March 15, 2014

To: GCOOS Board of Directors

From: GCOOS Stennis Office

Subject: Stennis Office Accomplishments for October, 2013 – March, 2014

1. The GCOOS Stennis Office was established 1 October 2013 at Stennis Space Center, MS and is located with the University of Southern Mississippi Department of Marine Science. I also maintain an office in the Mississippi State University building at Stennis with NCDDC and NGI.

2. Much time has been devoted to “getting the word out” about GCOOS and how GCOOS can help them. I market the GCOOS Build Out Plan and the GCOOS website with Data Portal.

a. RESTORE Engagements -- Focus -- GCOOS Build Out Plan

 i. Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA)
 ii. Gulf of Mexico University Research Collaborative (GOMURC)
 iii. MS RESTORE Center of Excellence – USM Center of Gulf Studies
 iv. LA RESTORE Center of Excellence – The Water Institute of the Gulf
 v. NOAA RESTORE Science Program – Acting, Director
 vi. RESTORE Council -- Chief Scientist
 vii. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) – Chief Scientist
 viii. Ocean Conservancy
 ix. Audubon Society (LA & National)
  x. LA Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority
 xi. GoMRI – Chief Scientist
 xii. National Academy of Science (NAS) Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Program
 xiii. BOEM
 xiv. NCDDC ***
 xv. EPA
 xvi. USGS

b. Stennis Engagements

 i. USM
 ii. Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
 iii. MSU
iv. NOAA’s Northern Gulf Institute (NGI)  
v. NCDDC  
vi. NDBC  
vii. CNMOC  
viii. NAVOCEANO  
ix. NASA  
x. MS National Oceans and Applications Research Center (NOARC)  
xi. Mississippi Enterprise for Technology (MSET)  
xii. Marine Technology Society  
xiii. IEEE, Ocean Society

3. Other Committees that I support:

   a. Ocean Leadership – Ocean Observing Subcommittee  
   b. NOAA’s OR & R Disaster Data Set Steering Committee  
   c. NOAA’s Regional Collaboration Team  
   d. GOMA & OC Logic Model Workshop Steering Team  
   e. GCOOS Glider Task Team

4. Attended GOM Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science Conference in Mobile, Al. Participated in RESTORE Project and OR& R Disaster Data Atlas Town Hall meetings. Co-Author on two presentations:


5. Planned and coordinated meeting between GCOOS, GOMA, and GOMURC representatives to define roles and responsibilities of each organization in regards to the Gulf of Mexico Observing System. Also, was on the planning team for the GOMA and Ocean Conservancy Logic Model Workshop and participated in that Workshop. Please see additional brief provided for more details.
6. Supported the BOEM/LSU Study on the Economic Benefit of a Gulf Observing System. I participated in monthly meetings with BOEM and LSU. Review draft versions of reports and provide GCOOS and IOOS documents of interest to this study.

7. Participated in several National Academy of Science (NAS) Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Program Workshops, including webinar on Lessons Learned in Valdez, “Ecosystem-Based Management” webinar, Virtual Listening Meeting webinars, and a two day Workshop in Long Beach, MS. Purpose of the Long Beach, MS workshop was for NAS GOM to listen to stakeholder needs and incorporate those needs into their 30 year program. The NAS GOM Program is the only RESTORE project to have an Observing & Monitoring System as a Goal of the Program.

8. Participated in GOMA Marine Planning Workshop in Biloxi. Harte Institute presented brief information from a Congressional Hearing on benefits of Marine Planning. Representatives from each Gulf State provided an overview of what each state was building as it related to GIS applications.

9. Large effort this reporting period was in the review and comment of the latest GCOOS Build Out Plan, including the major upgrade to the Ecosystem Monitoring Section. Help coordinate the interactions and review comments with the marine scientist along the Gulf Coast. Worked cost estimates and helped with requirement definition.

10. Near Term Plans:

   a. Attend the Summit 2014 -- State of the Gulf Conference in Houston, TX.
   b. Work with the LA Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority in their effort to establish an Observing & Monitoring Capability for LA Restoration Projects.
   c. Work with MS Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Marine Resources on their Observing & Monitoring Capabilities.
   d. Continue to engage GOMA on signing MOU with GCOOS.
   e. Continue to define roles and responsibilities of the Gulf Observing System between GOMA, GOMURC, and GCOOS.
   f. Visit and engage Dauphin Island Sea Laboratory (DISL), Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO), and the Harte Institute to make sure we are meeting their needs.

Respectfully,

Landry Bernard