



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

### GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 15 NOVEMBER 2013

#### GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

##### **GCOOS Member Highlight: The Institute for Marine Mammal Studies**

This month's highlight focuses on the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport, Mississippi. The Institute for Marine Mammal Studies (IMMS) is a non-profit organization established in 1984 for the purpose of public education, conservation, and research of marine mammals and sea turtles in the wild and under human care. IMMS is the premiere organization in Mississippi-Louisiana-Alabama sub-region of the Gulf Coast with the capability and experience to care for sick and injured marine mammals and sea turtle. Our highlight primarily focuses on the many education and outreach programs and activities IMMS conducts throughout the year. Click here to read the entire IMMS highlight ([http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page\\_id=5572](http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=5572))!

##### **GCOOS Data Provider Highlight: The Texas General Land Office, Texas A&M University, and the Texas Automated Buoy System (TABS)**

Following the U.S. Oil Pollution Act (1990) and the Texas Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act (1991), and its mandate to protect the Texas coast, the Texas General Land Office (TGLO) contracted the Texas A & M University's (TAMU) Geochemical and Environmental Research Group (GERG) to develop the TABS. TABS is a system of nine ocean buoys, of six different types, that provide near real-time oceanographic and meteorological observations over the Texas continental shelf. Seven buoys are funded by TGLO and are strategically located between the Sabine Pass near the Texas-Louisiana Border and Port Isabelle near the U.S.-Mexico border. Locations were chosen based on their proximity to population centers and ports, drilling and lightering activity, and average oceanographic circulation patterns. Two buoys are funded by the oil and gas industry and are located at the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. The buoys all measure near surface currents, water temperature, salinity, and orientation and provide the data every two hours to the Globalstar satellite to the GERG. GERG conducts quality assurance/quality control and then sends the data to publicly accessible websites at TGLO, GCOOS, and the National Data Buoy Center. Some buoys also measure meteorological parameters, current profiles, wave height and direction, and have additional positioning and communications capabilities. Some of the buoys can also be equipped with additional sensors. The Texas Automated Buoy System (TABS) is an important data provider to the GCOOS Data Portal. GCOOS has developed an article highlighting the TABS system, including an introduction to TABS as a great example of public-private partnerships, information on how to access TABS data, TABS success stories, future plans for the system, and references and contacts for more information. Read the full highlight at [http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page\\_id=5596](http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=5596).

##### **GCOOS-RA Education and Outreach Council Held Annual Meeting on 12-13 November**

The GCOOS-RA Education and Outreach Council (EOC) held their annual meeting in Gulf Breeze, FL on 12-13 November 2013. Participants focused their efforts on developing the framework and data layers that will be used to build the GCOOS-hosted Citizen Scientist web pages. The project is being developed as the education and outreach portion of the developing GCOOS Integrated Water Quality Network and is being structured to accommodate data and information acquired by volunteer monitoring networks throughout the Gulf of Mexico region. Discussions about the product began at the September 2012 GCOOS-RA Board meeting when Charlene Bohanon, Water Quality Program Manager for the Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF), discussed the challenges her team faces making data from their volunteer network available and useful to others. Upon investigation, it became apparent that other volunteer monitoring networks share similar challenges. Working with GBF in Texas and Dana Pounds and Jessika Blersch, Nature's Academy, Florida, as the pilot study

programs, GCOOS staff members Drs. Shin Kobara, Matt Howard, Ruth Mullins-Perry, and Chris Simoniello, and the dedicated EOC members, designed a framework to share regional citizen data and identified relevant data layers and content that will facilitate the sharing of these by Gulf-wide E/O stakeholders.

During the meeting, the EOC members received GCOOS Eco Hero medals in recognition of their work to develop the GCOOS Eco Hero game that won a 2013 Gulf Guardian Award in the Civic/Non-Profit category. Members also elected new co-Chairs Chris Verlinde, Florida Sea Grant College Program, and Charlene Mauro, Santa Rosa County School District. The two have worked together many years and have achieved great successes, including creating the Navarre Beach Marine Science Station (see <http://www.navarresciencestation.org/>). Participants had the opportunity to visit this unique 'classroom by the sea' and learn about the award-winning programs being conducted there. The GCOOS EOC looks forward to the exciting projects under their leadership. Read the full meeting recap at [http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page\\_id=5584](http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=5584).

### **'A Primer on Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Blooms' Now Available**

An important public education document published from the ongoing efforts in developing the GCOOS-Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) Harmful Algal Bloom Integrated Observing System (HABIOS) plan - 'A Primer on Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Blooms - Common question and answers for stakeholders, decision makers, coastal managers, and the education community' is now available for download at <http://gcoos.tamu.edu/documents/HabPrimer-10.16.2013.pdf>. The document is one result from a number of meetings engaging a wide range of Gulf stakeholders coming together to plan, design, and implement an integrated, comprehensive, sustained HABIOS for the Gulf of Mexico. To read more about the progress of HABIOS and ongoing efforts of GCOOS and GOMA in developing the HABIOS, please visit [http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page\\_id=5609](http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=5609).

### **GCOOS Board Members and Partners Present at National Academy of Sciences ' (NAS) Gulf Program Meetings**

GCOOS Board Members and Partners were invited presenters at the Florida and Mississippi meetings with the Advisory Group of the NAS Gulf Program. In Florida, presenters included Dr. Eric Chassignet, Director, Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies and Professor, Florida State University. In Mississippi, presenters included University of Southern Mississippi's Drs. Stephan Howden and Monty Graham of the Marine Science Department. The next NAS Gulf Program meeting will be in Texas on 21-22 November 2013. For more on the NAS Gulf Program and the agendas for these state meetings, please see: <http://nationalacademies.org/gulf/events/index.html>.

### **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund Announces Nearly \$113 Million for Restoration Projects in the Gulf**

NFWF's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund was established in early 2013 as a result of two plea agreements resolving the criminal cases against BP and Transocean after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The agreements direct a total of \$2.544 billion to NFWF over a five-year period. The funds are to be used to support projects that remedy harm to natural resources that were affected by the spill. The NFWF Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund has just announced the first projects to be supported through the Fund in all five Gulf States at nearly \$113 Million total. The projects were selected in consultation with state and federal resource agencies. As directed by the plea agreements, the 22 grants are designed to "remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of future harm to Gulf Coast natural resources." For more information on the selected projects, please visit, <http://www.nfwf.org/gulf/pages/gulf-projects.aspx>.

### **Sea Grant Releases 2013 Survey of Gulf of Mexico Research Priorities**

The four Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant college programs are pleased to release the 2013 Gulf of Mexico research needs survey. You can provide input to numerous groups that are developing Gulf of Mexico regional science and restoration plans or funding Gulf research through a single survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2013GMRP> The results of this survey will be shared with the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI), NOAA Restore Act Science Program, National Academy of Science's Gulf of Mexico Program, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council and other groups that are trying to identify priorities for the region. Please share this link with others that you think would be interested in completing the survey. Responses will be kept anonymous, and it will take less than 15 minutes to complete this critical survey. The survey will close on 13 December 2013. For more information contact Steve Sempier, Sea Grant Gulf of Mexico research planning coordinator, at [stephen.sempier@usm.edu](mailto:stephen.sempier@usm.edu). Read more at

[http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page\\_id=5617](http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=5617).

### **Federal, State Agencies Announce \$3.7 Million to Restore Alabama Natural Resources**

Four federal and state trustee agencies have announced \$3.7 million following a natural resource damages settlement to restore natural resources and habitats harmed by hazardous substances released from a manufacturing site in McIntosh, Alabama. The funds are part of a \$5 million settlement with BASF Corporation, the company that acquired the Ciba-Geigy Corporation's McIntosh facility. This facility manufactured DDT as well as other pesticides, herbicides and various agricultural and industrial chemicals. Nearly \$3.2 million will be used to plan, implement and oversee restoration projects and/or acquire lands within the Mobile Bay watershed to compensate for resources injured as a result of contamination by this facility. For more on this settlement please see <http://www.noaa.gov/stories/2013/pdfs/NOS-BASFAlabamaSettlement.pdf>.

### **BOEM Proposes Central Gulf of Mexico Oil and Gas Lease Sale**

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced that it will hold the Gulf of Mexico Central Planning Area (CPA) Oil and Gas Lease Sale 231 in New Orleans on 19 March 2014. The sale is the second CPA lease sale and the fourth overall sale under the 2012 - 2017 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Natural Gas Leasing Program. The auction will offer 39 million acres offshore Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, and will include all available unleased areas in the CPA. For more on this, visit <http://www.boem.gov/Press10252013/>.

### **Research Finds More Than 50 Fish Species in the Gulf of Mexico Rely on Decommissioned Rigs**

Researchers in the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) at Texas A&M University -Corpus Christi say 52 fish species from 18 families have been identified at 13 surveyed sites (artificial reefs/decommissioned oil and gas rigs) near Port O'Connor, Port Aransas, and Port Mansfield, Texas. For more information, visit <http://www.tamucc.edu/news/2013/11/111113%20Artificial%20Reefs.html#.UoU0Y414PXM>

### **Ocean 180 Video Challenge, Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence (COSEE)**

The Florida COSEE is thrilled to announce a nationwide video contest for ocean scientists. Starting on 15 October 2013, the *Ocean 180 Video Challenge* will be accepting video abstracts detailing recent peer-reviewed ocean science publications. Ocean scientists, including undergraduate and graduate students, affiliated with US-based institutions, are eligible to participate. This is an excellent opportunity to broaden your impact and share your research in a format accessible to students, teachers and the general public. A panel of scientists and communication experts will initially judge the videos with the final winners selected by a diverse group of potential-future ocean scientists - 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders from all over the globe. The top three video abstracts will receive cash prizes of \$3,000 for first place, \$2,000 for second place and \$1,000 for third place. Please visit <http://www.ocean180.org> for a full list of rules and guidelines, entry forms, and more information about the Ocean 180 Video Challenge. You may also contact [scientist@ocean180.org](mailto:scientist@ocean180.org) directly with questions.

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Releases a Vision for a Healthy Gulf of Mexico Watershed**

The USFWS recently released their *Vision for a Healthy Gulf of Mexico Watershed* - identifying eight conservation strategies and 16 focal areas. The conservation actions in the Vision document are voluntary and are intended for implementation through existing programs and partnerships. To download a copy of a summary of the full document, please go here: <http://www.fws.gov/gulfrestoration/vision.html>.

### **Sea Level Rise and Sediment Management Workshops in Mexico**

The Gulf of Mexico Foundation sponsored the International Integration Workshop on Sea-Level Rise (SLR) in Merida, Yucatan from 21-23 October 2013. The International Integration project was conceived to support the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Habitat Conservation and Restoration Team's (HCRT) Expanded Partnerships action item. The project was implemented to develop a collaborative, bi-national communication network to address important issues affecting coastal habitat and communities in the Gulf of Mexico. The agenda included a sequence of interactive panels on SLR impacts, restoration in the face of SLR, protection, measurement/adaptation, and SLR assessment techniques on Day 1 set the tone for a day-long applied training session utilizing the Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM). On the final day, participants identified potential projects for bi-national collaboration and began discussion of the next workshop for 2014, which will focus on Regional Sediment Management (RSM). <http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/announcements/news.php - story-1081>

## **Construction Begins on Gulf of Mexico Oyster Reef**

Oysters play a vital role in protecting our shorelines and the health of our oceans, and contribute tremendously to the economic vitality of the five states whose future is intertwined with that of the Gulf: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. That's why The Nature Conservancy is working to restore Half Moon Reef, an underwater oyster colony in the heart of Matagorda Bay, which is one of the most productive fisheries for blue crabs, oysters and shrimp in Texas. Once massive, Half Moon Reef today has little to no cultch—or fossilized oyster shell—material left. While the Conservancy previously constructed new oyster beds and restored existing reefs along the upper and lower Texas coast, the 45-acre Half Moon Reef will be the Conservancy's first reef constructed from the ground up. It's also one of the largest restoration projects around the country, said Boze Hancock, research scientist for the Conservancy's Global Marine Team. The reef will be sub-tidal (fully submerged underwater) and designed to maximize structural complexity—a more diverse structural habitat leads to differently sized niches, which not only attract oysters, but a variety of fish, shellfish, small invertebrates and sea turtles. That variety ensures a healthy, thriving Gulf ecosystem. "We are not [just] restoring oysters, we are restoring habitat," Hancock said. Once complete, Half Moon Reef will mimic an underwater karst system, characterized by niches, caves and passageways. This type of restoration work offers the Gulf Coast a jumpstart of sorts: an individual oyster can filter around 50 gallons of water each day; a healthy one-acre reef filters approximately 24 million gallons of water daily. In other words, these reefs play a major role in building and maintaining coastal resiliency and enhancing and improving water quality. And with 207 estuaries and 30 major rivers draining into the Gulf—approximately 40,000 gallons of water flows into Matagorda Bay every second—oysters' natural water filtration process becomes incredibly important in keeping the ecosystem healthy and balanced. For more on this project please visit <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/texas/explore/half-moon-reef.xml>

## **Nitrate Levels Continue to Increase in Mississippi River; Signs of Progress in the Illinois River**

Nitrate levels in the Illinois River decreased by 21 percent between 2000 and 2010, marking the first time substantial, multi-year decreases in nitrate have been observed in the Mississippi River Basin since 1980, according to a new U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) study (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2013/5169/>). Unfortunately, similar signs of progress were not widespread. "Nitrate levels continue to increase in the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, including the Mississippi's outlet to the Gulf of Mexico," said Lori Sprague, USGS research hydrologist. The reasons for increases or declines in annual nitrate levels are unknown. Reliable information on trends in contributing factors, such as fertilizer use, livestock waste, agricultural management practices, and wastewater treatment improvements, is needed to better understand what is causing increases or decreases in nitrate. Nitrate trends from 1980 to 2010 were determined at eight long-term USGS monitoring sites in the Mississippi River Basin, including four major tributaries (Iowa, Illinois, Ohio and Missouri rivers) and four locations along the Mississippi River using methodology that adjusts for year-to-year variability in streamflow conditions. For more on this, go to: <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3715-.Unv3eo2GE7k>

## **Latest Edition of the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative's Newsletter Available**

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative has released their latest newsletter. In addition to their calendar of events, stories include GoMRI's response to the Hercules gas blowout, a spotlight on summer learning with the GoMRI research consortia and interviews with graduate students working with the consortia as well as notes from Rita Colwell and Chuck Wilson. This issue also includes a touching piece on the passing of Dr. Raymond Highsmith. To access the newsletter please go to <http://gulfresearchinitiative.org/news-and-events/gomri-newsletter/>.

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

### **NOAA Announces the Launch of "NOAA View" Tool**

"NOAA View" is an online educational tool that gives educators and the public interactive access to NOAA environmental data, enabling unique views of the world's oceans, land, atmosphere, cryosphere and climate. "NOAA View" was developed by NOAA's Center for Satellite Applications and Research and the NOAA Visualization Lab. It compiles more than 60 different sets of data, as far back as 1880, with new data sets being added to the portal regularly. Examples of data contents include: wind speed, coral bleaching, ice cover, vegetation, precipitation, and views of the Earth at night. Users can browse, animate, and download high-resolution imagery. Visit: <http://www.nnvl.noaa.gov/view>.

## **NOAA-National Coastal Data Development Center offers Metadata Training**

NOAA's National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC) announced the new schedule for its popular, free online metadata training series. NCDDC will offer two courses, "Intro to ISO" and, "Transition to ISO Metadata" in weekly, hour-long webinars beginning in November 2013. The "Intro to ISO" one-hour weekly webinars will begin 5 November 2013 and be taught each Tuesday through 17 December 2013. A second series of "Intro to ISO" will be offered 16 January – 6 March 2014. A "Transition to ISO" series will begin on 7 November and be taught each Thursday through 19 December 2013. A second series of the "Transition to ISO" will be offered 14 January – 25 February 2014. More information about the training, including course descriptions, can be found at <http://www.ncddc.noaa.gov/metadata-standards/metadata-training/>, or by emailing the NCDDC Metadata Team at [ncddcmetadata@noaa.gov](mailto:ncddcmetadata@noaa.gov).

## **NOAA to End Printing Paper Nautical Charts**

NOAA's Office of Coast Survey, which creates and maintains the nation's suite of a thousand nautical charts of U.S. coastal waters, has announced major changes ahead for mariners and others who use nautical charts. Starting 13 April 2014, the federal government will no longer print traditional lithographic (paper) nautical charts. Since 1862, those lithographic nautical charts—available in marine shops and other stores—have been printed by the U.S. government and sold to the public by commercial vendors. The decision to stop production is based on several factors: the declining demand for lithographic charts, the increasing use of digital and electronic charts, and federal budget realities. For more information please see <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/weeklynews/oct13/nautical-charts.html>.

## **Federal Register Notice on Modified Procedure for Tidal Datums**

In preparation for the upcoming tidal datum updates in areas of Louisiana and Alaska that experience rapid land movement, a notice was published in the Federal Register announcing NOAA's use of a modified procedure for tidal datums in areas of anomalous relative sea-level trends. "Notice of Change to the Nation's Tidal Datums with the Adoption of a Modified Procedure for Computation of Tidal Datums in Area of Anomalous Sea-Level Change" was published in the [Federal Register October 25, 2013 Vol. 78, No. 207](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-10-25/pdf/2013-25139.pdf) (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-10-25/pdf/2013-25139.pdf>). A technical report is currently being finalized that will soon be published the [Tides & Currents](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/) website (<http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/>) that further details the modified procedure and the areas where it is used. This modified procedure is necessary at stations in areas with high rates of vertical land motion that have documented anomalous relative sea level trends to ensure that the tidal datums accurately represent the existing sea level. For more information, contact Kelly Kriner, [kelly.kriner@noaa.gov](mailto:kelly.kriner@noaa.gov).

## **House Approves Historic Water Resources Infrastructure Reforms**

The House of Representatives overwhelmingly (417 to 3) approved bipartisan water resources reform legislation that cuts federal red tape and bureaucracy, streamlines the infrastructure project delivery process, fosters fiscal responsibility, and strengthens our water transportation networks to promote America's competitiveness, prosperity, and economic growth. Through the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA), Congress authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to carry out its missions to develop, maintain, and support the Nation's vital port and waterways infrastructure needs, and support effective and targeted flood protection and environmental restoration needs. Historically, Congress has passed such legislation every two years to provide clear direction to the Administration and the Corps, but no bill has been signed into law since 2007. For a list of projects please see <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/govbeat/wp/2013/10/24/the-house-overcame-its-earmark-ban-to-pass-a-bill-heres-who-gets-paid/>.

## **2012 U.S. Seafood Landings Remain Near high 2011 Levels**

U.S. commercial fishermen landed 9.6 billion pounds of fish and shellfish in 2012, valued at \$5.1 billion, according to *Fisheries of the United States 2012* (<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/commercial-fisheries/fus/fus12/index>), an annual report released by NOAA. The value and pounds of fish and shellfish caught remain higher than the average for the previous ten years at \$4.1 billion and 9.2 billion pounds. This does represent a small decrease from the high level of landings and value in 2011. For more information, click on the link above.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Sea Grant Communications Coordinator, Florida Sea Grant

[http://oceanleadership.org/opportunity-sea-grant-communications-coordinator/ -utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+OceanLeadership+%28Consortium+for+Ocean+Leadership%29&utm\\_content=FaceBook](http://oceanleadership.org/opportunity-sea-grant-communications-coordinator/-utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+OceanLeadership+%28Consortium+for+Ocean+Leadership%29&utm_content=FaceBook)

### Professor of the Practice: Marine and Coastal Sciences, Tulane University

<http://tulane.edu/sse/eebio/about/pop.cfm>

### Physical Geographer, The University of Alabama

<https://facultyjobs.ua.edu/postings/34324>

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative's RFP IV to be Announced Very Soon

Keep apprised of the GOMRI RFP IV at <http://gulfresearchinitiative.org/request-for-proposals/rfp-iv-save-the-date/>. RFP release date is estimated for 15 November 2013.

### Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP)-USFWS Aquatic Habitat Restoration Program RFP FY2014

The USFWS is now accepting aquatic habitat restoration project proposals for FY 2014 funding through the SARP and the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. All proposals should be developed in coordination with a USFWS Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office listed for your state in the proposal form. Please provide the information listed in the downloadable "SARP FY 2014 Aquatic Habitat Restoration Proposal Form" for each project. Proposals should be emailed to Tripp Boltin of the USFWS. Proposals should be submitted by 29 November 2013. Please refer to this web address for detailed information on the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and Fish Passage funding (<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/fisheries/opportunities.html>). For more information, contact Tripp Boltin, USFWS, Southeast Fisheries Fish Habitat and Fish Passage Coordinator, 843-819-1229, [walter\\_boltin@fws.gov](mailto:walter_boltin@fws.gov).

### FY2014 Demonstration of a U.S. Marine Biodiversity Observation Network

This funding opportunity invites proposals for projects that demonstrate how an operational Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (Marine BON) could be developed for the nation by establishing one or more prototypes networks in U.S. coastal waters, the Great Lakes and the EEZ. Full proposals must be received by 5:00 PM ET on 2 December 2013. For more information please see <http://www.grants.gov/search-grants.html?fundingCategories=ST|Science and Technology and other Research and Development>

## COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

### 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/>

"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

“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>

“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

“7<sup>th</sup> National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration and 24<sup>th</sup> 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](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)).