



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 17 FEBRUARY 2014

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

Deadline for GCOOS-RA Board of Directors Nominations, 19 February 2014

The last day for nominations for the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System-Regional Association Board of Directors is Wednesday, 19 February 2014. For more information, please see <http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?p=5878>.

Sea Surface Height (SSH) Resource Added to GCOOS Website "Resources" Page

The GCOOS website "Resources" page has an added resource: SSH (<http://gcoos.org/products/index.php/model-resources/ssh/>). The SSH or height of the ocean's surface is affected by tidal forces, ocean circulation and variations in the gravitational field. The daily variations from the mean, called anomalies are observed by satellite altimetry and can be used to predict ocean currents and sea level rise. The gridded data sets available on the website cover the period from 2007 through 2012. They are the result of combining all available altimeter satellite data for the region and time frame. These gridded data sets were produced by Robert Leben (leben@colorado.edu) from the Colorado Center for Astrodynamics Research. For more information and to see which other years are available, visit the Colorado Center for Astrodynamics Research (CCAR) Global Historical gridded SSH data viewer website at http://eddy.colorado.edu/ccar/ssh/hist_global_grid_viewer

GCOOS Highlight – Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

This month's highlight focuses on Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). Weeks Bay NERR is located near Mobile Bay and is about twenty-five miles southeast of Mobile, Alabama. Weeks Bay was designated as a NERR in 1986 and now encompasses approximately 6,500 acres along Mobile Bay's eastern shore. The Estuary itself includes tidal and forested wetlands with freshwater inflows from the Fish and Magnolia Rivers. Weeks Bay NERR also serves as 'living classrooms' for Gulf educators, students, and the local community. Examples of education and outreach programs include classes for K-12 students and educators, professional development and technical training programs, and public education events. Stewardship actions and monitoring taken on NERR lands serves as demonstrations of practices useful to other resource managers. In this article, GCOOS highlights education and outreach activities and program from the Weeks Bay Estuary, led by Education Coordinator and GCOOS Education and Outreach Council member Margaret Sedlecky, and their contributions to specific education and outreach programs coordinated by the NERR system. Find the entire showcase at <http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?p=5961>.

GCOOS Data Provider Highlight – TOAST – The Texas Observatory for Algal Succession Time-Series

This month's highlight focuses on the Texas Observatory for Algal Succession Time-Series (TOAST). This system is a real-time, continuous monitoring observatory using an Imaging FlowCytobot (IFCB) to image phytoplankton and monitor potential harmful algal species in the nearshore waters at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute pier lab in Port Aransas, TX. A team of Texas A&M University and Woods Hole scientists manages the maintenance and operation of the IFCB. The purpose of the IFCB monitoring efforts is to detect toxic phytoplankton responsible for harmful algal blooms (HABs) along the Texas coast. HABs are capable of causing large fish kills and the presence of blooms can result in closures to shellfish harvesting due to accumulated toxins within the shellfish. The real-time and continuous operation of the IFCB has been instrumental in providing early warning for toxic HABs and preventing human illness due to ingestion of toxic

shellfish. The collected data has provided insight into the seasonal dynamics of phytoplankton along the coast of Texas and has contributed to the discovery of a new species of dinoflagellate, a common group of marine phytoplankton. For more on TOAST, please see <http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?p=5976>

GCOOS Glider Showcase - Industry, Government, and Researchers Partner for Glider Operations in the Gulf of Mexico

The fourth story of this multi-part feature on gliders in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) shifts from industry operations to collaborative research involving industry, government, military, and academic partners. GCOOS members Shell, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Data Buoy Center (NOAA NDBC), National Centers for Environmental Prediction, United States Naval Academy, and the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) are working together operating a profiling glider to collect real-time data to aid in the improvement of hurricane intensity predictive models. Completing its second year of operations, the glider was deployed from July 5th to October 9th and collected over 1080 profiles down to 1000 meter depth and covering a distance of over 1200 nautical miles. This project is a component of the Shell-NOAA collaborative agreement initiated in 2008 to improve tropical storm and hurricane forecasting in the Gulf of Mexico. To continue reading about this collaborative project, please visit <http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?p=5974>.

Matthew Howard and Ruth Mullins-Perry to Present at ASLO/AGU/TOS Ocean Sciences Meeting in Hawaii

Matthew Howard will present a talk at American Society of Limnology and Oceanography/American Geophysical Union/ The Oceanography Society Ocean Sciences meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, at the end of this month. The talk is titled "GCOOS and GRIIDC: A Third Coast Partnership for Big Ocean Data. Tools and Techniques for Data Transfers". Co-authors are F. C. Gayanilo, M. Stoessel and S. Baum. Ruth Mullins-Perry will present a poster titled "Building Towards a Sustainable, Integrated and Operational Glider Network in the Gulf of Mexico". Co-authors are A.E. Jochens, M.K. Howard, S. Howden and S. Watson.

GCOOS Members Collaborate on Remote Sensing Paper

Several members of GCOOS collaborated on a paper on remote sensing and IOOS, which was published in *IEEE Xplore*. The paper is titled "Satellite Remote Sensing in Support of an Integrated Ocean Observing System: IEEE Geosciences and Remote Sensing, December 2013, Volume 1, number 4. Muller-Karger, F., Roffer, M. ; Walker, N. ; Oliver, M. ; Schofield, O. ; Abbott, M. ; Graber, H. ; Leben, R. ; Goni, G. <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/RecentIssue.jsp?punumber=6245518>

Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Conducts Survey of the Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas

A diverse group of users have found the Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas to be an easy-to-use resource for a wide variety of Gulf of Mexico data. The Atlas has 235 map plates covering more than seventy topics. Explore the Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas at: <http://gulfatlas.noaa.gov/>. The Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas, launched in 2011, provides more than just maps. Each map plate has a link directly to the data, as well as a description explaining how the data were gathered and their relevance to the Gulf ecosystem. NOAA's National Coastal Data Development Center, a component of NOAA's National Oceanographic Data Center, developed the Atlas with the support of their network of over fifty partners from federal, state, international, non-governmental and academic agencies and institutions. The people who created the Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas are now asking you to help evaluate the Atlas and provide input on how to improve it for the next upgrade. After viewing the Atlas, please visit the following link to share your thoughts about the Atlas and what you would like to see in the Atlas: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GulfAtlaslistserv>.

Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) Public Comment Period Extended to 19 February 2014

The NRDA Trustees have extended the public comment period for the Gulf Restoration Plan to 19 February 2014. The draft plan proposes \$627 million in Phase III Early Restoration projects across the Gulf States. The draft plan also outlines the Trustees' proposed programmatic approach to early restoration planning for Phase III and future early restoration plans. For more information, see <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2013/12/trustees-propose-627-million-in-new-restoration-projects/>.

Preliminary Study Suggests Gulf Coast Residents not Showing Higher Chemical Exposure Post-BP Oil Spill than Rest of Nation

According to a study currently being conducted by the National Institute of Health, National Institute of

Environmental Health Sciences, Gulf Coast residents in areas affected by the BP *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill don't appear to have higher chemical exposure than others across the nation, the head of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences' epidemiology branch said. But researchers have found increased rates of depression and anxiety among people who worked in the spill cleanup. Preliminary results from the study were recently discussed at the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science Conference in Mobile, Alabama.

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2014/01/human_health_and_the_bp_deepwa.html

IOOS/NATIONAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Quick Update on the IOOS Annual Report

As required by the Integrated Coastal Ocean Observation System Act, Suzanne Skelley, IOOS Program Office, presented the IOOS 2013 Annual Report to the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee (IOOC). The report highlights U.S. IOOS 2013 accomplishments and identifies IOOS program and IOOC priorities for 2014. It is posted on the IOOS website at: <http://www.ioos.noaa.gov/about/governance/interagency.html>

Congratulations to NOAA Bronze Medal Award Winners!

The highest honor award granted by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, the Bronze Medal recognizes superior performance by federal employees. Two NOAA groups working in the Gulf of Mexico have received this prestigious honor. For superior leadership and interagency collaboration in creating the comprehensive, digital information publication, Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas. Awardees: Scott L. Cross (NESDIS), Becky Allee (NOS), Arthur R. Parsons (NESDIS), Hernan E. Garcia (NESDIS), Elizabeth Schneck-Gardner (NESDIS), Russell H. Beard (NESDIS), David M. Nelson (NOS), Amanda Frick (NMFS), David Hanisko (NMFS), and James Primrose (NMFS). For more information on the Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas, see <http://gulfatlas.noaa.gov/>. For developing, evaluating, and transitioning the Microwave Water Level sensor to operations in the National Water Level Observation Network. Awardees: Robert Heitsenrether, Manoj Samant, Thomas Landon, Albert Sanford, and Stephen Gill.

National Ocean Service Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report

Check out the National Ocean Service Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report (<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/annualreport13/welcome.html>). The Annual Report includes over fifty highlights and major accomplishments from all of NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) program and staff offices.

National Research Council Conducts Decadal Survey of Ocean Sciences

At the request of the National Science Foundation, the National Research Council is conducting a Decadal Survey of Ocean Sciences to summarize ocean science advancements from the past decade, identify ocean science priorities for the next decade, analyze the ability of current research infrastructure to address those priorities, recommend an infrastructure portfolio that is needed to advance those priorities, and assess opportunities for NSF to meet research priorities by complementing ocean science research conducted by other federal agencies. Read more and participate in the survey by 15 March 2014 at <http://nas-sites.org/dsos2015/>.

IEEE/OES Workshop Soliciting Special Topic Sessions

The IEEE/OES Eleventh Current, Waves and Turbulence Measurement Workshop (CWTM) will be held on 2-6 March 2015 at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront, St. Petersburg, FL. The Workshop Theme is "Quality from End to End". They are currently soliciting suggestions for special topics that address emerging technologies or hot topics in oceanography as they relate to current, waves and turbulence measurement. Please send your suggestions to the Workshop Co-Chairs: Bruce Magnell (<mailto:bmagnell@whgrp.com>) and Don Barrick (<mailto:don@codar.com>). People who should attend include academic, industry, military and government scientists interested in keeping abreast of the newest information in current, waves and turbulence measurement technology. For student grants, the IEEE OES has secured financial backing for young investigator grants which will be used to help defray the participation costs for several students and/or postdocs who are presenting a paper at the workshop. Additional details will be posted under the Student Grants tab as they become available.

http://www.ieee.org/conferences_events/conferences/conferencedetails/index.html?Conf_ID=31994

Ocean Global Change Biology Gordon Research Conference

The Ocean Global Change Biology Gordon Research Conference will be held from 6-11 July 2014, at the Waterville Valley Resort, New Hampshire. The chairman of the conference is Dave Hutchins from the University of Southern California. Phil Boyd, University of Tasmania is the Vice Chairman. The organizing committee is comprised of Adina Paytan (UCSC) and Shannon Meseck (NOAA). For more information on the preliminary program please see <http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2014&program=oceanjob>.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Foundation and Corporate Giving, Restore America's Estuaries

<http://www.estuaries.org/jobs-at-rae/>

Gulf Coast Landscape Conservation Liaison for NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) and DOI Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC)

<http://www.northerngulfinstitute.org/lccposition/>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Climate-Related Funding Opportunities Compiled by the Florida Climate Institute

The Florida Climate Institute has compiled a listing of climate-related funding opportunities. See the listing at <https://floridaclimateinstitute.org/opportunities/funding>. (If you have problems opening this link, please copy and paste it into your browser.) (Some of the opportunities at the top of the list have expired, but many more opportunities are included on the list.)

Marine Technology Society (MTS) Offers 2014 Scholarship Program – Applications Due 15 April 2014

MTS is offering thousands of dollars' worth of scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students who are studying in the marine science, marine engineering and/or marine technology field. Scholarships are for MTS student members only and are due 15 April 2014. For membership information, please go to <https://www.mtsociety.org/membership/new/add.aspx>. Student Membership is for full-time college students and high school seniors is only \$25 per year. For more scholarship information, please visit: <http://www.mtsociety.org/education/scholarships.aspx>.

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

February

"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

"Oceanology International 2014", 11-13 March 2014. London, U.K.

<http://www.oceanologyinternational.com/en/home/>

"Summit 2014 –State of the Gulf of Mexico", 24-27 March 2014, Omni Hotel Galleria, Houston, TX.

<http://www.sgmsummit.org>

"GCOOS Board of Directors and Members Meeting", 17 March 2014, Tallahassee, FL. Details TBD.

May

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

June

“Capital Hill Ocean Week”, 10-12 June 2014, Washington’s Newseum, Washington, D.C.
<http://nmsfocean.org/CHOW-2014>

July

“Ocean Global Change Biology Gordon Research Conference”, 6-11 July 2014, Waterville Valley Resort, New Hampshire
http://www.grc.org/progr_ams.aspx?year=2014&program=oceanglob

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

September

“IEEE/OES/MTS Ocean’s 14”, 14-19 September 2014, Delta St. John’s Hotel, St. John’s Convention Center, St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada
<http://www.oceans14mtsieestjohns.org/index.cfm>

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).