



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

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 16 AUGUST 2013

### GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

#### **GCOOS Seeks Your Help to Highlight Partner and Member Programs & Activities!**

GCOOS wants to hear from you! Because of positive feedback from members whose stories have been published in the Newsletter and associated website banner stories, we are expanding our efforts to highlight partner and member programs and activities (e.g. data and observational systems, events, data products, etc.). To make it easy to contribute, we have created guidelines that outline basic questions for you to answer about your programs or activities. The guidelines include a step-by-step online form to simplify the process and to make it easy for you to submit information. Once the form is submitted, GCOOS staff will draft the articles and work with you to make sure your stories are accurately communicated. Guidelines for the stories can be accessed at [http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page\\_id=4678](http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=4678). We look forward to hearing from you!

#### **GCOOS Highlights Partner & Member - the Dauphin Island Sea Lab**

In each Newsletter, GCOOS is highlighting the exciting and current activities of its members and partners. This month's showcase focuses on the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL). DISL was founded in 1971 by the Alabama State Legislature and is Alabama's premiere marine science education and research laboratory. DISL is located on Dauphin Island, a barrier island, and serves 22 four-year colleges and universities in Alabama. DISL offers many K-12 educational programs (Discovery Hall Programs), professional development in marine science for educators, and conducts a variety of public education and outreach activities. Research activities and programs range from biochemistry to oceanography to paleoecology. For 35 years, DISL has collected local Mobile Bay seawater temperatures and daily weather observations and currently operates an automated system of real-time coastal environmental stations, known as the Mobile Bay Environmental Monitoring Program. To learn more about DISL research and activities, please read the entire showcase at [http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page\\_id=4667](http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=4667).

#### **GCOOS Data Product Highlight - GCOOS Glider Mission Viewers**

Gliders are becoming increasingly more common as effective ocean observing and monitoring tools. In the Gulf of Mexico, there are many different ongoing glider activities. For examples, see the highlighted stories on gliders on the GCOOS website ([http://gcoos.org/?page\\_id=3597](http://gcoos.org/?page_id=3597) & [http://gcoos.org/?page\\_id=4468](http://gcoos.org/?page_id=4468)). GCOOS has developed interactive glider mission viewers for the Gulf community to help provide information and data from some of the gliders that have operated, or are currently operating, in the Gulf of Mexico (see <http://gcoos.org/products/index.php/gliders/>). The viewers were developed for: Slocum gliders monitoring Harmful Algal Blooms in Southwest Florida, a Wave Glider monitoring ocean acidification in the northern Gulf of Mexico, profiling gliders monitoring after the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, and Slocum gliders being tested in the western Gulf of Mexico. Read more about these glider trackers on the GCOOS website at [http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page\\_id=4689](http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=4689).

#### **Implementation of New Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring, and Technology Program**

NOAA announced, in the 16 August Federal Register, the implementation, under the authority of the RESTORE Act, of a new competitive science program to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem and the communities that depend on it. This program will be funded by 2.5% of the Gulf Coast

Ecosystem Restoration Trust Fund plus twenty-five percent of the Trust Fund accrued interest. The notice is at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-08-16/pdf/2013-19946.pdf>.

### **GCOOS Website Has New "Resources" Page**

The GCOOS website now has an updated "Resources" page with descriptions of, and links to, GCOOS resources, as well as other information resources on the Gulf of Mexico. The "GCOOS Resources" section includes links to the GCOOS Data Portal, data products, Build-Out plan, regional priorities, Oil Spill Resource Center, and community and education resources. The "Other Gulf Information Resources" section includes links to Gulf-wide plans, RESTORE Act information, and other *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill information. Visit [http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page\\_id=2796](http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=2796). If you have additional resource ideas to add to the page, please email Susan Martin at [srmartin@tamu.edu](mailto:srmartin@tamu.edu).

### **GCOOS Informational Brochures Now Available**

GCOOS has posted informational brochures on our website for easy access. The brochures cover a variety of topics, such as GCOOS membership, the role of GCOOS in providing information on hurricanes for energy and shipping industries, and what GCOOS is doing for each of the five Gulf States. To view and download the brochures, see [http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page\\_id=4588](http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=4588).

### **Scientific Dream Team Conducts Rapid Response Research at Hercules Gas Blowout**

In the early morning hours on Monday, 23 July 2013, the Hercules 252 rig owned by Walter Oil and Gas of Houston, TX blew out, spewing a mixture of gas, condensate, and possibly other hydrocarbons into the water and air. The rig is located about 55 miles south of the Louisiana coast. Within days, members from five Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Consortia (Ecosystem Impacts of Oil and Gas Inputs to the Gulf, Coastal Waters Consortium, Gulf Integrated Spill Research Consortium, Consortium for Advanced Research on the Transport of Hydrocarbons in the Environment, and Center for Integrated Modeling and Analysis of the Gulf Ecosystem) organized a rapid response team that traveled to the site to collect samples and deploy moorings. For more on this rapid response, please see:

<http://gulfresearchinitiative.org/scientific-dream-team-conducts-rapid-response-research-at-hercules-gas-blowout/>

### **Texas A&M University Slocum G2 Glider Successfully Completes Mission On the Texas Coast**

Texas A&M University Department of Oceanography and the Geochemical Environmental Research Group have recently deployed a Teledyne Webb Slocum G2 glider in the western Gulf of Mexico. The glider was deployed successfully on 6 August 2013, 40 miles southeast of Galveston, from the R/V Manta during the Mechanisms Controlling Hypoxia (MCH, <http://hypoxia.tamu.edu>) cruise and recovered on 10 August 2013. The goal for this glider deployment was to collect temperature, salinity, and dissolved oxygen data in the western Gulf. GCOOS developed a glider tracker (see [http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page\\_id=4689](http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=4689)) to display the glider surfacing locations and science data. This will be the first of many multi-day missions to monitor the western Gulf of Mexico waters. Check out where the glider recently traveled on the GCOOS glider data tracker - <http://gcoos.org/products/maps/gerg/glider201308/> and stay tuned to <http://gcoos.org> for future updates on glider activities in the Gulf!

### **LUMCON Releases the 2013 Annual Hypoxic Area Press Release**

Researchers at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) measured the Gulf hypoxic area, or 'Dead Zone', to be 15,120 square kilometers. The measured area was smaller than the estimate released early in the summer of 18,900 to 22,000 square kilometers based on the May nitrogen load from the Mississippi River. However, the size of this year's zone is above the long-term average and above the average size of the last five years. To this press release, please visit <http://www.gulfhypoxia.net> or [http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page\\_id=4611](http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=4611). Stay tuned to the GCOOS Newsletter in September when GCOOS showcases 2013 summer hypoxic area research conducted by GCOOS members and partners - LUMCON, Texas A&M University, and NOAA Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NOAA SEAMAP).

### **Nancy Rabalais Elected Fellow of the American Geophysical Union**

Dr. Nancy Rabalais, Executive Director and Professor at LUMCON and GCOOS Board Member, has been elected American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fellow for the class of 2013. The Fellows program recognizes AGU

members who have made exceptional contributions to Earth and Space Sciences as valued by their peers and vetted by section and focus group committees. Nancy has been recognized for her pioneering and sustained contributions to understanding hypoxia in the ocean with emphasis on the northern Gulf of Mexico.

### **The Socio-Economics Group at the Harte Research Institute Announces the Release of GecoServ2: Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Services (ES) Valuation Database**

“The two main goals of the GecoServ database are to allow for the distribution and sharing of information about ES valuation studies relevant to the Gulf of Mexico region and to identify current gaps in the ES literature. The studies summarized here are for habitats that are relevant to the Gulf region even though they may have been conducted elsewhere”. This new version includes 1174 valuation estimates, more habitats, visualization of ecosystem services, and enhanced navigation. GecoServ is sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency’s Gulf of Mexico Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For more information, see <http://www.gecoserv.org>.

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

### **NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program Hosts Virtual Meetings**

The NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program invites you to participate in their virtual engagement process. This month, the NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program will be hosting five virtual engagement sessions where they will provide a short overview of the program, answer questions, and gather input on research and observing needs in the Gulf of Mexico. NOAA will be using the Adobe Connect platform to host these meetings. You can register for the session that best fits your schedule below.

- Friday, 16 August, 11 AM Eastern, 10 AM Central
- Monday, 19 August, 10 AM Eastern, 9 AM Central
- Monday, 19 August, 2 PM Eastern, 1 PM Central
- Tuesday, 27 August, 12 PM Eastern, 11 AM Central
- Wednesday, 28 August, 12 PM Eastern, 11 AM Central

The NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program is limiting attendance at each session to 25 participants to ensure they have enough time to fully engage participants and answer questions. If demand for these sessions is high, NOAA will schedule additional sessions in September and October. Any additional virtual engagement sessions will be announced on NOAA’s RESTORE website (<http://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/>) where you can sign up (<http://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/contact/sub-form>) to receive alerts and announcements about the program including the dates for future engagement opportunities. Prior to the event, an e-mail containing the teleconference information will be sent to those who have successfully registered. Participants are encouraged to register in advance. NOAA’s RESTORE Act Science Program is interested in engaging a wide audience, so please feel free to provide this information to others who may be interested in participating.

### **Mark Your Calendars for National Estuaries Week**

Mark your calendars for National Estuaries Week - 23-29 September 2013! In 2013, Restore America’s Estuaries is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of National Estuaries Day and announcing National Estuaries Week. National Estuaries Week is a terrific opportunity to learn more about estuaries and the perfect excuse to spend time on your local bay. For more information, visit:

<http://estuaries.org/national-estuaries-day.html>

### **NOAA’s National Weather Service Doubles Computing Capacity**

Whizzing through 213 trillion calculations per second, newly upgraded supercomputers of NOAA’s National Weather Service are now more than twice as fast in processing sophisticated computer models to provide more accurate forecasts further out in time. And, as the hurricane season ramps up, forecasters will be armed with an enhanced hurricane model that will improve track and intensity forecasts. The scientific data and insights that these newly upgraded supercomputers will provide are essential to help government officials, communities, and businesses better understand and manage the risks associated with extreme weather and water events.

[http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2013/2013029\\_supercomputers.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2013/2013029_supercomputers.html)

<http://www.weather.gov/>

### **NOAA Publishes a WaterLife Game - *Sea Turtles and the Quest to Nest***

NOAA's National Ocean Service recently released the second games in the NOAA WaterLife series –*Sea Turtles and Quest to Nest*. This game is one piece of large-scale effort to improve environmental literacy by introducing educational games to connect with today's K-12 students. The mission of the game is to help protect turtles and their habitat to increase turtle survival in the wild. In the game, players are exposed to the complexity of the decision-making process, including approaching conservation from multiple angles or points-of-view, that is necessary for conserving a species.

Check out [http://gcoos.org/?page\\_id=4110](http://gcoos.org/?page_id=4110) to learn more about the NOAA WaterLife activities and <http://games.noaa.gov/seaturtle/welcome.html> to play *Sea Turtles and Quest to Nest*!

### **2012 Among the 10 Warmest Years on Record**

Worldwide, 2012 was among the 10 warmest years on record according to the *2012 State of the Climate* report released online by the American Meteorological Society (AMS). The peer-reviewed report, with scientists from NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C., serving as lead editors, was compiled by 384 scientists from 52 countries. It provides a detailed update on global climate indicators, notable weather events, and other data collected by environmental monitoring stations and instruments on land, sea, ice, and sky.

For report highlights, please see: <http://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/state-climate-2012-highlights>

The full report is available at: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/bams-state-of-the-climate/2012.php>

### **Senators Portman and Nelson Introduce Bi-partisan Bill to Combat Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia**

Senators Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Bill Nelson (D-Florida) introduced the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2013. The Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2013 would reauthorize the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act, which was first enacted in 1998 and reauthorized in 2004 and 2008 (16 U.S.C. 1451 note). For over a decade, this program has served as the federal government's research and response framework for harmful algal blooms. According to a recent NOAA report, U.S. seafood and tourism industries suffer annual losses of \$82 million due to economic impacts of HABs.

<http://www.portman.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=88f8e4e0-15ac-4090-8488-0507f78ae0bb>

### **Dr. Mark Schaefer Appointed Assistant Secretary for Conservation and Management**

On 2 August 2013, Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Acting NOAA Administrator, confirmed Dr. Mark Schaefer as NOAA's Assistant Secretary for Conservation and Management. In this role, he will be responsible for driving NOAA's policies and programs in areas ranging from enabling marine transportation to managing our nation's fisheries and protecting and preserving coastal resources. Due to an administrative oversight, Dr. Schaefer was actually confirmed under this position's former title, Assistant Secretary of Oceans and Atmosphere.

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **National Academy of Sciences' Fellowship for the Gulf of Mexico**

<http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/policyfellows/index.htm>

### **Environmental/Natural Resource Economist, Office of Response and Restoration**

<http://www.imsg.com/index.php/careers/current-opportunities/wave/>

### **Science Engineer, NOAA's Weather Satellites Ground System Development Support**

<http://www.imsg.com/index.php/careers/current-opportunities/scitechteam/>

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

## **NOPP/Interagency FFO Funding Available**

The National Oceanographic Partnership Program/Interagency FFO calling for U.S. Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (BON) demonstration projects has just been published. It's available on [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and at this URL: <http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppId=239797>.

## **COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS**

### **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**

**15 October 2013 abstracts due for the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science Conference in January 2014.** <http://gulfofmexicoconference.org/registration-abstract-submission/>

"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 Prediction 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/>

"66<sup>th</sup> Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Conference", 4-8 November 2013, Omni Corpus Christi Hotel, Corpus Christi, TX.  
[http://www.gcfi.org/Conferences/66th/CorpusChristi\\_en.html](http://www.gcfi.org/Conferences/66th/CorpusChristi_en.html)

"IOOS/RA Fall Meeting", 6-8 November 2013. TBD.

**8 November 2013 early registration ends for the AGU 2013 Fall Meeting in December 2013.**  
<http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2013/travel-housing/registration-rates/>

"Clean Gulf", 12-14 November 2013, Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL.  
<http://www.cleangulf.org>

### **December**

**2 December 2013 early registration ends for the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Meteorology Society in February 2014,** <http://annual.ametsoc.org/2014/index.cfm/registration/>

"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.  
<http://annual.ametsoc.org/2014/>

“2014 Ocean Science Meeting (with AGU, ASLO and TOS)”, 22-28 February 2014, Honolulu, HI.  
<http://www.sgmeet.com/osm2014/default.asp>



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)).