

Gulf of Maine NEWS

Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine

Spring 1993

Newsletter Launched

Welcome to RARGOM's first newsletter. This quarterly newsletter is your opportunity to exchange ideas and information within the Association, and to stay in touch throughout the year. This and future issues will present topics designed to help you in your research and professional activities.

The deadline for contributions to the next issue will be July 30th. Tell us your opinions, send us your news, help us solve the problems that crop up in our research on the Gulf of Maine. Let us know what's helpful and what's not.

Genie Braasch

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Hydrographic Data Available from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center

David Mountain, Northeast Fisheries Science Center

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) has collected hydrographic data that may be of use to RARGOM researchers and wishes to make the data easily accessible to the research community. Each year, the NEFSC in Woods Hole, Massachusetts conducts several different types of surveys on the northeast continental shelf. Most of these surveys are designed to provide estimates of the distribution and abundance of the living marine resources in the region and to characterize the environmental conditions in which those resources reside. A large number (1000-2000) of temperature/salinity profiles are measured each year during these surveys, with about two thirds of them in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank region.

On survey cruises, SeaBird SBE 19* conductivity / temperature / pressure (CTD) instruments are used to make the hydrographic measurements. The sampling rate for the instruments is two scans per second. The instruments are used in either of two modes. At stations where plankton is sampled using a bongo net, a CTD instrument is attached on the tow wire above the net and the hydrographic data are collected during the double oblique net tow. A bongo net tow typically takes 20 minutes and covers a distance of 1.0 - 1.5 km. At stations where hydrographic data are to be collected, a standard vertical profile of the water column is made with the vessel stationary. Most survey cruises include both modes of sampling.

The data are processed to yield average values in 1 decibar increments, and are stored in a National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) stand 80 column ASCII format

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(Hydrographic data continued)

file for each cruise. On double oblique tows, the data from the upward portion of the tow are used to make a vertical profile, since the flow through the conductivity cell is greater during the retrieval part of the tow. On stationary vertical casts, the data from the down cast are used.

When CTD instruments were first used on NEFSC net tows, a series of comparisons were conducted between data from stationary, vertical profiles and from double oblique tows at approximately the same location. In most situations (i.e., away from hydrographic fronts) little or no significant difference was observed between the two methods of sampling. NODC does not accept data from towed instruments into its hydrographic data base, since the data do not represent a specific site. As a result the CTD data from most NEFSC surveys are not available through NODC. While not appropriate for analysis of small scale variability, the CTD data are fully adequate for identifying water mass characteristics and the broader scale (>10 km) distribution of water properties.

The NEFSC survey hydrographic data since 1991 are available on a SUN workstation at NEFSC via internet. The hydrographic data files are contained in a subdirectory within the anonymous ftp directory (/ftp/pub/hydro) on a machine named whsun4.wh.who.edu. The subdirectory also contains text files for each year (e.g., HYDRO91.DAT) which list for each survey in that year the name of the hydrographic data file, the type of survey, the dates of the survey, the general region covered and the number of CTD casts in the data file.

A document summarizing the cruises conducted in 1991, including maps of the station positions and contour plots of the surface and bottom temperature and salinity, is available. A similar document for 1992 will be available this summer. A summary of the tests comparing the CTD data from vertical casts and double oblique tows is also available. To obtain copies of these documents or if you have questions about the NEFSC hydrographic data, please contact either Tamara Holzwarth-Davis or Maureen Taylor at: NEFSC, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543 (503)547-5123. Via internet: tholzwar.whsun1.wh.who.edu or mtaylor.whsun1.wh.who.edu.

note:

*The National Marine Fisheries Service does not approve, recommend or endorse any proprietary product material mentioned in this publication.

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Stellwagen Bank will be officially designated as one of twelve National Marine Sanctuaries on June 26th. Once designated, the sanctuary will come under the jurisdiction of NOAA's Sanctuaries and Reserves Division, in the Office of Ocean and Coastal Management.

In the next month, a headquarters office will be set up in Plymouth, MA, and a manager will be hired. The manager's first priority will be to establish a 15 member advisory committee to represent different constituencies who are concerned about Stellwagen Bank. During the upcoming year, a Deputy manager, a research coordinator, and an education coordinator will be hired to staff the office.

According to Sherrard Foster, Program Specialist at NOAA, who has been associated with Stellwagen Bank work since 1982, sanctuary status will create opportunities for research activity in the area. Of immediate interest, and to further refine the existing management plan, an RFP for a literature search in order to develop a site characterization has just been announced with a preproposal deadline of May 12th. Because the goal of sanctuary status is resource and system protection, research is seen as an important mechanism to inform and protect the system. So the longer term expectation is that funds will be designated for sanctuary focused research.

RARGOM members will have the opportunity to comment on the management of Stellwagen Bank as regulations are put in place in the upcoming months. The final impact statement with sanctuary regulations will be released during the next month followed by a 30 day period for comment. Our office will receive this document once released and will distribute it to interested members. Proposed regulations include prohibitions on alteration of the seabed, including dredging and excavation, and on discharges of materials from beyond the sanctuary boundary that enter the sanctuary and harm resources within. The effective date that the regulations will be approved by Congress will probably be in late July.

250,000 people are expected to attend the designation ceremony. There will be an hour and a half long program of speakers, (possibly including Vice President Gore and Secretary Brown), exhibits, whale watches, posters, and an open house on some research vessels. Brad Barr, from MCZM is coordinating the vessels.

For more information about the Stellwagen Bank sanctuary, contact Sherrard Foster, Program Specialist, Sanctuary and Reserves Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOAA, (202) 606-4122. (After May 12th: 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 713-3125).

To participate in the June 26th designation ceremony, contact Melanie Jennard at NOAA, (202) 606-4178.

Gulf of Maine Institute at Bowdoin College

A Gulf of Maine Institute will be held April 6-9, 1994 at Bowdoin College. Maine Senator George J. Mitchell, a Bowdoin graduate, will be the keynote speaker. Maurice Strong, Chairman of Ontario Hydro and former Secretary General of the U.N.'s 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, will provide a Canadian perspective.

A series of panel discussions will focus on "Current Health of the GOM and Changes posed by Pollution, Population growth, and loss of Habitat", "Scientific Knowledge of the GOM and constraints of that knowledge", "Economics of Resource Use and Sustainability in the GOM", "Governmental Approaches to Managing the GOM", and "Vision for the Future".

Input and participation from RARGOM members is invited. Contact Ed Laine, Director of the Environmental Studies Program, or Becky Koulouris, coordinator of the Institute, (207) 725-3628.

Townsend moves to Orono

Dr. David Townsend, former Executive Director of RARGOM, has accepted a new position at the University of Maine in Orono. He will assume two new roles, as Associate Research Professor of Oceanography and as Executive Director of the Regional Marine Research Program.

After July 1, he can be reached at the Oceanography Department, (207) 581-4381.

Highlights from the March 26th Meeting

The 1993 Association work plan was approved and group discussion focused on its implementation. Priorities include:

- consolidation as an independent, neutral, representative of the Gulf of Maine research community;
- development of services to its members and to the public;
- membership expansion;
- development of a series of research-focused publications, including reports and newsletter;
- advocacy for regional research programs.

Melissa Waterman from the Council on the Marine Environment (CME) spoke about the organization, goals, and activities of the CME. She distributed a proposal for CME/RARGOM joint actions for 1993-94, which include attracting Canadian members to join RARGOM, review of the CME action plan, providing advice to the CME about a National Academy of Science sponsored workshop next November/December. The executive office will move from Boston to Halifax in July. Trudy Coxe has been appointed as the new Secretary of Environmental Affairs in Massachusetts, replacing Susan Tierney.

Research funding opportunities were reviewed. The RMR Board RFP applicants should expect to hear soon about the funding status of their proposals. Peter Auster noted that the NURC is sponsoring a workshop to develop new priority research themes of regional importance and to discuss the development of new sampling technologies; "Directions for Undersea Research" on May 13-14 in Danvers, MA.

Dates were set for the next two meetings.!

The summer meeting will be held Monday, June 21st, at the Undersea Research Center, UConn Avery Point, CT. The fall meeting will be held on Friday, October 8th, at the Department of Marine Resources, West Boothbay Harbor, ME. The fall date is intended to combine with the Habitat Workshop planned to be held at the same location on October 6th and 7th.

Research Vessels

New R/V Gulf Challenger

The University of New Hampshire has commissioned Gladding-Hern Shipbuilding to build a 50-foot aluminum research vessel which is expected to be operational by late July 1993. The vessel is designed by Roger Long Marine Architecture, Inc. and will provide berth space for nine. Additional descriptive information is available at the Association office, or contact: Captain Paul E. Pelletier, of Heather Talbot, Jackson Estuarine Lab, (603)862-2175.

Research Vessels in the Gulf of Maine

Research Vessels of the Northeast a directory of coastal research vessels available from Maine to New York, by Brendan McAvoy, is a good reference for researchers who are planning cruises. A xerox of the contents and a sample description are included in this newsletter. Each vessel operator listed in the directory has been contacted this month to see if there are any updates to make on their ship information. Descriptions of many vessels are now on file in the office. We have received an electronic copy of the publication which could become the basis for a future updated directory if there is interest in pursuing this project. We also have on file several publications about UNOLS vessels. (No UNOLS/WHOI vessels will be operating in or around the Gulf of Maine this year).

Researchers & Ship Operators Exchange

While speaking with some ship operators about scheduling information, a proposal for a one day "exchange" style meeting for ship operators and researchers has been made, to give opportunities to discuss project work, scheduling, and preparation of vessels. Is there an interest in doing an event of this type late next fall? Contact us if you would like to help plan this sort of event.

Research Vessels Schedule 1993

Resources

Reports Received

The following reports have been received at the Association office and are available for distribution by contacting the author.

“Academically-sponsored Coastal Research Vessels in the New England Region: An Assessment of Current Management and Implications for the Future”, Brendan McAvoy, unpublished paper for degree of Master of Marine Affairs, URI, 1988.

“1991 Annual Report National Undersea Research Center”, University of Connecticut at Avery Point, Groton, CT 06340

“1990-1992 Biennial Report Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences”, McKown Point, West Boothbay Harbor, Maine 04575

Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, Technical Report Number 90, “Springtime Oceanographic Conditions in the Gulf of Maine: Results of the R/V Cape Hatteras Cruise, 21-30 April 1991”, David W. Townsend, et al.

Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, Technical Report Number 91, “Results of the R/V Cape Hatteras Cruise, 5-14 July 1991 Gulf of Maine”, David W. Townsend, et al.

Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, Technical Report Number 92, “Oceanographic Conditions During the Spring Phytoplankton Bloom in the Gulf of Maine: Results of the R/V Cape Hatteras Cruise, 2-11 April 1992”, David W. Townsend, et al.

Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, Technical Report Number 93, “Hydrography of the Gulf of Maine Region: Results of the R/V Cape Hatteras Cruise, 11-19 July 1992”, David W. Townsend, et al.

Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, Technical Report Number 94, “Springtime Oceanographic Conditions in the Western Gulf of Maine: Results of R/V Argo-Maine Cruise 15-17 March 1991”, David W. Townsend, et al.

Oceanography in the Next Decade Building New Partnerships, (an Executive Summary and full 216 page report are available), Ocean Studies Board; Commission on Geosciences, Environment, and Resources; National Research Council; National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Ave. NW, Box 285, Washington, D.C. 20418, 1992

“Proceedings of the Gulf of Maine Scientific Workshop Woods Hole, Massachusetts, 8-10 January 1991”, Jack Wiggan and Christopher N.K. Mooers, Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, published by the Urban Harbors Institute University of Massachusetts at Boston, December 1992.

Grants / Sponsored Research

A GOM Funding Sources Directory is in draft form and is available for member review and use. It has been created in response to requests for a GOM focused list of funding contacts and descriptions for research support. The format and some of the initial contact names and information are excerpted from the Annual Register of Funding Sources, 1992, 25th edition. GOM interest and other regional information was confirmed by a follow-up phone call.

Because of the diversity of our membership, researchers probably have different needs for and access to funding support at their institutions. We will highlight a different funding agency in each newsletter issue in order to provide information that could help researchers to successfully pursue their Gulf of Maine projects. We will also try to maintain a report of application deadlines for several agencies and will list these in the Calendar section with a contact name.

We just received the final draft of the "Announcement of Opportunities for Funding Research in the NERRS for fiscal year 1994". The NERRS research priority for FY1994 focuses on non-point source pollution. All proposals must address the question: "How will non-point source pollution affect estuarine or estuarine like ecosystems in terms of functional biodiversity, functional ecology, human health, eutrophication, and/or commercial fisheries? Research proposals for one-year projects only will be considered. If you are interested in participating in this process, contact the appropriate on-site manager. Pre-proposals must be submitted, postmarked no later than July 15th.

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

Dr. Michael P. Crosby, National Research Coordinator
Sanctuaries & Reserves Division
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
Attn: FY94 NERRS Research
1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 714
Washington, D.C. 20235
(202) 606-4126
Fax: (202) 606-2496

Note: After May 12th the offices will move to:
1305 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Regional Contact:

Wells, ME: Dr. Michele Dionne (207) 646-1555
Waquoit Bay, MA: Christine Gault (508) 457-0495
Great Bay, NH: Peter Wellenberger, (603) 868-1095
Narragansett Bay, RI: Al Beck, (401) 683-6780

Areas of Interest:

Support is provided for management-related research in national estuarine research reserves. For FY 1993 and 1994, priority is given to projects addressing how non-point source pollution affect estuarine ecosystems.

Purpose:

To enhance scientific understanding of reserve environments, provide information needed by reserve managers and coastal zone decision makers, and improve public awareness of estuaries and estuarine management issues. The sponsor encourages projects that would benefit more than one reserve. Research proposals must address coastal management issues having regional or national significance, must relate them to the sponsor's research priorities, and be conducted, at least partially, within one or more designated NERRS sites. The sponsor has established five two-year research priorities as follows:

FY 1993 and 1994: non-point source pollution

FY 1995 and 1996: habitat restoration

FY 1997 and 1998: alterations in habitat utilization

FY 1999 and 2000: alterations in water circulation, transportation, and quality

FY 2001 and 2002: anthropogenic inputs and activities.

Legal Basis:

Governmental Agency

Eligibility:

Any coastal state, public or private university or institution, or qualified individual.

Financial Data:

amount of support per award: \$10,000 to \$50,000

total amount of support: \$700,000 in FY 1992

matching fund requirements: 30% of total cost of project matched by applicant, federal funds may not be used as part of the match.

Application Information:

Format and other instructions available from grantor agencies and published in annual Federal Register solicitation.

Duration: 1-2 years

Deadline: pre-proposal July 15, notification of request for full proposal September 1

Publications:

Application guidelines are available.

Program Officers:

Sherrard Foster, Program Specialist (301) 713-3125

Applicants are strongly advised to contact the appropriate reserve before submitting a proposal.

Calendar

This list includes workshops, meetings, working groups and deadlines for proposals. If you know of upcoming events that might be of interest to the Gulf of Maine research community, please contact us.

May

- 11, 8:00-5:00 Marine Technology Society- New England Section, Workshop: "Marine Monitoring in New England Waters: Research Opportunities & Technology Needs"
Massachusetts Archives at Columbia Point
contact Madeleine Walsh, (617) 287-5570
- 12 NOAA RPF Pre proposal deadline
Sanctuary & Reserves Division
contact: Sherrard Foster, (202) 606-4122
- 13-14; 10:00 a.m. New Directions for Undersea Research
Danvers, MA
contact: Peter Auster, UConn, (203) 445-2969
- 14, 10:00 a.m. RARGOM, RMR Board, and CME
Annual Gulf of Maine planning meeting
Wells National Estuarine Reserve, ME
contact: Genie Braasch, (603)646-3480
- 20, 12:30-5:00 MWRA Outfall Taskforce Meeting
"Review of 1992 Water Column Surveys"
"1992 Soft Bottom Benthic Biology Survey"
contact: Judy Pederson, MCZM, (617) 727-9530
- 30 NMFS 1994 Grant Program Announcement
Available
contact: Richard Roe, (508) 281-9250

June

- 4 Letter of Intent Deadline
Proposals for Climate & Global Change investigations
contact: Office of Global Programs, NOAA,
(301) 427-2089
- 21, 10:00 a.m. RARGOM meeting
Undersea Research Center at UConn Avery Point, CT
contact: Genie Braasch, Dartmouth College,
(603)646-3480
- 26 Stellwagen Bank designation ceremony
Plymouth, MA
contact: Melanie Jennard, NOAA, (202) 606-4178

July

- 8 MWRA Outfall Taskforce Meeting
"Review of Nutrient Issues"
"Update on Water Quality Modeling"
contact: Judy Pederson, MCZM, (617) 727-9530
- 15 NERRS Pre-proposal deadline FY 1994
"Non-point Source Pollution"
contact: Michele Dionne (207) 646-1555
- 30 NMFS 1994 Proposal Application Deadline
contact: Richard Roe, (508) 281-9250

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