

## 1.1 TRANSFORMING GULF OF MAINE SYSTEMS

### 1.1.1 THE TRANSFORMATION SYSTEM

The transformation imperative defining the boundaries for this place-based transformations system is the rising temperature of the water in the Gulf of Maine (GoM), that is bordered by three Northeast U.S. states and two Canadian provinces. It is one of the most rapidly warming bodies of water on earth. It portends huge lifestyle and economic change, such as with the disappearance of the traditional mainstay lobster fishery as well as cultural identity of indigenous communities, such as the Passamaquoddy people. Key characteristics of the region are:

**Diverse, Transboundary, Nested Systems:** An urban to rural transformation transect is envisioned, where the urban and sprawling suburban areas of Boston as a growing city under constant growth (towards a megacity) are extending to extremely rural areas in eastern Maine and Canada. This area includes nested governance systems of the USA, Canada and six indigenous communities, which are a major focus of this effort.

**Linked Social-Ecological System:** Livelihoods in the region are still heavily linked to the health of the natural system, both of which are changing rapidly. For example, the \$1.6B lobster industry, critically vital to livelihoods, is expected to disappear within 20-30 years, due to a rapidly warming GoM.

**Demand for transformative change:** A growing number of people are working to transform systems including food (ecological aquaculture and agriculture), renewable energy, rural education, river restoration, local regenerative economies, decolonization, trauma-informed rural education, ecosystem-based fisheries management and stewardship tourism to name a few. These are mostly niche innovations and are poorly integrated. They are all relatively recent (mostly active for 5 years or less) and have not shifted the regional perception, although each in its own way is gaining momentum.

**What's Enabling them and Holding Them Back:** There is no current effort underway to broadly understand what's enabling and holding the system back. There is no current coordination to support cross-sector or cross-scale integration within the change landscape. Broader system interactions, such as potential traps, windows of opportunity, path dependence, tipping points, etc. across the broader transformation systems will be documented.

**Local Transformations Hub:** Work over the past 18 months has resulted in the development of Collaborative for Bioregional Action Learning for Transformation (COBALT). This work has included identification of some transformations enablers and

initiatives, a series of individual and group meetings, and a learning journey connecting transformations enablers and initiatives. COBALT is willing to host the GoM ST.

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### 1.1.2 ACTION GOALS

#### **Broad Goals**

The mission of the Gulf of Maine (GoM) Steward Team is to create a transformation system to see, connect and accelerate transformative change in the GoM.

#### **Three Year Goals**

1. Gather intelligence about the diverse GoM transformations initiatives, networks and existing systems to understand their dynamics, structures, and development issues;
2. Create a powerful ST that includes participation of diverse GoM transformations enablers and initiatives working towards the ST goals; and
3. To support entrepreneurial actions to advance development of GoM transformations systems and infrastructure;
4. Work with the Forum and its parts to (1) support their own needs that might be addressed in the GoM, and (2) access their expertise to support GoM transformation; and
5. Advance leading transforming GoM knowledge and practice.

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### 1.1.3 BUDGETED ACTIVITIES

#### **Line Allocations Summary**

Core Funding Request – Total: €475K

- Steward Team Years 1-3: €300K
- Seeing and Connecting GoM: €100K
- Connecting indigenous: €75K

Year 1 RALIs

- None in Year 1.

#### **Revenue Generation Potential**

There has already been partner/co-financing that has supported the launching of the first GoM learning journey, GoM Mapping Design Charrettes and engagement at international conferences, such as the Arctic Circle Assembly in Iceland, IDEAS in Prague, Leverage Points in Germany, and T19 in Santiago Chile. It is anticipated that there will be additional

leveraging of finance into this transformation system, that begins with the formal launch of COBALT in the Gulf of Maine as a Collaborative for Bioregional Action Learning for Transformation. It will also include a revenue generation plan with target income generated by entrepreneurial activities of \$100,000 over the three-year period and philanthropic match by an additional \$200,000 by Year 3.

**1.1.3.1 YEAR 1 DETAILS**

Year 1 will focus on seeing and connecting to further develop the ST, and, growing out of earlier seeing activity with indigenous communities, connecting activities to identify RALIs and connect with the rest of the emerging GoM transformations system.

**1.1.3.1.1 SEEING, CONNECTING**

**Gulf of Maine Transformations Systems: €100K**

The analysis will focus on identifying transformations efforts, their issues and priorities; and how they may relate to each other. There will be convenings in specific locales and for the region as a whole, to identify an action agenda for developing their collective power for transformation.

**1.1.3.1.1 YEAR 1: RALIS**

No RALIs are planned for Year 1.

**1.1.4 LEADERSHIP**

While the formal ST has not yet been created, the following people have pledged support to initiate this with Glenn Page as Lead Steward, and the following Stewards:

- Paul Anderson – [Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries](#)
- Patrick Arnold – [New England Ocean Cluster](#)
- Andrealisa Belzer - [Indigenous Services Canada](#)
- Antje Danielson - [MIT Energy Initiative](#)
- Jay Friedlander - [College of the Atlantic](#)
- Brad Folta - [Honey Badger Analytics](#)
- Alan Furth - [Cobscook Community Learning Center](#)
- Ellen Harasimowicz - [Ellen Harasimowicz Photography](#)
- Sarah Howard - [EarthOS Institute](#)
- Martin Madden - [Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc.](#)
- Stephen Olsen – Emeritus Director - [University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center](#)

- Andrew Pershing - [Gulf of Maine Research Institute](#)

The collaborators noted above have convened through events, such as learning journeys, design charrettes and other forms of bioregional action learning for transformation. Glenn Page will serve in the lead Steward role for the immediate future, while discussing with the other Stewards their future roles and others to bring in, specifically with an eye to securing additional resources and enhancing the diversity of the group for more indigenous participation. At the end of Year 1 and completion of the feasibility studies and early transformations systems mapping and convening, participation will be revisited.

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#### 1.1.5 CONNECTIONS TO OTHER STS

- Transforming Evaluation: Lead participant in the three-site Blue Marble work;
- Transformations Systems Analysis: Working with the ST for the local analysis

