

# Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine

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## Minutes of Meeting

Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, February 2, 1996

### Present:

Lew Incze	Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences
Patricia Roberts-Pichette	Canadian Department of the Environment
David Aiken	Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Daniel Lynch	Dartmouth College
John Allen	Huntsman Marine Science Centre
Linda Mercer	Maine Department of Marine Resources
David Stevenson	Maine Department of Marine Resources
Judy Pederson	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Eugenia Braasch	RARGOM headquarters at Dartmouth College
Marilyn Buchholtz ten Brink	United States Geological Survey
Greg Lough	United States National Marine Fisheries Service
Ron Schlitz	United States National Marine Fisheries Service
Larry Mayer	University of Maine
Gordon Wallace	University of Massachusetts - Boston
Wendell Brown	University of New Hampshire
Michele Dionne	Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

The Meeting was called to order by Gordon Wallace at 9:00 a.m., with Genie Braasch keeping the minutes.  
The minutes of the 11 November meeting (University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire) were approved as they stand.

## Old Business

### Gulf of Maine Scientific Workshop

Planning: The final planning document is almost ready for distribution. G. Wallace detailed the decisions made by the steering committee at their December 12, 1995 meeting in Gloucester, MA and their February 1, 1996 meeting in Hanover, NH. The intention is to contrast inshore and offshore regions of the GoM, with adequate emphasis on the inshore. The opening evening panel discussion has been designed to highlight key issues where scientific data is needed for decision making. State and provincial managers, and well as representatives from the federal level will be asked to make 5 minute presentations; Jerry Schubel, New England Aquarium, will serve as the moderator. The one page meeting announcement will solicit abstracts from participants, which will guide the formation of the working groups and poster sessions.

Budget & Funding: A budget of \$92,000. has been approved for the conference. Fund raising has been initiated, G. Wallace and G. Braasch met with officers of the Kendall Foundation in November, while the reaction was supportive of the Association, an exact contribution has not been specified. Approaches to other foundations have been put on hold until the program description is finalized.

Program Themes/Sessions: A revised program schedule was distributed and discussed (see attached).

Travel: Group arrangements from the Boston area will be looked into (the possibility of a plane charter from the Cape Cod/ Boston area, or rental of a van for driving as a group).

### Actions to take:

1. The steering committee will finalize its speaker lists.
2. G. Wallace will finalize the program / announcement document by Feb. 9th.
3. Steering committee members will forward mailing list information from their region to G. Braasch.
4. The announcement of the workshop will be sent out to scientists, state agencies, congressional staffers, and NGOs by March 1st.
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 workshop needs to be identified and planning needs to be launched.

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

G. Braasch reported that the Executive Summary was completed prior to the December holidays and distributed to participants of the workshop. The workshop proceedings are in process, with the deadline for contributions set for February 5th. G. Braasch and D. Dow are working together to obtain these contributions.

#### *Actions to take:*

1. Complete the workshop proceedings (D. Dow, G. Braasch and contributors).
2. Distribute the workshop proceedings to workshop participants and those who request it from the Executive Summary mailing.

## **New Business**

### **Financial Report and Membership Dues**

D. Lynch presented a 1995 budget year end report and a 1996 budget update, noting that the Association's expenses were on track with the 1995 budget, but that dues revenues lagged, underscoring the importance of externally funded program activity (such as the NOAA grant which supported the Health of the Gulf of Maine Ecosystem workshop activity) as an additional revenue source. One full member institution dues has not yet been received (\$2,750.), one full member institution was unable to contribute dues at the full level, but intends to contribute at the Associate member, and all Associate dues are currently paid. Lynch provided a 1996 budget update, reporting that the Association has been notified that another full member organization will not be able to contribute their 1996 dues at the full member level, but wishes to remain involved at the Associate level. The representatives of the other full member institutions indicated that their institutions were committed to 1996 Association membership.

G. Braasch said that Bruce Bourque, Bates College, had requested membership information and is in the process of discussing Association membership with his colleagues. Also, Stewart Fefer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gulf of Maine Project, has requested membership information. Braasch indicated that this membership interest being generated by participation in Association sponsored workshops - these programs are an excellent way to introduce people to the Association and encourage ongoing support and involvement. Discussion moved to the pros and cons of asking corporations and consulting firms to become sponsoring members. Several companies were mentioned, it was also noted that watershed associations and cooperative extension offices would benefit from affiliation with the Association.

#### *Actions to take:*

1. Need to define how such organizations would participate in the Association. (L. Mercer will work with G. Braasch on this).
2. Generate a target list of people and organizations to approach. (send to Gordon Wallace and G. Braasch).

### **Association Officers Nominating Committee**

The terms for the current officers will expire in June. A nominating committee was established at the Nov. 11 meeting to generate a slate of candidates: Lew Incze, Larry Mayer, Page Valentine, and Brad Barr. L. Mayer reported that this group has had discussions about the sort of leadership that the Association needs at this point (someone to play a strong advocacy role for regional research, someone who has been consistently involved in the Association's decisions, and also whether the Association currently needs both a Chair and an Executive Director - identifying two people to serve every two years is a large task). Mayer said that the discussions of the committee have highlighted the need to broaden RARGOM awareness and involvement within the existing member organizations. He said that the nominating committee has received no suggestions for any nominations, but has contacted some people to determine their interest/availability/willingness to serve. There was consensus that a slate of candidates must be identified at the meeting. The sense of the meeting was also that development of subcommittees to work on various Association activities (program, publications, resources, etc.) could be a mechanism for involving colleagues and sharing the activity of the Association. The group also endorsed the idea of two people serving as officers. A proposal was made 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. Additional discussion about people to approach was conducted over lunch and a timeline was outlined for completion of this process.

#### *Actions to take:*

1. Judy Pederson agreed to take Lew Incze's place on the nominating committee.
2. Suggestions of officer nominations to L. Mayer by Feb. 9th
3. Feb. 21-26 nominees contacted by nominating committee
4. Feb. 27 - March 8th slate presented for voting by the policy board (via letter to the Association Office by March 8th).

### **Gulf of Maine Journal**

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. The planning process for how this might take shape has been initiated through conversation with staff at the International Association of Great Lakes Research, an organization that sponsors an annual conference, a regional journal, and newsletter. It appears that IAGLR's activity might be a model for RARGOM to consider. It is anticipated that information about the logistics and costs involved will be forthcoming after the IAGLR board meets on February 8th.

#### *Actions to take:*

1. G. Braasch will follow up with IAGLR on this activity.
2. Need to establish an editorial advisory committee to outline policy, themes, rates, etc.

### **Research Infrastructure**

W. Brown reported that he had received a memo from B. Wall, RMRP, about the Dept. of Commerce buy-out program from the UNOLS office. In that memo, Wall encouraged regional coordination to minimize overcapitalizing. The Association was also recently informed of the possible availability of a boat which is the sister ship to the R/V Asterias (WHOI). The status of the ship and timing of the availability are not known yet. The Association will play a coordinating role (linking ships with institutions in need), by obtaining information about the ship and advertising the ship's availability. There was discussion about identifying a group of sites for focused research in the future, establishing long term ecosystem observatories, i.e. Stellwagen Bank, Wells Research Reserve.

*Actions to take:*

1. G. Braasch will contact the ship owner for more information.

### **Gulf of Maine Watershed Management workshop**

M. Dionne said that the Wells Reserve was the recipient of \$5,000. from the Council on the Marine Environment to coordinate and host a workshop about how to further collaboration between scientists and managers for better decision making in the Gulf of Maine watershed. Henrietta List (207-646-1555) is the staff person coordinating this activity, to be held on March 12. Dionne asked for suggestions for participants, saying that they envision this event as a lead-in activity to the Sept. St. Andrews conference.

### **Groundfish Stock Enhancement workshop**

D. Stevenson (for Rich Langton) distributed a description of a workshop on groundfish stock enhancement being discussed by the Maine Hatchery Technology Association and the Univ. Maine/UNH Sea Grant Program. (see attached description)

### **Gulf of Maine Research Overview**

Patricia Roberts-Pichette, from Environment Canada, spoke about the activities of the National Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN) initiative in Canada (overheads attached). The EMAN is characterized as a decentralized, ecozone based program with a coordinating office, advisory groups, international linkages, which brings together scientists, managers, and the public in a series of forums. Recent recommendations include:

- regional and global mercury monitoring network for atmospheric deposition needs to be established
- predictive models need to be developed for bioaccumulation and effects for both natural and anthropogenic hotspots
- more research on effects is needed
- a few study areas need to be selected from concentrated, long term, multi-disciplinary scientific efforts
- there is a need for national leadership to establish these activities.

The www site for more information about EMAN is: <http://www.cciw.ca/eman/>

**The spring meeting will be held in the Boston area (exact location still to be determined) on May 16th.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

## Policy Board Minutes

Present:

Lew Incze	Bigelow Lab
Daniel Lynch	Dartmouth College
Linda Mercer	Maine Department of Marine Resources
Judy Pederson	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Marilyn ten Brink	United States Geological Survey
Greg Lough	United States National Marine Fisheries Service
Ron Schlitz	United States National Marine Fisheries Service
Larry Mayer	University of Maine
Gordon Wallace	University of Massachusetts - Boston
Wendell Brown	University of New Hampshire

The meeting was called to order at 2:45p.m. by G. Wallace.

### **Association.RMRBoard.Council on the Marine Environment Annual Agenda**

G. Wallace asked for input on topics for discussion at the scheduled meeting on March 8th. It was suggested that the Association seek opportunities for collaboration on the Science & Management workshop, to be held after the St. Andrews Scientific workshop. It was also recommended that a regular annual date be established for this 3-way meeting, so that this aspect of the agreement can be more easily accomplished. Other, on-going issues, as outlined in last year's letter to Jeff Taylor, still need to be addressed.

M. ten Brink made a motion that the Association endorse and begin planning that Science & Management workshop. D. Lynch 2nd the motion, which was approved by the board.

### **Nominating Committee**

The policy board discussed further the leadership needs of the Association. There was considerable discussion about the merits of researchers affiliated with federal agencies serving in leadership roles for the Association and it was decided to leave the issue of whether federal employment should factor into leadership eligibility up to the discretion of the nominating committee. It was decided to nominate two board executives, and to change the rotation cycle so that a new member of the leadership team would assume responsibility every two years (the model is that a Vice Chair will be elected to serve for two years, with the goal of becoming the Chair for a second, two year term, with the approval of the Policy Board). This model will enable two people to serve as a sounding board for decision making, and will also provide for a smoother transition process for the Association. The requisite changes in the Articles of Association will be distributed for approval (see enclosed). The Policy Board asked Genie Braasch to continue to serve the Association in the capacity of Executive Director. They approved the process for selecting the two new officers as described earlier in these minutes.

### **Regional Research Program Development and Advocacy**

G. Wallace moved that RARGOM work with regional sea grant directors to discuss steps for enhancing regional research programs. The policy board approved this activity. The next step is to set up a meeting with those directors.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eugenia Frey Braasch  
12 February, 1996