



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

### GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 12 JULY 2013

#### GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

##### **GCOOS Highlights Glider Operations in the Gulf of Mexico – Part 2**

GCOOS is currently highlighting academic, government, and industry partners' glider operations in the Gulf of Mexico. The second part of the glider showcase focuses on Horizon Marine Inc., an active GCOOS partner and pioneer company for operational oceanography. Horizon Marine utilizes state-of-art techniques for oceanographic data analysis and is most notably recognized for eddy monitoring in the GOM (aka Eddy Watch® program, [http://www.horizonmarine.com/eddywatch/ew\\_gulf.php](http://www.horizonmarine.com/eddywatch/ew_gulf.php)). In the recent years, Horizon Marine has added gliders to their operational fleet. Visit [http://gcoos.org/?page\\_id=4468](http://gcoos.org/?page_id=4468) to read the entire showcase article and learn about HMI's exciting glider deployments in the GOM Loop Current and Loop Current Eddies and how HMI is improving the current knowledge of GOM deep water circulation.

##### **GCOOS Member Highlight - Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation**

In each Newsletter, GCOOS is highlighting its members! This edition showcases the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF). The organization is based in southwest Florida and is a contributing data partner dedicated to the conservation of coastal habitats and aquatic resources on Sanibel and Captiva Islands in Florida. To date, the SCCF manages over 1,300 acres of land, including acreage in the surrounding watershed of the two Islands. Active research projects in the SCCF Marine Laboratory include monitoring of and restoration projects involving seagrasses and mangroves, and active monitoring of HABs and fish populations in the area. The SCCF is also currently operating a network of real-time water quality instrumentation in south Florida. To read the rest of this GCOOS member highlight, please visit [http://gcoos.org/?page\\_id=4486](http://gcoos.org/?page_id=4486).

##### **GCOOS Establishes Gulf Glider Task Team (GGTT)**

GCOOS has established a GGTT to develop an implementation plan consistent with the GCOOS Build Out Plan for Gulf glider operations. The GGTT first will review the GCOOS Build Out Plan for Gulf glider operations and, if deemed necessary, propose changes to the GCOOS Board of Directors. The Task Team will also develop protocols for data sharing and visualization to meet the needs of the Gulf stakeholder community, participate in and provide GCOOS input to the national glider plan and related IOOS Office efforts (e.g., DMAC) for gliders, and coordinate the Gulf Glider Network with that of the adjacent SECOORA. For more information about the GGTT, see the team's Terms of Reference at [http://gcoos.org/?page\\_id=4426](http://gcoos.org/?page_id=4426). For the GGCOOS build out plan, see [http://gcoos.org/BuildOut/GCOOS\\_BuildoutPlan\\_V1.pdf](http://gcoos.org/BuildOut/GCOOS_BuildoutPlan_V1.pdf)

##### **Large Dead Zone Growing In Gulf of Mexico**

*Reported from* <http://geonews.tamu.edu/latestnews/941-large-dead-zone-growing-in-gulf-of-mexico.html>

Ocean experts had predicted a large "dead zone" area in the Gulf of Mexico this year, and according to the results from a Texas A&M University researcher just back from studying the region, those predictions appear to be right on target. Steve DiMarco, (<http://ocean.tamu.edu/profile/SDiMarco>) professor of oceanography and one of the world's leading experts on the dead zone, says he and a Texas A&M team surveyed areas off the Texas-Louisiana coast in mid-June and found large areas of oxygen-depleted water – an area covering roughly 3,100 square miles, or about the size of Delaware and Rhode Island combined. "We found hypoxia (oxygen-depleted water) just about everywhere we looked," DiMarco reports. "The most intense area is where you would expect it – off the Louisiana coast south of Atchafalaya Bay and Grande Isle, La. But we also found

significant amounts off High Island and near Galveston. The farther south we went, the less we found hypoxia in the water column, but we still found plenty of depleted oxygen waters up to just west of Freeport. To read the rest of this story, please visit the website above.

This TAMU June survey is the first of three surveys to investigate the hypoxic area in the Gulf of Mexico. Stay tuned this summer as GCOOS will be showcasing additional hypoxic area surveys conducted by Dr. DiMarco and his team, NOAA Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program, and the mid-summer July survey conducted by Dr. Nancy Rabalais and her team at Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON).

### **National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Gulf Program Plans Public Meetings**

As part of legal settlements with the companies involved in the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, the federal government asked the NAS to establish a new 30-year research program focused on human health and environmental protection in the Gulf region. This program will include issues concerning the safety of offshore oil drilling and hydrocarbon production and transportation in the Gulf of Mexico and on the United States' outer continental shelf. The Advisory Group for this new NAS Gulf Program has selected preliminary dates for its first meetings.

The dates below are preliminary, but likely dates and states are:

- 24-25 July New Orleans;
- 29-30 August Washington D.C.;
- 17-18 September Alabama;
- 25-26 September Louisiana;
- 10 or 24 October virtual;
- 30-31 October Florida;
- 12-13 November Mississippi;
- 21-22 November Texas;
- 11 or 12 December virtual
- (more virtual meetings may be added)

From the discussions at these meetings, NAS hopes to develop an understanding of the activities already underway relevant to the Gulf Program's charge, understand what others hope the program might contribute, and identify a range of possible opportunities for the program's work. Input from these discussions will be fundamental in the creation of a strategic plan to guide the Gulf Program activities over the next 5 years.

For more information or to sign up for e-updates from the NAS Gulf Program, please visit:

<http://www.nas.edu/gulf/gulfprogram.html/>

### **Sparks Relieves Walker as Federal On-Scene Coordinator**

Capt. Thomas Sparks has assumed duties as the Federal On-scene Coordinator (FOSC) for the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) from Capt. Duke Walker. As the FOSC, Sparks is the federal government representative in charge of overseeing the cleanup of recoverable oil from the BP *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. Capt. Sparks has been working alongside Walker and the GCIMT for several weeks in preparation for a smooth transition. He reports directly to Rear Adm. Kevin Cook, Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, who oversees all Coast Guard operations along the Gulf Coast. Walker's next assignment will be as Commander of Coast Guard Sector Mobile, AL. He has served as the FOSC since 15 November 2011. Sparks is the seventh FOSC for the *Deepwater Horizon* response. He is a career Coast Guard officer with more than 30 years on active duty, in which a significant portion has been spent at units on the Gulf Coast.

<http://www.restorethegulf.gov/release/2013/07/02/sparks-relieves-walker-federal-scene-coordinator>

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

### **NOAA Proposes Regional Association Certification Regulations**

NOAA has published the Regional Association Certification Regulations in the Federal Register for public comment. The comment period ends 1 August 2013. GCOOS will be sending in comments on 31 July 2013. Please let Ann Jochens ([ajochens@tamu.edu](mailto:ajochens@tamu.edu)) know by 29 July 2013 if you have comments you would like to include with the GCOOS comments.

Below are the links to the web site (1<sup>st</sup>) and a pdf version (2<sup>nd</sup>).

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/07/02/2013-15823/us-integrated-ocean-observing-system-regulations-to-certify-and-integrate-regional-coordination>

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-07-02/pdf/2013-15823.pdf>

## **Joint Ocean Commission Initiative Leadership Council Released New Report**

“Charting the Course: Securing the Future of America’s Oceans”, a new report released by the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative Leadership Council describes specific recommendations for the Administration and Congress that prioritize areas where short-term progress can be readily achieved. The report and press release are available at: [www.jointoceancommission.org](http://www.jointoceancommission.org). The report details measures for immediate implementation that focus on four action areas:

- Enhance the resiliency of coastal communities and ocean ecosystems to dramatic changes underway in our oceans and on our coasts;
- Promote ocean renewable energy development and reinvest in our oceans;
- Support state and regional ocean and coastal priorities; and
- Improve Arctic research and management.

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Assistant/Associate/Full Professor, (Coastal Hazards Prediction and Mitigation), Louisiana State University  
<http://www.erf.org/job/assistantassociatefull-professor-0>

## **COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS**

### **July**

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

### **August**

“15<sup>th</sup> Conference on Mesoscale Processes”, 6-9 August 2013, Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Portland, OR.  
<http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/fainst/201315meso.html>

### **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](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/>

“NOAA’s 38<sup>th</sup> Climate Diagnostics and Predication Workshop” 21-24 October 2013, College Park, MD  
<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/outreach/CDPW38.shtml>

### **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.

“Clean Gulf”, 12-14 November 2013, Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL.

<http://www.cleangulf.org>

## 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/>

### February

“94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Meteorology Society”, 2-6 February 2014, Atlanta, GA.

“2014 Ocean Science Meeting (with AGU and TOS), 22-28 February 2014, Honolulu, HI.



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)).