



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 15 OCTOBER 2013

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

GCOOS Welcomes Landry Bernard as Associate Executive Director

Landry Bernard, a New Orleans native and long-time Louisiana resident, is joining the GCOOS Team as Associate Executive Director in the new GCOOS Office at Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. Landry brings a wealth of expertise on the Gulf of Mexico, particularly on met-ocean issues and collaboration with decision-makers, industry, and researchers throughout the region. Landry served as Technical Director for the Naval Oceanographic Office for 10 years and as Director of the Advance Buoy Initiatives at The University of Southern Mississippi/NOAA National Data Buoy Center at Stennis. Landry has been involved in GCOOS as a stakeholder and strong contributor since the initial development of the organization. In his new role, Landry will focus on continued development of the GCOOS-RA. He will inform the GCOOS-RA leadership of, and will facilitate, stakeholder engagement and funding opportunities, beginning with opportunities resulting from the RESTORE Act. Landry is excited about his new role, stating, "Life is too short to not have fun doing the things you enjoy – GCOOS integrates people, groups, and systems!" Ann Jochens, GCOOS Executive Director, adds, "Landry brings enthusiasm and experience to what GCOOS does well: integrating people, data, and products to serve our Gulf communities and our nation." GCOOS member, the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), is co-supporting Landry's position with GCOOS. Monty Graham, Chair of the USM Department of Marine Science, adds that the connection with GCOOS and Landry "will create a solid relationship between GCOOS and the entire Stennis oceanographic community." Join us in welcoming Landry! He can be reached at landry.bernard@usm.edu or 228-688-3177. His office will be at USM Department of Marine Science at 1020 Balch Blvd., Stennis Space Center, Stennis, MS 39529.

To our Federal Members and Partners – We miss you!

The current government shutdown has created critical holes in our work in the Gulf of Mexico. From an inability to collaborate with federal experts and decision-makers on important Gulf issues to not being able to access critical websites with products and information, your work is greatly missed. Your efforts are critical to protecting life and property, as well as for less essential, but very important activities, such as planning expensive glider missions to collect data in the Northern Gulf of Mexico. We look forward to the day you can return to your work!

GCOOS Board Meeting Held in Alabama, 25-26 September 2013

The GCOOS Board of Directors held their semi-annual meeting on 25-26 September 2013, at the University of Alabama at Huntsville. The meeting was hosted by Dr. Sara Graves and her colleagues at Cramer Hall/National Space Science and Technology Center. The public portion of the meeting was held on 25 September. Five of the Gulf Local Data Nodes (LDNs) from FL, AL, MS, TX, and LA provided status reports. These five LDNs, which are partially funded through GCOOS, reported that GCOOS funding is helpful in the face of diminishing funding from state and other sources. All reported that assets are being or will be removed in the near future due to cuts in funding and aging equipment. The session on the RESTORE Act included updates from the NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program (Russ Beard), the Gulf of Mexico University Research Collaborative (GOMURC – Larry McKinney), the MS Center of Excellence (Monty Graham), and the AL Center of Excellence (John Dindo). Representatives from the Centers of Excellence for Louisiana and Florida were also invited but unable to attend. The Center of Excellence for Texas has not yet been identified. The participants and the Board had an excellent discussion on RESTORE-related collaborations for building the ocean observing system for the Gulf of Mexico. The public meeting also included: presentations from each of the GCOOS-Regional

Association Councils, Committees, and Task Teams; strategy sessions on government and industry engagement; the revision of the regional observing system Build-Out Plan, and the GCOOS Integrated Water Quality Network initiative. The GCOOS Board met in closed session on 26 September to discuss budget and business model details. The full meeting report will be posted this month on the GCOOS website. An announcement of the report will be distributed via the GCOOS newsletter.

GCOOS Has Been Active this Fall - Catch Up On Our Ongoing Efforts!

October has been a busy month for GCOOS. From hiring a new Associate Executive Director to improving data products, GCOOS has been working hard to serve its members and stakeholders. Check out the banner story at http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=5430 to read about our October activities and future activities. And we still want to hear from you! If you have an activity, event, or program that GCOOS can help you highlight, please let us know. You can find more information at http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=4755.

GCOOS Education and Outreach Council (EOC) to Meet in November

The GCOOS EOC will hold its annual meeting 12-13 November 2013 in Gulf Breeze, FL. Each year, the 24-member Council comes together to brainstorm, prioritize, and begin development of an education and outreach product for the coming year. Previous projects identified and implemented by the EOC and GCOOS staff include development of web pages for recreational boaters (see <http://gcoos.org/products/maps/boaters/>) and creation of an interactive kiosk (*Are You an Eco Hero*) for four Gulf Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers and the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies-Center for Marine Education and Research. The focus of the 2013 meeting will be to begin development of a Citizen Scientist section on the GCOOS website, a service request made by numerous groups in the GCOOS-RA. The EOC will work with leaders from Natures Academy, Bradenton, FL, and the Galveston Bay Foundation, TX, on a pilot project to serve their atmospheric, oceanographic, and water quality data in a way that enables sharing, puts information in context to the real world, and allows comparisons on different time scales to be made. The project provides an education and outreach component to the Integrated Water Quality Network being developed by GCOOS to aggregate, integrate and serve sustained water quality information for the Gulf of Mexico. Meeting participants will also enjoy an early morning visit to the Navarre Beach Marine Science Station, created and directed by long-time EOC member Charlene Mauro, with significant contributions from interim EOC Chair Chris Verlinde, Santa Rosa County Extension Agent with the Florida SeaGrant Program. For more information on the GCOOS EOC meeting, please contact Dr. Chris Simoniello, GCOOS Education and Outreach Coordinator at simo@marine.usf.edu.

Professional Development for Emergency Responders

The NOAA Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) teamed with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) on 11 September 2013, to provide Professional Development for Emergency Responders in U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) District Seven's Sector, St. Petersburg, Florida. Participants, including members of the USCG, state oil spill leads, and academia learned how to navigate NOAA's Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) tool and FWC's Digital Area Contingency Plan (ACP; <http://myfwc.com/research/gis/projects/oil-spill/acp/>) and Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI; <http://myfwc.com/research/gis/projects/oil-spill/environmental-sensitivity/>) data. Led by Richard Knudsen, FWC Assistant Research Scientist and Oil Spill Scientific and Technical Support Coordinator, and the NOAA OR&R team of Brad Benggio, NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator, USCG District Seven, Michele Jacobi, and Jill Bodner, participants practiced using the mapping applications and were provided with an overview of how information flows through an incident command post during an oil spill event. The GCOOS-RA was invited to participate to help determine if there are data gaps and information challenges that can be addressed with existing regional ocean observing system infrastructure and resources. One issue for the response teams is the inability to ingest certain ocean circulation data sets into the numerical models that forecast spill trajectories. The GCOOS-RA will work with the OR&R team to resolve the identified issues. Dr. Chris Simoniello, GCOOS Education and Outreach Coordinator, stated "the training was valuable not only for the increased awareness and training in the use of the data tools, but to better understand how people identify, access, prioritize, and apply information during an emergency response." Knudsen commented that "this training was an excellent opportunity for those involved in the myriad aspects of planning and responding to oil spills to better understand how map-based information can inform and guide Marine Environmental Protection decision-making by ensuring that we are all working together with the best available information. With ERMA, Digital ACPs, ocean observing system information, and integrated modeling data, we really begin to have a powerful set of tools to operate more effectively as stewards of the Gulf of Mexico's coastal and marine ecosystems." For more information about the workshop or to learn about the different mapping tools, please contact Knudsen at Richard.Knudsen@MyFWC.com.

TAMU-GERG Deploys a Second Glider in the Western Gulf of Mexico

In early October, Texas A&M University Department of Oceanography (TAMU) and the Geochemical and Environmental Research Group (GERG) deployed a second Teledyne Webb Research Slocum G2-200m glider in the southwestern Gulf of Mexico. This is TAMU-GERG's second glider mission and the first multi-week mission. The glider will fly along the shelf in waters 500 - 1000 meters deep collecting salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, fluorescence, and color dissolved organic matter (CDOM) data. The mission started on 2 October 2013 about 80 nautical miles southwest of Corpus Christi Bay, Texas. The mission will last approximately three weeks with the glider being recovered near the Flower Garden Banks. GCOOS has developed a glider viewer for the TAMU-GERG mission. To follow the glider's progress and observe the data collected, please visit <http://gcoos.org/products/maps/GERG/glider201310/>.

National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Gulf Program Holds Two State Visits

The NAS Gulf Program is a component of the legal settlements with the companies involved in the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. The federal government has asked NAS to establish a new 30-year research program focused on human health and environmental protection in the Gulf region. The NAS Gulf Program has held two state visits, in Alabama and Louisiana, in the last month. The visits included invited presentations from experts and stakeholders in the two Gulf States, as well as updates on the Gulf Program. For the agenda for these two meetings, and for a schedule of the state visits for Florida, Mississippi, and Texas, please visit <http://www.nationalacademies.org/gulf/events.html>.

New Tool Available for the Gulf Species

The Gulf of Mexico Species Interaction (GoMexSI) Database, version 1.0, is now available. Developed by the GoMexSI team at the Center for Coastal Studies at Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi, this open source tool can be used by the public and scientific community to better understand interactions in the Gulf of Mexico. The GoMexSI team has recently added new functionality to the site which includes: predator or prey searches refined by a specific species, locations based spatial queries based on user defined parameters, raw data downloads in CSV format, food web visualization inside the Exploration mode and direct links to the Encyclopedia of Life (EOL) for each species from the query. For more information please see: <http://gomexsi.tamucc.edu/>.

The September issue of NOAA's *Earth System Monitor* Highlights Gulf of Mexico's Essential Ecosystems, Storms, and Sea Level Rise

The September issue of NOAA's publication, *Earth Systems Monitor*, includes an article on the Gulf of Mexico's essential ecosystems, storms, and sea level rise. The article describes a joint initiative, the Ecological Effects of Sea Level Rise in the Northern Gulf of Mexico (EESLR-NGOM) project, which involves NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, the University of Central Florida, and many partners are working with the three National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRs) in the Northern Gulf of Mexico (Grand Bay, Weeks Bay, and Apalachicola). According to the article, the project examines the effects of sea level rise and storm inundation, with the goal of developing and applying new predictive models, as well as communicating that information to coastal managers. The Gulf of Mexico Regional Team of NOAA's Regional Collaboration Network connects this project with other climate-related and coastal restoration efforts in the Gulf, ensuring that these related efforts coordinate effectively to assess the impacts of sea level rise and inundation. To read the article, please see the September *Earth Systems Monitor* at: http://www.nodc.noaa.gov/media/pdf/esm/ESM_SEP2013vol19no3.pdf.

Corps of Engineers Galveston District awards \$1.1 Million Small Business Contract

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District awarded a contract in the amount \$1,172,000 to Inland Construction & Engineering Inc., -- a certified small disadvantaged business and HUBZone contractor -- to install impressed current cathodic protection systems at the Colorado River Locks in Matagorda, Texas. http://www.army.mil/article/112759/Corps_of_Engineers_Galveston_District_awards__1_1_million_small_business_contract/.

IOOS/NATIONAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

NOAA Tests the Next Generation Tides and Currents Website

NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) has a new beta (test) site with improved products and services based on user requests (try it at <http://beta.tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov>). This

new website is designed for desktop and mobile devices, with improved menus that allow users to view all products simultaneously. The site also includes alerts and recent news. A “Find a Station” search box (with auto-fill capabilities) brings users to a new “Station Home Page”, which has all station-specific information, including the last 24 hours of observational data. A new “Datum” page allows users to view relevant datum information, along with a chart of the datums available for that station. All product pages include links to other products at that particular station, as well as a map of nearby stations with the same type of data. A new “Meteorological obs.” tab from the menu list provides users with a dynamic webpage displaying air temperature, wind, and barometric data on interactive graphs easily exportable in multiple formats. Winds are also shown as vectors to match the display in the CO-OPS Physical Oceanographic Real-Time Observations System (PORTS). For questions about the new site, please contact the CO-OPS User Services Group at co-ops.userservices@noaa.gov.

Heather Zichal Stepping Down as White House Climate Chief

The White House confirmed Monday that Heather Zichal plans to step down as President Barack Obama’s chief energy and climate adviser. Zichal took over the job in early 2011 following the departure of former Climate Chief Carol Browner, and has overseen initiatives such as the climate action plan that Obama unveiled this summer.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/10/heather-zichal-stepping-down-97937.html>

Coastal Resilience 2.0: Assessing Risk and Identifying Solutions to Coastal Hazards

Recent devastating storms have raised questions for communities and nations around the world. The answers to these questions affect hundreds of millions of people, as well as jobs, infrastructure and even national economies. Partners from federal agencies, academia and non-profit organizations have collaborated to develop Coastal Resilience 2.0, which is a suite of tools that help visualize risks to coastal communities and habitats, assisting decision makers reduce and mitigate the risks from storms and other hazards, like coastal erosion and flooding. For more on this please see: <http://blog.nature.org/science/2013/10/09/coastal-resilience-2-0-assessing-risk-and-identifying-solutions-to-coastal-hazards/>.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Director, The National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology, University of Mississippi

http://oceanleadership.org/director-national-institute-undersea-science-technology-university-mississippi/-utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+OceanLeadership+%28Consortium+for+Ocean+Leadership%29&utm_content=FaceBook

Assistant Professor, Marine Fisheries Science, Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi

<https://islanderjobs.tamucc.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1381521391859>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The EPA Announced Funding Opportunity for the Gulf of Mexico Regional Partnerships

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Gulf of Mexico Program (GMP) is soliciting initial proposals under this announcement from eligible entities that address water quality monitoring and/or improvement, coastal habitat and ecosystems enhancement and/or protection, community resilience, and environmental education and outreach in the Gulf of Mexico region and its watersheds. The initial proposals, due 12 November 2013, will be short submissions describing a project’s scope and environmental results, and will be evaluated to determine whether the applicant will be requested to submit a full proposal. A broad range of entities, as described in Section III, are eligible to submit proposals under this announcement for projects in the Gulf of Mexico region and its watersheds in the five states abutting the Gulf of Mexico (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida), including their out-of-geographic-region contributory watersheds, that address water quality monitoring and/or improvement, coastal habitat and ecosystems enhancement and/or protection, community resilience and environmental education and outreach. For more information please see: http://www.epa.gov/gmpo/2013_rfip_epa_gmpo.pdf.

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Will Soon Announce the 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/>.

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

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 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/>

"Congress on Coastal Resilience and Risk", 11-12 December 2013, NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction, College Park, Maryland
<http://www.rnrf.org/>

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>

“World Ocean Summit”, 24-26 February 2014, San Francisco, CA.
<http://www.economistconferences.asia/event/world-ocean-summit-2014>

March

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

May

“2014 Coastal Bend Hurricane Conference”, 7-8 May 2014, Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds, Robstown, TX.

July

“Conference on Ecological and Ecosystem Restoration”, 28 July – 1 August 2014, Hilton Riverside, New Orleans, LA.
<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/CEER2014/links.html>

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).