assessment/NEPA/nepaprocess.aspx>

IOOS/NATIONAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Draft "IOOS Vision" Comments Due by 3 May 2013

The IOOS Advisory Committee has written an "IOOS Vision". The document will be used by the Advisory Committee and U.S. IOOS stakeholders to provide clear, consistent messaging on the mission and value of U.S. IOOS to public sectors. Please send your comments either electronically or by mail to the addresses listed in the notice: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-04-03/pdf/2013-07592.pdf

New Website for NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Program

NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) Program has a new website, that is available at www.noaa.gov/iea. The IEA program supports Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) by providing tools and helping to transfer scientific knowledge to management. The program is currently being implemented in five regions across the United States, including the Gulf of Mexico <<http://www.noaa.gov/iea/regions/gulf-of-mexico/index.html>>. The NOAA IEA Program staff welcome comments on the site.

GEOSS Future Products Workshop

The GEOSS Future Products [workshop](#) was held in Silver Springs, MD on 26 March 2014. Workshop topics included the overall architecture of GEOSS and the evolution of the Sensor Web and Model Web to support data publication via web services. Eoin Howlett from MARACOOS and RPS Applied Science Associates presented a talk on the use of the Sensor Observation Service in IOOS (https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/?artifact_id=53322). The GEOSS architecture has many similarities with IOOS and IOOS is becoming a growing participant. Following the workshop, there was a kickoff meeting for the GEOSS sixth [Architecture Implementation Pilot](#).

Obama Administration Releases Plan to Promote Ocean Economy and Resilience

The Obama Administration released its final plan for translating the National Ocean Policy into on-the-ground actions to benefit the American people. With significant public input from a wide spectrum of individuals and interests, the final Implementation Plan focuses on improving coordination to speed Federal permitting decisions; better manage the ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources that drive so much of our economy; develop and disseminate sound scientific information that local communities, industries, and decision-makers can use; and collaborate more effectively with State, Tribal, and local partners, marine industries, and other stakeholders. Without creating any new regulations or authorities, the plan will ensure the many Federal agencies involved in ocean management work together to reduce duplication and red tape and use taxpayer dollars more efficiently. You can view the Plan here:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_ocean_policy_implementation_plan.pdf.

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

April

"Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS)", 22-24 April 2013, Washington, DC

<http://www.oceancouncil.org>

May

[Offshore Technology Conference](#), 6-9 May 2013, Houston, TX

<http://www.otcnet.org/2013/>

"[Optimising Enhanced Oil Recovery](#)", 7-8 May 2013, Doha, Qatar.

<http://www.wplgroup.com/aci/conferences/eu-eor3.asp>

"Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure: A Two Day Workshop", 14-15 May 2013, Weeks Bay Reserve, Alabama for information contact Michael Shelton at 251.928.9792 or <mailto:michael.shelton@denr.alabama.gov>

"[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.

“OCEANS’13 MTS/IEEE Bergen”, 13-15 June 2013, Bergen, Norway

<http://www.oceans13mtsieeebergen.org>

“2013 Rising Seas Summit”, 18-20 June 2013, Fort Lauderdale, FL

<http://www.sealevelrisesummit.org>

“World Conference on Disaster Management (WCDM)”, 23-26 June 2013, Toronto, Canada.

<http://www.wcdm.org/>

“Gulf of Mexico Alliance All-Hands Meeting”, 25-27 June 2013, Tampa Bay, FL

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e6w82a9z0205fc34&llr=thgzaleab>

“AGU Science Policy Conference”, 24-26 June 2013, Washington, DC. Registration deadline 31 May 2013

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

July

“National Marine Educators Association”, 22-26 July 2013, Mobile, AL.

<http://nmea.disl.org/>

September

“ADCs in Action Conference”, 29 September – 2 October 2013, San Diego, CA

http://www.rdinstruments.com/AIA_abstract_submission.aspx

December

“AGU 2013 Fall Meeting”, 9-13 December 2013, San Francisco, CA.

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



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).