

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

Technical Workshop on Ecosystem Services in the Gulf of Maine
5 October 2009

Goal: To move toward identifying, mapping, quantifying, and valuating marine ecosystem services in the Gulf of Maine.

Background: The Gulf of Maine provides humans many ecosystem services—the direct and indirect benefits we obtain from nature. Seafood, recreation, and aesthetics are highly visible to the public but there are numerous other services that need to be recognized. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) identified four categories based on function: (1) Provisioning services such as food, fresh water, fuel, and timber; (2) Regulating services such as the regulation of climate, floods, disease, water and air quality; (3) Cultural services such as recreational or aesthetic enhancement; and (4) Supporting services such as upwelling, nutrient cycling, and primary production.

Our aim is to gather researchers focused on evaluating ecosystem services from across Canada and the United States to share methods, techniques and experiences. The workshop will report on and identify further research needed in the Gulf of Maine to transform the way we account for the type, quality, and magnitude of nature's goods and services so they can be considered in management decisions. We will discuss the needs for data, methods, and models to better understand and communicate the benefits of considering ecosystem services. We will also gauge interest in forming a partnership to identify, map, quantify, and value ecosystem services in the Gulf of Maine including estuaries and coastal wetlands.

Structure: There will be oral presentations by ten invited ecologists and economists, followed by a closing summary panel session. The workshop will be open for all Symposium registrants.

Workshop organizers:

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