

# COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

Volume 13 • Number 2 • SUMMER 2001

## CELEBRATING AMERICA'S COASTS OCTOBER 2, 2001

To all our partners, past and present: We invite you to join us in Washington, DC for "Celebrating America's Coasts," a celebration of Coastal America's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. James Connaughton, the new Chair of Coastal America and Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality for the Executive Office of the President, will be hosting the event. Briefings will be held during the afternoon, followed by a reception and the presentation of the John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award later that evening. To learn more about the partnership's accomplishments over the past decade, see our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary report "Coastal America: A Decade of Commitment to Protecting, Preserving, and Restoring America's Coastal Heritage." For details about the celebration, visit [www.coastalamerica.gov](http://www.coastalamerica.gov).



*An invitation to join us on October 2, 2001 for our 10th Anniversary Celebration.*

## JOINT LUNCHEON WITH COASTAL STATES ORGANIZATION

On Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup> Coastal America and the Coastal States Organization co-hosted a working luncheon during the Coastal Zone 2001 Conference to brainstorm the direction of a "National Coastal Strategy." Recommendations for a national ocean and coastal strategy were made by roundtable discussion groups and by the invited panelists and respondents: Margaret Davidson, Acting Assistant Administrator, NOAA; Mike Orbach, Director, Duke University Marine Laboratory; Stuart Stevens, Chair, Coastal States Organization; Rich Delaney, Director, Urban Harbors Institute; Rick DeVoe,

Chair, Sea Grant Association; and Mike DeLuca, Chair, National Estuarine Research Reserves Association. The session was moderated by Dr. Jerry Schubel, President of the New England Aquarium. Key recommendations focused on:

- developing a common vision, and fostering coordination and collaboration of existing coastal programs,
- incorporating all stakeholders and building support from the bottom up, and
- launching a concerted outreach effort to change public attitude about the importance of and threats to our coastal resources.

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## COASTAL ZONE 2001 WORKSHOP

An enthusiastic group of Coastal America partners gathered at the Coastal Zone 2001 Conference to participate in a workshop on "Building Successful Partnerships." This workshop, hosted by Coastal America, introduced the partnership and its initiatives, and served as a tool for exchanging lessons-learned and success stories.

Margaret Davidson, Acting Assistant Administrator for NOAA, welcomed participants to the Monday workshop and gave the keynote address about the importance of partnerships for reaching our coastal management and protection goals. Partners on Coastal America's National Implementation Team provided overviews of a number of programs that can be utilized to enhance the partnership effort. The focus then turned toward the regions, and representatives from the Northeast, Southeast, and Northwest

Teams talked about the work they're conducting and pointed out some of the characteristics that have made projects particularly successful. Managers from the Cockroach Bay, FL and Town Brook Dam, MA projects spoke about the lessons that the project teams learned during these two efforts. Following a working luncheon, presentations were given about the Learning Centers

and the need for increased public education about our oceans and coastal areas. The final session of the workshop focused on the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, with speakers discussing the federal, corporate, academic, and non-government perspectives of the program. Many thanks to everyone who helped make the workshop such a great exchange of information!



*A variety of Partners gathered for the workshop and the working luncheon at CZ01. (L to R) Virginia Tippie, Director, Coastal America; Mike Orbach, Director, Duke University Marine Laboratory; Margaret Davidson, Acting Assistant Administrator, NOAA; Tony MacDonald, Executive Director, Coastal States Organization; and Rich Delaney, Director, Urban Harbors Institute.*

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## LEARNING CENTERS GATHER FOR NATIONAL MEETING

On July 19<sup>th</sup>, 13 of the 14 Learning Center education directors gathered in Victoria, BC for a national Learning Center meeting, held in conjunction with the National Marine Educators Association Conference. The focus of the meeting was on how Coastal America's partnership with the Learning Centers could be strengthened and improved. Among the recommendations likely to be further developed are (a) the establishment of a Regional Learning Center Leadership Award to recognize individuals in the federal agencies who have played an important role in collaborating with a Learning Center and (b) clarifying the role the Learning Centers have on the Regional Teams and how the two groups

can identify and pursue collaborative projects and activities.

On July 21<sup>st</sup>, education directors from the Seattle, New England, and Florida Aquariums participated on a Student Ocean Conference panel. Each presenter provided an overview of the Student Ocean Conference hosted by their Aquarium, highlighting their lessons learned and measures of success. The presenters also indicated that their Education Departments would like to incorporate the Conference into their on-going programs in order to continue inspiring students to be concerned about ocean and coastal resource issues, and to consider pursuing marine sciences or resource management.

## CORPORATE WETLAND RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) continued their project work and their efforts to expand to regions throughout the nation.

### National

The CWRP National Advisory Council is pleased to welcome FMC Corporation to the Council. The Council will be meeting on October 2, 2001, in Washington, DC, to discuss the development of a national marketing plan and to select several national projects for funding.

**Alaska:** BP Exploration has announced that they will serve as the corporate lead in Alaska. A kick-off event for the state's CWRP is being planned for February 2002 in Anchorage. **Texas:** A state kick-off for the Texas CWRP is being

planned for later this year. In the meantime, Duke Energy is working with the Galveston Bay Foundation, one of Restore America's Estuaries members, to plan a demonstration project in Galveston Bay. The project is scheduled to begin on October 6<sup>th</sup>, and will include Duke Energy employees and Galveston Bay Foundation volunteers.

**Rhode Island:** Narragansett Electric Company joined Environmental Science Services as Rhode Island's co-lead. Senator Lincoln Chafee will provide the keynote address at the state's October 22<sup>nd</sup> kick-off event in Providence.

**Maine:** The Maine CWRP State Advisory Board met in July and agreed to support nine projects. While some projects will receive in-kind services from

the CWRP, others are slated to receive direct funding. Groundbreaking ceremonies for a number of these projects will be held later this year.

**Massachusetts:** The Massachusetts CWRP welcomes the Louis Berger Group and Warwick & Associates to the partnership. The State Advisory Board met and approved eight additional projects, bringing the total to over twenty projects sponsored in the state. **Connecticut:** A fish ladder was installed as part of the Connecticut CWRP's completed Pond Lily Dam project. Senator Joseph Lieberman was joined by Tim Keeney, Director of Northeast Utilities Environmental Services, and the New Haven Land Trust for the grand opening of the fish ladder on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### PROCESS SPOTLIGHT:

#### Corps and CWRP are Recognized in New England

"We are successful because we – the Coastal America partners, the business community, and the public with their representatives – work as a team, finding solutions to environmental concerns, and implementing them," noted Colonel Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer of the Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, at an award ceremony on June 19<sup>th</sup>.



*Colonel Osterndorf, Army Corps of Engineers, accepted the Paul Keough Environmental Award from the Environmental Business Council of New England for the region's work with the CWRP.*

Largely in recognition of their leadership role in the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP), the District was awarded the prestigious Paul Keough Environmental Award for Government Service. The award was presented by the Environmental Business Council of New England at a ceremony at the World Trade Center in Boston, MA, and given "in recognition of outstanding environmental leadership for developing and implementing comprehensive environmental restoration services and the corporate wetlands restoration program." This level of recognition from the business community indicates the extensive support that the CWRP is receiving. The Corps New England District has been instrumental in developing the regional and national CWRP programs, and continues to spearhead the effort to establish the program nationwide.

## LEARNING CENTER UPDATES

### New England Aquarium

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, the New England Aquarium and the EPA hosted a group of teachers and teen interns on a trip aboard the *OSV Anderson*. The individuals were selected from groups that participated in the Aquarium's Environmental Teacher Sabbatical and Environmental Leadership Team programs. Other participants included Coastal America partners from the Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Coast Guard and Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. The group spent the day exploring Boston Harbor/Massachusetts Bay and helped out with CID casts, a plankton tow, a benthic grab, and an otter trawl. Aquarium specialists were onboard to teach the group about their findings. The Aquarium is also working with their Regional Team to develop an education program associated with the restoration of a salt marsh behind the Broad Meadow Marsh Middle School in Quincy, MA. The initiative, which includes partners from the Army Corps of Engineers, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, is in the preliminary planning stage.

### Mystic Aquarium

Mystic Aquarium has teamed up with the Rhode Island Sea Grant, the Stonington Shellfish Commission, and the Pine Point School (a local private school) to initiate an eel grass restoration project in Little Narragansett Bay. The Bay spans between Rhode Island and Connecticut, and the team hopes to restore approximately three acres of eel grass habitat. The Aquarium will provide outreach and education, and the Pine Point School will be in charge of much of the restoration work and subsequent monitoring. Funds for the project are being sought through the National Ocean and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), EPA and the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership.

### New York Aquarium

With help from an EPA grant, the New York Aquarium is partnering with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to conduct a community-based education course on wetland law and ecology in each of the city's boroughs. The project, called Project POWER, targets adults in communities located in environmentally sensitive wetland areas and aims to teach them about wetland ecology and regulations in order to prevent wetland violations. The Aquarium is serving on a Task Force formed by Governor Pataki to evaluate the health of New York's rivers and estuarine systems and to provide public education about these efforts. As part of the Aquarium's Earth Day Celebrations, they joined with EPA to host a group of 5<sup>th</sup> graders and a group of high school students on the *OSV Anderson*. The event received coverage on NY1, the all-news local cable station. The students helped to haul the trawl nets, and Aquarium staff was onboard to teach about the organisms they found as they trawled New York Harbor.

### National Aquarium in Baltimore

Congratulations to the National Aquarium in Baltimore, who celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on August 8<sup>th</sup>. The Aquarium continues to be busy with a number of community conservation projects. On May 7<sup>th</sup> they hosted an International Migratory Bird Day event, and on June 2<sup>nd</sup> they teamed up with Unilever to host a Fort McHenry Field Day. Congressman Cardin participated in the Field Day, and over 150 volunteers helped clean up debris as part of this ongoing project. The Aquarium is using plastic lumber made by Unilever for their boardwalks at the site, as this material doesn't leach toxins into the environment (as do other building materials) and is more durable than the wooden alternative. In June the Aquarium organized over 500 volunteers to help plant Spartina at Barren Island, with partners including NOAA, the National Park Service, Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

### South Carolina Aquarium

The South Carolina Aquarium celebrated their 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary on May 19<sup>th</sup>, with over 890,000 visitors in their first year! The Aquarium coordinated with a dozen sites from around the state for International Migratory Bird Day events. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, the EPA's *OSV Anderson* was docked near the Aquarium and was available for public tours. In addition, discussions are underway with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Forest Service, and other federal agencies to develop an interactive kiosk that will be on display at the Aquarium. The kiosk will highlight coastal issues and the role federal agencies have in protecting and restoring those resources.

### IGFA Hall of Fame & Museum

The IGFA hosted a "Healthy Beaches" workshop on June 13<sup>th</sup> and used NOAA's EnviroSCOPE coastal watershed model to teach kids about water pollution and watersheds during "Under the Sea" and "Hooked on Fishing" camp programs. In addition, they worked with four groups of Girl Scouts to help them earn EPA Water Drop patches. Later this fall they will be hosting a Master Naturalist course with the Audubon Society as well as a series of water resource workshops in conjunction with the South Florida Water Management District.

### Dauphin Island Sea Lab

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab is training 30 volunteers to monitor beaches from Biloxi, MS to Orange Beach, AL for the invasive Australian jellyfish. They are also placing invertebrate rubbing stations, akin to the "touch tanks" found in aquaria, at points along their boardwalk as an educational and fun activity for visitors and students. This project is in conjunction with the Shape of Life partnership, which is developing a series of invertebrate videos to be aired this Fall on PBS. In addition, the Sea Lab is collaborating with J.L. Scott Aquarium and Alabama Sea Grant on an Aquatic Nuisance Species exhibit and is hoping to involve other regional Learning Centers in the project.



### Texas State Aquarium

On May 12<sup>th</sup> the Texas State Aquarium celebrated International Migratory Bird Day with a variety of special programs being offered throughout the day. Several displays were set up in the lobby, and a representative from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Corpus Christi Ecological Services Field Office was on hand to discuss questions with the public. The Aquarium led another successful Summer Sea Camp, and representatives from Padre Island National Seashore, U.S. Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the National Weather Service were invited to participate as guest speakers.

### Hatfield Marine Science Center

The Hatfield Marine Science Center hosted several ship tours this summer. The first of these tours was held in conjunction with NOAA's Ocean Exploration event held at the Science Center, an event which drew guests such as the Governor, state representatives, Acting Undersecretary of NOAA Scott Gudes, OSU President Risser, and other dignitaries. As part of the Ocean Exploration event the public was invited to tour the *R/V Brown* on July 13<sup>th</sup>, with attendance exceeding 400 visitors. On August 4<sup>th</sup> the *OSU R/V Wecoma* and the University of Washington *R/V Thomas G. Thompson* docked for public touring. This event launched the COAST project (Coastal Ocean Advances in Shelf Transport), which is using these two ships to study the movement of waters off the Oregon coast. Finally, the Science Center hosted a tour of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers dredge vessel the "Yaquina" on Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup>, which was another big hit. Following review of a recent hydrology survey, the Oregon Coast Area Team, which is organized around the Hatfield Marine Science Center, is deciding how to proceed with a wetland restoration project at the Science Center.

### Seattle Aquarium

The Seattle Aquarium hosted two EPA-sponsored Earth Day presentations by Dr. Art. The presentations were targeted to middle-school age students and combined scientific demonstrations with audience participation to engage students about the Earth's systems and how human actions can threaten these systems. On May 12<sup>th</sup> the Aquarium celebrated Migratory Bird Day and hosted special programs such as kids crafts, bird talks, and a variety of other activities aimed at teaching visitors about migratory birds. They are also participating in a multi-partner effort to do an otter count in the region.

### Alaska SeaLife Center

The Alaska SeaLife Center is scheduled to serve as a JASON project site for "JASON VIII: Frozen Worlds." In addition, they are tentatively scheduled to host a Student Ocean Conference April 9-10, 2002. The SeaLife Center has also partnered with Kenai Fjords National Park and others to form the Ocean Alaska Science and Learning Center (OASLC). The OASLC represents one of the 32 centers being developed by the National Park Service to support research in the Parks and educate the public about that research. One of the objectives of the OASLC is to foster sustainable ecosystem policies through science and public education, to explain resource issues in a way that encourages public participation.

### Waikiki Aquarium

In June, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service partnered with the Waikiki Aquarium on the second successful year of Midway Atoll projects. The shark research project involved two weeks of field study on the activity space and movements of young Galapagos sharks and their interactions at diving and sportfishing sites within the National Wildlife Refuge. Students from the University of Hawaii-Hilo and participants of the Aquarium's natural history programs were involved with the research. The second Midway project consisted of two weeks of atoll natural history programs designed for families. The Fish and Wildlife Service has offered funding for a teacher workshop on marine alien species, and the Aquarium is working to bring together experts from federal and state agencies, as well as the University and the Hawaii Biological Survey, to participate in a half-day teacher workshop. The Aquarium has teamed up with local organizations to develop a proposal for NOAA's Habitat Restoration Grant, using the ahupua'a (mountains to sea) watershed concept as the backdrop of the proposal.



*Hatfield Marine Science Center volunteers take a tour of NOAA's R/V David Starr Jordan.*

# REGIONAL UPDATES

## Northeast

In late July, a Navy reservist used his two weeks of annual duty to serve as a liaison between the Northeast Team and the military. This arrangement was coordinated by the Team's Navy representative and helped the Team identify potential linkages for restoration projects. The reservist met with great success - he arranged for the military to collaborate with the Team on two projects and laid the groundwork for two future projects. The first projects to be completed are the removal of a dam in Plymouth, MA and the completion of tarmac removal at the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge.

The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership continues its strong progress, with substantial corporate commitments in the entire New England region. On June 19<sup>th</sup>, the New England District Corps of Engineers received the Paul Keough Environmental Award for Government Service, an award that was given in large part because of the Corps' leadership role in establishing and advancing the Corporate Partnership in the Northeast region (see "Project Spotlight," page X). A kickoff event for Rhode Island is scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

A major U.S. Army Corps of Engineers habitat restoration initiative has begun to restore the degraded aquatic habitats in the Massachusetts/Cape Cod Bays. Lead by the Massachusetts Office of Wetlands Restoration and the Massachu-



*On May 6<sup>th</sup>, members from the Team joined the New England Aquarium and a group of teachers and teen interns aboard the EPA's OSV Anderson (see "New England Aquarium, pg 4). Here, one of the teen interns holds a baby lobster grabbed during an otter trawl.*

setts Bays National Estuary Program, the state's watershed team leaders hosted site visits to thousands of acres of degraded habitats, and Corps engineers and scientists assessed the restoration needs and potential solutions.

## Mid-Atlantic

The co-chair for the Mid-Atlantic Team met with the Mid Atlantic Federal Partners for the Environment (MAFPE) on April 26<sup>th</sup> to finalize an agreement stating that the MAFPE will serve as a "principles forum" for the Team. The Navy member of Mid-Atlantic Team has helped coordinate an Innovative Readiness Training project in Norfolk, VA involving the creation of an EcoGarden as an educational tool and recreational green space.

## Southeast

Twelve different agencies were represented at the Southeast Teams' June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Director of the South Carolina Aquarium, Dr. Chris Andrews, attended the meeting and discussed opportunities for building a strong and sustained working relationship with the Team. They are also working to establish local support teams for each of

their designated Learning Centers. The Watershed Signage project, which began in Georgia, continues to expand in scope and participation, and the Team is looking to increase the involvement of Coastal America partners in the project. In addition, the Team continues their efforts to bring the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership into the region, and on July 11<sup>th</sup> members of the Team met with the State of North Carolina to discuss this potential partnership.

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### Gulf of Mexico

The Gulf of Mexico Team continues to pursue opportunities to collaborate with the Innovative Readiness Training program on a number of projects, and one in Pascagoula, MS is looking particularly promising. The project involves the removal of sixty 130-foot tall concrete reinforced silos and deposition of the rubble offshore as artificial reef material. The project, which might also receive funding from CARA-Lite, has received a great deal of publicity and attracted the interest of Congressional staff. In addition, the Team has engaged the Navy to help to move a FACA document, concerning the needs of the Team, to the EPA regional administrator. On the Learning Center side of things, the Gulf Management Team granted \$10,000 to the Florida Aquarium for an exhibit about invasive species, and the Team continues its work on developing a Learning Center business plan.

### Southwest

The Southwest Team held a meeting on July 26, 2001 in San Francisco.

### Northwest

The Northwest Team met via conference call on August 7<sup>th</sup>. The Team has just expanded to include Idaho as a third state in their region. In order to maintain the coastal connection and provide sufficient support, Idaho will initially focus on anadromous fish habitat. Representatives from the Team have been designated to help bring the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership into the northwest region.

### Alaska

The Alaska Team continues its work on a number of restoration projects in the state. At their June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting the Team endorsed eight projects, most of which focus on anadromous fish habitat. In addition, the Team is examining a pilot

project to address the restoration of an old log transfer station. They have also submitted a proposal to the military's Innovative Readiness Training program to help remove the 100-year-old Olga Fish Cannery that is leeching pollutants into the watershed. The cannery is in a remote area near Kodiak, and the logistics of removing it are complicated. The Team is also working on plans to establish the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership in Alaska, and BP Exploration has agreed to serve as the state's corporate lead.

### Pacific Islands

The Hanalei River project recently received a \$100,000 grant from the Department of the Interior that will now need to be matched by local and corporate partners. The project proposes to restore the Hanalei River and its supporting watershed, and aims to use public involvement and stewardship to make the project sustainable.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 1** Principal's Meeting; Washington, DC
- October 2** National Advisory Council Meeting; Washington, DC
- October 2** **"Celebrating America's Coasts"**  
Coastal America's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration;  
Washington, DC
- October 17** Northwest Team Meeting
- October 18-19** NW/AK CELC Workshop at the Seattle Aquarium;  
Seattle, WA
- October 22** Kick-Off of Rhode Island Corporate Wetlands  
Restoration Partnership
- October 24-25** NE/MA CELC Workshop at the National Aquarium  
in Baltimore, MD
- November 29-30** Student Ocean Conference, Texas State Aquarium;  
Corpus Christi, TX
- December 11** Student Ocean Conference, Mystic Aquarium;  
Mystic, CT



*Seeing the world as a scientist:  
Dauphin Island Sea Lab hosts an  
open-house of their research facilities  
as part of Coast Weeks celebrations.*

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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, Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency and The Executive Office of the President.

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