



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

July-September

2005

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION

Over 1,000 participants were in St. Louis, MO from August 29-31 for the The White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation. Attendees included federal officials, state and local officials, representatives from non-profit conservation organizations, private landowners and corporate representatives. Many of the Coastal America Principals, Regional Principals and team members were on hand for workshops and panel discussions with community partners nationwide. Jim Connaughton, Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, said the Administration wants to expand the federal programs that allow for local conservation efforts. Mr. Connaughton announced the AmeriCorps Signature Project with Coastal America Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers and Regional Implementation Team project partners as a positive conservation corps partnership.

Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers were represented at the conference



Photo: Jami Heileman

James L. Connaughton (right), Chairman, Council on Environmental Policy discusses cooperative conservation with Fran Mainella, Director of the National Park Service and David Struhs, Vice President of International Paper.

by Jerry Enzler, Executive Director, National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium. The Waikiki Aquarium *alien limu* invasives species removal project was highlighted as a case study. The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) leadership group was represented by Duke Energy, PSEG, CH2M Hill, BP, The Nature Conservancy and Restore America's Estuaries. The Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Program featured a partnership effort in Puget Sound involving Navy Divers removing derelict fishing gear (see related story on page 2). Visit www.conservation.ceq.gov for more information.

Katrina Relief for Coastal America Colleagues

Hurricane Katrina affected a number our Coastal America colleagues. The Partnership is sending gift cards to our colleagues and their families who have suffered so much as a result of the recent hurricanes. You can contribute online at www.coastalamericafoundation.org or you can send a check to the Coastal America Foundation, 100 Muron Avenue, Bellingham, MA 02019. Please indicate Katrina Relief.

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Innovative Readiness Training Partnership Projects



Photo: Will Nuckolls

Tim Keeney Deputy Assistant Secretary for Ocean Policy, Department of Commerce is interviewed by Channel 4 News at the NOAA Dive Center during the Navy diver training class.

Coastal America works closely with the Department of Defense to identify potential projects that provide military training opportunities and also benefit the environment (e.g. dam removal). Coastal America is pleased that the Innovative Readiness Training Program (IRT) is training a Navy dive team in underwater net removal in Puget Sound. Derelict gill nets and other fishing gear pose a threat to marine life and ships.

The Navy conducted training the week of June 27th beginning at NOAA's Dive Center in Seattle, WA, followed by two days of underwater net removal at Blaine Harbor. The IRT effort involves a partnership effort. The Navy Region Northwest provided divers. NOAA and U.S Fish and Wildlife provided funding. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided ship time. Washington Department of Natural

Resources provided the dive instructors and the Northwest Straits Commission facilitated the effort. The project is part of an ongoing initiative to remove derelict fishing gear from Puget Sound. This initiative was recognized in 1993 with a Coastal America Partnership Award.

A press event was held on June 29th at the NOAA Dive Center in Seattle. Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, Department of Commerce, represented Coastal America and dove with the Navy Divers to experience the training first-hand. Admiral Hering, Commander, Navy Region Northwest, represented the Navy. Colonel Lewis, Seattle District Engineer, represented the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project and event highlighted the value of collaborative partnerships as no single agency could have accomplished the task alone.

Successful Partnering Helps Stranded Dolphin

Coastal America facilitated a successful joining of two of their partners for the return of a stranded rough-tooth dolphin to the wild. Tara Schultz of the The Texas State Aquarium, a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC), contacted the Coastal America National Coordinating office in early July seeking assistance with moving the dolphin named Noah. The Aquarium spent the past year rehabilitating Noah at its SeaLab facility. The now healthy Noah was ready for release into Gulf of Mexico waters, no easy task between identifying a pod and transportation. The Texas CELC identified the perfect pod necessary for survival at Florida's GulfWorld. Through the Texas CELC partnership with Coastal America, an Air Force Reserves AC-130j Hercules crew from Keesler flew Noah safely



Texas State Aquarium CELC and Air Force partner to transport dolphin to Gulf Coast.

through a thunderstorm to the pod in Panama City, Florida on July 15th. The Texas State Aquarium veterinarian accompanied the dolphin, ensuring that Noah stayed wet and comfortable. Transporting the dolphin provided the Air Force Reserve air crew with valuable dolphin transport experience. Plus, the Navy's marine mammal program has one more Air Force air crew with experience moving dolphins. Noah is presently becoming acquainted with his new family before the pod is released safely into the Gulf.



CWRP Updates

San Francisco Bay Oyster Reefs Get a Helping Hand from CA CWRP

The Oyster Restoration Program was kicked-off at the Marin Rod and Gun Club Pier in San Francisco on July 25th. Sponsored by NOAA's Restoration Center, Coastal America Southwest



California CWRP Chapter purchased oyster shell for restoring oyster habitat placed in San Francisco Bay by community volunteers.

Regional Implementation Team partners are implementing a strategic action plan for the restoration of San Francisco Bay's oyster habitats. The California CWRP Chapter purchased the shell which was placed in subtidal areas off of the Marin Rod and Gun Club pier and Bair Island Refuge. Check out www.savesfbay.org for more information.

Massachusetts' Neponset Salt Marsh Project Completion Celebrated

On August 25th the Massachusetts CWRP and other project partners gathered at the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Neponset Salt Marshes Reservation in Boston, to celebrate the restoration of 15 acres of estuarine habitat. The Secretary of Environmental Affairs awarded MA CWRP partner, The Gillette Company, with a certificate of appreciation for the major role that CWRP provided in project support. In the 1950s, materials dredged from

the Neponset River were deposited onto the marsh surface and a dike for the sewer main was built across the marsh. The restoration project involved removing and relocating acres of the dredged material fill as well as restoring tidal flow through a properly sized culvert under the dike. The project serves as an excellent example of the increasingly important role of public-private partnerships in realizing restoration results. From the public sector, partners included MA Coastal Zone Management, DCR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the City of Boston. Partners from the private sector's Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, included The Gillette Company, Great Meadows Farm,



Neponset River Team Partners celebrate the restoration of 15 acres of estuarine habitat.

ICF Consulting, and CH2M Hill, Inc., Go to <http://www.mass.gov/czm/wrp/index.htm> for more information about the wetlands restoration program.

TX CWRP Supports Bahia Grande Restoration Program

Following their spring meeting, the TX CWRP voted to support the Bahia Grande Restoration Project at a level of \$100,000 in cash and services. Bahia Grande is one of the largest restoration projects in the country, with a restoration goal of over 10,000 acres of tidal wetlands in the Laguna Atascosa

National Wildlife Refuge. The area was first impacted by the construction of the Brownsville ship Channel in the 1930's, which cut off tidal exchange from the Laguna Madre and the Gulf of Mexico, thereby reducing important habitat for numerous wildlife and fish species. Under the leadership of the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Coastal Program, a partnership team developed an aggressive action plan to restore tidal flow into the Bahia. Partners included the Ocean Trust, National Fisheries Institute, NOAA Fisheries, NOAA Community-based Restoration Program, EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program, Ducks Unlimited, the Texas Coastal Program, and the Gulf Ecological Management Sites Program. The plan includes the construction of several channels for the creation of over 6500 acres of shallow marsh. A pilot channel was constructed earlier this year to aid in navigation and is the first step in the reflooding process.

On September 19, the University of Texas at Brownsville hosted a research summit on the Bahia Grande. Participants in the summit included DOI's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, David Smith; DOC's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans, Timothy R. E. Keeney; TX CWRP Chair, John Bowie of Duke Energy-Gas Transmission; and a number of research experts.

CWRP National Sponsor to Convene CWRP Forums

The National Association of Manufacturers is convening a series of CWRP informational forums around the country in an effort to bolster the CWRP. The first forum is scheduled for early December in Chicago. Subsequent forums are planned for other regions of the country, including the Mid Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico.

CWRP STATE CHAPTER UPDATES

CT CWRP - The CT CWRP convened a short meeting in early August to discuss two projects: Branford Supply Pond Dam Fishway Project and the Zemko Dam Removal Project. CWRP agreed to support both projects.

NH CWRP - On July 12, the NH CWRP sponsored the Environmental Business Council of New England's 5th Annual New Hampshire Chapter Harbor Cruise. Participants on the evening cruise were able to spend a relaxing evening on the water socializing and networking. This well attended event afforded the NH CWRP membership an opportunity to talk to corporate colleagues about the benefits of participating in the CWRP. In other Chapter news, the advisory board held a meeting on September 15. They agreed to support a project to control invasive plants on the sea coast. They will meet again later in the fall.

MA CWRP - The MA CWRP continues to grow steadily, welcoming new partners Howard Maurer Design Group and Camp Dresser McKee, and supporting new projects. The Chapter meets monthly and will be inviting guest speakers to future meetings to provide information on various MA CWRP projects. (See article p. 3 on Neponset Salt Marsh)

NJ CWRP - The NJ CWRP convened their summer meeting in late July. Participants in the meeting discussed a variety of subjects and spent the majority of their time on project review and selection. Five projects were selected for CWRP support: Morris County Soil Conservation District Conservation Nursery; Hawk Rise; International Youth Organizations's Second River Restoration; Cape May County Technical School District - A Path to Wildlife Habitats; and Parker Preserve. The Chapter will be meeting next in October.

Pemaquid Salt Marsh Restoration Project Celebration in Maine



Pemaquid Project Team celebrates the completion of the Fish Point – Pemaquid Salt Marsh Restoration project in Bristol, ME.

An event celebrating the completion of the Fish Point - Pemaquid Salt Marsh Restoration project in Bristol, ME, took place on August 4th. Sponsored by NOAA's Restoration Center, the Gulf of Maine Council and the Town of Bristol, this project replaced crushed culverts with a series of large box culverts. The new culverts allow full tidal inundation into Pemaquid Marsh, restoring seven acres of saltmarsh. Additional support was received from the ME CWRP. The Pemaquid Water Association will be

conducting a public outreach program to explain the benefits of restoration projects and a three-year monitoring effort. Participants in the event included Congressman Tom Allen (D-ME); Timothy R. E. Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Coastal America Principal; Paul Anderson, CEO of Duke Energy; Chad Hanna, Bristol Board of Selectmen; Donald Hudson, Gulf of Maine Council; and Gary Best, Pemaquid Watershed Association.

(continued from column 1)

NY CWRP - The NY CWRP has a busy fall planned, including hosting an informational recruiting session in upstate New York to further present the CWRP concept to area companies. They have developed a series of fact sheets and continue to grow their membership.

GA CWRP - The GA CWRP spent much of their time planning the official launch of the CWRP in Georgia. The

event is scheduled for October 20, 2005, in Marietta and will include a site visit to the John Ferry Unit of the Chatahoochee River National Recreation Area, location of the first GA CWRP project. This ambitious project includes several facets: the rehabilitation of wetlands, streams and terrestrial habitats; the protection of cultural resources; and the enhancement of educational/recreational opportunities.

Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Network Updates

CELC Panel at Marine Educators Conference



Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Panel at National Marine Educators Association 2005 Conference in Maui, HI.

On July 10-18th, as part of the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) annual meeting, Coastal America and five Learning Centers conducted a panel on CELC partnerships. Rita Bell, Educator Director for the Monterey Aquarium CELC served as the NMEA 2005 Conference Director. The meeting provided opportunities for several Coastal America presentations. The CELC panel chaired by Marguerite Duffy of Coastal America consisted of Merryl Kafka, NY Aquarium; Mark Heckman, Waikiki Aquarium; Amy Coppenger, Aquarium of the Pacific; Dawn Miller, IGFA; and Jon Luke, Hatfield Marine Science Center. Discussions included student ocean clubs, student ocean conferences, invasives species removal, federal outreach, SeaFest festivals, and wetlands workshops.



Coastal America's well-attended exhibit highlighted CELC community projects during NMEA 2005 Conference.

CELC Directors Meeting

In conjunction with the American Zoological Association Conference in Chicago, Illinois, on September 15th, Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Directors met to discuss partnership opportunities. Jerry Enzler, Executive Director of the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium represented the CELC Executive Steering Committee and chaired the



CELC Directors Meet at the AZA meeting in Chicago with Jim Connaughton, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality and Ted Beattie, CEO of Shedd Aquarium.

meeting with Virginia Tippie. Ted Beattie, CEO, Shedd Aquarium and Jim Connaughton, Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality made remarks during the meeting. The breakfast provided a unique opportunity to bring the individual CELCs into a network discussion. Two subcommittees were formed: (1) CELC Executive Directors will develop network wide initiatives; and (2) CELC Education Directors to develop network presentation ideas in conjunction with the 2006 National Marine Educators Association. Thanks to the Coastal America Foundation for hosting the brief but successful breakfast meeting.

OSV Bold

The U.S. EPA's *OSV Bold* will be conducting research in the northeastern states in November. Coastal America's Mid-Atlantic and New England Regional Implementation Teams are coordinating

with the New York Aquarium, the Mystic Aquarium, and the New England Aquarium to hold teacher and student workshops aboard the *OSV Bold* during its stay.

Sea Grant Workshop at NMEA

On July 10th, Jon Luke, Visitors Director of the Hatfield Marine Science Center CELC chaired a Sea Grant Workshop for Regional Directors in Kihei, Hawaii. A highlight of the workshop included a cultural history of native fishing



Sea Grant Educators Learn About Traditional Hawaiian Fishing Practices.

practices and the construction of fish ponds. Marguerite Duffy represented Coastal America at the business meeting and workshop. Through the Coastal America Signature Project, AmeriCorps volunteer teams will restore wetlands with native plants and rebuild fishpond wall using traditional methods.

Seattle Aquarium

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce Tim Keeney met with John Braden, Director of the Seattle Aquarium on June 29th. The meeting included representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA, USFWS, WA Sea Grant and others. They discussed the renovation of the Seattle Aquarium and how both the aquarium's facility and its programs can be more effectively linked to agency priorities, e.g., partnering on updating interpretative materials at the Ballard Locks and appropriate materials about the proposed Oca listing.

Regional Team Updates

Regional Partners Gathered in St. Louis



Photo: Will Nickels

John Balleto, NJ CWRP/PSE; Virginia Tippie, Coastal America; Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary Department of Interior; John Bowie, TX CWRP/Duke Energy; and Mario DelVicario, EPA visit the Coastal America Booth during the White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation.

Southwest Regional Implementation Team

On July 22, 2005, Federal and State officials met in Long Beach, CA to discuss activities needed to implement the California Ocean Action Strategy and the U.S. Ocean Action Plan. California Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator Wayne Nastri chaired the meeting. Discussion included areas for



Southwest Regional Team Toured San Francisco Bay Oyster Restoration Sites

collaboration, ideas for specific projects, and formation of an interagency, intergovernmental oceans team. Paul Michel, EPA Region IX and Southwest Regional Implementation Team Co-

Chair presented a California partnership proposal for strengthening federal/state cooperative actions using the Coastal America partnership. Brian Baird (California Resources Agency) presented insights of areas for collaboration. Participants agreed that opportunities exist for improving collaboration, especially with respect to ocean and coastal issues. Currently, participants are reviewing collaborative proposals ranging from beach erosion, dredging, and dam removal to a program on areas of special biological significance. After reaching consensus on the scope of the initiative, the Southwest RIT will host a workshop to detail the effort.

Northeast Regional Implementation Team

The Northeast Implementation Team reports that the Ninigret Salt Pond is being dredged in preparation for eelgrass restoration. This is part of an 80 acre eelgrass restoration project in the salt ponds of southern Rhode Island. All of our Coastal America partners are participating in the project which is led by the US Army Corps of Engineers and Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council.

Gulf of Mexico Regional Implementation Team

During this quarter, the GMRIT continued to provide key staff support to the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. The Alliance is the Gulf States' response to the U.S. Ocean Commission Recommendations and the U.S. Ocean Action Plan. The state-federal Alliance has outlined five priorities for restoring, protecting and improving the waters of the Gulf of Mexico: improving and protecting water quality; restoring coastal wetlands and estuarine ecosystems; reducing pollution and nutrient loading; identifying and characterizing Gulf habitats to support coastal management; and expanding environmental education to improve stewardship.

At a June 2005 meeting hosted by the State of Florida, the five Gulf states and federal entities agreed to develop a plan of action for the Gulf of Mexico. The plan will detail ways the government will work with stakeholders to address the five issue areas. The devastating hurricanes that beset the Gulf during this quarter have delayed completion of this plan from November 2005 to March 2006. The hurricanes have increased priority attention to coastal hazards in the region.



Combined Federal Campaign

The Coastal America Foundation announces that they are an official participant in the 2005 Combined Federal Campaign. The Foundation is listed in the CFC Catalog as number 2690.

Events, Programs, & Other News

Balancing on the Edge

Coastal America was very visible at the recent CZ05 conference in New Orleans with the Coastal America exhibit and two presentations on key partnership tools. Patmarie Nedelka, Deputy Director for Policy and Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnerships, presented a paper entitled "The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership." Will Nuckols, Project Coordinator and Coastal America's Acting Military Liaison, presented a paper entitled "DOD's Innovative Readiness Training Program: Matching Military Training with the Needs of Coastal Communities" during a panel devoted to "Building Partnerships for Effective Restoration." Marguerite Duffy prepared a poster on the CELC Network and benefits of student ocean conferences. Virginia Tippie, Director, Coastal America and Jim

Colby, Deputy for Regional Programs, participated in the one-day workshop on Regional Ocean Governance. Many Coastal America friends from the NIT and RITs were also in attendance.

National Fish Habitat Initiative

The National Fish Habitat Initiative (NFHI) is the outcome of a partnership between the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Fish and Wildlife Service and many others. It is a partner-based, non-regulatory framework and process to protect, restore and enhance the Nation's fish and aquatic communities through the conservation of aquatic habitat. The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture is the first pilot of NFHI seeking to protect, restore and enhance aquatic habitat throughout the range of the eastern brook trout (Maine to Georgia). Other pilots include Western Trout Initiative, Southeast Aquatic Restoration

Partnership, and Driftless Area. Coastal America is working with NFHI partners to discuss mutual opportunities. For additional information visit <http://www.fishhabitat.org>.

Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable Report

On September 30, 2005 the Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable released a preliminary report detailing 17 sustainable water resources indicators. Established in 2002, the Roundtable serves as a forum to share information and perspectives that will promote better decision making in the U.S. regarding the sustainable development of our nation's water resources. The 108 page report shows the status on each of indicators. It will be available on line at <http://water.usgs.gov/wicp/acwi/swrr/>.

NOAA Fisheries Service Posters

Through a unique partnering of government agencies, NOAA Fisheries Service spearheaded the update and publication of their popular Marine Life Posters. The eight posters depict shellfish, mollusks, marine mammals and marine turtles in the nation's coastal waters. NOAA Fisheries Service created the series of colorful posters more than thirty years ago. Over the years, hundreds of students and teachers have used the posters, which have been displayed on countless classroom walls throughout the country. Due to the incredible demand for the posters and NOAA's commitment to education, NOAA Fisheries Service reprinted the posters a number of times over the years. The posters are available for sale through the Government Printing Office.



Calendar

- December 1-4, 2005
Council of State Governments
Annual Meeting,
Wilmington, DE
- December 5-7, 2005
Seafood and Health
05 Conference,
Washington, DC
- December 9-13, 2005
Restore America's Estuaries
Conference,
New Orleans, LA
- December 12, 2005
Great Lakes Regional Council
Summit II,
Chicago, IL
- February 20-24, 2006
Ocean Sciences Meeting
Honolulu, HI
- March 28-30, 2006
2005 State of The Gulf of
Mexico Summit,
Corpus Christi, TX



The Army Corps of Engineers provided ship time for removing derelict fishing gear. (see article page 2)

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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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