



# GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

GCOOS Office, Department of Oceanography, Texas A&M University  
3146 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-3146  
www.gcoos.org • fax (979) 847-8879

---

## **Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System Accountability and Liability**

The Texas A&M University at College Station (TAMU-CS) is the organizational and fiscal sponsor of GCOOS. TAMU-CS, as a part of the A&M University System System, is an agency within the State of Texas. As such, all full time employees of GCOOS are employees of the State of Texas, and their actions while under the employ of the state are seen as activities taken by the State of Texas, with associated liability and self-insurance protections provided to employees as allowed for in University policy under Texas Statutes. All actions taken by GCOOS employees are assessed and reviewed annually through established employee evaluation requirements—ensuring supervisors of record (within GCOOS and TAMU-CS) are engaged in the ongoing activities of staff, and afforded to authority to hold staff accountable for actions, while also promoting and rewarding successes.

With respect to liability protection, at a minimum, the Attorney General of the State of Texas as provided that the University shall be responsible for damages or injury caused by the University's agents, officers, and employees in the course of their employment to the extent that the University's liability has been determined by a court or otherwise agreed to by the University, and the University shall pay for damages and injury to the extent permitted by law.

Members of the GCOOS Board of Directors are volunteers who agree, through the non-binding execution of the GCOOS MOA and By Laws, to advise the program on strategic planning, execution, and evaluation. GCOOS provides a liability insurance policy to our directors through Scottsdale Insurance Company for General Liability including Hired/NonOwned Auto & Directors' & Officers' Liability, with Employment Practices Liability & Fiduciary Liability.

### **Summary**

GCOOS provides liability insurance binder for its Board of Directors to assure them that as volunteers of the organization they will be protected financially from any decisions the Board may recommend.

GCOOS employees, as employees of Texas A&M University, are covered under the auspices of the institution.