

GOMA Federal Working Group Call Notes
9.24.15

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Agenda:

GOMA Update

- Pulling together APIII now, and ready to send to AMT in the next couple of days
- DWH project tracker update – includes a lot of the initial NIH projects awarded directly from BP, as well as NOAA RESTORE Science, Florida Centers of Excellence, NAS projects
- www.dwhprojecttracker.org

Bonnie Ponwith – Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem Program

- Program funded through Global Environment Facility (GEF) International Waters Focal Area
- 17 LME programs globally
- Facilitating accomplishments and tackling persistent transboundary problems at a broader scale
- Funding level ~ \$5M
- Phase I – September 2007 to June 2014
- Key Products
 - Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis – looking across the GoM basin from US and Mexico perspective and identifying problems that were more effectively tackled through collaboration
 - Strategic Action Programme – proposes solutions to problems identified in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis

- Phase II preproposal approved in fall 2014; full proposal submitted to GEF in Nov. 2015
 - Operation plan for how the program would carry out the work over next 5 years
 - If approved, funded at \$12.9 M
 - NOAA, USGS, and US EPA are key US government players
 - If funded, cross-cutting steering committee will be developed
- Demo Projects
 - Community Based Mangrove Restoration Demo Project
 - CZM philosophy and community focused – explain how healthy coastal ecosystems are important and working on project to restore mangroves
 - Provided successful tool on how to go into communities and communicate ecosystem health and restoration issues
 - Ecosystem Approaches to Fisheries Management
 - Working with fishing industry on how to improve productivity by taking holistic approach to productivity
 - Ecosystem monitoring –
 - Coastal margin and blue water
 - Leveraging and collaborating on that work better
- Implementation Program Components
 - Water Quality Components of Implementation Program
 - Sustainable Fisheries Component
 - Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Component
- Links to US Government Priorities
 - Presidential task force on IUU
 - National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan
 - Magnuson-Stevens and ESA
 - NOAA Strategic plans
 - Linkages to US Mexico bilateral
- Questions
 - How do you see this effort fitting with some of the existing monitoring efforts, especially post DWH?
 - We are eager to plug into ongoing monitoring efforts in terms of meeting data quality, archival, and transparency standards so that what we have is as holistic as possible.
 - Eager to use this mechanism as institutional arrangement/means for ensuring that when observations are transboundary we have the opportunity to loop Mexico in
 - Exact issue that these transboundary programs are designed to overcome; barriers that create stumbling blocks for collaboration
 - Strongest way that this program could work is to be the tool that makes broader scale observations possible

Julien Lartigue – NOAA RESTORE Science Program

- Authorized in 2012 RESTORE Act
- Mission is to conduct research, observation and monitoring to support long term sustainability of ecosystems
- Increase understanding of GoM and apply that understanding

- FFO – 2015 Short term priorities
 - Assess ecosystem modeling
 - Identifying assessing indicators
 - Assessment of monitoring and observation needs
- 7 Awards
 - \$2.7 M
 - 28 of 31 investigators are Gulf Based
 - 17 institutions – strong mix of academic, agency, and NGO awards
- Project Snapshots – if you would like you to be involved in any of these project outreach, get in touch with federal technical monitor
- Project descriptions available at <http://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov>
- Have been coordinating with USFWS, Gulf fisheries councils
- Next FFO hopefully coming out in Spring 2016 with awards made in 2017 (or late 2016)
- Next Steps
 - Management of research portfolio
 - Development of next federal funding opportunity
 - Continued Coordination
- Questions
 - When do you anticipate the projects being finished?
 - All projects starting Sept 1 and Nov. 1 2015, and all are scheduled to be done within 2 years
- Will there be individual engagement/outreach opportunities by project PIs? Is that a requirement?
 - Not a requirement, but many proposals outlined workshops they were going to conduct
 - Federal technical monitors will work with PIs to grow invite lists for workshops, and we'll broadly distribute
- Is there a data sharing requirement?
 - Yes, the data generated by the projects is required to be made publicly available