

RARGOM Board Meeting
University of Massachusetts, Boston

8 December, 2006

In attendance: R. Beardsley, T. Callaghan, K. Friedland, W. Galloway, A. Gangopadhyay, L. Incze, J. Pennock, J. Runge, L. Rutter, G. Wallace

Regional news

The meeting started with news from member institutions. These news reports can now be accessed on the RARGOM website. Highlights from the reports are given here. Please contact member representatives for more details.

1. Northeast Gateway Project (Todd Callaghan, Mass CZM). A LNG terminal is planned for development by Excelerate Energy L.L.C. (Excelerate) at a site off Gloucester (see map, from the Northeast Gateway Project website). Two subset mooring buoys and riser construct and an approx. 16 mile-long, 24-inch-diameter pipeline to connect the docking buoys to the existing HubLine pipeline will be constructed. A report examining impacts on marine mammals was filed with NMFS in October and environmental impact under the NEPA has been conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard.



2. Eel grass restoration. Mass CZM is also assisting with other state partners to identify areas where eel grass can be restored. Eel grass will be introduced first at a North Shore and Boston Harbor site.

3. L. Incze reported on the Gulf of Maine Data Partnership, whose purpose is to promote and coordinate the sharing, linking, electronic dissemination, and use of data on the Gulf of Maine region. A goal of the Partnership is to link databases that are created and individually maintained by participants and, where necessary and appropriate, to archive data sets. The website can be found at (<http://gmbis.iris.usm.maine.edu/Partnership.asp>)

4. K. Friedland reports that Dr. Nancy Thompson is the new Acting Director of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Dr John Boreman is now director of the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Science and Technology.

5. Dr. Avijit Gangopadhyay has been appointed interim dean of SMAST, replacing Dr. Brian Rothschild who is stepping down. Drs. Brad Stevens (Shellfish Biology) and Cindy

Pilskaln (Biogeochemistry) are new faculty. Next year (2007) marks the SMAST 10th anniversary!

R. Beardsley reported on a number of WHOI research projects. Administratively, Judy McDowell is the new Biology Chair, although she will also continue to direct Sea Grant. John Farrington has retired and Jim Yoder is now the new dean.

W. Galloway reported on a number of activities in the EPA Atlantic Ecology Division. There are a number of fellowships, internships and postdoctoral opportunities available (see the AED website). The National Coastal Assessment now comprises 7 years of sample collection. The national coastal condition report II is now available on the website. The AED is also involved in Aircraft Remote Sensing for HAB and chlorophyll, from Mass Bay to Long Island Sound.

G. Wallace reported on the research activities of several faculty members and on the development of an Intercampus Graduate School that will be the U Mass School of Marine Sciences.

The board welcomed J. Pennock, Director of the UNH Marine Program and NH Sea Grant. Jon reported that Dr. Jack Johnson, a paleoceanographer, is a new faculty member and a new position in chemical oceanography is open at the Ocean Process Analysis Laboratory. The pier renovation at the Coastal Lab is moving forward, as is the construction of the SWATH research vessel for coastal mapping. Plans for a new Coastal Lab have been shelved in place of renovations for the existing lab in Newcastle.

J. Runge reported that he and Dr. Andy Pershing are new faculty members in the School of Marine Sciences at the University of Maine, located and working with research staff at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland. He highlighted research activities taking place at the Darling Marine Center.

Website report

Under the direction of the Website Committee (Babb, Runge, Rutter, Tripp, Wallace), Lynn Rutter and James DuPrie have worked with the Research Computer Center at the UNH Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans and Space to redesign the RARGOM website and migrate it to the University of New Hampshire. The results can be seen at www.rargom.org. The next step is to encourage members to add content, including events, research and funding opportunities and member contact information. The possibility of including the bibliographic database and a research project database is still being explored. S. Hale was nominated to be on the website committee.

Finances update

The YTD financial summary (annex) shows a balance of \$12,960.47 for carryover into 2007, on projected income of \$20,150 from membership dues and income from the

Indicators theme session. Expenditures this year include website migration to UNH, estimated at \$2, 907.

Planning for theme sessions for 2006/2007

Gulf of Maine indicators

This theme session, entitled “Development of Ecosystem Indicators for Multiple Management and Research Needs” was held on November 15, 2006, at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve. It was well attended, with standing room only. Congratulations to the organizers, K. Friedland, M. ten Brink and Ray Konisky, coordinator of the Gulf of Maine Council ESIP program. The meeting presentations and workshop report are published on the RARGOM website. Feedback from the session expressed great interest in the session presentations, but frustration that there was not more time for discussion of issues. The suggestion was made to carefully consider the number of keynote talks scheduled during a one-day session, in order to allow ample time for audience participation.

Regional Modeling Center follow up

A follow up to the workshop on Regional Modeling Needs held at the Cliff House (RARGOM Theme Session 05-01) has been proposed. The goal is to allow broader community response to the theme session report and concepts for regional coordination of integrated modeling activities through a Regional Modeling Center or other community infrastructure. J. Runge is continuing discussions and planning about the organization and content of the meeting and a meeting date has not been set yet. There are several options under consideration, including partnering with a regional COMPASS Ecosystem Based Management workshop and an EBM-Gulf of Maine Observing Workshop led by C. Davis at WHOI, both of which will take place in 2007.

Linkages from nearshore to offshore

Conveners for this meeting are L. Incze, G. Wallace and J. Runge. The session is scheduled for the second half of 2007. The biennial conference of the Estuarine Research Foundation (4-7 November, 2007) was discussed as a possible venue for the session. The session conveners will prepare a prospectus and plan for the session at the next board meeting.

Gulf of Maine Science Symposium

There is growing regional interest in holding a symposium that synthesizes knowledge and research priorities for the Gulf of Maine, similar to the session sponsored by RARGOM that was held in St. Andrews, New Brunswick in September, 1996. A theme that focuses on the Gulf of Maine in a time of Climate Change was suggested. Potential partners are NERACOOS, the UNH Coastal Observing Center and Sea Grant. J. Runge will prepare a draft proposal for the next board meeting.

New theme sessions

A number of new theme session subjects were identified:

- Research priorities for climate impacts. J. Runge will ask A. Pershing about his interest in leading/ participating in this session.
- Marine Mammals/ Vertebrates. J. Runge will contact S. Krause at the New England Aquarium
- Euphausiids/ Mysids. P. Jumars, J. Link, L. Incze, P. Wiebe and J. Runge as possible organizers.
- Gelatinous zooplankton. L. Madin as possible organizer.
- Small pelagics and trophic relationships. J. Link and someone from research staff at GMRI as possible organizers.
- Coastal modeling. The application of circulation models into small estuaries and embayments, with linkage to watersheds, was discussed. R. Beardsley is a possible organizer.

In a general discussion about the theme sessions, the need to allow time for participant discussion, to keep the theme session topic focused to allow progress in one day and to keep the organizing and registration process simple were brought up. Research priorities and highlights from the sessions could be included as part of the annual report.

Gulfwatch Review

Planning for scientific review of the Gulfwatch program was discussed. G. Wallace (chair), B. Tripp, S. Hale and J. Runge are on the review committee. Five reviews, some from outside the region will be requested in addition to the review committee comments. A one day theme session, in which the program is presented and reviewers and interested members of the broader community participate, will form part of the review and final report. Compensation for reviewers as well as for review committee members will come from the Gulf of Maine Council, which has offered \$5,000 for the review process. An additional amount (\$2,000) has been allocated for travel expenses to the meeting. The review process has been delayed pending receipt of an addendum to the Gulfwatch report that provides data for the three additional years of the study, through 2005. Given that the Gulfwatch program can play an important role in long-term observing of the health of the Gulf of Maine, it was generally considered that support of a rigorous review is a worthwhile investment of resources.

Contribution of RARGOM to the Gulf of Maine Observing Systems: Regional coordination of modeling activities

At the end of the meeting the role of RARGOM in the evolving regional initiatives to establish an observing system for the Gulf of Maine was discussed. RARGOM has already played a role by spawning the establishment of GoMOOS and more recently by advancing development of a regional approach to multidisciplinary modeling using observing data (RARGOM workshop report, 2005). One role for RARGOM is to continue to ask the community what are the needs (including operational needs) for development and regional organization of modeling and observing activities so that the region is competitive for

federal funding. A clear and unique definition of what RARGOM's role should be in this context is needed. This topic will be discussed again at the next board meeting.

Next meeting dates and venue for next meeting

The next meeting will be held on April 4 at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. There was also discussion of venues for the 2007 summer meeting, which is intended to feature one of the member institutions. This year, the meeting was held at the Wells NERR. The suggestion was made to hold next year's meeting at SMAST in New Bedford, in recognition of the school's 10 year anniversary.

RARGOM BUDGET SUMMARY YTD 2006

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Balance	Year 2005	\$ 19,060.84				
Income			Expenditures			
Source	Date	Amount	Source	Date / Payee	Amount Actual	Encumbered
Indicators theme session		\$ 1,200.00				
			Theme sessions			
			Indicators theme session		\$ 1,626.91	
	-	\$ 1,200.00	Session Expenses		\$ 1,626.91	\$ -
Membership Dues:	Projected	Paid	Board meetings			\$ 150.00
EPA		\$ 2,000.00	Lunch			
Dept of Fisheries & Oceans Can.		\$ 2,000.00	Lunch			
USGS			Total			\$ 150.00
NOAA NMFS	\$ 2,000.00					
Univ. Maine/Orono	\$ 2,000.00		Personnel			
UMASS/Boston		\$ 2,000.00	Chair Stipend	Runge		\$ 6,000.00
UNH Marine Program		\$ 2,000.00	Vice Chair Stipend	Wallace		\$ 1,000.00
WHOI		\$ 2,000.00	Support Staff	Rutter	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
Maine DMR		\$ 500.00	Web Site 2005	Remsen (carryover)		\$ 3,000.00
Bigelow Labs			Web Site 2006	Duprie/Remsen	\$ 2,000.00	
Dartmouth College	\$ 500.00		Total		\$ 6,500.00	\$ 14,500.00
Huntsman/NB/CAN	\$ 450.00					
U CONN / Storrs - NURC		\$ 500.00	Office related expenses			
Univ. So. Maine		\$ 500.00	Office supplies		\$ 366.71	
Wells National Estuarine Res.	\$ 500.00		Phone			
UMASS/Dartmouth	\$ 500.00		Travel support			\$ 200.00
MA Coastal Zone Management Program	\$ 500.00		Scanning Doc			
State of Maine Planning Office		\$ 500.00				
GMRI		\$ 500.00				
			Total		\$ 366.71	\$ 200.00
			Web site migration	RCC		\$ 2,906.75
Membership Total Dues	6450.00	\$ 12,500.00				
TOTAL Income	6450.00	\$ 13,700.00	Expenditures		\$ 8,493.62	\$ 17,756.75
			Total Expenditures			\$ 26,250.37
Net 2006		\$ (6,100.37)				
Projected Balance YTD	6/16/2006	\$ 12,960.47				