Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS) Education and Outreach Council (EOC)

Terms of Reference

The Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS) Education and Outreach Council (EOC) is the primary body within the Gulf of Mexico providing guidance and assistance to the GCOOS Regional Association in matters of education, outreach and public awareness that relate to ocean observing systems. The EOC plays the lead role in developing, implementing and evaluating the Education and Outreach Plan for the GCOOS Regional Association.

The EOC ensures that the Plan is consistent with the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Development Plan. The EOC collectively is expected to be familiar with the GCOOS functions and operations, ocean science education standards, education and outreach pedagogy and evaluation techniques, and constituency building techniques among diverse audiences in the Gulf of Mexico.

EOC membership includes representatives from formal, nonformal and informal education communities that reside in the Gulf of Mexico region. An Executive Committee (EC) is composed of EOC members, elected by the EOC body. A member of the EC serves as chair to the EOC. A member of the EC also serves as a representative to the National Federation of Regional Associations Education Council.

Specific duties/roles of the EOC (which can be delegated to others for execution) will include, but are not be limited to:

1. Assists in the development, implementation and evaluation of the GCOOS Regional Association's Education and Outreach Plan.
2. Provides input into the national strategy and execution plan for the development and implementation of education and outreach allied with the IOOS.
3. Ensures the GCOOS Regional Association's Education and Outreach Plan is consistent with the IOOS National Education and Public Awareness Plan.
4. Engages relevant regional education and outreach constituencies in EOC activities.
5. Involves GCOOS science, technical, operations and user communities in the design, development, implementation and evaluation of education and outreach products and services.
6. Assists in assessing the education and outreach needs of GCOOS users and stakeholders in the region.
7. Based on needs assessment, identifies, recommends and prioritizes education and outreach projects and products to the GCOOS Regional Association.
8. Encourages the use of new GCOOS products and services in the region.
9. Encourages the integration of GCOOS education and outreach activities with other regional EOCs and committees.
10. Develops assessment and evaluation tools for GCOOS Education and Outreach projects.
11. Seeks extra-mural funding in support of the GCOOS Education and Outreach Plan.
12. Strives to improve ocean, coastal and aquatic literacy through GCOOS products, services, projects and activities.