

## **GCOOS-RA Resource Development Plan Version 1.1 June 25, 2014**

The Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System Regional Association (GCOOS-RA) provides timely information about the environment of the United States' portion of the Gulf of Mexico and its estuaries for use by decision-makers, including researchers, government managers, industry, the military, educators, emergency responders, and the general public.

The GCOOS-RA is one of a series of Regional Associations managing Coastal Ocean Observing Systems, which are part of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System, which is, in turn, part of the multinational Global Ocean Observing System and a significant national contribution to the Global Earth Observing System of Systems. The GCOOS-RA seeks collaborations with other entities having interests in developing a Gulf-wide observing system.

We have developed a Build-out Plan for GCOOS. It includes identified activities, with costs, needed for observations, modeling, data and product delivery to all stakeholders, and outreach and education. It is based on inputs of stakeholders through workshops, plans and other interactions, and includes the plans of many other groups involved in Gulf observing, including GOMA and SECOORA.

The GCOOS-RA does not expect to be able to develop this observing system alone. We welcome and support the participation of all other interested collaborators. The GCOOS-RA does however intend to remain the principal provider of all data and products emanating from the Gulf of Mexico Observing System. This will be accomplished through the GCOOS Data and Products Portal. We and our collaborators are woefully short of funding to carry out this development. So we must embark on a major development campaign.

### **Goals [Areas for Improvement]**

Implementation of the Build-out Plan will require additional support for several classes of activities. The resource development goals needed to enhance those activities follow.

#### **1. *Maintain and enhance the GCOOS-RA Corporation***

This requires oversight to the development of the observing system, including: tracking new developments, making needed changes to the Build-out Plan, coordinating work of collaborators, etc.

1.1 Identify potential funding sources.

1.2 Establish entities and procedures for accepting funding.

1.3 Establish processes and procedures to track, report, and audit all funded projects.

*Issue.* The Corporation has 501(c)(3) status, but it does not yet operate as a financially independent entity.

*Issue.* To operate as a financially independent entity, the Corporation will need additional staff with new capabilities.

#### **2. *Implement and maintain needed observations***

Some requests for support of new observations will be to federal, state or local agencies with observing interests in the Gulf and its coastal waters. These may be carried out by those agencies. Some requests for support will be prepared and made in collaboration with

other entities committed to development of the observing system. Some requests for support will be made on behalf of the GCOOS-RA alone.

- 2.1 Identify and prioritize the needs of regional stakeholders who use marine data or products.
- 2.2 Expand our partner base to include organizations advocating a Gulf observing system.
- 2.3 With partners, develop plans for the Gulf observing system, including models and analyses to meet the stakeholders' needs.
- 2.4 Encourage federal and state agencies providing observations by letters and visits to their local offices.
- 2.5 Continue to support the maintenance of existing data collection, particularly of long time series.
- 2.6 Pursue funding from Deepwater Horizon opportunities for the Gulf observing system with the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the National Academy of Science (NAS), and the RESTORE Act funders.
- 2.7 Continue to monitor Request for Proposals from NASA, NSF, BOEM, NOAA, and other agencies as appropriate for opportunities to partner in expanding the Gulf observing system.

*Issue.* The number and variety of observations now being made in the Gulf of Mexico are woefully inadequate to meet the needs of stakeholders for information.

### ***3. Improve aggregation and free service of data and products***

- 3.1 Assisting the GCOOS Data Manager in securing needed funds as detailed in the Long-range DMAC Plan for the GCOOS-RA.

*Issue.* Although the GCOOS Data and Products Portal has been in operation for several years it needs many upgrades to become the full-service provider envisioned in the Build-out Plan.

### ***4. Improve Outreach and Education***

- 4.1 Assist the Outreach and Education Coordinator in securing needed funds for improvements as detailed in the Long-range Outreach and Education Plan for the GCOOS-RA.

*Issue.* More resources are needed to assist the GCOOS Outreach and Education element to further empower regional user communities to be knowledgeable about and effectively use GCOOS data, products and services when making decisions..

## **Milestones [Timeframes for actions]**

### ***Goal 1 Enhance and maintain the GCOOS-RA Corporation***

[Lead Responsible Parties: Associate Executive Director and Executive Director]

**2014** Work with Executive Director to establish direct and indirect cost rates for the GCOOS-RA Corporation.

**2015** Work with Executive Director to finalize procedures to accept funds from all sources..

**2016** Work with Executive Director to establish a GCOOS Project Management System for all funded projects.

## ***Goal 2 Implement and maintain needed observations***

[Lead Responsible Party: Associate Executive Director]

**2014** Establish signed MOU with GOMA.

Establish and maintain coordination between GCOOS-RA and each state's "RESTORE Center of Excellence."

Provide GCOOS Build-out Plan information to NFWF, NAS, Restoration Council, and each RESTORE-Act State Trustee and respond to their request for Gulf observing system needs.

Submit proposals with Partners to increase observations in the Gulf in accordance with the GCOOS Build-out Plan.

Continue to seek funding for long time series data sets.

**2015** Submit proposals to NFWF for HF RADARs for TX, LA, MS, AL, and FL.

**2016** Submit proposals to NFWF for Water Quality Network for TX, LA, MS, AL, and FL.

## ***Goal 3 Improve aggregation and free service of data and products***

[Lead Responsible Parties: Associate Executive Director and Data Manager]

**2014** Assist the Data Manager with the submission of a proposal for funding to add additional thematic areas, such as biological data.

Work with GCOOS staff to submit proposals for additional tutorial development to improve delivery and utility of existing and new GCOOS data products.

Work with GCOOS staff to submit proposals to support additional communications Success stories focusing on GCOOS data providers.

**2015** Assist the Data Manager with the submission of a proposal for funding to identify, acquire, standardize and serve legacy data on the GCOOS portal.

**2016** Assist the Data Manager with the submission of a proposal to enhance data delivery tools for our data portal.

## ***Goal 4 Improve Outreach and Education***

[Lead Responsible Parties: Associate Executive Director and O/E Coordinator]

**2014** Work with the O/E Coordinator to prepare materials to be delivered to federal and state agencies encouraging them to increase and maintain their observations in the Gulf.

Assist the O/E Coordinator with the submission of a proposal for the preparation of information to be used to educate communities on Gulf related issues.

**2015** Assist the O/E Coordinator with the submission of a proposal to foundations to expand stakeholder engagement (i.e. workshops to identify and update user requirements and to better define the ecosystem monitoring needs).

**2016** Assist the O/E Coordinator with the submission of a proposal or proposals to foundations with the objective of updating emergency managers' needs from the Gulf observing system.