



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

April-June

SPRING 2005

CELEBRATING OUR OCEANS, COASTS, AND GREAT LAKES

In celebration of Capitol Hill Oceans Week, Coastal America sponsored a Symposium on the U.S. Ocean Action Plan and The Senator John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award Reception. James L. Connaughton, Chairman, of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), kicked off the June 6th Symposium, by providing the vision that guides the Ocean Action Plan. "Our approach is focused on results, making the coasts, oceans, and Great Lakes cleaner and healthier, while ensuring the public enjoys the benefits," stated Connaughton. He praised the work of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, noting that "their work was quite consequential." The Administration's Plan was designed to reinforce the Commission's themes and set a vision for near and long term action, plus a plan to implement. The Plan cuts across all levels of government, and for the first time,



The Navy Color Guard provided ceremonial honors at Coastal America's Celebration.

establishes a Cabinet level committee on ocean policy. Three panels of experts provided a constructive discussion

of key components of the Plan. The "Advancing our Understanding of Oceans, Coasts and Watersheds" panel,

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Watkins Receives Coastal Stewardship Award



Jim Connaughton, CEQ, presented Admiral Watkins with the Senator John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award.

Leaders from Congress, President Bush's Administration, federal agencies, local and state governments, and environmental organizations came together on June 6th, at the Senate Caucus Room to honor Admiral James D. Watkins, USN (Ret.), for his leadership of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) participated in the award ceremony stating, "The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, under the leadership of Admiral Watkins, has provided our

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Coastal America Principals Highlights

2005 Award Winners

Coastal America is pleased to announce the winners of the Coastal America 2005 Awards, selected by Coastal America Principals during their June meeting. Award ceremonies will be scheduled throughout the year in conjunction with respective Regional Implementation Teams (RIT).

Partnership Awards

- Drakes Island Salt Marsh Restoration Team (NERIT)
- Lonsdale Wetlands Restoration Team (NERIT)
- Batsto River Fishway Restoration (MARTI)
- NY Aquarium: Coney Island Creek Salt Marsh Restoration (MARIT)
- Cuddebackville Dam Removal Project (MARIT)
- Fort DeSoto Ecosystem Restoration Partnership (GMRIT)

Special Recognition Award

- PSE&G Estuary Enhancement Program (MARIT)

Spirit Awards

- Southern Maryland Coastal and Aquatic Resource Team (MARIT)
- Old Inlet Terrapin Habitat Enhancement Project Team (MARIT)
- New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium Habitat Initiative (MARIT)
- Maryland Nutria Project (MARIT)
- IGFA Regional Ocean Conservation Club (SERIT)
- Culebra Island Conservation Coalition: Luis Pena Channel Natural Reserve (SERIT)
- Galveston Bay Estuary Program Invasive Species Workgroup (GMRIT)
- San Francisco Salt Pond Interim Stewardship Plan (SWRIT)
- Hatfield Marine Science Center SeaFest Team (NWRIT)

For additional information about award ceremonies, contact: Project Coordinator for Coastal America William.Nuckols@usda.gov.



National and Regional Principals discuss collaborative partnerships at the White House Executive Office Building.

First Joint Meeting of National and Regional Principals

In an unprecedented meeting, the Coastal America National and Regional Principals gathered for the first time, on June 7th, at the White House, Executive Office Building. The meeting focused on Coastal America's role in implementing the Ocean Action Plan, and discussion of the Strategic Assessment for Coastal America regions. The Principals agreed that Coastal

America is an example of cooperative conservation in action, with established mechanisms for systematically involving States, corporations, and other non-governmental entities. It was agreed that institutional frameworks for this partnership need to be strengthened to maximize the collaborative efforts. Following the meeting, Learning Center and CWRP partners joined in a lunch discussion on partnering.

Stewardship Award

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Senator Stevens (L) offers congratulations to Admiral Watkins (R) on receiving the prestigious Coastal Stewardship Award.

Nation with a blueprint for managing our oceans and coasts for the next century.”

Graciously accepting the award, Admiral Watkins said: “I would like to share this great honor with all those who worked so diligently on the Ocean Commission Report. Discussions such as the one we heard at today's Symposium are key to moving our country forward in managing our oceans.”

A reception sponsored by numerous partners followed the award ceremony.

Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Principals Meet at the New England Aquarium

The Regional Principals of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Coastal America Teams held a joint meeting at the New England Aquarium on June 1, 2005. As a precursor to the National meeting (see page 2), discussion included strengthening the partnership regional teams and supporting the US Ocean Action Plan. Presentations from EPA Principal Ben Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water and NOAA Principal Tim Keeny, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, were complemented by project presentations for the Penobscot River, Blackstone/Woonasquatucket American Heritage River, the Tangiers Island project, and the offshore wind farm permit in New England. A panel of state representatives then discussed their concerns and issues. Following the meeting, a luncheon was held with representatives from the New England Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP). At



Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Coastal America Principals discuss collaborative partnering in Boston.

the luncheon, Ben Grumbles spoke about the importance of CWRP and thanked the corporate and NGO

representatives for their important contribution to partnership efforts to restore and protect aquatic habitat.

Award Ceremonies Honor the New England Partnership



Following a Coastal America award ceremony, Principals Tim Keeny and Ben Grumbles (2nd & 3rd from left) tour the Bridge Creek Salt Marsh restoration project.

Award ceremonies were held in Barnstable, MA on June 1 to recognize several partnership efforts. The Bridge Creek Salt Marsh Restoration Team received a 2004 Partnership Award for their assistance in installing a culvert under an active railbed on Cape Cod. Their efforts restored tidal flow to 40 acres of salt marsh. The Damde Meddowes Salt Marsh Restoration Team received a 2003 Coastal America Spirit Award and The Trustees of Reservations received the Special Recognition Award for their efforts to restore salt marshes and protect more than 53,000 acres of land in MA. Congratulations to all.

Two New England projects are slated to receive 2005 Coastal America Awards.



Northeast CWRP Chapters Recognized

The New England chapters of CWRP received the “Environmental Merit Award for Leadership by Non-Profit Organizations” from the Environmental Business Council of New England (EBC) at their June 9th annual meeting. The award was presented by Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, Department of Commerce. Accepting the Awards for each state were: CT - Christie Bradway, Northeast Utilities; ME - Gus McLachlan, Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline; MA- George Olson, The Gillette Company; NH - R. B. Laurence, Jacques Whitford Company; and RI - Rich Kleiman, ESS Group and Peter Harley, Narragansett Electric.

CT CWRP at XPO 2005

CT CWRP Member, TRC Solutions, donated stand space to provide a public face for CT CWRP at the opening event for Hartford’s Convention Center. The \$271 million facility - the largest convention center between New York and Boston, had 550 exhibit booths, and thousands of guests to mark the official opening of the 145,000 square foot facility.

TX CWRP

The Southern Gas Association (SGA) awarded the Texas CWRP with its SGA Environmental Excellence Award at a ceremony on June 29, 2005 in conjunction with the SGA Environmental, Safety & Training Conference in Nashville, TN. Seven members of the TX CWRP are SGA members, including: Duke Energy Gas Transmission, Panhandle Energy, ConocoPhillips, ENSR International, Horizon Environmental Services, URS Corp, and HRA Gray & Pape. Congratulations!

CWRP Updates

DE CWRP Terrapin Project

The DE CWRP sponsored their first project, the Old Islet Terrapin Habitat Enhancement Project, on May 6th. The project goal is to restore nesting habitat for the Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin and develop a habitat enhancement effort compendium for assisting other species in the future. Members of the DE CWRP, including Conectiv Energy, AstraZeneca, Premcor, ERM Consulting, and HTW Consulting, participated in the event. They were joined by Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and members of the Divisions of Fish & Wildlife, Soil & Water Conservation and Parks & Recreation.



DE CWRP sponsored a project to restore nesting habitat for the Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin.

AK CWRP

The AK CWRP has granted support for several projects this year, including a riparian corridor revegetation effort on the Chester Creek being coordinated by the Anchorage Waterways Council. The Chapter is also supporting a fish passage restoration project on Moose Creek in coordination with the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council. Both projects are expected to be completed by year’s end.

OTHER STATE UPDATES

A number of new partners have joined the CWRP family, including Honeywell, Dominion Insbrook, Enstar, Enviroscience, Voss Signs, and Pinelands Nursery & Supply.

National CWRP Program Management Subcommittee

CWRP’s national-level Program Management Subcommittee continues to work on enhancing the CWRP program. At their June 7th meeting, the committee agreed to a number of action items, including the development of a CWRP-specific webpage and annual report, and a series of CWRP Forums around the country.



ICWRP at Pez Maya

Amigos de Sian Ka’an hosted a project dedication ceremony on April 25th for the first International Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (ICWRP) project at Pez Maya in Cancun. The event highlighted a conservation project at the Sian Ka’an Biosphere Reserve in Quintana Roo, its benefits for the region, and preliminary results.



Participants in the ceremony included representatives from The Nature Conservancy, The Gillette Company, the United Nations Foundation, Coastal America and the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Network Updates



Students from Dubuque, Iowa and their neighboring states learn how activities of the Mississippi River watershed affect the ocean.

Mississippi Watershed Connects to the Sea—A Student Ocean Conference

On May 18 & 19, the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium (NMRMA) held a student conference sponsored by the National Geographic, Sustainable Seas Expedition. Jerry Enzler, NMRMA Executive Director, stated, "By connecting students who live in the Mississippi River watershed to the Gulf of Mexico and the oceans of the world, we can inspire the next generation about their role in protecting our intricate ecosystems." Dr. Sylvia Earle made inspiring keynote remarks and praised the efforts of the NMRMA, "What a wonderful institution exists here in Dubuque, Iowa. The Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers are cross-cutting institutions and what an idea they have of making connections to the ocean. We are all connected to the waters of the world." Over 150 students and their teachers from five states attended the conference. For some students, the field trips provided their first experience on a river and aboard a boat. Bill Franz, Point-of-Contact for the Upper Mississippi River Regional Implementation Team said "In working with the students the Federal agency

representatives were energized by these students because of their enthusiasm and desire to protect and restore the environment. We came away from the conference with more than what we provided."



Teri Goodmann of the National Mississippi River Museum informs Jim Connaughton, CEQ about the benefits of student ocean conferences during the Washington, DC Symposium.

Aquarium of the Pacific

Dr. Jerry Schubel, President, Aquarium of the Pacific, is leading the charge to create an ocean literate society. On June 15th approximately 60 leading marine scientists from Southern California met at the Aquarium of the Pacific in a CORE-sponsored workshop. Their objective was to outline the scientific content of what they thought every

person in southern California should know about the ocean to be ocean literate. They began by using the work already accomplished by the COSEE network in conjunction the National Marine Educators Association on ocean literacy for K-12 kids and teachers. The workshop was moderated by Admiral Richard West, President of CORE, and Dr. Jerry Schubel.

The Aquarium of the Pacific will have a follow-on workshop with experts in informal education and outreach to identify and describe the best strategies to engage the public in learning about the ocean.

Free-Choice Learning and the Environment

Dr. Schubel, AOP, was also among a group of experts who participated in the NOAA & EPA sponsored Free Choice Learning and the Environment workshop June 1-2, in Shepherdstown, WVA. Conducted by the Institute for Learning Innovation, the workshop purpose was to develop frameworks for improving the practice, evaluation, and future research efforts of the free-choice learning environmental education community. Participants on the ocean literacy workgroup included Peggy Sloan, NC CELC; Jerry Schubel, AOP CELC; Marguerite Duffy, Coastal America; and Carrie McDougall, Dept of Commerce. They will be writing a paper on their panel discussions. The Oregon State University/Hatfield Marine Science Center is now offering a Ph.D. program in Free-Choice Learning.



Coastal America Learning Centers joined NOAA and others to discuss Free-Choice Learning and ocean literacy.

SPOTLIGHT ON OREGON

Hatfield Marine Science Center Expands Learning Center to Oregon Coast Aquarium



Ed Ray, Oregon State University; Dale Schmidt, Oregon Coast Aquarium; Kameran Onley, CEQ; and George Boehlert, Hatfield Marine at the Oregon Coast Aquarium CELC Designation Ceremony.

June 25th in Newport, Oregon was a perfect day for an outdoor celebration of Hatfield Marine Science Center's 40th Anniversary, SeaFest, and the Co-partnership designation of Oregon Aquarium as a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC). The Oregon State University, Hatfield MSC was designated a CELC seven years ago and recently entered a memorandum of understanding with the Oregon Coast Aquarium to boost the public's ocean literacy. OSU President, Ed Ray, said "combining the resources of our two facilities will create a larger Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center." Kameran Onley, Associate Director for Environmental Policy, White House, Council and Environmental Quality, represented the Coastal America partnership at the co-designation ceremony. Onley stated, "This designation is unique because it is the first Coastal America Learning Center to be co-designated—bringing together, a major university, research institution and aquarium. The designation advances the

President's Ocean Action Plan to expand our educational efforts through Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers." Dale Schmidt, President of the Aquarium, stated "Our partnership with the Hatfield CELC will result in dynamic educational possibilities, research projects, and outreach programs," George Boehlert, Director of Hatfield MSC, remarked, "given our proximity, and the similarity of our missions, our Learning Centers can provide more opportunities for Oregonians by sharing expertise and educational resources."

The Aquarium is located a few hundred yards from HMSC, draws about 500,000 visitors a year, with another 20,000 students attending on-site classes. It houses a well-known sea otter program, and researchers are conducting studies on olfactory capabilities. The facility is home to several other rehabilitation and conservation programs, encompassing the western snowy plover, Oregon silverspot butterfly, and yelloweye rockfish.

Seafest Planning Team Receives Spirit Award

The first Coastal America 2005 Spirit Award went to the Hatfield Marine Science Center SeaFest 2004 Planning Team. Appropriately presented at the 4th Annual SeaFest on June 25th, in Newport, Oregon, a crowd of 200 guests honored the SeaFest planning team.



Kameran Onley, CEQ, presented the award on behalf of Coastal America stating, "By working together, the team forged a collaborative partnership that has resulted in nearly 4,000 visitors learning about our coasts and oceans in just one weekend each year."

Celebrating *(continued from page 1)*

focused on the National Ocean Research Plan, Water Quality Monitoring Network and Integrated Ocean Observing System. The "Enhancing Resource Use and Management" focused on oceans, coasts & coral reefs, wetlands and watershed issues. The concluding panel "Enhancing Ocean Leadership & Coordination" discussed international ocean policy, federal coordination, governance and regional partnerships. Symposium participants included federal policy leaders, state leaders, NGO representatives, corporate leaders and several U.S. Commissioners.

Events, Programs, and Other News



Coastal America is among noted partners at the NOAA Fish Poster Ceremony.

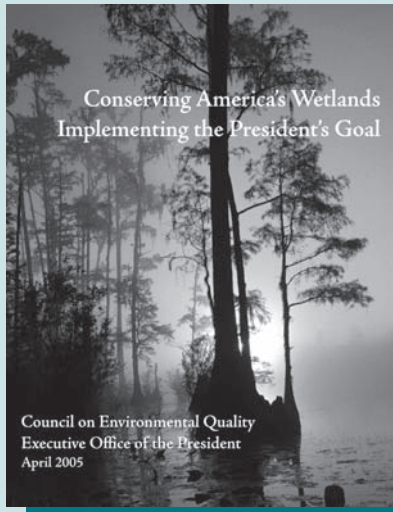
For the first time since their last reprint in 1995, NOAA's popular marine life posters are once again available to the public through the Government Printing Office. At a May 17th event, at the Commerce Building, Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary, stated, "These posters have been one of our most popular education tools over the years—used by thousands of students and teachers to learn about marine life in our oceans and Great Lakes." Thanks to the outreach efforts of Gene Cope, NOAA's Office of Habitat

Conservation, the CELC network is a supporting sponsor. The series includes eight beautiful posters of fish, mollusks, whales, and sea turtles, which can be purchased online from GPO.

AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps*NCCC has selected Coastal America as this year's Signature Project, with priority focus given to Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers, as well as, regional restoration efforts. "This is a great opportunity as we move forward in advancing the President's Ocean Action Plan and in meeting our goal to protect, preserve and restore our ocean and coasts," said Coastal America Director Virginia Tippie. Beginning this Fall 05 and Spring 06, AmeriCorps is offering to devote regional AmeriCorps teams to Learning Center environmental education programs and partnership restoration efforts. For further information contact Marguerite Duffy, at Coastal America: marguerite.duffy@usda.gov.

Conserving America's Wetlands



During Earth Week 2005, the Council on Environmental Quality released a report on President Bush's goal to increase the quality and quantity of our nation's wetlands. Coordinated by the Coastal America federal partnership, "Conserving America's Wetlands" highlights progress made by partnerships with states, communities, tribes, and private landowners. The report indicates that since April 2004, 832,000 acres of wetlands have been restored, created, protected or improved with an anticipated additional 1.6 million acres by the end of fiscal year 2006.

Calendar of Events:

July 17-21
Coastal Zone 05 (CZ05)
New Orleans, LA

August 1
Senate Recess until September 6

August 29-31
White House Conference on
Cooperative Conservation
St. Louis, MO
(*Invitation only*)

Sept 7-9
Environmental Council of
States
Greensboro, GA

Sept 9-11
Trek for the Coast
Ft. Walton Beach, FL

Sept. 13-18
America Zoo and Aquarium
Association
Annual Conference
Chicago, IL

Sept. 19-23
Oceans 2005
Washington, DC

Sept. 24
National Estuaries Day

Sept. 27-29
Great Lakes Commission
Annual Meeting
Ann Arbor, MI

Nov 14-15
Wildlife Habitat Council 17th
Annual Symposium
Baltimore, Maryland

Coastal America Welcomes Its Newest Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center



The Oregon Coast Aquarium
(Co-Designated with Hatfield
Marine Science Center—see page 6)

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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.



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