

Gulf of Maine Science Symposium
St. Andrews, New Brunswick
4-9 October 2009

Technical Workshop on Biodiversity of the Gulf of Maine
5 October 2009

Goals: (1) describe the known, and as-yet unknown, biodiversity of the Gulf of Maine;
(2) discuss the functional roles of that biodiversity in the Gulf of Maine ecosystem; and
(3) recommend future research directions

Background: The Gulf of Maine Area (GoMA) program is the ecosystem-scale pilot project of the Census of Marine Life. Our study area includes U.S. and Canadian waters including the western Scotian Shelf, the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, the continental slope, and the western New England Seamounts (www.usm.maine.edu/gulfofmaine-census).

The GoMA program's overarching goals are to increase understanding of biodiversity in the Gulf of Maine area; describe how this biodiversity supports regional ecosystem functioning; and suggest ways that the information can be used to support decision-making regarding the marine environment.

We have convened six Expert Groups organized by a combination of trophic/community types and physiographic regions:

- Coastal (intertidal to 10 m)
- Benthos and Demersal Nekton (10 m to shelf break)
- Slope and Seamounts
- Microbial Communities
- Zooplankton and Pelagic Nekton
- Apex Predators

At this technical workshop, these groups will present their results and seek feedback and discussion with the Gulf of Maine research community at large.

Structure: There will be six oral presentations by group leaders, interspersed with extensive periods for discussion and synthesis.

Participation: This workshop is open to all, and requires no registration fee. Please let [Sara Ellis](mailto:sara.ellis.33@gmail.com) know by September 1 if you intend to participate, so that we can plan accordingly.

Workshop organizers:

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