



NEWSLETTER OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS NEWS AND UPDATES FOR 17 MARCH 2014

GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL NEWS

GCOOS Seeks Applications for Executive Director Position

The Department of Oceanography at Texas A&M University, seeks a Research Scientist to serve as the Executive Director of the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System-Regional Association (GCOOS-RA). The incumbent must be thoroughly committed to the GCOOS-RA's mission. All candidates should have proven leadership and management experience. Concrete demonstrable experience and other qualifications include:

- A doctoral degree in business administration, oceanography, or related fields and at least six years of professional management experience.
- Strong organizational abilities including planning, delegating, program development and task facilitation.
- Excellent management skills, including the ability to coach staff, manage and develop high performance teams, and set and achieve strategic objectives.
- Solid, hands-on, budget management skills, including budget preparation, analysis, decision-making and reporting.
- Strong written and oral communication skills. Demonstrated ability to oversee and collaborate with staff, interface and engage diverse volunteer and donor groups, and collaborate with and motivate board members and other volunteers.
- Passion, idealism, integrity, positive attitude, mission-driven, and self-directed.

The Mission and other attributes of the GCOOS-RA may be viewed at www.gcoos.org. The formal Position Description and Key Performance Indicators may be found at <http://gcoos.tamu.edu/documents/ExecDir.pdf>. Applications should be directed to the head of the Search Committee, Dr. Worth D. Nowlin, Jr., in care of Dr. Ann Jochens, ajochens@tamu.edu. Applications should include a Curriculum Vita, a statement from the candidate describing his/her suitability for the position, and two suggested references including contact information. The Search Committee will begin its deliberations on 21 March 2014, but applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

GCOOS Congratulates Dr. Nancy Rabalais, American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fellow

GCOOS extends our congratulations to Dr. Nancy Rabalais, GCOOS Regional Association Board Member, on her selection as an AGU Fellow. Being selected an AGU Fellow is a prestigious honor awarded to 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. The AGU Fellow designation is conferred upon 0.1% or less of all AGU members in any given year. All elected Fellows must receive a majority of the committees' votes. Dr. Rabalais is Executive Director of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) and has been a leader in researching hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico. Dr. Rabalais is also the Director of the GoMRI-funded Coastal Waters Consortium (CWC), addressing ecosystem recovery from petroleum and dispersant systems and their subsequent interaction with coastal, open-ocean, and deep-water ecosystems and their effects on the sea floor, water column, coastal waters, beach sediments, wetlands, marshes, and organisms. For more information on her award, see <http://gulfresearchinitiative.org/nancy-rabalais-conferred-agu-fellow/>.

GCOOS in the Classroom Updates

For the entire academic year, Dr. Chris Simoniello, GCOOS Education and Outreach Coordinator, has been teaching hands-on science lessons in a second grade classroom (Bay Point Elementary). She has been working closely with teachers and students to introduce science topics related to climate change and ocean literacy in a series of hands-on experiments and activities. She has also worked with students in developing science fair experiments to investigate the impact of salt water intrusion on various terrestrial plants, in which the

experiments were presented as part of the 2014 Bay Point Science Fair. For more on this story, please visit <http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?p=5974>

GCOOS Hosting Booth at the State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit 2014

GCOOS-RA staff will be participating in the State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit held from 24-28 March in Houston, Texas. GCOOS will also be hosting a booth as part of the Summit activities. Be sure to stop by the booth. For more information on the Summit, please visit <http://sgmsummit.org/>.

NAS Gulf Research Program Holds Successful Advisory Group Meeting & Announces 2014 Workshops

"Dear Colleagues: Greetings from the Gulf Research Program. We recently returned from a productive Advisory Group meeting in Houston, TX (11-12 February; the agenda can be found at http://www.nas.edu/xpedio/groups/nasite/documents/webpage/na_053165.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=NationalAcademies&utm_campaign=Gulf+Program+Newsletter+11&utm_content=&utm_term=. Much of our meeting was devoted to discussing the input we received over the past six months during our listening meetings in the Gulf States and virtual meetings. We worked to synthesize what we learned, continue the process of defining the program's mission and goals, and we began to write the program's initial strategic plan (now called a "vision document"). We also had productive relationship-building sessions on safety and environmental issues with representatives from the oil and gas industry, including site visits to a real-time operations center and a drilling simulation and training center. Looking ahead, we will focus on several important projects. Beyond the process of developing our vision document, we are planning three focused, information-gathering workshops to be held in 2014. These workshops are designed to provide in-depth discussions of perceived needs and areas of emphasis for our program. The first workshop will focus on human health, the second on environmental monitoring, and the third on training. All will have a public access component, likely web-based. Details will be announced on our website and by e-update. This spring, you can find us at several community events. We'll be giving talks on 26 March at the State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit 2014 in Houston, and on 6 May at the International Oil Spill Conference 2014 in Savannah. If you're coming to these events, please take a minute to connect with us. For more information about the program, visit our website: <http://www.nas.edu/gulf>."

USGS Gulf of Mexico Nutrient Data Available Online

Information on the amounts and sources of nutrients delivered to estuaries in the Gulf of Mexico is available from USGS online at <http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/sparrow/mrb/gom/>. The site includes maps and data tables with estimates of total nitrogen and phosphorus delivered to estuaries draining into the Gulf of Mexico with the percent delivered by major sources. The site also allows users to explore regional SPARROW models online, such as the Mississippi and Atchafalaya River Basins regional model, to determine nutrient sources, track nutrient transport downstream, and evaluate combinations of nutrient reduction scenarios.

Texas Sea Grant Researchers Working to Increase Rip Current Knowledge

With funding from the Texas Sea Grant College Program at Texas A&M University, Drs. Chris Houser and Christian Brannstrom, faculty in the Department of Geography, and three geography students surveyed beachgoers on Galveston Island and in the Corpus Christi/Port Aransas area. They wanted to know two things: Could beach users identify a rip current, and what did they learn from the existing warning signs? The ultimate goal of the project is to determine if and how the warning signs can be improved. Developed in 2004 through a partnership between NOAA, the United States Lifesaving Association and the National Sea Grant Program, the signs were designed primarily to increase awareness of rip currents and instruct people how to escape if they are caught in one. For more on this project, please see <http://tamutimes.tamu.edu/2014/02/28/texas-sea-grant-researchers-working-to-increase-rip-current-knowledge/> - .UycTpl5Rc7k

Obama Administration to Offer 40 Million Acres in the Gulf of Mexico for Oil and Gas Development

As part of the Obama Administration's all-of-the-above energy strategy to continue to expand safe and responsible domestic energy production, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Director Tommy P. Beaudreau have announced that Interior will offer more than forty million acres for oil and gas exploration and development in the Gulf of Mexico in March lease sales. Lease Sale 231 in the Central Planning Area and Lease Sale 225 in the Eastern Planning Area will be held consecutively in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 19 March 2014. Domestic oil and gas production has grown each year President Obama has been in office, with domestic oil production currently higher than any time in two

decades; natural gas production at its highest level ever; and renewable electricity generation from wind, solar, and geothermal sources having doubled. Combined with recent declines in oil consumption, foreign oil imports now account for less than 40 percent of the oil consumed in America – the lowest level since 1988. For more on this story, please see <http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/obama-administration-to-offer-40-million-acres-in-the-gulf-of-mexico-for-oil-and-gas-development.cfm>

GOMA Teams Release New Animated Educational Ocean Video

Want to learn more about the value of the Earth's ocean? It's easy with the new video titled "Ocean Ecosystem Services." This smart new four-minute film engages people and helps to teach them how to get involved in saving the ocean habitat. To increase awareness and understanding of ocean ecosystem services, GOMA's Ecosystems Integration and Assessment and Environmental Education teams joined forces in the development of learning tools easily comprehensible by and accessible to educators and the general public alike. For more information on the video, please go to <http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/2014/02/goma-teams-release-new-animated-educational-ocean-video/>

IOOS/NATIONAL/LEGISLATIVE NEWS

U.S. IOOS Calls for Comments on Profiling Glider Plan V2 – Comments Due 21 March 2014

The new draft of the Profiling Glider Plan and comment revision synopsis are available on the IOOS website at <http://www.ioos.noaa.gov/glider/welcome.html> Send comments to Stephan Howden, Coordinator of the GCOOS Gulf Glider Task Team (http://gcoos.org/?page_id=4426) at Stephan.howden@usm.edu. As a reminder the glider catalog listing is available at <http://gliders.ioos.us/> as well as the Data Assembly Center's THREDDS server at <http://www.ioos.noaa.gov/exit.html?url=http%3A%2F%2Ftds.gliders.ioos.us%2Fthredds%2Fcatalog.html>

Do You Know What National Awareness Week It Is?

Late February through the remainder of the summer months marks many National Awareness weeks for the oceans and coastal regions. National Invasive Species Week (<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/weeklynews/feb12/invasive-species.html>) occurred from 23-28 February. Did you know that GCOOS works with many of our members, including The Nature Conservancy, to provide data products to investigate invasive species trends in the Gulf of Mexico? If not, please visit http://gcoos.tamu.edu/?page_id=4334 to read more about the invasion of lionfish in the Gulf. National Severe Weather Preparedness Week occurred from 2-8 March. In the past years, GCOOS has prepared a number of products and information related to storms and severe weather in the Gulf. GCOOS has also worked with members and partners in the Gulf of Mexico to communicate available materials related to storm preparedness (<http://la.stormsmart.org/handbook/>) and to engage stakeholders in developing effective data products related to storm and hurricane preparedness. To learn when additional ocean-related National Awareness Weeks will occur, please visit <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/severeweather/severewxcal.shtml>.

NOAA Makes Free PDF Nautical Charts Permanently Available

The free NOAA Nautical Chart PDFs, which are digital images of traditional nautical charts, are part of a set of new or enhanced navigational products. NOAA launched a new interactive chart locator catalog that allows people to select a chart from a map of the U.S. and choose their format. Users can download one of the new PDF nautical charts, select a chart to order from a "print-on-demand" vendor, or find an electronic chart. NOAA is also making available for free the NOAA ENC Online, a new web map viewing application that shows chart data previously only available to users who purchased specialized viewing systems. Finally, the image resolution of the digital charts will increase from 254 dots per inch (DPI) to 400 DPI. This will improve image quality and legibility of the raster navigational charts (NOAA RNC) that are used in chart display systems. For more information, visit <http://www.charts.noaa.gov/>.

National Academies Press Releases 2014 Workshop Report - "Understanding the Connections Between Coastal Waters and Ocean Ecosystem Services and Human Health"

The National Academies Press has recently released a workshop report connecting the coastal waters, ocean ecosystem services and public health. The report, "Understanding the Connections Between Coastal Waters and Ocean Ecosystem Services and Human Health", reviews the state of the science on the role of oceans in ensuring public health and identifies gaps and opportunities for future research. The report summarizes a

workshop convened by the Institute of Medicine's Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, Research, and Medicine. Participants discussed coastal waters and ocean ecosystem services in the United States to understand impacts on human health. The report can be viewed at [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=18552&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The National Academies Press&utm_campaign=NAP+mail+new+2014.02.25&utm_content=&utm_term=](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=18552&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The_National_Academies_Press&utm_campaign=NAP+mail+new+2014.02.25&utm_content=&utm_term=)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Four Positions Open for New Sea Grant Oil Spill Science Outreach Program in Gulf

<http://gulfseagrant.wordpress.com/2014/03/03/four-positions-open-for-new-sea-grant-oil-spill-science-outreach-program-in-gulf/>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

GoMRI RFP for Documentary Creation – Deadline is 19 March 2014

This documentary RFP focuses on sharing critical GoMRI research findings on effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the worst in US history, while being sensitive to the loss of human lives in the accident. What were the impacts? What are GoMRI scientists finding? How do the findings translate to protecting public health and the environment? “Project products should tell an easy-to-understand, engaging story on research being conducted by GoMRI scientists that will provide a sense of place, appeal to the public’s understanding of science, encourage long-term support for protecting resources in this region, and promote science literacy. Project products should appeal to viewers on a national scale. The audience is envisioned to be a science-curious public with an eighth grade level of science understanding” (GoMRI). The RFP is targeted at experienced documentary film makers. For more information, see <http://gulfresearchinitiative.org/request-for-proposals/request-proposals-creation-documentary/>

Big Data RFI From NOAA – Deadline is 24 March 2014

This is a request for information (RFI) only, and is not a solicitation for a contract or grant award. This RFI notice is for information purposes only, is not a request for proposals, and does not obligate the government in any way. The Government will not reimburse the respondents for any costs associated with the information submitted in response to this request. The Government will treat each submission as confidential. The Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) is requesting information from industry and other organizations (e.g., non-profits, research laboratories, and universities) to determine whether capability and interest exists for establishing partnerships with NOAA for the purpose of intelligently positioning NOAA’s vast data holdings in the cloud, to be co-located with easy and affordable access to computing, storage, and advanced analytical capabilities. NOAA anticipates these partnerships will have the ability to rapidly scale and surge; thus, removing government infrastructure as a bottleneck to the pace of American innovation and enabling new value-added services and unimaginable integration into our daily lives. Written comments, no longer than fifty (50) pages in length, should be submitted, electronically in PDF, no later than 24 March 2014, addressed to: David.Zhang@noaa.gov and Denise.e.Harper@noaa.gov. Please do not submit marketing material or business proprietary information.

https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=d9844cb78b4527fb11a6ac6d2b80a742&tab=core&_cvview=0

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

March

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

“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.

“Gulf of Mexico Alliance 2014 Priority Issues Team Meeting and 10-Year Celebration” 19-21 May 2014, Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel, Mobile, AL.
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e8u3lpao0cc03df3&llr=thgzaleab>

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. **Abstract deadline: 26 March 2014**
<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).