



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

October-December

Fall 2005

FEDERAL PARTNERS SPONSOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS ABOARD THE OSV BOLD

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomed its new Ocean Survey Vessel, the OSV BOLD, as it made its first appearance in New England on November 26, 2005. EPA's 224-foot research flagship was docked at Pier 7 of Fort Trumbull State Park in New London, CT. The ship provided a live classroom for staff and students from the Coastal America Learning Center at Mystic Aquarium and the Institute for Exploration while conducting research at New London Harbor and nearby Long Island Sound. Coastal America and the Mystic Aquarium/Institute organized the educational program. Also aboard the Bold were scientists from US EPA, Army Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard, Navy, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. The US Coast Guard ship the EAGLE was docked next to the Bold.

(See page 3 Spotlight)



The EPA OSV Bold and USCG Eagle provided unique informal education experiences while docked in New London Harbor.

SOUTHEAST NATURAL RESOURCES GROUP

Coastal America Director Virginia Tippie and Tom Simpson, Vice President. CH2M Hill and Chair of the GA CWRP met with the Southeast Natural Resources Leaders Group (SENRLG) on November 10th to discuss partnership efforts in the region. The SENRLG serves as the Regional Principals Group for the Southeast. The goals of the SENRLG Partnership are to: (1) establish and nurture collaborative interagency relationships, (2) focus agency programs and resources toward collaborative initiatives and, (3) communicate

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Call for Nominations

Coastal America is accepting nominations for the 2006 Awards Program. The awards recognize outstanding partnership efforts to protect, preserve and restore coastal resources. The Awards Program also recognizes outstanding efforts that increase public awareness and education about our oceans and coasts. Nominations are due by April 14, 2006. Visit www.coastalamerica.gov for more information.

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Coastal America Principals Highlights

The Coastal America Principals met at the White House Conference Center on October 5, 2005. The Principals were updated on recent, key Partnership activities. Dr. Mamie Parker, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service gave a briefing on the National Fish Habitat Initiative. The draft strategy is now being reviewed, with an expected completion date of March 2006. The

Principals discussed how the Coastal America Partnership can facilitate implementation of the Presidential Executive Order to increase cooperative conservation approaches. The Principals approved the proposed FY 2006 work plan and it was decided that each Principal will provide an inventory of potential FY 2006 projects at the January 2006 meeting.

Partnership Award Ceremony Batsto River Fishway Project Team



JP Woodley, Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, Army Corps of Engineers, presents award to NJ DEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell and ACOE-Philadelphia District Lt. Col. Robert Ruch.

On October 18th Coastal America recognized the members of the Batsto River Fishway Restoration Team during a Partnership Awards Ceremony for their efforts to restore 8 miles of historic riverine habitat to alewife and blueback herring. J. P. Woodley, Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, Department of Army, presented the team with an award and letter of congratulations from President George W. Bush. The US Army Corps of Engineers and the

NJ Department of Environmental Protection co-sponsored the project. Other project participants included: US Fish & Wildlife Service; NOAA's Restoration Center; Alden Research Laboratory, Kuhnel Company; Pinelands Preservation Alliance; American Rivers and the NJ Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership. Recognition was given to Michael Hogan, who provided much inspiration and vision for the river's restoration.

Regional Updates

(continued from page 1)

cooperative accomplishments. The group discussed the Strategic Assessment recommendations, the Georgia Aquarium's interest in being designated a CELC, and ongoing CWRP efforts in the region. The regional principals supported the inclusion of the Georgia Aquarium in the CELC network and encouraged the growth of the CWRP initiative.

Southeast Regional Team

On December 12th, members of the SERIT made a site visit to the Georgia Aquarium, Atlanta Georgia. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the aquarium for designation as a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center.

The team was composed of Bo Crum, EPA; Columbus Brown and Cynthia Bohn, US Fish & Wildlife Service; and Dennis Barnett and Jamie Higgins, US Army Corps of Engineers. Both the Southeast and Gulf of Mexico RITs Teams will support the CELC.

They met with Jeff Swanegan, President of the aquarium and Bruce Carlson, Vice President, Education, Exhibits, Conservation. SERIT forwarded the designation request to the National Implementation Team to recommend approval by the Coastal America Principals for designation. When designated, the Georgia Aquarium will become the 22nd CELC.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Team

Co-Chairs Mario DelVicario and John Wright convened a RIT meeting on December 19th in Camden, NJ at Adventure Aquarium.

The team discussed the process for submitting projects for Coastal America RIT consideration. Adventure Aquarium and the NJ Academy for Aquatic Sciences submitted a preliminary proposal for consideration as a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. The RIT toured the recently renovated aquarium and recommended forming a subgroup to review the proposal.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE OSV BOLD

On November 28th the OSV Bold docked in Boston Harbor at the U.S. Coast Guard base in Boston's North End. EPA and the Coast Guard made the Bold available for reporters to tour Boston Harbor and learn about the ship and its laboratories. However, the main purpose of the tour was for students from the New England Aquarium CELC to learn about oceanography from scientists from several agencies and to involve the public in protecting our coastal ecosystems. Massachusetts and Connecticut CWRP funded local transportation for students to the events.

The marine science education experience provided by the OSV Bold followed a five day survey to determine the distribution in ocean sediments of cysts of the toxic dinoflagellate from the 2005 New England Red Tide event. Previously, the ship was offshore New York and Long Island to assist the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program (HEP) (working with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to take water samples to assess how contaminants, such as dioxins and PCBs, move through the New York Harbor complex. In September and October, the ship was in the Gulf of Mexico where it assessed water quality in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

"We are delighted to welcome the OSV BOLD and its crew to the waters of New England. During her stay here she will conduct critically important sampling and surveillance for the region," said Robert Varney, EPA Regional Administrator. "The OSV BOLD is an example of EPA's technological leadership in environmental protection and research. This is a great partnership opportunity for the public to get a look at how we protect the ocean and coastal waters."

The OSV BOLD primarily supports EPA's dredged material management and



John Anderson, New England Aquarium (l), Captain Albert Emmons, OSV Bold, George Olson, Gillette, Captain James McDonald, USCG Eagle Commanding Officer, Robert Varney, Regional Administrator EPA and Bill Hubbard, New England Regional Implementation Team Chair, welcome students aboard the OSV Bold.

coastal ocean protection programs. It is equipped with state-of-the art sampling, mapping, and analysis equipment including side scan sonar, underwater

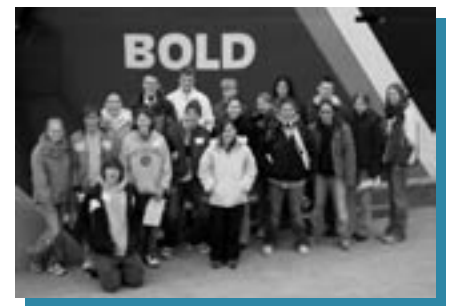
other sensitive habitats for impacts from pollution. The OSV BOLD operates in the waters of the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean.

"The OSV BOLD is an example of EPA's technological leadership in environmental protection and research. This is a great partnership opportunity for the public to get a look at how we protect the ocean and coastal waters."

Robert Varney
EPA Regional Administrator

video, water sampling instruments, and sediment sampling devices, which scientists use in various monitoring activities. The vessel is a converted U.S. Navy T-AGOS class vessel and is 224 feet long and 43 feet wide. EPA acquired the OSV BOLD in March 2004. The ship and its crew collect water quality and sediment samples, fish, and other organisms. EPA divers working off the OSV BOLD monitor coral reefs, and

During its hurricane Katrina efforts, the OSV BOLD served as a floating laboratory providing a vehicle for shared testing and analysis in the Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Borgne, the Mississippi Sound, and the Gulf of Mexico. The science teams collected samples using the OSV BOLD at inshore and coastal locations. These water, sediment, and fish tissue samples are being analyzed for a variety of pathogens and pollutants.



Students and teachers from Mystic Aquarium spend a winter day aboard the OSV Bold.



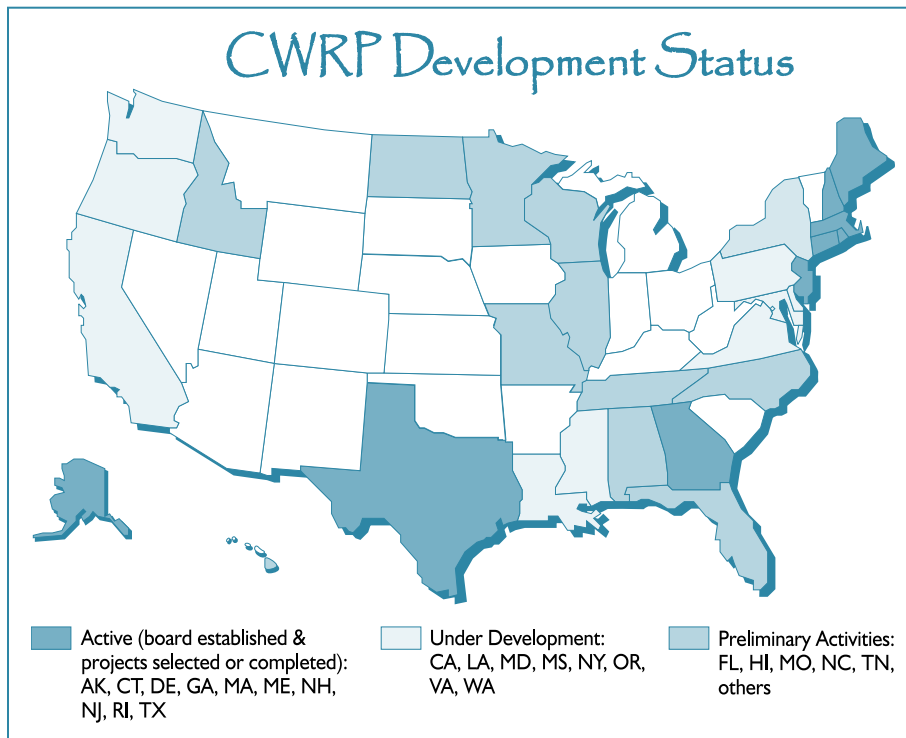
CWRP Updates

Georgia CWRP Formally Launched

The GA CWRP was formally launched at an event in Marietta, GA on October 20, hosted by the corporate co-chairs, Oldcastle and CH2M Hill. Chris Kearney, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior, represented the Coastal America Partnership. Kearney praised the corporate partners for their first project—restoration activities within the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area. Kearney said “the restoration efforts are in concert with the Administration’s vision of cooperative conservation.” Participants took a walking tour of the Chattahoochee NRA where they were guided through the proposed stages of restoration including an aggressive invasive species removal program and the replacement of failed culverts adjacent to the Chattahoochee River.



Chris Kearney, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior, is joined by the many partners at the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area.



NAM Sponsors CWRP Informational Meeting in Chicago

Earlier this year, the National Association of Manufacturers announced plans to host meetings around the country to increase membership in the CWRP. The first session was held in Chicago, IL, on December 12. Hosted by USG Corporation, the event drew almost 50 people - representing corporate and non-governmental interests as well as many federal and state agencies. EPA Assistant Administrator and Coastal America Principal, Ben Grumbles, provided keynote remarks. Grumbles said, “CWRP is a valuable tool. Corporate involvement is key to achieving the restoration goals outlined for the Great Lakes region.” Other speakers included Tom Skinner, EPA Region 5 Administrator, Charlie Wooley, US FWS Region 3 Deputy Director, John Balletto, PSEG and NJ CWRP Chair.

NY CWRP Meeting

Members of the NY CWRP met at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge on November 8 to discuss the next steps of the new chapter. Under the co-chairmanship of National Grid and HDR/LMS, over 20 people participated in this meeting. The NY Chapter includes nine members, with additional members being recruited. The meeting participants learned about Coastal America and the history of the CWRP around the country. They also heard brief presentations on several potential projects and toured a site within the Refuge. The Chapter will review their operating procedures and project proposals, and will meet late winter to decide on 2006 funding priorities.

Wildlife Habitat Council Symposium

The CWRP sponsored an exhibit at the Wildlife Habitat Council Annual Symposium in Baltimore, MD, November 14-15, 2005. John Balleto, PSEG and NJ CWRP Chair, joined Coastal America's Patmarie Nedelka at the conference exhibit hall. John Balleto served on a panel and discussed the PSEG Estuary Enhancement Program and CWRP to the audience. PSEG was named "Rookie of the Year" by the Council. Coastal America's Gulf of Mexico Regional Implementation Team member, Eddie Seidenstricker, also presented at the conference.

NJ CWRP

NJ CWRP met on December 19 at the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, NJ.



NJ CWRP Chair, John Balleto, PSEG, speaks to local students about the importance of the Batsto River Fishway project. The students were participating in the annual World Water Monitoring Day activities at the Batsto Historic Village.



Members of the NY CWRP and Mid-Atlantic Regional Implementation Team at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.

The meeting was held in conjunction with Coastal America's MARIT. PSEG presented checks to environmental education programs that were invited in during the course of the day.

ICWRP Meeting

The ICWRP met on 16 December at the UN Foundation Offices in Washington, DC. Agenda items included an update on the status of the Sian Ka'an project and presentations made at several international conferences. In addition, the committee heard about plans for developing a Canadian CWRP. The next few months will be very busy for the ICWRP committee as they develop a mission statement, provide support to the Canadian initiative, and begin outreach to domestic and international organizations to grow the ICWRP.

National Program Committee

The CWRP program Management Subcommittee completed the necessary actions to become a Standing Committee of the Coastal America Foundation. The national committee developed template documents for use by all state chapters, and drafted a five-year summary of CWRP accomplishments. This report will be published on the CWRP website shortly. The

Subcommittee's next meeting will be held in late January 2006.

CT CWRP

The CT CWRP participated in an inspection of the recently completed Supply Pond Dam fishway in Branford on November 15, 2005. Originally constructed in the late 1800's, the Supply



Branford Supply Dam

Pond Dam was located 4 miles upstream from Long Island Sound and prevented fish passage, namely river herring and alewives, to historic spawning areas upstream. The Brandford Land Trust worked for several years with NOAA's Fisheries Service, and received Community-based Restoration Program funds to assist in the construction of the Alaskan Steep-pass fishway. Other contributors to the project include: USDA-NRCS, CT Long Island Sound License Plate Program and the CT CWRP.

CELC UPDATES

Project Design & Evaluation

On November 8-9, 2006 the National Aquarium in Baltimore (NAIB) hosted a two day workshop on *Project Design and Evaluation*. Sponsored by NOAA Coastal Services Center, the course is designed to improve abilities in designing projects with measurable end results that meet program goals. Glen Page, NAIB's Director of Conservation said "the course was of tremendous value and we hope to host another course soon." With performance based budgeting the focus of federal grant requirements as mandated by the Government Performance Results Act along with Office of Management and Budget oversight, the training is a unique partnership opportunity. Federal partners work along side Learning Centers in designing for results at the beginning of projects. Classes are being scheduled at interested CELCs with courses open to federal and non-governmental participants. The North Carolina Aquariums hosted a course in December with another planned in February.



National Aquarium in Baltimore hosts an Evaluation and Results Course for Coastal America partners.

Shedd Aquarium to Open New Invasives Exhibit

In January 2006, Shedd Aquarium plans to open a fascinating invasives species exhibit which will provide visitors with an up-close look at these uninvited guests in our Great Lakes. The exhibit

will include tips the public can use in their own lives to prevent the spread of invasive species. Federal partners provided some technical and funding support.



Shedd's invasive species exhibit will feature the Bighead Carp.

More than 180 aquatic invasive animals now live in the Great Lakes basin. In addition, a new invasive species is introduced every eight months on average, affecting millions of people who live near the Great Lakes. The exhibit was designed for the public to see the creatures causing so much havoc in the Great Lakes, including the Asian carp, round gobies, zebra mussels and others. The exhibit supports Shedd's public awareness mission to increase the public's awareness of the value and the vulnerability of the complex Great Lakes ecosystem.

"We at the Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration would like to add our thanks for the wonderful opportunity presented by Coastal America and partners for our trip on the OSV BOLD, and tour of the USCG Barque Eagle, last Saturday. We have received such wonderful comments from our participating students and teachers who were introduced to a branch of science and careers that many of them knew little about. The chance to speak with scientists, and learn about the research they are conducting, provides an invaluable opportunity for encouraging their study of the sciences. Thanks again and we look forward to participating in future events."

Kelly Kilgus
Education Director
Mystic Aquarium



Students and teachers from Mystic Aquarium CELC Programs aboard the OSV Bold.

Events, Programs, & Other News

Changing Places

P. Lynn Scarlett was confirmed as the Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior in November. Ms. Scarlett served as Interior's Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget since 2001. She has served as a Coastal America Principal since that time and it is anticipated that she will continue in that role.

Kameran Onley, Associate Director for Ocean Policy, Council on Environmental Quality, will join the U.S. Department of Interior in January as the Assistant Deputy Secretary.

Louisa Koch was recently appointed as NOAA's Director, Office of Education and Sustainable Development and Chair of NOAA's Education Council.

Effective in January 2006, The Alaska Regional Implementation Team has new Co-Chairs: Jon Kurland with NOAA Fisheries and Doug Mutter with the Department of the Interior. Many thanks to outgoing RIT Chair, Mike Roy with NOAA for his years of service in this role.

Incoming RIT Co-Chairs for the Great Lakes/Upper Mississippi are Craig Czarnecki, US Department of Interior, NRCS and Gary Mast, US Department of Agriculture, FWS. Congratulations!

A very special thanks to Bill Franz and Judy Beck, EPA Region V, for agreeing to serve as the Points of Contact respectively for the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium and The Shedd Aquarium. Their dedication and great efforts in supporting the regional teams in the interim of establishing official Co-Chairs is appreciated by all!

Jim Colby who served as Coastal America's Deputy Director for Regional Programs for three years retired in December after 30 years of federal service.

Protecting Our Wetlands

On March 21, 2006, the New York Aquarium and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation using a federally sponsored grant will conduct a course entitled *Protecting Our Wetlands with Educators and Regulators*. This educational program is designed to train informal science educators from zoos, aquaria, or nature centers to establish their own tidal wetlands class. The New York Aquarium CELC developed a pilot program in 1994 which provides a 3 hour workshop on conservation regulations and wetlands ecology. This course is designed to reach individual homeowners from those who are caught dumping garbage in wetlands to those who build on them without a permit. The workshops have been enormously successful in preventing repeat violations, promoting understanding of the vital importance of wetlands and the laws that protect them, and inspiring participants to teach others in their communities. With information shared through the CELC monthly conference call, the NY CELC took the lead in applying for an EPA grant on behalf of the CELC network. For additional information contact Merryl Kafka at mkafka@wcs.org.

NOAA Education Grants

The NOAA Office of Education has issued a request for applications for environmental literacy projects due by March 1, 2006. Funded projects will be between one and five years in duration and will (1) further the use and incorporation of the ***Ocean Literacy Essential Principles and Fundamental Concepts***. Visit their website at http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/funding_opps.html.

Events Calendar

February 2, 2006
World Wetlands Day

February 20-24, 2006
Ocean Sciences Meeting
Honolulu, HI

March 28-30
State of the Bulf of Mexico
Summit
Corpus Christi, TX

April 24-27
Coastal America National
Meeting
Mobile, AL

June 7-9
Capitol Hills Ocean Week
Washington, DC

July 15-21
National Association of Marine
Educators Conference
Brooklyn, NY

Dec 9-13
Restore America's Estuaries
New Orleans, LA

Conference on Ocean Literacy

Plans are underway for a Conference on Ocean Literacy tentatively scheduled in conjunction with Capitol Hill Oceans Week in June 2006. The National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation is coordinating the Conference. Participation will include a myriad of administration officials, legislators, states, formal and informal educators. The purpose of the conference is to highlight exemplary ocean literacy efforts; and encourage active participation in ocean literacy by the private sector and formal and informal institutions.



And the Award Goes to:



Batsto River Fishway Restoration Project Team Receives Partnership Award.
(see article page 2)

Regional Chairs

NORTHEAST

Bill Hubbard..... 978-318-8552

MID-ATLANTIC

Mario DelVicario 212-637-3779

John Wright..... 718-765-7062

SOUTHEAST

Bo Crum 404-562-9352

GULF OF MEXICO

Robert Bosenberg 504-862-2522

Bryon Griffith 228-688-1172

SOUTHWEST

Paul Michel 415-972-3417

Pat Rutten 707-575-6059

PACIFIC ISLANDS

Mark Chandler..... 808-522-8180

NORTHWEST

Mark Brown 503-375-5686

Meghan Callahan

Grant..... 503-231-2213

ALASKA

Douglas Mutter..... 907-271-5011

John Kurland 907-586-7638

GREAT LAKES/UPPER MISSISSIPPI

Craig Czarnecki..... 517-351-8470

Gary Mast..... 202-720-1882

Coastal America is a partnership among federal, state and local governments and private alliances to address environmental problems along our nation's coasts. The federal partners are: Departments of Agriculture, Air Force, Army, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Navy, State, Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency and The Executive Office of the President.



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

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