

# Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine

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## Minutes of Meeting

University of Massachusetts Boston Harbor Campus, Boston, Massachusetts May 16, 1996

### Present:

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Lew Incze                   | Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences                 |
| David Aiken                 | Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans           |
| Daniel Lynch                | Dartmouth College                                     |
| John Allen                  | Huntsman Marine Science Centre                        |
| David Stevenson             | Maine Department of Marine Resources                  |
| Steve Dickson               | Maine Geological Survey                               |
| Judy Pederson               | Massachusetts Institute of Technology                 |
| Eugenia Braasch             | RARGOM headquarters at Dartmouth College              |
| David Brooks                | Texas A & M University                                |
| Marilyn Buchholtz ten Brink | United States Geological Survey                       |
| Greg Lough                  | United States National Marine Fisheries Service       |
| Ron Schlitz                 | United States National Marine Fisheries Service       |
| Ivar Babb                   | United States National Undersea Research Center       |
| Larry Mayer                 | University of Maine                                   |
| David Townsend              | University of Maine, Regional Marine Research Program |
| Gordon Wallace              | University of Massachusetts - Boston                  |
| Wendell Brown               | University of New Hampshire                           |
| Bruce Tripp                 | Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution                  |

The Meeting was called to order by Dan Lynch at 9:30 a.m., with Genie Braasch keeping the minutes. The minutes of the 2 February meeting (Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire) were approved as they stand.

## Old Business

### Gulf of Maine Scientific Workshop

#### Planning:

Announcements & PR: Approximately 1,000 announcements were distributed in early April to members of the Gulf of Maine Research community. The planning document and other conference information is also posted on the RARGOM web home page. Researchers at member institutions, other institutions with Gulf of Maine research activity (i.e. URI and Dalhousie), regional research program participants (i.e. GLOBEC Georges Bank, NURP, RMRP, Sea Grant), and participants in recent Gulf of Maine workshops were included in the mailing. The meeting announcement solicited abstracts from participants, which will guide the formation of the working groups and poster sessions. 47 abstracts have been received, and many more are expected by the final June 7th deadline.

Housing: One key omission was made in the announcement in regards to the availability of lower rates for student housing at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre. Genie will post this electronically for broad distribution by the steering committee and RARGOM representatives. Students can then contact Brenda Fullerton at Huntsman for reservations.

Program: The format and function of the 5 minute mini presentations at the working group sessions on Wednesday were discussed at length. The consensus was to encourage researchers to share and exchange information about recent results and conclude with presenting their thoughts regarding working group issues to the entire working group plenary session from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Reporting research results (using 1-2 favorite overheads) will acquaint colleagues with interesting findings that will be then put into the context of the working group topics and serve to stimulate further discussion of the issues. The abstracts were reviewed and categorized by working group session: 17 for the Physical and Biological Coupling session (D. Lynch pleased w. the submissions thus far and anticipates more to come), 17 for the Land/water Interface session (G. Wallace anticipates more to come here as well), 3 for the Fishery/Aquaculture session (D. Stevenson expects some to be submitted, but plans to solicit more abstracts), and 10 for the Human-Induced Biological Changes session (J. Pederson will

also solicit more abstracts). Decisions about who will make the 5 minute mini presentations will be made after the June 7th deadline. If there is a toss up in this selection process (more abstracts than # of available slots), then priority will be given by date of submission. All steering committee members will be informed about the working group selections prior to the release of these decisions.

All of the plenary speakers have accepted. There are still some members of the opening evening management panel who have not yet RSVP'd (Genie and Gordon will firm this up); Jerry Schubel, New England Aquarium, will serve as the moderator. The schedule was reviewed and approved with one change on the final day, Thursday morning: to cut the panel of funding agency representatives in favor of an expanded wrap-up discussion with Jerry Schubel from 11:30 - 1:30. J. Allen and W. Brown said that the session on Special Research Methods/Tools will take some special arm twisting...bringing equipment over the Canada/U.S. border will be a customs headache, but there will be a few computer demonstrations. W. Brown encouraged people who are reviewing poster abstracts to consider those which have interesting approaches for the special session, and focus the general poster sessions on findings. J. Allen distributed information packages for the St. Andrews region; there are several possibilities for Monday pre-conference activities, including tours of the salmon aquaculture pens. J. Allen and D. Brooks will work on planning these events for those who arrive early. The notion of an open house at the HMSC, SABS, and the Atlantic Salmon Federation has been discussed, but no specifics have been arranged as yet. J. Allen will host a final dinner at HMSC, and will need an attendance # to begin planning for this.

Budget & Funding: G. Wallace reported that fund raising has been initiated, through follow-up conversation with the Kendall Foundation, we have been asked to make a request for \$10,000. Approaches to the Davis Conservation Foundation and the Jessie Cox Charitable Trust have been made (each requesting \$25,000.), we should know whether we will be recipients of these requests after the spring board meetings, to be held in late May. G. Wallace also reported on a conversation with Cathy Demos (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) re. Council on the Marine Environment contribution levels. A request for \$10,000. for this conference and \$5,000. for the follow-up management/science workshop will be considered by the CME at their June 12 meeting. Other sponsorship ideas were generated. The following individuals will initiate the process via. telephone request, the Association will follow-up with an information package.

NSF: Lew Incze to Phil Taylor

ONR: Dave Townsend to Steve Ackelson

COP: Dave Townsend to Don Scavia

NSG: Gordon Wallace to Bill Graham

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Gordon Wallace to Bill Hubbard

MWRA: Gordon Wallace

CRC: Bruce Tripp & Rocky Geyer

Mellon: Dave Brooks

Canadian Foundations & Agencies (Thermadale Foundation, Techelote, Sir James Dunne Foundation): John Allen and Don Gordon

Local Consulting Groups: who ever lives in that area (i.e. Normadeau - Lew Incze)

Travel: was not discussed, we will see what the needs might be once the registrations are received.

Management/Science Workshop: The following people volunteered to serve on the steering committee: Lew Incze, Judy Pederson, David Stevenson, David Townsend, Gordon Wallace. Next steps include inviting Cathy Demos (ACE & CME) to the remaining steering committee meetings for the St. Andrews conference and working with Cathy to identify CME affiliated people to serve on the steering committee for the 2nd conference.

#### *Actions to take:*

1. The working group chairs will organize sub groups for discussion.
2. G. Wallace will send out sponsorship requests to institutions which provided financial assistance for the 1991 WHOI workshop.
3. Steering committee members will encourage colleagues to submit abstracts and will review the abstracts submitted by June 7th. Abstracts will be sent to the Plenary Speakers after the Oral Presenters are selected.
4. G. Braasch will generate a planning schedule for the summer, leading up to the conference.
5. G. Braasch will work with G. Wallace on the fund raising approach, members of the steering committee with personal contacts at the targeted funding sources will meet with those organizations.
6. A steering committee for the 2nd science/management workshop needs to be identified and planning needs to be launched.

#### **Gulf of Maine Research Overview: Robert Chen "Applications of UV Fluorescence in the Marine Environment"**

R. Chen, on the UMass Boston faculty in the Environmental Sciences Program, gave a 1/2 hour presentation of some of his research, which includes findings from the Boston Harbor, New Bedford Harbor, and Narragansett Bay regions.

#### **Health of the Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Workshop**

G. Braasch reported that the NOAA/NMFS contract was completed with the production of the final Workshop Proceedings prior to the April 30th deadline. G. Braasch and D. Dow worked together to obtain these contributions. D. Dow is overseeing the distribution of the report from the NMFS / NEFSC.

## New Business

### Financial Report and Membership Dues

D. Lynch presented a 1996 budget update, noting that the Association's expenses were on track with the 1996 budget, with dues revenue coming in on target except for the changes noted at the Feb. meeting. The largest expense category has not been charged much this year because neither Wallace or Lynch have billed for their services yet and G. Braasch has been billing her hours against the NOAA/NMFS contract this winter. Other expenses are on track, with the exception of printing costs, due to extra printing of workshop Executive Summary and Final Reports. Also, Lynch noted that printing costs for the Gulf of Maine NEWS are rising with expanding requests.

#### *Actions to take:*

1. Those institutions who have not yet paid their dues will receive a notice from Genie, encouraging them to pay promptly.

### Association Officers

The terms for the current officers, G. Wallace and D. Lynch, will expire at the end of June. A decision was made at the February meeting to modify the leadership process: the Chair still serves a two year term as described by the Articles of Association, but a person would be elected to serve for two years as the Vice Chair, with the expectation that they will then rotate into the Chair position. This would reduce the turnover issues and would enhance leadership continuity. The Executive Director position would remain as generally defined by the Articles of Association and would change when required. Lew Incze, Bigelow Lab, has been elected to serve as the Chair; Bruce Tripp, WHOI, was elected as the Vice Chair, and Genie Braasch was asked to serve as the Executive Director. Lew Incze recognized the many contributions that Wallace and Lynch have made to the Association and presented each of them with a coastal print by the artist Sabra Field inscribed: "In Appreciation for your Leadership and Dedication to the Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine 1992- 1996". All in attendance applauded and signed their name to the back of the print, noting the institution that they represent.

#### *Actions to take:*

1. Wallace, Lynch, Incze, Tripp, and Braasch will meet on June 24 at Incze's house to discuss this administrative transition.

### Gulf of Maine Journal / Scientific Reports

After the last meeting, Braasch sent the representatives information about the International Association of Great Lakes Research journal and program activity, thinking that this might be a model for RARGOM. L. Mayer described the notion of a GoM Journal, saying that there is a real need for a descriptive, regional science publication that would integrate watershed, atmospheric, and marine issues. Mayer noted that a good aspect of a focused journal such as this is that it encourages people to write up data that might otherwise languish in a lab. General discussion of the need for a new journal, the scope and oversight followed. The notion of this project being conducted electronically was promoted (REDIMS could serve as a repository), with the idea that the Association could generate a directory ("entry hall rather than the entire house"), a document library, with the Association as the steward, providing technical oversight. More information needs to be gathered concerning the needs, feasibility, funding, and presentation (electronic vs. paper). The following people were recommended to review this need and develop a 1 page assessment: Rich Signell (USGS), Ivar Babb (NURC), L. Mayer (UMaine), Joe Kelley (Maine Geological Survey), with Karen Garrison as a technical consultant. The charge to the committee is to make recommendations to the policy board about the form and feasibility of a Gulf of Maine Journal, addressing the need for a regional science publication, supported by market research, addressing technology concerns, and funding requirements.

#### *Actions to take:*

1. This committee will develop a 1 page assessment of need and feasibility to present to the Association at the Fall meeting.

**Research Infrastructure** W. Brown said that this subcommittee had no activity to report.

### Individual Membership Category Proposal

D. Lynch reported that he had received a request from a recently retired scientist of a member institution, to create a new membership category for individual members. The sense of the group was to not create such a category, that RARGOM is an association of institutions and that active or retired scientists of member institutions are "covered" by their institutional membership. Lynch responded to the request along those lines.

### A-B-C Annual meeting

G. Wallace, D. Townsend, and G. Braasch reported on the annual planning meeting that they attended in Portland on March 15th. There is still concern about how to most effectively interface with the CME, as personnel and office changes are common. This meeting produced some positive initiatives, though, (help from the CME on RARGOM membership development and an interest in program support). Lew and Bruce will discuss how to proceed - the most effective method might be to designate a person as a long term liaison from each of the organizations, who will attend each other's board meetings, so that administrative changes will not have such an impact on the joint initiatives of the groups involved.

**The next meeting of the conference steering committee will be at the Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth, NH on July 18th.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eugenia Frey Braasch  
20 May, 1996