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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Portland, ME – USM Muskie Professor Evan Richert recognized with 2008 Visionary Award from the Gulf of Maine Council.

At a meeting today at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute hosted by the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System, former State Planning Director and Muskie Professor Evan Richert was honored by his colleagues for his leadership in marine science and ocean observing systems.

Dr. Lewis Incze of USM, Richert's long-time colleague and Chief Scientist of the Gulf of Maine Census of Marine Life, said: *"Evan came from a background far a field from marine science, yet had the vision and skills to bring together the people and the resources needed to work toward ecosystem management in the Gulf of Maine."*

Dr. Philip Bogden of the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System says of Richert: *"We wouldn't be here today if it weren't for Evan. He is the best thing since digital data."*

And Don Perkins, president of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, likened him to the legendary Henry Bigelow, founder of modern oceanography: *"No single individual has had as significant an impact on marine science in New England since Henry Bryant Bigelow."*

The award was signed by former Maine Governor Angus King and Chancellor Richard Pattenau de of the University of Maine System, along with several other distinguished individuals in the region (see attached nomination form).

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[The Gulf of Maine Census of Marine Life](#), housed at USM at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, is one of 14 field projects of the international [Census of Marine Life](#) (CoML), and was selected as the ecosystem pilot study for CoML. The goal of this program is to gain enough knowledge to enable ecosystem-based management in a large marine environment. The program will advance knowledge of both biodiversity and ecological processes over a range of habitats and food-chain levels, from plankton to whales.



**Gulf of Maine
Council on the
Marine Environment**

**2008 Gulf of Maine Council
Visionary Award
Nomination Form**

Name and full contact information for individual or group/organization being nominated:

Evan Richert, 6 State Street – Suite 308, Bangor, ME 04401, 207-992-2174,
erichert@midmaine.com

Over the past fifteen years Evan Richert has provided extraordinary leadership, changing the way we think about marine science and ecosystem-based management in the Gulf of Maine region and at the national level. As Director of the Maine State Planning Office for Governor Angus King, Evan championed the idea of investing in marine science infrastructure as an economic development strategy. In doing so, he played a key role in supporting state funding that made the Gulf of Maine Research Institute possible. Serving for over a decade as Chair of the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System, Evan has provided GoMOOS with gracious, firm leadership to navigate GoMOOS' complex start-up and its evolution into a national model for the use of technology to gather oceanographic data to serve the needs of diverse ocean resource users; from commercial shipping to fishermen to weather forecasters.

Regional efforts toward ecosystem-based management – both on land and sea – have been shaped by Evan's dedicated leadership. The Gulf of Maine Area program, for which Evan served as Director from 2002-2006, is the regional ecosystem pilot project of the global Census of Marine Life, a 10-year initiative to explore the diversity, distribution and abundance of life in the oceans. To integrate the wealth of biological and physical data in the region, Evan pioneered the Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership and the Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems. To strengthen international cooperation in the Gulf of Maine, he championed the partnership of U.S. and Canadian interests in these programs.

As part of Governor King's administration he spearheaded the governor's "Jobs From the Sea" initiative and negotiated the Edwards Dam removal on behalf of the state. Evan was a founding member of Grow Smart Maine and the Portland-based Institute for Civic Leadership, as well as an esteemed professor at the Muskie School of Public Policy at the University of Southern Maine. In addition to his leadership roles at the state and regional level, Evan is recognized as a national leader in advocating sustained funding for ocean observations and research, including advancing federal legislation authorizing these investments.

From the western reaches of the Gulf of Maine's watershed to its eastern seamounts, Evan has had the vision to understand the needs of the region and bring together the people, the resources, and collaborative framework to achieve common goals and positive change for the future. His legacy is enormous, as he continues to work tirelessly on behalf of the State of Maine's resources.

As Don Perkins, president of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, said of Evan, "*No single individual has had as significant an impact on marine science in New England since Henry Bryant Bigelow.*" It is our honor and privilege to recommend Evan D. Richert for the Gulf of Maine Visionary Award for 2008.

Philip Bogden, CEO - Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System

Ellen Grant, Executive Director – Institute for Civic Leadership

Lewis Incze, Chief Scientist (US) and *Peter Lawton*, PI (CAN) - Gulf of Maine Census of Marine Life

Angus King, former Governor - State of Maine

Ron O'Dor, Senior Scientist – International Census of Marine Life

Richard Pattenau, Chancellor – University of Maine

Don Perkins, President - Gulf of Maine Research Institute

Josie Quintrell, Director - National Federation of Regional Associations

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