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THE GULF OF MAINE ocean DATA PARTNERSHIP



Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership Newsletter - Fall 2007

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Message From Paul Currier - Incoming GoMODP Partnership Chair

As I become Partnership chairperson, I am impressed with the progress made by the Partnership so far, and am excited by the challenges ahead. We will need to explore the rapidly-advancing area of web services tools and protocols, as well as facilitate the integration of our Gulf of Maine-focused efforts with data providers in the Southern New England Bight to make ocean data in the whole Northeast Region discoverable, accessible, and interoperable. I look forward to working with you all!

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Profile of Paul Currier

Paul Currier has been a voting member of the Partnership board since its beginning. Paul serves on the Gulf of Maine Council and has served on the National Water Quality Monitoring Council since 2003. Paul has been Watershed Management Bureau Administrator for the NH Dept of Environmental Services since 1998 and has thirty years of experience in engineering and scientific fields related to environmental management.

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Thank you to David Mountain

The Partnership wishes to extend its thanks to David Mountain for his leadership over the past three years. David has steered the partnership successfully through its formative stages as it grew to include 23 member organizations. We will miss David's leadership and wish him well in his new activities!

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2007 Partnership Annual meeting - *save the date!*

The Partnership's annual meeting is planned for Thursday, December 13th in Portsmouth, NH at the offices of the NH DES where it has been held for the past few years. Please mark your calendars - details will follow!

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GoMODP Partners Receive Grant From the EPA's National Environmental Information Exchange Network

The EPA's National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN) program recently awarded the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services over \$450,000 to further data interoperability among the GoMODP. The Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS) will be the technical lead on the grant and several GoMODP organizations are participating, including the Coastal Ocean Observing Center at the University of New Hampshire, Tuft's University Seabird Ecological Assessment Network, NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NOAA's National Estuary Research Reserve System, the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, the USEPA Atlantic Ecology Division, and the Center of Marine Biodiversity. This grant will allow the partnership to implement and test the EPA's NEIEN technologies for sharing regional environmental data. Additionally, this effort will allow regional partners to assess how the NEIEN could support the developing IOOS Data Management and Communications efforts. This is an exciting opportunity to advance data interoperability in the region and to showcase the GoMODP's collaborative approach to advancing data sharing. We will be keeping all partners apprised of this effort and provide opportunities to participate as we move ahead. If you have any questions please contact Deb Soule (Deb.Soule@des.nh.gov) at NH DES or Tom Shyka (tom@gomoos.org) at GoMOOS.

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NERACOOS-GoMODP Collaboration

The partnership has held several conference calls over the past year to discuss the future relationship of the partnership to the overall Northeastern Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System. We have two individuals, Bob Groman and Paul Currier serving as our representatives to the advisory committee as the organization develops. Current discussions include the role of GoMOOS in the new organization.

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NERACOOS Data Management Plan

The following letter was sent to the NERACOOS Advisory Committee this summer on behalf of the partnership:

Dear NERACOOS Executive Committee:

The Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership has interest in leading the activity to develop the data management plan identified in section 3d of the planning grant proposal outline. The Partnership has gained considerable experience over the last few years on the ups and downs of creating a data management system in a distributed IOOS context.

We would anticipate a plan that incorporates the general structure of discovery, accessibility and interoperability through a service oriented approach that has guided our work thus far. While the focus of the proposal is to be on planning, workshops or other dedicated activities would be envisioned to educate and increase the capabilities of the data collecting organizations so that they can become contributing members of the IOOS. These activities are important parts of planning because they tell you how far you have to go and how to plan the allocation of resources to achieve the ultimate goals.

The plan needs to reach beyond the major RCOOS-funded players, and include the many smaller data collecting efforts in the region that can be critical to local-scale societal issues. The plan also needs to extend beyond the data exchange/interoperability frameworks currently identified by DMAC to take advantage of other established capabilities (e.g., the EPA Exchange Network) that can broaden the community contributing to the Regional Association. And of course, the Partnership recognizes the planning effort is for the whole NERACOOS region.

The Partnership is not a fiscal agent, and its work is coordinated and carried out by Partners who step forward. For this data management plan activity Paul Currier of NH DES and Philip Bogden of GoMOOS would lead and coordinate these efforts for the Partnership.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*David G. Mountain
Chair, Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership*

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GoMODP Technical Committee Update

Thanks to several subcommittees, many projects are well underway. Information on partners' data expertise is being compiled and will soon be available on the GoMODP's web site through an interactive web page. Partners will be able to query for a particular area of expertise (such as Oracle, OBIS, etc.) to acquire a list of partners' staff with that expertise and who are willing to assist with interoperability related questions and issues. Also, partners will be able to edit their expertise information. A special thanks goes to Bob Groman for developing this interactive web page.

Just how accessible are the partners' datasets? To answer this question, another subcommittee reviewed partners' data links as listed in GCMD metadata entries and through previous partner surveys. The results have been compiled and a findings report is available on the GoMODP website.

On the interoperability front, another subcommittee is being developed to work on an interoperability experiment involving OBIS, OGC and Exchange Network standards. Stay tuned for details.

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Web Services Workshop

Once again, the partnership will host a workshop for members and invitees. This workshop is planned for early in 2008 and will focus on web services and protocols currently in use in the industry. As with the metadata workshop held in 2005 in Portland, this workshop will have an interactive format. We hope to have a representative from each partner present as we move forward with implementation of our Workplan.

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