



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 28 JUNE 2013

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

NOAA & Partners Release 2013 Gulf Hypoxia Predictions

The annual Gulf of Mexico hypoxic area estimate for 2013 was recently released by NOAA and NOAA-supported partners, including GCOOS Board Member Dr. Nancy Rabalais. This year scientists are estimating a large area ranging between 7,286 and 8,561 square miles, which will rank in the top ten for largest hypoxic areas estimated for the Gulf of Mexico. The official prediction is based on a forecast provided by NOAA-supported modelers at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON), Louisiana State University, and the University of Michigan. The 2013 prediction reflects flood conditions in the Midwest that caused large amounts of higher than average nutrients to be transported from the Mississippi watershed to the Gulf. In addition to the forecast, three GCOOS partners will be surveying the hypoxic area this summer – NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NOAA NMFS SEAMAP), Texas A&M University, and LUMCON. The NOAA NMFS SEAMAP summer groundfish survey, which includes dissolved oxygen measurements, has been ongoing since 7 June and will end on 19 July with data posted at <http://www.ncddc.noaa.gov/>. TAMU researchers will conduct two Gulf surveys in June and August to estimate hypoxic area. Data, including a 'Life At Sea' blog from scientists, can be found at <http://georesearch.tamu.edu/blogs/hypoxia/> and reports and data products can be seen at <http://hypoxia.tamu.edu>. The LUMCON mid-summer survey will take place from 21-28 July with near real-time data and blog posted at <http://www.gulfhypoxia.net>. Follow the progress and read summaries of these surveys at <http://www.gcoos.org>.

First Private Company Implements IOOS-Recommended Sensor Observation Service (SOS) for Data Access

Satlantic is the first private company to offer data through a Sensor Observation Service (SOS). Satlantic is an advanced ocean technology company that develops optical sensors and systems for aquatic research and water quality monitoring. SOS is a web service that enables web-enabled clients, including web browsers, to query databases across the network. SOS is in wide use by NOAA's National Data Buoy Center, NOAA's National Ocean Service and by independent data provider members of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). The Satlantic system allows a turn-key deployment of an IOOS-compatible observatory and data delivery system with no additional programming.

The Satlantic Land Ocean Biochemical Observatory (LOBO) system with SOS was first deployed by the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation's (SCCF) River, Estuary, and Coastal Observing Network (RECON) in Southwest Florida as a means of providing automated access to SCCF data to one of their sponsors, the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS). However, the service is now open to the public. Instructions are available on the SCCF web site illustrating how easy it is to use the new SOS system. For more information about this SOS, please visit the GCOOS website at <http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?p=4369>.

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Extends Public Comment Period to 8 July 2013

The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council has extended the period for formal public comment on the Draft Initial Comprehensive Plan: Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem and Economy and accompanying Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment to 8 July 2013. The Draft Initial Comprehensive Plan provides a framework to implement a coordinated region-wide restoration effort in a way that restores, protects, and revitalizes the Gulf Coast region following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To view the plan and sign up for email alerts related to the Restoration Council's activities, please visit <http://RestoretheGulf.gov>.

Upgrades to the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) Environmental Monitoring Stations

GCOOS Board Member, Dr. Nancy Rabalais, announced that LUMCON, a GCOOS data provider, is upgrading the environmental monitoring systems at its Marine Center in Cocodrie and in the middle of Terrebonne Bay. A substantial investment in new equipment, logging capabilities and software started this spring, and the first installation (partial) was on 22-23 May at the Marine Center with light and weather instrumentation. Kyle Waits, Mike Lizotte and Brittany Billich from Xylem (formerly YSI) worked with Amanda Fontenot and Lora Pride of LUMCON, to dismantle and reconstruct. Test weather and water data for real-time are being logged and presented at Storm Central, by Water Log, a Xylem web system. Weather data at the Marine Center are now available at <http://weather.lumcon.edu>, click on LUMCON on the map, or Marine Center on the left, and eventually to the GCOOS data portal (<http://data.gcoos.org>), and NOAA National Data Buoy Center.

The ancient weather gauges were replaced with a Vaisala Weather Transmitter, which measures barometric pressure, humidity, precipitation, temperature, and wind speed and direction. Purchase of another will allow similar transmission of weather data from Terrebonne Bay. It is anticipated that, by July, the YSI EXO water quality sondes with vented cable for water level will be installed at the two stations.

The LUMCON environmental monitoring system had also included a station at Lake Pontchartrain (heavily-damaged during Hurricane Isaac), as well as other stations at Audubon, Tambour Bay and Southwest Pass. These will be dropped because of state budget cuts, but past data from these other stations are still available by request to <http://weather.lumcon.edu/archivedata/>. LUMCON plans to focus on the upgrades to their stations at their Marine Center in Cocodrie and at Terrebonne Bay to ensure high quality data for the public.

To learn more about LUMCON, please visit <http://weather.lumcon.edu>.

First Day of Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands Meeting Focuses on Restoration

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance is focusing on Gulf restoration at its 8th Annual All Hands Meeting being held in Tampa this week. The gathering has focused on shared ecological issues of the five U.S. Gulf States, and is an opportunity for all organizations partners to meet and discuss critical environmental issues facing the Gulf of Mexico. The theme of the meeting is "Collaboration is the Key to Successful Gulf Restoration". Restoring the Gulf Coast's ecosystem and economy was at the forefront of the presentations and discussions on the first day of the meeting. A full meeting schedule is available at <http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org>.

2014 Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science Conference Solicits Session Proposals by 30 June 2013

The 2014 Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference is soliciting proposals from the community for sessions to address the Conference Themes and Integrative Topics. The deadline for submissions is 30 June 2013, 11:59 EDT. For guidelines and submission instructions please visit: <http://gulfofmexicoconference.org/program/scientific-sessions/>

IOOS/NATIONAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

IOOS Contributes at Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance Conference

The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) is gaining recognition as a contributor to enhancing our nation's ability to guard against security threats. On 11 June, IOOS delivered a 35-minute briefing of the unique capabilities of IOOS to an audience representing the Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security. IOOS' framework of 17 federal agency partners and 11 regions is poised to do more in helping the military evaluate threats against our citizens and country. One of the key IOOS observing assets is its array of high frequency radars that measure surface current speed and direction in near real-time and in all types of weather. Recently, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security funded a project to study the utility of high frequency radar systems in tracking vessels of interest.

http://www.ioos.noaa.gov/news_splash.html

NOAA RESTORE Science Program Has New Website

The NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program website is now available (<http://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/>). The website includes information about the Program, upcoming events, and answers to frequently asked questions. The website also includes a current draft of the Program's Science Plan Framework. NOAA has

based this Framework on prior assessments of regional science needs and additional input from partners. This Framework will serve as the foundation for continued engagement with partners in the region, whose science needs will be the driving force in the development and execution of the NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program. This Framework will also form the foundation for the Science Plan, which will guide the implementation of the Program.

To receive alerts and announcements about the Program, subscribe via the website or contact the NOAA RESTORE Act Science Team via email at noaarestorescience@noaa.gov.

Commerce Announces 2013 Regional Fishery Council Appointments

The Commerce Department announced the appointment of 20 new and returning members to the eight regional fishery management councils that partner with NOAA Fisheries to manage ocean fish stocks. The new and reappointed council members begin their three-year terms on 11 August 2013.

The councils were established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to prepare fishery management plans for marine fish stocks in their regions. NOAA Fisheries works closely with the councils as plans are developed, and then reviews, approves and implements the fishery management plans. Council members represent diverse groups, including commercial and recreational fishing industries, environmental interests and academia, and carry out the Act's requirements to end overfishing, rebuild fish stocks, and manage them sustainably. For more information on the appointments please see http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/mediacenter/2013/06/20_06_council_appts.html

Two New Quality Assurance for Real-Time Oceanographic Data (QARTOD) Manuals Available

The Nation's ocean observing community now has quality assurance and control standards for real-time waves and currents measurements collected in coastal waters. The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) has released new manuals on best practices for quality assurance and quality control tests for waves and currents, which can be downloaded from <http://www.ioos.noaa.gov/qartod/welcome.html>

NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) Response to Hurricanes

NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) brings a wealth of coastal science, management, and operational expertise to aid communities impacted by hurricanes in their recovery. NOS is on the front lines to help America understand, predict, and respond to the challenges facing our oceans and coasts. For more information on their preparation, response and long-term planning and resilience please visit: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/hazards/hurricanes/welcome.html>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Senior Manager, Policy, Consortium for Ocean Leadership

<http://www.oceanleadership.org/2013/opportunity-senior-manager-policy/>

Policy Coordinator, Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, Ocean Conservancy

<http://www.oceanconservancy.org/who-we-are/job-listings/policy-coordinator-coastal.html>

Policy Analyst, Fish Conservation Program, Ocean Conservancy

<http://www.oceanconservancy.org/who-we-are/job-listings/policy-analyst-fish.html>

Marine Restoration Specialist, Ocean Conservancy

<http://www.oceanconservancy.org/who-we-are/job-listings/marine-restoration-specialist.html>

Recreational Fisheries Outreach Specialist, Gulf Restoration and Fish Conservation, Ocean Conservancy

<http://www.oceanconservancy.org/who-we-are/job-listings/recreational-fisheries.html>

Senior Officer, Global Ocean Legacy, The PEW Charitable Trust

<https://jobs-pct.icims.com/jobs/3236/senior-officer-global-ocean-legacy/job>

Senior Associate, U.S. Oceans, Southeast, The PEW Charitable Trust

<https://jobs-pct.icims.com/jobs/3418/senior-associate,-u.s.-oceans,-southeast/job>

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

July

“2013 Gulf Coast Restoration Summit”, 1 July 2013, New Orleans, LA
<http://www.gulfcoastrestorationsummit.org/about-the-summit/>

“National Marine Educators Association”, 22-26 July 2013, Mobile, AL
<http://nmea.disl.org/>

September

“OCEANS’13 MTS/IEEE San Diego”, 23–26 September 2013, San Diego, CA
<http://www.oceans13mtsieeesandiego.org/>

“GCOOS-RA Board of Directors Meeting”, 25-26 September 2013, University of Alabama at Huntsville, Huntsville, AL

“ADCPs in Action Conference”, 29 September–2 October 2013, San Diego, CA
http://www.rdinstruments.com/AIA_abstract_submission.aspx

October

“Sea Level Rise Summit”, 16-17 October 2013, Fort Lauderdale, FL
<http://www.ces.fau.edu/SLR2013/>

November

“Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation Conference”, 3-7 November 2013, Hotel Mission Valley San Diego & Country Convention Center, San Diego, CA
<http://www.sgmeet.com/cerf2013/>

“IOOS/RA Fall Meeting”, 6-8 November 2013. Details TBD.

December

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

2014

January

“Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science Conference”, 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).