

Maine's Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System is Bolstered by Passage of Bill Today

Thursday, March 19 2009

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This bipartisan lands bill is a package of more than 160 bills, many of which have previously passed through the House. Michaud has been a strong supporter of formally authorizing the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS). Initiated in 2001, GoMOOS is a pilot program for the national ocean observation system, which provides weather and ocean data important to scientists and fisherman in Maine. H.R. 146 authorizes the national “Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System” (ICOOS), which would permanently authorize and formalize the operations of GoMOOS, which is critical to securing long-term funding for the program.

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“GoMOOS has experienced funding shortfalls over the last several years and currently can only maintain 6 of the 11 buoys monitoring the Gulf of Maine,” said Michaud. “I have heard from Mainers who have called my office concerned about this issue. Attendees of the fisherman’s forum in Rockport told me just how important they viewed GoMOOS’s operations.”

Attempts have been made numerous times over the last eight years to authorize this national ocean observation system which is critical to secure long-term funding. The ICOOS supports national defense, marine commerce, navigation safety, weather, climate, and marine forecasting, public safety, and coastal and marine resource management. For more information on GoMOOS visit their website at <http://www.gomoos.org/>.

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