



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 16 SEPTEMBER 2013

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

GCOOS Wants to Hear From You!

Have a program or activity happening in Fall 2013? Let GCOOS showcase your activity or program in our Newsletter and on our webpage. Find out more at http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=4755.

New GCOOS Board Member Elected – Dr. Alan Hart of CSA Ocean Sciences Inc.

GCOOS members have recently elected Dr. Alan Hart, Executive Vice President, CSA Ocean Sciences Inc., to the GCOOS-RA Board of Directors. Dr. Hart has more than 40 years of oceanographic and environmental science experience and has been employed at CSA Ocean Sciences Inc. since February 1982. His extensive experience includes environmental consulting, study development, and assessments investigating the impacts of oil and gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico. Please visit http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=5239 to learn more about Dr. Hart's background, research, and environmental activities in the Gulf and what he looks forward to by serving on the GCOOS Board of Directors!

GCOOS Member Highlight – The Galveston Bay Foundation

This month's highlight focuses on the Galveston Bay Foundation. The Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) was founded in 1987 as a non-profit organization to preserve, protect, and enhance Galveston Bay, Texas. GBF recently joined as a GCOOS partner in 2012 and develops programs in advocacy, conservation, education, and research to ensure that Galveston Bay, Texas, one of the world's most productive estuaries, remains a beautiful and productive place. Our highlight primarily focuses on a large-scale GBF program that is part of GBF's collaborative efforts with GCOOS - the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) program. The CWP is designed to build relationships with and engage community organizations in their environment and provides educational opportunities to help promote actions that improve water quality in Galveston Bay. Find the entire showcase at http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=5210.

New Program Offered for Coastal Elected and Appointed Officials

Texas Sea Grant, Texas AgriLife, and Texas Coastal Watershed Program are reaching out to elected and appointed officials from state, regional, and local governments to help with providing the necessary community planning tools to make small- and large-scale decisions. Land use decisions made today and in the future will determine how resilient Texas coastal critical facilities and communities will be for the next 30 years and beyond. To increase the awareness of the increasing complexity of coastal risk management, Texas Sea Grant has developed a program - the Texas Coastal Citizen Planner (TCCP) program - to provide elected and appointed officials the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed land use decisions towards long-term hazard management, natural resource conservation, and improved quality of life for their citizens. The TCCP program consists of eight courses held throughout Fall 2013 in the Houston area and Corpus Christi. If you are interested in participating in the TCCP program, please visit http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=5243 for additional details and registration information.

Blucher Institute Receives \$2 Million for Coastal Safety Monitoring

The Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science (CBI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has been awarded a \$2 million grant from the Texas General Land Office (TGLO) to install four "Sentinels of the Coast" data collection stations. These sentinels can withstand the effects of a category four hurricane and will collect federally-approved water level and meteorological data. The CBI oversee design, construction, and installation

of each structure. Upon completion, CBI will install equipment and initiate operation and data collection from these new monitoring stations that will be incorporated into the Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network (TCOON). For more on this story please visit http://tamucc.edu/news/2013/08/images/081913_Safety_Monitoring.html.

Chemical Analyses from *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill Now Available

NOAA has announced the release of a comprehensive, quality-controlled dataset that give access to millions of chemical analyses and other data on the 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. NOAA was one of the principal agencies responding to the *Deepwater Horizon* well explosion in the Gulf of Mexico and is the official ocean data archivist for the federal government. For more information on the data sets please see <http://www.nodc.noaa.gov/deepwaterhorizon/specialcollections.html>

U.S. Treasury Releases Proposed Regulations for RESTORE Funds

On Friday, 6 September 2013, the U.S. Treasury announced its proposed regulations for expenditures of the RESTORE funds in the *Federal Register*. The announcement starts the 60-day comment period on the regulations. The regulations contain procedures required by the RESTORE Act, and generally describe the responsibilities of Federal and State entities, which administer RESTORE Act programs and carry out restoration activities in the Gulf Coast region. Treasury developed the draft regulations in consultation with federal, state, and local officials. To read Treasury's proposed regulation and/or submit a comment, please visit <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/09/06/2013-21595/gulf-coast-restoration-trust-fund> .

RESTORE Council Adopts Comprehensive Plan

On 28 August 2013, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council held a public meeting and officially adopted the *Initial Comprehensive Plan* that will guide regional restoration for the foreseeable future. The *Plan* was broadly circulated in draft form throughout most of the summer, receiving over 41,000 comments from the public meetings as well as written input. To download a copy of the *Initial Comprehensive Plan* and other related documents, go to <http://www.restorethegulf.gov>.

GoMRI Conference Session Organizers Seek Your Help

The *GoMRI Myths and Misconceptions* session organizers are requesting information (myths/facts/stories) to identify misconceptions and misunderstandings about the *Deepwater Horizon* event and its impact on the Gulf. The information received will be used to compile a public document that will help to correct public misconceptions and misunderstandings and will be shared at the GoMRI Conference at the January 24, 2014 in Mobile, AL. For more details, please visit http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=5265. To share myths/facts/stories, please email oilspillmythbusting@disl.org.

NOAA's Science Advisory Board Seeks Members for a Working Group to Advise NOAA's RESTORE Act Science Program

NOAA's Science Advisory Board is seeking members to join a working group that the Board has established to advise NOAA's RESTORE Act Science Program. The request for nominations to the working group has been announced in the Federal Register. The working group will provide independent guidance and review of the NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program offering advice and recommendations to NOAA on the types of research, monitoring, observations, and technology development the Program should support. Nominations must be received by 9 October 2013, and should be submitted electronically to noaa.rspawg.nominees@noaa.gov. <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/09/09/2013-21759/solicitation-for-members-of-the-noaa-science-advisory-board-sab-gulf-coast-ecosystem-restoration>

NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program Announces Additional Virtual Engagement Sessions

The NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program will be hosting eleven virtual engagement sessions this September. During each session, a short overview of the program will be presented followed by an open question and answer session. Participants will also be asked a series of targeted questions to provide input on research and observing needs in the Gulf of Mexico. These sessions will be identical to the ones the program hosted in August. The input gathered from these sessions will be used to further develop the program's science plan. The virtual engagement sessions are open to anyone interested in learning more about the program. Attendance at each session will be limited to 75 participants to ensure there is enough time to fully engage participants and answer questions. For more information on the sessions and registration, please see

<http://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/engagement/noaa-restore-act-science-program-announces-additional-virtual-engagement-sessions>

GOMA Building Map to View Restoration Projects in the Gulf

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) has been working hard on a map that will allow users to view restoration projects as well as research activities in progress across the Gulf. Currently, the site contains almost 200 projects from GOMA, GoMRI, NFWF and early NRDA, with more to be added in the future. To view the demonstration site, please visit <http://goma-projects.blueurchin.com/?news>. Your feedback is welcome!

IOOS/NATIONAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

U.S. IOOS® Releases Summit Report

The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) released the 2012 U.S. IOOS Summit Report. The report includes the work leading up to and the synthesis of outcomes from the IOOS Summit held from 13-16 November 2012. The Summit covered ocean observing progress over the last decade and the development of plans for the next decade of ocean observations. The report addresses the need for a sustained and integrated ocean observing system and shows how improved ocean observing can become an increasingly value commodity worldwide in 25 comprehensive recommendations based on white papers developed by industry experts. The U.S. IOOS Summit Report allows the United States to move forward with the vision and insight of over 200 ocean observing community leaders participating in the Summit. To read more about the U.S. IOOS Summit and to download the full report, please visit <http://www.ioos.us/summit/>.

NOAA's Historical Hurricane Tracks: Online Tool Displays More Than 150 Years of Historical Hurricane Landfalls

NOAA's Historical Hurricane Tracks, a free online tool, now includes all 2012 global hurricanes. The site, developed by the NOAA Coastal Services Center in partnership with NOAA's National Hurricane Center and National Climatic Data Center, offers data and information on coastal county hurricane strikes through 2012. It also provides links to detailed reports on the life histories and effects of U.S. tropical cyclones since 1958, with additional U.S. storm paths traced as far back as 1851. The site contains global hurricane data from as far back as 1842. For more information and links please see <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/weeklynews/aug13/historical-hurricanes.html>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Regional Coordinator, JHT, Inc.

http://www.careerpath.com/JobSeeker/Jobs/JobDetails.aspx?job_id=JHQ3HG73JM95MQS5LQ6

Director, Gulf Ecology Division

<https://www.usajobs.gov/JobSearch/Search/GetRefineControlResults?Keyword=RTP+ORD-42-2013-0002&Location=&SelectedRadiusOption=20&AutoCompleteSelected=False&search.x=0&search.y=0>

Field Biologist/Sea Turtle Program Coordinator

<http://www.sccf.org/content/120/Employment-Opportunities.aspx>

Assistant Professor, University of Florida, Molluscan Shellfish Aquaculture and Restoration

<https://jobs.ufl.edu/postings/43897>

Assistant Professor, University of Alabama, Computational Biology

<https://facultyjobs.ua.edu/postings/34097>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Announce Request for Proposals for 2015-2017

The purpose of the 2015-2017 Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) Research Consortia RFP, to be released in mid-November 2013, is to select the research activities for GoMRI Years 5-7 (1 January 2015-31 December 2017) involving Research Consortia, defined as a contractual arrangement between a PI and co-PIs at four or more institutions. A RFP for individual and small research group investigations will be forthcoming in late 2014. For more information on themes and dates please visit <http://gulfresearchinitiative.org/request-for-proposals/rfp-iv-save-the-date/>

Gulf B-WET Proposals Sought

The National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Region is now seeking proposals under the Gulf of Mexico NOAA Bay-Watershed Education and Training (Gulf B-WET) Program. The full FY14 Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) can be found at Grants.gov under funding opportunity number NOAA-NMFS-SE-2014-2003813. Applicants should apply through Grants.gov. Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on 18 October 2013 to be considered for funding. Please see the FFO for all application details. The Gulf of Mexico B-WET program is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning in the K-12 environment. Funded projects provide meaningful watershed educational experiences (MWEEs) for students, related professional development for teachers, and help to support regional education and environmental priorities in the Gulf of Mexico. <http://www.grants.gov>

Marine Sensor Innovation Project Federal Funding Opportunity

A joint IOOS®/Ocean Acidification Program (OAP) Federal Funding Opportunity, titled Marine Sensor and Other Advanced Observing Technologies Transition Project, has been released. There are two sub-themes - one focused on broad sensor development (which can include ocean acidification (OA) and one more narrowly focused on development of OA observing technologies for use by impacted or potentially vulnerable stakeholders. For more information: MSI FFO, #NOAA-NOS-IOOS-2014-2003854, <http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=240175>

2014 NOAA Marine Debris Funding Opportunity

The NOAA Marine Debris Program supports several grant opportunities for marine debris activities. For more information on these programs please see <http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/funding/welcome.html>.

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

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

October

Abstracts due for the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science Conference in January 2014., **15 October 2013**, <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 38th 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/>

“66th 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

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

“Maritime Alliance 5th Annual Blue Tech & Blue Economy Summit”, 7-8 November 2013, San Diego, CA.
<http://themaritimealliance.org/2013/05/5th-annual-blue-tech-blue-economy-summit/>

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 94th 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

“94th 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>

March

“Summit 2014 –State of the Gulf of Mexico” 24-27 March 2014, Omni Hotel Galleria, Houston, TX.
<http://www.sgmsummit.org>

November

“7th National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration and 24th Biennial Meeting of the Coastal Society”, 1-5 November 2014, Gaylord National Convention Center, Washington, D.C.
<http://www.estuaries.org/summit>



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).