

**Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine
Minutes of Meeting
January 16, 2003
University of New Hampshire, Durham**

Present:

Jerry Pesch United States Environmental Protection Agency
David Townsend University of Maine
Jefferson T. Turner University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
David Keeley Maine State Planning Office
Ata Bilgili Dartmouth College
Gordon Wallace University of Massachusetts, Boston
Jeffrey Runge University of New Hampshire
Bruce Tripp Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
Kevin Friedland National Marine Fisheries Service, UMass, Amherst
Peter Auster University of Connecticut, Avery Point

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by Jerry Pesch, with Jerry keeping the minutes. The meeting was hosted by Jeffrey Runge.

Highlights of Activities at Member Institutions

Jerry Pesch opened the meeting by asking the representatives to introduce themselves and report recent news/research activities from their institutions.

RARGOM Status Report

Ata Bilgili and Gordon Wallace reported that the move of RARGOM from Dartmouth to UMass, Boston was almost complete. The final accounting at Dartmouth determined that \$12,400 was still in the RARGOM account and that was being sent to UMass, Boston in the form of a check. Gordon reported that RARGOM has an independent account at the University. So, all payments should be sent to RARGOM. (An address for RARGOM at the University will be identified).

After an extended discussion of A home-base @ for RARGOM, it was decided that UMass, Boston will serve that role for the foreseeable future. Moving RARGOM home-base with the Chair position was viewed as inefficient and unnecessary.

RARGOM in Transition

The primary goal for RARGOM is viewed as advancing, supporting, improving communication amongst researchers and research organizations around the Gulf of Maine about the Gulf of Maine. After much discussion we embraced the concept of organizing and hosting one-day workshops based on specific themes. (Regional conversations on particular topics). These themes would be identified at RARGOM Board meetings. Each of these theme-based workshops would be organized by a small group familiar with the theme. Each workshop might consist of several invited talks, followed by discussion groups. The goal is to describe the state of the science, identify current issues, and

establish links/collaborations to advance the science/increase support for research in the Gulf of Maine. Themes identified were: 1) Coastal Monitoring; 2) Coastal Ocean Observing; 3) Invasive Species; 4) Census of Marine Life; 5) Plankton & Nutrients; 6) Marine Habitat Conservation; 7) Fisheries & Climate Change; 8) Essential Fish Habitat & Fish Production; 9) Estuarine Eutrophication/Vulnerability; and 10) Benthic Habitat Mapping. It is thought that RARGOM would organize and host three to four of these one-day theme based workshops each year. The Board will establish meeting guidelines (a check list) to ensure the success of these workshops.

RARGOM's web site, revitalized, is viewed as an important second mechanism to foster communication amongst the research community around the Gulf of Maine. A working group, Jeff Runge, Gordon Wallace, Bruce Tripp, and Kevin Friedland, are evaluating means of getting an updated RARGOM page back on the www.

RARGOM Leadership

Elections were held for a new Chair and Vice Chair. Bruce Tripp reported that the nominating committee had identified candidates for both offices. Jeff Runge was nominated for the Chair position. He was elected by unanimous vote. Jeff is a Research Professor at the University of New Hampshire. He worked for many years for Canada DFO. So, he brings an excellent science background and strong Canadian connections to this position. Gordon Wallace was nominated and elected unanimously to the Vice Chair position. Gordon brings a strong science background and a wealth of RARGOM experience to his position. (RARGOM is in good hands!)

RARGOM Budget

RARGOM's goals for the next few years are very focused: enhance communication amongst the research community to increase support/advance research in the Gulf of Maine. To do this RARGOM will, 1) organize/host science theme-based workshops; and 2) revitalize RARGOM's web site.

Suggested Budget

Personnel

Chair \$6,000

Vice-Chair \$1,000

Staff \$6,000

Office Supplies \$3,000

Web Site development \$3,000

Travel \$4,000

Meeting Support \$3,000

Total \$26,000

Carry over \$12,400

Suggested Dues Structure

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Sponsoring Members | \$5,000 each (new category, fed agencies) |
| Members | \$2,000 each |
| Associate Members | \$ 500 each |
| Estimated annual revenue | \$33,500 |

Next Steps

- 1) Distribute a letter to all member organizations explaining the focused goals for RARGOM, with a short work plan, a budget, and an invoice for this year's dues.
- 2) Produce a flier advertizing RARGOM's vision/goals
- 3) Organize and host at least two of the listed theme-based workshops this year.
- 4) Consolidate the RARGOM Office at the University of Massachusetts, Boston
- 5) Put a A refreshed @ RARGOM web page back on the Internet

Next RARGOM Board Meeting

Friday, April 4, 2003 at 10 am at University of Massachusetts, Boston

Gordon Wallace will host.

minutes submitted by Jerry Pesch