Development of the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS) Regional Association

Ray Toll, Chair
GCOOS-RA Board of Directors
Outline

• Structure of the organization
• Memorandum of Agreement signatories
• Status of the business plan
• Status of a communication strategy
• Status of the GCOOS Councils & Committees
• GCOOS RA participation in NFRA
Overview of Status of GCOOS Regional Association

Resolution & Mission Statement adopted in January 2003

Formal Memorandum of Agreement establishing Regional Association for governance signed in January 2005; currently 62 signatories

Member of the National Federation of Regional Associations (NFRA)

Operational structure complete as of April 2006

Development of proposal process January 2007
GCOOS Organizational Structure

- **The Parties to the MOA**
- **GCOOS-RA Board of Directors**
  - Exec. Committee
- **GCOOS Office**
- **Operations Center**
- **Education and Outreach Council**
- **Stakeholder Council**

**Committees**
- Data Management and Communications Committee (DMAC)
- Observing Systems Committee
- Products and Services Committee
- Membership Committee
Parties to GCOOS MoA

- Peter Betzer, University of South Florida
- Otis B. Brown, University of Miami - Rosenstiel School
- Kendall L. Carder, Individual
- Michael Dagg, Individual
- William Dentel, Aquatrak Corporation
- Manhar Dhanak, SeaTech, Florida Atlantic University
- Richard E. Dodge, Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center
- Richard Eckenrod, Tampa Bay Estuary Program
- James W. Feeney, Horizon Marine
- George Forristall, Forristall Ocean Engineering, Inc.
- Sherryl Gilbert, The Alliance for Coastal Technologies, GoM Partner
- Norman Guinasso, Texas Automated Buoy System (TABS); GERM
- Thomas P. Harding, PAR Governments
- Robert Hetland, Individual
- Roger R. Hoffman, The Boeing Company
- Patrick Hogan, Naval Research Laboratory
- Matthew Howard, Individual
- Stephan Howden, Individual
- Ann Jochens, Individual
- Björn Kjerfve, Individual
- Harvey Knuff, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi
- Christopher Lindsey-Curran, Society for Underwater Technology
- Steven E. Lohrenz, The University of Southern Mississippi
- Mark Luther, Tampa Bay PORTS
- John MacLeod, Evans Hamilton, Inc.
- Kumar Mahadevan, Mote Marine Laboratory Inc.
- Robert "Buzz" Martin, Texas General Land Office
- Thomas McGee, Gulf of Mexico Hydrates Research Consortium, University of Mississippi
- Christopher McPherson, Ocean Design, Inc.
- Gil McRae, Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (Florida)
- Douglas Meffert, Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research & LEAG
- Clifford R. Merz, Dialytics, Inc.
- Christopher N. K. Mooers, Individual
- Frank Muller-Karger, Individual
- Worth D. Nowlin, Jr., Individual
- James J. O'Brien, COAPS, Florida State University
- Chris C. Oynes, Minerals Management Service GoM Region
- Nancy Rabalais, LUMCON
- Sammy Ray, DermoWatch
- Mitchell Roffer, Roffer’s Ocean Fishing Forecasting Service
- Donald A. Roman, Individual
- Kerry St. Pe, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
- W. H. Buzz Sierke, Jr., Individual
- Steve J. Smith, ChevronTexaco Energy Technology Company
- Mike Spranger, Florida Sea Grant Program
- Robert Stickney, Texas Sea Grant College Program
- Robert Stickney, Texas A&M University, Department of Oceanography
- Joseph W. Swaykos, Center of Higher Learning, University of Southern Mississippi
- David Szabo, Woods Hole Group, Inc.
- James Titlow, WeatherFlow Inc.
- Raymond F. Toll, Jr., Science Applications International Corporation
- Neil Trenaman, RD Instruments
- Jan van Smirren, Fugro GEOS
- Jyotika I. Virmani, Florida COOS Consortium
- Michael J. Vogel, Shell International E&P Inc.
- Sharon Walker, J. L. Scott Marine Education Center & Aquarium
- William W. Walker, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
- Larry Warrenfeltz, Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition
- Robert H. Weisberg, Individual
- Henry J. Pierce, Jr., on behalf of Tellus Applied Sciences, Inc.
- Joseph N. Boyer, on behalf of Florida International University
Demographics

Breakdown of Parties by STATE

FLORIDA - 22
ALABAMA - 1
MISSISSIPPI - 8
LOUISIANA - 5
TEXAS - 17
OTHER STATES - 9
Virginia
Maine
California
New York
Washington
Massachusetts

Breakdown of Parties by SECTOR

Voting Party - Academic 18
Voting Party - Government 11
Voting Party - Private Sector 18
Voting Party - A / G / P 2
Individual - Academic 12
Individual - Government 0
Individual - Private Sector 0
Individual - A / G 1
Status of GCOOS Business Plan

• Draft Business Plan for the GCOOS-RA is posted to web for comments
• Plan includes
  – Development strategy
  – Investment strategy
  – Near-term priorities for enhancements
• Cost estimates
• Estimates of economic benefits
Status of GCOOS Communications Strategy

- Strawman is being developed
- Focus is on web-based communications: inreach, outreach, capacity building
- Oral and written presentations in appropriate venues
- Standard GCOOS presentation being developed for briefing at other venues
- Web-delivered bimonthly newsletter
Status of GCOOS Council and Committees

• All have developed annual action plans that are posted on the GCOOS website

• All have plans for future recruiting to the MOA
  – Colleagues from Mexico (PEMEX, University of Mexico, Villahermosa)
  – US Coast Guard Districts 7 and 8

• Process to respond to IOOS requests for proposals has the Councils and Committees as key advisers to the Board for development of GCOOS-RA responses
NFRA and Related Activities

- GCOOS now sits on the NFRA EXCOM
- GCOOS now participates on the IWGOO – Interagency W/G for Ocean Observations
- GCOOS participating in the writing of the IOOS Strategic Plan due to Congress end of March
- GCOOS working with Gulf of Mexico Alliance and Gulf States Accord on common goals
Thank You

Please visit our web site for further information.

http://www.gcoos.org

If you wish to become a Party to the Regional Association, download the Memorandum of Agreement from the GCOOS web site, sign and fax to Worth Nowlin (979) 847-8879.
Backup slides
Mission Statement: Vision

We seek to establish a sustained observing system for the Gulf of Mexico to provide observations and products needed by users in this region for the purposes of

- Detecting and predicting climate variability and consequences,
- Preserving and restoring healthy marine ecosystems,
- Ensuring human health,
- Managing resources,
- Facilitating safe and efficient marine transportation,
- Enhancing national security, and
- Predicting and mitigating against coastal hazards.
Mission Statement (continued)

We envision sharing of non-commercial, non-proprietary data, models, and products via the internet for the common benefit of all participants, including industry, NGOs, academia, and federal, state, regional, and local government agencies. It is understood that this Gulf of Mexico observing system will be integrated with other regional coastal ocean observing systems, in particular to create an integrated and sustained U.S. component of the ocean observing system.
We recognize that the system will require sustained financial support from a combination of government, private, and non-governmental organizations. That will be possible only if the system is built and remains responsive to the needs of these organizations and to the public. Thus, the system will be subject to continuing oversight by representatives of such organizations and of the public.

Collaboration with other nations bordering the Gulf of Mexico is to be actively sought in the design and implementation of this regional observing system.