



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 17 MAY 2013

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

Loop Current Surges North to Recapture Warm Core Eddy

Satellite imagery provided by the LSU Earth Scan Laboratory (ESL), a GCOOS partner, reveals the separation of the most recent warm core eddy (Eddy Kraken) from the Loop Current on 15 April 2013, followed a month later by a northward surge of a large Loop Current filament. The ESL has long been a supporter of GCOOS efforts in the Gulf of Mexico. For over 20 years, the ESL, under the direction of GCOOS member, Dr. Nan Walker, has provided real-time satellite imagery and animations of current weather, storm motion, and ocean currents. Visit gcoos.org to learn more about the ESL and this Loop Current event.

GCOOS Supporters Prepare for Capitol Hill Ocean Week

With the 2013 Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) scheduled for 4-6 June, at Washington D.C.'s Newseum, long-time GCOOS and IOOS supporters Ray Toll and Jerry Boatman prepare to take the ocean observing system message to our country's policymakers. Organizing a coordinated IOOS approach through the Marine Technology Society, their efforts will showcase examples of how the initial investment in ocean observing system infrastructure has already demonstrated great returns on the investment. They will be armed with examples, which GCOOS staff helped prepare, of how data from the regions have guided decisions during catastrophic events, ranging from hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico and eastern seaboard to the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill. Equally important will be communicating the potential catastrophes avoided as a direct result of the availability of sustained, aggregated, integrated and freely-accessible oceanographic and meteorological information. For more than a decade, CHOW has provided marine professionals, government officials, and ocean advocates with a venue to network and advance policy goals on our most pressing ocean issues. CHOW is hosted by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. To learn more, visit <http://www.NMSFocean.org>.

Check out the January/February/March 2013 BOEM Ocean Sciences

The January/February/March 2013 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Ocean Sciences is available. This edition includes an article on BOEM's newest Five-Year Program, which has information on potential lease sales in the Western and Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas and a small portion of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico that is not currently under Congressional moratorium. The article outlines the guiding principles and implementation for the Five Year Program. This edition also highlights BOEM's new vision for programmatic environmental impact statements. BOEM explains how environmental studies support their decision-making in deciding the size, time and location of possible lease sales over the five years. One example is to improve the understanding of oil spill transport and fate in the Gulf of Mexico. BOEM will be funding several studies to improve their knowledge of processes involved in oil spills.

<http://www.boem.gov/BOEM-Newsroom/Library/Ocean-Science/Ocean-Science.aspx>

New Insight on Gas Hydrates in Gulf of Mexico

Scientists have returned from a 15-day research expedition in the northern Gulf of Mexico with the best high-resolution seismic data and imagery ever obtained of sediments with high gas hydrate saturations. The data and imagery collected during the expedition resulted from a long-standing cooperation between the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). This collaboration aims to advance the scientific understanding of gas hydrates as an important potential future energy resource. Gas hydrates are ice-like substances formed

when certain gases combine with water at specific pressures and temperatures. Deposits of gas hydrates are found in marine sediments beneath the ocean floor and in sediments within and beneath permafrost areas, where pressure-temperature conditions keep the gas trapped in the hydrate structure. Methane is the gas most often trapped in these deposits, making gas hydrates a potentially significant source for natural gas around the world. For more on this please see:

<http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3588>

Deepwater Horizon Restoration Projects Identified in Mississippi

Mississippi Governor, Phil Bryant, has identified four projects that will be financed using funds for environmental and economic restoration projects from the British Petroleum (BP) Natural Resources Damage Assessment settlement. In Hancock County, funds will be used to reconstruct six miles of living shoreline, which includes 46 acres of sub-tidal oyster reef creation. The second project includes the building of interactive exhibits at the INFINITY Science Center in Hancock County. The third project will build additions (an interpretive center, trails, boardwalks and other recreational enhancements) to the Popp's Ferry Causeway Park in Harrison County. Finally, a two-mile 10-foot wide lighted concrete pathway will be constructed on the Pascagoula Beachfront Promenade in Jackson County. For more information, please see:

<http://www.governorbryant.com/gov-bryant-announces-69-million-in-gulf-restoration-projects/>

IOOS/NATIONAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

NOAA's FY2014 Budget Summary is Available.

The FY 2014 NOAA Budget Summary by Kathryn Sullivan, Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, is now available. The FY2014 budget requests \$5.4 billion, an 11% increase from the 2012 Plan and a 7.7% increase from the FY 2013 President's budget request. The budget request includes a reorganization of STEM-based education, which will eliminate six education programs from NOAA's budget and transfer the funding to the Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, and the Smithsonian. For the complete overview of the 2014 budget, see

http://www.corporateservices.noaa.gov/nbo/14bluebook_highlights.html .

White House Issues an Executive Order Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information

The Obama Administration took steps to make information generated and stored by the Federal Government more open and accessible to innovators and the public, as an effort to fuel entrepreneurship and economic growth while increasing government transparency and efficiency. These actions include an Executive Order signed by the President and an [Open Data Policy](#) released by the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The policy declares that information is a valuable national asset and the value is multiplied when it is made easily accessible to the public. The Executive Order requires that data generated by the government be made available in open, machine-readable formats, while appropriately safeguarding privacy, confidentiality, and security. The move will make previously inaccessible or unmanageable data easily available to entrepreneurs, researchers, and others who can use those files to generate new products and services, build businesses, and create jobs. The Metadata Access Tool for Climate and Health (MATCH) is a publicly-accessible online tool for researchers, offering centralized access to metadata and standardized contextual information about thousands of government-held datasets related to health, the environment, and climate-science. <http://match.globalchange.gov/geoportal/>

USGS Topo Data on the Go

Android and iPhone users can now use their mobile devices as digital topography (topo) maps. Users can combine USGS maps with GPS to zoom in on their precise location while hiking, biking, running, or any other activity that benefits from precision navigation. The type of data available include USGS imagery and topographic maps from *The National Map*, as well as road and contour layers. Currently, two Android applications are using USGS data: OruxMaps (http://www.oruxmaps.com/index_en.html) and AlpineQuest (<http://alpinequest.psyberia.net/>). These apps include USGS services in the list of available online maps. Mobile Atlas Creator (<http://mobac.sourceforge.net/>) allows users to build small "mobile atlases" with USGS data on their desktop computers to use later when navigating in an area outside of cell phone coverage. These "mobile atlases" can be built at multiple spatial scales over any area of interest and, when completed, the small file can be transferred to the user's phone. The "mobile atlases" enable GPS applications on both iPhone and Android mobile devices and ensure the topographic data is available to users even when cell coverage is not.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Instructional Assistant Professor in Oceanography, Texas A&M University

<http://www.higheredjobs.com/details.cfm?JobCode=175748891>

Database Manager, FishWise

<http://www.fishwise.org/about-us/careers>

Manager, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

<http://www.nfwf.org/Pages/whoweare/Manager-Coastal-Habitat-Restoration.aspx-.UZFI11Y78>

Program Officer, David & Lucile Packard Foundation

<http://climate-l.iisd.org/jobs/program-officer-climate-land-use-conservation-and-science-program-packard/>

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

June

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

<http://nmsfocean.org/CHOW-2013>

"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

"ADCPS in Action Conference", 29 September – 2 October 2013, San Diego, CA

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

October

"OCEANS'13 MTS/IEEE" San Diego", 23 – 26 September, San Diego, CA

<http://www.oceans13mtsieeesandiego.org/>

December

[“AGU 2013 Fall Meeting”](http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2013/), 9-13 December 2013, San Francisco, CA.
<http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2013/>

2014

January

[“Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science Conference”](http://gulfofmexicoconference.org/), 27-29 January 2014, Mobile, AL
<http://gulfofmexicoconference.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).