

Welcome Members, Board of Directors, Guests, & Staff to our Fall 2025 GCOOS Members Meeting!



Happy 20th Anniversary GCOOS!

Today, as GCOOS celebrates its 20th Anniversary in 2025, it marks its expansion with **35 principal investigators** and **62 partners** providing data from **1,730 sensors** in the Gulf via **447 regional and federal stations**. GCOOS has **181 institutional and individual members** and its eNewsletter reaches more than **1,900 readers monthly**.

Thursday, November 13, 2025
(meeting will be recorded)

Board of Directors Election Results

Private Sector



Dr. Emily Hall
Mote Marine Laboratory
Board term expires in 2027



Dr. Rafael Ramos
(Treasurer)
Woods Hole Group
Board term expires in 2027



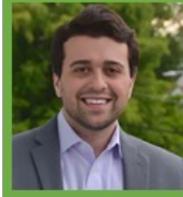
David Driver
BP (retired)
Board term expires in 2026

RETIRING BOD



Dr. Ruth Perry
Shell Exploration & Production Company
Board term expires in 2025

NEW BOD



Nick Gagliano
Kongsberg Discovery
Private Sector
Board term expires in 2028

Academic Sector



Dr. Antonietta Quigg
Texas A&M University at Galveston
Board term expires in 2026



Dr. Stephan Howden
(Secretary)
University of Southern Mississippi
Board term expires in 2028



Dr. Nick Shay
University of Miami, RSMAS
Board term expires in 2027

Outreach and Education Sector



Suraida Nañez-James
(Vice Chair)
Gulf Research Institute
Board term expires in 2026



Dr. Sara Graves
University of Alabama, Huntsville
Board term expires in 2026



Dr. Brian Roberts
LUMCON
Board term expires in 2027



Dr. Nan Walker
Louisiana State University
Board term expires in 2028

Government Sector

RETIRING BOD



Thomas Wissing
U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office
Board term expires in 2025



Dr. Kate Hubbard
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish & Wildlife Research Institute
Board term expires in 2027



Dr. Kimberly Yates
(Chair)
U.S. Geological Survey (retiring)
Board term expires in 2026



Dr. Pat Hogan
NOAA/NCEI - MS
Board term expires in 2028



Kirsten Larson
(Immediate Past Chair)
NOAA/NCEI
Board term expires in 2026



Returning Members (Fall 2025):

Academic Sector: Dr. Stephan Howden, University of Southern Mississippi

Outreach & Education Sector: Dr. Nan Walker, Louisiana State University

Government Sector: Dr. Pat Hogan, NOAA – NCEI



Retiring Members (Fall 2025):

Government Sector: Thomas Wissing, U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office

Private Sector: Dr. Ruth Perry, Shell Exploration & Production Company

Private Sector: Jan van Smirren (Treasurer), DHI Water & Environment, & Ocean Sierra, LLC

Agenda Summary (Central Time)

- 9:00-9:05 a.m. Welcome and Agenda Review, Dr. Kim Yates, GCOOS Board Chair
- 9:05-9:25 a.m. GCOOS Update, Dr. Jorge Brenner, GCOOS Executive Director
- 9:25-9:45 a.m. IOOS Program Office Updates, Dr. Jeff Payne, Acting IOOS Director
- 9:45-10:00 a.m. Chief of Staff, Joe Nicholson, for U.S. Representative Mike Ezell (MS)
- 10:00-11:00 a.m. Panel 1: Marine Operations and Coastal Hazards
- 11:00-11:10 a.m. Break
- 11:10-12:00 p.m. Panel 2: Healthy Ecosystems and Human Health & Safety
- 12:00-12:05 p.m. Closing Remarks and Meeting Adjourn, Dr. Kim Yates, GCOOS Board Chair

Today's Panel Presentation Focus

10:00-11:00 a.m. Panel 1: Marine Operations and Coastal Hazards

11:10-12:00 p.m. Panel 2: Healthy Ecosystems and Human Health & Safety

Brief project summaries from GCOOS PIs and their stakeholders followed by open discussion focused on current and future stakeholder data/information applications, needs, and challenges.

Will help inform our development of the GCOOS 2026-2031 Strategic Plan

Toward the Future: GCOOS BOD 2025 Activities

- Review of GCOOS PI Project Updates, summarized at Spring 2025 Member's meeting: needs & challenges from PIs' perspectives
- Summer-Fall review of GCOOS 2020-2025 Strategic Plan
- Fall review of LOIs for GCOOS 2026-2031 project portfolio
- Today's discussions focus on needs and challenges from stakeholders' perspectives



Informs development of GCOOS 2026-2031 Strategic Plan & Project Portfolio

Panel Discussion Points

What is the greatest challenge or need (and potential solution) for improving stakeholder application of observation data?

How can we improve tracking of outcomes related to stakeholder data applications, and measure economic value of activities? We can do this for GCOOS funded activities. However, it is more difficult to track and measure outcomes from partnering organizations.