

coastal
america ...

A
Partnership
for
Action



Meeting the Challenge
to Restore and
Sustain Our
Coastal Ecosystems

1999

COASTAL AMERICA
PROGRESS REPORT

1999 Coastal America Progress Report

Cover Photo: Maine Coastal Pond

“Our coasts are demanding more of our attention, more protection, more restoration and a better understanding of human impact on coastal and marine resources. Coastal America is a vehicle to bring people to the table and foster partnerships to address these issues. Through this collaborative process we integrate the capabilities and resources of the federal agencies with state, local and non-governmental organizations to more effectively manage our coastal environment. By building these partnerships everyone benefits.”

*Dr. Joseph Westphal,
Chair of Coastal
America and
Assistant Secretary of
the Army for Civil
Works*

*Press Conference for
John H. Chafee Coastal
Stewardship Award,
November 1999*

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Bar Harbor coastline

June 2000

COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERS

Department of Agriculture

Department of the Air Force

Department of the Army

Department of Commerce

Department of Defense

Department of Energy

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Department of the Interior

Department of the Navy

Department of Transportation

Environmental Protection Agency

Executive Office of the President

“As a partnership team, you are united by a strong commitment to the coastal environment and a belief that by working together everyone accomplishes more. We need to extend this effective network of collaborative working relationships and bring new individuals and organizations into the partnership process.”

*Terry Garcia,
Former Chair of
Coastal America and
Assistant Secretary for
Oceans and Atmosphere,
Department of Commerce*

*Letter to
Coastal America
Team Members,
January 1999*

I. INNOVATIONS IN PARTNERSHIPS

THE PROCESS

Coastal America is an action-oriented, results-driven process aimed at restoring and preserving our vital coastal ecosystems and addressing our most critical coastal environmental issues. The Coastal America partnership was established by a Memorandum of Understanding and, among the federal partner agencies, includes the Departments of Agriculture, Air Force, Army, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, the Interior, Navy, and Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Executive Office of the President. This partnership brings the resources, expertise and authorities of the federal resource, infrastructure and military agencies together with state, local, tribal and non-governmental organizations to form a resourceful, action-based enterprise that is a true partnership initiative--not just another program. The partnership operates through a national, regional and local team structure that brings together key participants. This collaborative multi-agency structure enables national policy matters to be identified and resolved; regional plans to be developed; and local projects to be initiated and completed in a timely and cost-efficient manner.

At the National Level

The Principals Group consists of the senior policy officials from the federal partner agencies, including Under or Assistant Secretaries, and establishes overall policy for the Coastal America partnership. The Principals meet semiannually at a minimum. Senior level representatives from the headquarters of the federal partner agencies make up the National Implementation Team, which meets monthly to implement the policy directives of the Principals Group and promote collaboration among the participating agencies. This multi-agency problem-solving approach results in identification of issues and fosters an effective means to address them by senior level policymakers and program managers.

At the Regional Level

Regional Implementation Teams comprising senior managers of the federal partner agencies develop regional strategies. These strategies serve as the basis for program initiatives and the selection of site-specific coastal projects. This joint regional planning process is influenced by the need for sustainable development and, as a result, incorporates environmental as well as economic objectives into regional development plans.

At the Local Level

Local projects are implemented by partnership teams representing the stakeholders. These local teams combine the resources and skills of the federal, state and local agencies with relevant non-governmental endeavors. This cooperative approach promotes cost-effective, creative solutions and results in achievements which no organization could accomplish alone. Infrastructure rehabilitation and improvements are often the starting point for these restoration and protection efforts. As a result of these partnerships, thousands of acres of wetlands are being restored, hundreds of miles of spawning streams for anadromous fish populations are being reestablished, and endangered marine mammals, birds and fish are being protected. Additionally, a more efficient and effective coastal information network has been created to educate the public on the value of our coastal resources.

THE PARTNERSHIP

Partnerships are the essence of Coastal America. The partnership process allows more agencies' goals to be met, more projects to be completed, and fewer resources to be used. However, this does not happen without the presence of strong relationships and extensive collaboration. Each agency has the opportunity to leverage its resources with other agencies with similar goals and objectives. Coastal America acts as the facilitator and catalyst for change and collaboration and serves as a model of how cooperative partnership endeavors can bring about results. There are now more than 500 restoration and protection projects underway or completed in 26 states. This includes 12 dams that have been removed within 1998-1999.

In 1999, the Principals Group, the National Implementation Team, the Regional Implementation Teams, and various working groups met regularly to further the partnership process. Coastal America also continued to both focus on education and outreach through its Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers and promote technology transfer through workshops and meetings.

The Coastal America Principals Group met on June 16, 1999, and on December 8, 1999. In the spring meeting, the Principals discussed the advantages of Coastal America partnerships including stronger agency relationships, a broader understanding of agency programs, and better integration of those programs. At the fall meeting, the Principals signed a renewed commitment to the partnership. The Principals also approved the establishment of a National Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP). The CWRP is a program designed to foster collaboration between the federal government, state agencies and private corporations. Private corporations that participate in this program will donate funds for either site-specific wetland or other aquatic habitat restoration projects or will provide matching funds to a national or regional effort in support of aquatic ecosystem restoration activities.



Principals Group 1999 fall meeting commitment ceremony



Coastal America Team on field trip in the Penobscot Watershed, Maine

The National Implementation Team met monthly to address national policy issues and held its annual retreat with the Regional Implementation Team members September 22-24, 1999, in Bar Harbor, Maine. National and regional team members gathered to share ideas, discuss new concepts for improving the interagency partnership process, and identify opportunities for future collaboration. There were presentations and discussion on education/outreach issues, Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers, technology transfer, regional support, and Coastal America's Strategic Plan.

“This collaborative approach embodies our Administration’s efforts to reinvent government, promote partnerships that bring together collective resources to meet common goals, and balance our environmental and economic needs.”

*Al Gore,
Vice President*

*Letter to Costal
America 1999
Partnership Award
Recipients*

In 1999, the Regional Implementation Teams (RIT) made great strides in restoring and protecting coastal ecosystems around the country. Key activities have included anadromous fisheries restoration, military involvement, efforts to increase outreach, support for the coastal ecosystem learning centers, and protection and restoration of watersheds. The Pacific Islands RIT was formed in conjunction with the nomination of the Waikiki Aquarium as a coastal ecosystem learning center. Similarly, the Northwest RIT was rejuvenated in conjunction with the Northwest and Alaska regional learning center meeting and the ensuing nomination of the Seattle Aquarium as a coastal ecosystem learning center. The RITs have also been working to integrate and coordinate the Coastal America mission and activities with other federal interagency initiatives such as the Clean Water Action Plan, the American Heritage Rivers Initiative, and the Gulf of Mexico Program.

On July 26, 1999, Coastal America held a technology transfer workshop in conjunction with the Coastal Zone Conference in San Diego, CA. The workshop provided an open forum to discuss the lessons learned from the Coastal America partnership process. Topics included: national resources, expertise and authorities that can be utilized to address coastal problems; regional strategies and priorities for coastal restoration and protection; local project success stories; and partnership opportunities with coastal ecosystem learning centers.

In 1999, a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) was formally established to provide a source of expertise to the Coastal America partnership by evaluating projects, identifying new technologies, and determining measures of success. The STAC’s first meeting was held at the National Aquarium in Baltimore in May. Agenda topics included each agency’s capabilities, project proposals, regional issues, aquaculture, nonindigenous species, hydrodynamic modeling, and technology transfer. A discussion of the coastal ecosystem learning center concept focused on the relationship between learning centers and Coastal America’s federal partners, along with coordination among the learning centers. In September, a STAC subcommittee traveled to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland to meet with state and Refuge staff to discuss the issue of nutria damage to the refuge’s marshlands and plans for reducing, and eventually eradicating, the population of this exotic species. Also in September, the STAC met in Bar Harbor, Maine in conjunction with Coastal America’s annual retreat. Topics included improving interaction with partnership teams, examining metadata processes, aquaculture issues, increasing awareness of the nutria issue, hydrodynamic modeling, project metrics, and technology transfer mechanisms. A discussion of the learning center concept focused on tagging marine animals that have been rescued and rehabilitated in order to increase the knowledge base of species behaviors. The rescue and release of marine animals and tracking their movements after release have proven to be excellent opportunities for increasing public awareness of and concern for coastal ecosystems.



Coastal America exhibit at the CZ99 conference

COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS

The Coastal America partnership continues to strengthen its national network of regional Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELC) to support efforts to increase public awareness of and involvement in protecting and restoring coastal resources. In 1999, regional meetings between learning centers and federal agency partners took place in the Gulf of Mexico region at the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi, Texas; the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions at the Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Connecticut; and the Northwest and Alaska regions at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, Oregon. These meetings are designed to increase communication between federal and non-federal partners, identify opportunities for collaboration and enhance the regional coastal education and outreach network. In addition to these regional meetings, the first national learning center meeting took place in conjunction with the National Marine Educators Association conference in Charleston, South Carolina. This meeting provided an opportunity for the learning centers around the country to share lessons learned about their respective efforts to work with federal agency partners, to discuss opportunities for developing a national message to promote public awareness and involvement in coastal resource protection, and to identify opportunities for sharing successful education and outreach programs and materials.

Even as CELCs carried on with 'business as usual', educating the public and displaying exciting exhibits with names such as *Swamp Tales*, *Stars and Spikes Forever*, and *Venom*, there were also many successful collaborations with federal agency partners. For example, the Alaska SeaLife Center is helping the Girl Scouts of the United States and the National Marine Fisheries Service develop a badge program designed to increase the appreciation of critical coastal issues by young people. The program involves workshops held at the Alaska SeaLife Center that teach about the complexities of the aquatic ecosystem in Alaska and of balancing the pressures for resource development and conserving the ecosystem.

The National Aquarium in Baltimore brought together a team of 4 federal agencies (NOAA, EPA, NPS, USGS) and several Maryland state agencies, local government agencies and non-governmental organizations to restore and maintain a 10-acre tidal wetland adjacent to the Fort McHenry National Park. This project enhances education and outreach efforts by involving citizen volunteers in restoration activities as well as establishing a long-term water quality monitoring station to deliver real-time data to various agencies and the public.



Ft. McHenry Wetlands Restoration site, Maryland

The Mystic and New England Aquariums joined forces with the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Cape Cod Stranding Network and the Marine Science and Technology Center at the University of Connecticut to rescue, rehabilitate, release, and track two stranded pilot whales. The tracking data was made available to the public on the Internet and more than 150,000 people (from as far away as New Zealand) logged on to the website to follow the whales. The story of the release was carried by most major daily newspapers in the U.S. and aired on more than 100 TV news spots across the country. It was also featured in *Weekly Reader*, *Time for Kids*, and *Scholastic News*, for a combined circulation of about 7 million students. This effort demonstrated that tracking rehabilitated and released marine mammals can successfully add to the scientific base of knowledge as well as significantly enhance the public's understanding of, and appreciation for, marine life.

“The need to educate our public, to increase understanding and appreciation of coastal and marine issues, and to enlighten future generations about the beauty and value of our shore, cannot be overemphasized.”

*Bob Graham,
U.S. Senator (FL)*

Letter to Coastal America regarding designation of the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum as a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center, November 1999

In December 1998, the Coastal America Principals decided to impose a moratorium on establishing new learning centers until an evaluation could be conducted to determine how well the learning center network was working and how it could be made more effective. The moratorium did not apply to regions that did not already have designated learning centers. The evaluation also revisited the appropriateness of criteria that have been used to designate learning centers, such as distance to the coast and level of visitation.

At the Coastal America Principals meeting in December 1999, the Principals accepted the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Evaluation recommendations and directed the National and Regional Implementation Teams to implement the more than 30 recommendations in the report. A high priority identified in the report included adding special learning center planning sessions in upcoming Regional Implementation Team meetings to identify opportunities for joint projects and activities. Based on the report’s recommendation, the Principals decided to end the moratorium on designating new learning centers for regions in which the Regional Implementation Team has demonstrated their capacity and commitment to support the existing learning centers as well as any proposed learning centers in the region.

COASTAL AMERICA’S 10TH COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTER: IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum

In 1999, Coastal America designated its tenth Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center and its first on the South Atlantic Coast. The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum in Dania Beach, Florida was designated a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center on November 16, 1999. The museum, which the IGFA opened in December 1998, provides information on sport fishing, fish and their aquatic habitats, and the need to conserve those habitats. The exhibits convey a strong message about the dependence of fish on their fragile aquatic environment, how humans impact that environment, and the need to conserve it.



IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum, Florida

The International Game Fish Association, an international conservation organization, and the museum have been involved in collaborative relationships with conservation organizations through the Marine Conservation Network. Locally, the staff has active working relationships with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Audubon Society, Reef Environmental Education Foundation, State Department of Agriculture, Coastal Conservation Association, Florida Bay Educational Project, Sea Grant Florida, Dr. Bob Ballard’s “Jason Project” and the American Sportfisherman Association.

COASTAL AMERICA'S AWARDS PROGRAMS

PARTNERSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

Coastal America's Partnership Awards Program recognizes outstanding partnership efforts or multi-agency projects designed to protect and restore coastal ecosystems. The intent of the Awards is to recognize those innovative and unique efforts which could only be achieved through a collaborative partnership endeavor. Federal agencies must have been involved in the project or process being recognized, with state and local government participation. Private sector or non-governmental organization involvement is viewed as an added benefit. Six awards were presented this year. Award plaques and letters of congratulations from Vice President Albert Gore were presented at award ceremonies around the country.

Penobscot Watershed Anadromous Fish Restoration Team

Members of the Penobscot Watershed Anadromous Fish Restoration Team received a Partnership Award from Coastal America to recognize the team's efforts in removing three dams on the Souadabscook Stream in the Penobscot Watershed in Maine. The dams blocked the upstream passage of native anadromous fish for over 250 years. The largest of these dams, the Grist Mill Dam, was at the head-of-tide and was the most significant barrier to migrating fish. The two other dams were located upstream. When the partners were successful in removing these impoundments, water aeration increased and stream temperatures were reduced, which improved conditions for forage fish like the American shad, alewives and rainbow smelt, and important game fish like the Atlantic salmon, sea run brook trout and striped bass. It has also eliminated the potential of localized flooding and the expensive damage to Route 1A from erosion and piping. In addition, the "canoe-ability" and kayak use of the stream has been improved, along with the general aesthetics of a stream restored to its natural condition.



*Blessing of restored Souadabscook Stream
by a Penobscot Indian Tribal Elder*

Galilee Salt Marsh Restoration Team

Representatives of the federal, state, and local agencies, and non-governmental organizations that comprised the Galilee Salt Marsh Restoration Team received a Coastal America Partnership Award for their work on restoring the Galilee Bird Sanctuary in Rhode Island. The placement of fill material from navigation projects and the construction of an escape road through the middle of the marsh had significantly restricted tidal flow through this predominate salt marsh. Prior to the initiation of this project, less than 20 acres of salt marsh and open marsh existed within the sanctuary, where once over 100 acres of marsh supported many bird species.

By re-excavating natural channels and installing twin box culverts beneath the Galilee Escape Road, tidal exchange was improved. Of the total 126 acres, over 13 acres of the intertidal habitat within marsh channels were restored; 84 acres were fully restored to salt marsh; and 28 acres were partially restored to salt marsh.

“We are very proud of the originality our environmental efforts demonstrate, but our highest praise goes to our many partners in the environmental community and the regulatory agencies who work with us to ensure these valuable habitats will be preserved for future generations.”

*Joe Bob Perkins,
President of
Reliant Energy
Wholesale Group*

*Clear Creek Wetland
Restoration Team
Partnership Award
Ceremony,
October 1999*

Clear Creek Wetland Restoration Team

Coastal America presented a Partnership Award to the Clear Creek Wetland Restoration Team for their cooperative effort to plan, coordinate, and evaluate projects in the Clear Creek Watershed. The Clear Creek watershed in Galveston Bay, Texas experienced substantial wetland loss due to subsidence from groundwater withdrawal and erosion caused by extensive recreational boating. This team restored 15 acres of wetlands habitat using dredged material from cooling water intake channels and an innovative cordgrass planting method. Follow up monitoring confirms that the plant materials are well established and the site continues to provide habitat for a rich diversity of fish, shellfish and birds – including several endangered species such as bald eagles.



Clear Creek Restoration Team

Shamrock Island Protection and Restoration Team

Shamrock Island in Corpus Christi Bay, Texas is an ecologically important island that was facing severe erosion. The 100-acre island is a nesting area for two endangered species and over 20 colonial water birds. The project effectively restored and protected the island through a combination of strategies including marsh creation, establishment of a feeder beach and

placement of a geotube breakwater. Virtually every aspect of this project—from the concept and design to permitting, construction, and even financing—was the result of innovative partnerships and cooperative efforts. Public interest in the fate of the island and in the success of the project was very high. To make things more challenging, the work had to be completed during the winter to avoid disturbing the birds during their spring nesting season. Daily oversight by team members resulted in the project being completed in record time and under budget.



Shamrock Island Protection and Restoration Team

Duck Creek Advisory Group

The Duck Creek Advisory Group (DCAG) was presented with a Coastal America Partnership Award for implementing plans and projects to restore spawning and rearing habitats of anadromous fish in Duck Creek, Alaska. The creek's anadromous fish population suffered greatly due to physical habitat alteration, poor water quality, loss of riparian vegetation, and loss of estuarine wetlands as a result of urbanization. Increased urbanization also resulted in water diversion, sedimentation of pools and riffles, channelization, inadequate stream crossings, loss of riparian habitat, and littering. Various projects were completed to improve water quality and to restore spawning and rearing habitat of the anadromous fish population. Several culverts were replaced with bottomless arches or bridges to improve fish passage. An important spawning reach was cleared of sediment and the channel was reconfigured to increase velocity and dissolved oxygen; several riparian areas have been re-vegetated to control erosion and provide cover; and two freshwater marshes were created to improve water quality and provide salmonid overwintering habitat.



Duck Creek Advisory Group

Kenai River Peninsula Resource Protection and Education Team



Kenai River restoration site, Alaska

Located 75 miles south of Anchorage, Alaska, on the Kenai Peninsula, the Kenai River drains more than 2,000 square miles of diverse landscape. The river is the state's premier chinook salmon and trout stream, and provides important rearing and spawning habitat for other valuable fish species. The area is experiencing rapid development and increased pressure from recreational groups resulting in the loss of high-value aquatic and wetland habitat. The banks of the Kenai and other south-central Alaska streams were degraded by boat wakes and foot traffic of fishermen. Important rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids was also lost, and development has led to the filling of adjacent wetlands and the bulkheading of shorelines.

Members of the Kenai River Peninsula Resource Protection and Education Team received a Coastal America Partnership Award for their

efforts at demonstrating techniques that prevent erosion and damage from development that has occurred along 80 miles of the river. These include a vegetated cribwall as a protective structure, streambank restoration by re-vegetation of denuded areas with grasses and willows, and an elevated light-penetrating boardwalk that provides fishermen less damaging access to the river. The initial restoration project was completed in 1995. The ongoing educational aspects are twofold. An interpretive program at local schools teaches children and young adults the importance of protecting and managing wetlands, riverine habitats, and groundwater quality. Additionally, local land owners were educated on proven bioengineering techniques for future residential or commercial development.

Alaska Regional Implementation Team

The Alaska Regional Implementation Team (RIT) was recognized for their significant contribution to the goals of the Coastal America Partnership. The Alaska RIT has become an effective multi-agency working group actively involving the resource, military and infrastructure agencies. Working in partnership with state, local and non-governmental organizations they have implemented numerous projects to protect migratory bird and marine mammal populations and to restore anadromous fish habitat and nearshore habitats. They have also developed a strong working relationship and substantive program with the Alaska SeaLife Center which was formally designated a Coastal America Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center in September 1998.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Coastal America partnership initiated the Special Recognition Awards to recognize non-governmental organizations that have significantly contributed to the restoration and protection of the coastal environment. Three awards were presented this year.

Maine Council of Atlantic Salmon Federation

The Maine Council of Atlantic Salmon Federation received a Coastal America Special Recognition Award for its work to restore the Penobscot River's native fish to Souadabscook Stream and the Pleasant River by removing antiquated dams in the Penobscot River watersheds.

New England Aquarium

The New England Aquarium received a Coastal America Special Recognition Award for its instrumental role in developing the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center concept and refining and identifying projects for collaboration between the learning centers and the federal partner agencies.

Reliant Energy Company

Reliant Energy received a Special Recognition Award for their role in the Clear Creek Restoration Project and their contribution to previous coastal restoration projects in the Galveston Bay area such as the oyster reef restoration project using coal ash pellets from the facility and their continued environmental leadership in the Galveston Bay community.

JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

Coastal America established the John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award in 1999 to recognize the late Senator Chafee for his lifetime commitment to restore and protect the coastal environment. The award will be presented to individuals who display outstanding initiative in restoring and protecting our nation's coastal resources.

As a member and chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Senator Chafee was instrumental in developing the framework upon which our current environmental program is built. He was known for his ability to build consensus and forge a middle ground on environmental issues. Senator Chafee supported Coastal America and other environmental partnerships because he believed that by working together we can make a difference. He will long be remembered for his leadership in restoring and protecting our environment and for his commitment to establishing collaborative partnerships.



Dr. Westphal presenting the John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award to Senator Lincoln Chafee (RI)

“John Chafee drew inspiration from and had reverence for the natural world. And while he cared deeply about conserving wildlife, he felt ultimately that the protection of habitat and open natural spaces was essential to our well-being....On behalf of the Chafee family, I thank the Coastal America Partnership for this wonderful tribute to my father’s environmental work -- one that will help inspire others to protect and restore the marshes and beaches that he so loved.”

*Lincoln Chafee,
U.S. Senator (RI)*

*John H. Chafee Coastal
Stewardship Award
Ceremony,
November 1999*

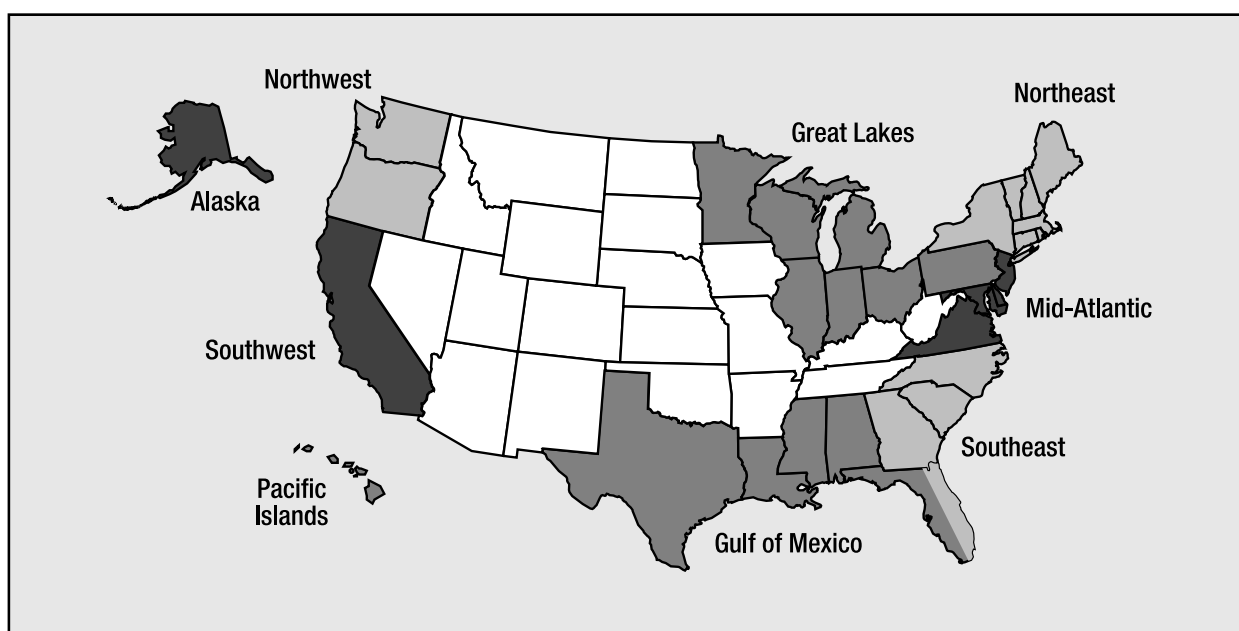
II. EVOLVING REGIONAL EFFORTS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Coastal America's nine Regional Implementation Teams (RITs) are composed of regional representatives from each of the partnership agencies. These teams collaborate to develop site-specific, watershed-centered projects which are enhanced by the efforts of several federal agencies. Each RIT develops a strategy to focus their efforts on the most significant environmental issues of the region. Using these strategies, the RITs identify specific projects that can benefit from partnership efforts, establish priorities for implementation of the projects, and initiate collaborative efforts to accomplish these high priority projects.

In 1999, the active involvement of the RITs brought greater focus and visibility to the partnership. Key issues have included anadromous fisheries restoration, military involvement, efforts to increase outreach, support for the coastal ecosystem learning centers, and protection and restoration of watersheds.

In addition, a new Regional Implementation Team was formed to coordinate federal agency efforts to restore and protect coastal resources in the Pacific Islands. U.S. Senator, Daniel K. Akaka, from Hawaii, recognizing the need for a federal agency partnership in the region called the first meeting of the team in October 1999.

Five major components of the Coastal America process support the Regional Principals and the RITs: *The Partnership Process*; *Public Involvement/Education*; *Technology Transfer*; *A Systems Approach*; and *Adaptive Management and Monitoring*.



Coastal America Regions

II. Evolving regional efforts through partnerships

“The Coastal America Partnership is an interagency program to facilitate the partnering of federal agencies in the performance of their natural resource and environmental responsibilities for the care of our coastal resources. This interagency partnership operates within existing authorities and serves to link applicable federal laws that affect coastal resources...This first meeting of the Pacific Islands Regional Implementation Team will begin the process of developing a regional strategy for federal interagency consultation and action.”

*Daniel K. Akaka,
U.S. Senator (HI)*

*Invitation Letter to
Pacific Islands Regional
Implementation Team
Meeting,
September 1999*



Pacific Island Regional Team Meeting

- *The Partnership Process:* By combining resources and authorities, Coastal America’s partners accomplish what no organization can achieve alone. The combination of the U.S. Marine Corps demolitions experts, state and federal agencies, and nonprofit funding and support, for instance, created a unique and cost-effective method to help remove the Rains Mill Dam and restore this valuable resource.
- *Public Involvement/Education:* To increase the role of the federal partners in educating the public about the value of coastal ecosystems, Coastal America designated its 10th coastal ecosystem learning center: the International Game Fish Association Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum in Dania Beach, Florida.
- *Technology Transfer:* Several projects successfully demonstrated technologies which have encouraged their use in other various coastal areas. For example, several teams are exploring opportunities to transfer new restoration technologies, such as the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Early Warning System to map vegetation in their coastal areas.
- *A Systems Approach:* The partnership has demonstrated how a broad regional issue can be dealt with at the local level. For example, in the northeast, a regional priority is to restore anadromous fisheries. The Pilgrim Trail Herring Restoration Project is being coordinated by the town of Plymouth, Massachusetts, with the assistance of federal partners to restore the blueback herring and alewife run and their migratory habitat in Town Brook in Plymouth, Massachusetts.
- *Adaptive Management and Monitoring:* To ensure successful efforts in the future, partners are continually evaluating what works and what doesn’t. For example, the learning center survey and evaluation report includes over 30 recommendations for improving federal support to the learning centers and enhancing the network between learning centers.

The following pages highlight the regional strategies, noteworthy projects and some of the lessons learned from the Coastal America partnership efforts at the regional level.

NORTHEAST

A regional priority for the Northeast Regional Implementation Team (NERIT) is to focus anadromous fisheries restoration efforts where there are state priorities for opening riverine corridors, and to increase involvement of the military in habitat restoration where appropriate. An Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program Workshop was conducted, which allowed the military units in the various services to explain the process of how they can be engaged in conducting habitat restoration projects such as the highly successful Ninigret Wildlife Refuge restoration. Five priority IRT projects were submitted to the military programs for FY 2000 implementation.

The NERIT participated in the organizational meeting of the Massachusetts Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) in 1999, bringing to the table the Coastal America partnership as a source of support for CWRP projects, often providing 50 to 75 percent of the project implementation funds. Under the initiative of The Gillette Company, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, corporations joined the Massachusetts CWRP, contributing funds and expertise to wetland and other aquatic habitat restoration projects.

In the fall of 1999, the NERIT held a day long salt marsh modeling workshop that brought together national experts and regional practitioners in salt marsh restoration modeling. Presentations were given by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the USACE's Waterways Experiment Station, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the Department of Transportation (DOT), and private consultants. A new initiative has started to map and evaluate all tidally restricted salt marshes in coastal Maine. The Weskeag Salt Marsh in Maine has been greatly restored by the efforts of state and federal partners. Additionally, site specific evaluations of marshes for Scarborough, Maine, will be conducted.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) hosted the regional principals meeting this year. Topics included Coastal Programs updates, the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture for migratory bird conservation and future directions for the NERIT. The NERIT initiated many projects in 1999, including large restoration efforts at: Boyd's Marsh, Potters Pond and Lonsdale Marsh, as well as significant restoration studies of the coastal salt ponds and throughout all of Rhode Island; Broad Meadows Marsh in Quincy, MA; Town Brook Dam in Plymouth, MA; Baker Dam in MA; Run Pond and Cranberry Bog in Yarmouth, MA; Little River, North Hampton, NH; Smelt Hill Dam on the Presumptscott River, Brownville Dam, as well as, many other dam removals in Maine. Collaborative efforts of the NERIT have been initiated with the U.S. Navy on regional coordinated research, and with the RI Coastal Resources Management Council and Department of Environmental Management for a Coastal Services Center habitat mapping project.

Pilgrim Trail Herring Restoration Project

The objective of this project is to restore the blueback herring and alewife run and their migratory habitat in Town Brook in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Town Brook, which empties into historic Plymouth Harbor just 100 yards from Plymouth Rock, is the location of the nation's first fish ladder. Town Brook has five major obstructions to fish passage. It currently supports a run of about 7,000 river herring that have been trapped and trucked upstream by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and the Town of Plymouth.



Pilgrim Trail Herring Restoration project in Plymouth, Massachusetts

II. Evolving regional efforts through partnerships

“These dam removals are the result of a strong partnership between federal, state agencies, local government, the Penobscot Indian Nation, conservation organizations, private businesses, and many individuals. The most important resource these partners have brought to the table was not money, but rather their valuable time, diverse talents and unique insights into how to best restore salmon and trout habitat in this watershed.”

*James Lyons,
Under Secretary for
Natural Resources and
Environment, USDA*

*Penobscot Watershed
Anadromous Fish
Restoration Team
Partnership Award
Ceremony,
August 1999*

Dam removal at this site would represent the first such project of its kind in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and could set a precedent for future removals of some of the thousands of dams blocking fish passage in the state. The dam is now owned by the Town of Plymouth and has no functional purpose. Dam removal will be the most efficient and ecologically beneficial method of restoring the anadromous fish run and their habitat. The NERIT plans to complete this project in the fall of 2000.

This project is being coordinated by the town of Plymouth, with technical and financial support being provided by the town of Plymouth, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

The New England Aquarium

The New England Aquarium in Boston, Massachusetts, in collaboration with the Boston Public Schools and Coastal America, conducted the second year of the Environmental Teacher Sabbatical (ETS). This project builds on a highly successful 1998 pilot program, supported by a grant from the EPA, to help teachers become more effective in using local environmental resources in support of the new science curriculum standards. The ETS takes advantage of the unique scientific expertise of the Aquarium and Coastal America agencies to offer teachers a week-long immersion in environmental science with a focus on Boston Harbor and the Islands. Teachers learn from state-of-the-art hands-on environmental education programs at the Aquarium, including activities in classroom, laboratory, and field settings. Additionally, independent study project opportunities are available with access to current environmental science and management efforts underway at the Aquarium and in the regional offices of Coastal America agencies.

Mystic Aquarium

The Mystic Aquarium hosted the regional meeting for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic learning centers and Regional Implementation Teams. Presentations were given by each of the learning centers and the federal agency representatives. Participants shared success stories and lessons learned from previous efforts to collaborate and discussed opportunities for future collaborations. Participants brainstormed in breakout sessions on strategies for increasing public awareness of the importance of coastal and ocean resources, and identified project priorities for the coastal ecosystem learning center network.



*Meeting participants touring exhibits
at the Mystic Aquarium*

MID-ATLANTIC

The big event for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Implementation Team (MARIT) in 1999 was the construction of the Little Falls Fish Ladder at the Little Falls Dam located on the Potomac River one mile upstream of the District of Columbia and Maryland borders. A ceremonial dam breaking was held October 12, 1999, at the Washington Aqueduct Little Falls Pumping Station. U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes and Congresswoman Constance Morella of Maryland, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Maryland Governor Parris Glendening and approximately 125 federal, state and local dignitaries attended. The fish ladder project was coordinated by the Little Falls Task Group of the Fish Passage Workgroup of the Chesapeake Bay Program. The project was completed in January 2000 to meet the shad migration which starts mid-spring. The Little Falls project has a web site located at <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/info/littlefall.html>.



Construction of Little Falls Dam Fishway, Maryland

MARIT representatives attended three Clean Water Action Plan meetings in March, April and June hosted by the EPA and the U.S. Park Service. The purpose of these meetings was to form the Mid-Atlantic Regional Federal Partners for the Environment (MARFP). The MARIT is coordinating with the MARFP to prevent duplication of effort. To address urban sprawl, which has been identified as a shared regional priority, the MARIT and the MARFP are working together to identify habitat restoration projects. In November, MARIT members attended the American Heritage River Initiative (AHRI) Community Partner/River Navigator meeting in Hartford, CT. The MARIT plans to coordinate closely with the three American Heritage Rivers in its region (the Hudson, Upper Susquehanna/ Lackawanna, and Potomac Rivers).

The MARIT has continued to work with residents of Tangier Island, Virginia to help implement their Tangier Stewardship 2020 Initiative. Currently, a USACE request for cost-share commitment is garnering local support for project development. NOAA, USACE, and USFWS are working with this fishing community to identify priority sites for wetland and seagrass restoration and protection. The MARIT hopes to link a new project at Tangier Island with existing USACE projects on Smith Island, MD, and at Saxis, VA, both areas of habitat loss.



Poplar Island, Maryland

Other projects continue to progress through various stages of development and construction with completion scheduled for the Sedge Island/Barnegat Inlet project to restore and protect 1,000 acres of back bay habitats in April 2000. The Poplar Island, Maryland restoration project is expected to receive its first placement of dredged material in spring 2000, on its way to restoring 1,100 acres upland/wetland mix of Chesapeake Bay island habitat.

II. Evolving regional efforts through partnerships

Year 2000 Focus

A focus in the upcoming year for the MARIT will be the restoration of spawning and rearing habitat for migratory alewife, blueback herring and the American eel along a stretch of the Cooper River. The Cooper River is a tributary of the Delaware River located in Camden County, New Jersey. The Cooper River Project will involve the construction of additional fish ladders on Evans Pond and Wallworth Lake Dams. Evans Pond Dam is located approximately 6.5 miles upstream from the Coopers River's confluence with the Delaware River. Wallworth Lake is located just a little further upstream. The Evans Pond fish ladder is being constructed by the USACE and will function in conjunction with the second fish ladder being constructed by the USFWS. Habitat gains are expected to total eight miles of riverine spawning/rearing habitats. This project represents a multi-agency effort spearheaded by the USFWS, USACE, USEPA, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Camden County, NJ, an equal partner, is providing the Denil fishways that will be used for the project and will manage the project. The project reflects innovative efforts to synchronize a variety of construction and funding sources.

National Aquarium in Baltimore

The National Aquarium in Baltimore (NAIB), Maryland conducted a tidal wetlands restoration, monitoring and maintenance program at a ten-acre site adjacent to Ft. McHenry National Monument. Work included: analysis of vegetation; removal of invasive *Phragmites australis*; monitoring of avian species, invertebrate communities, and water quality; and removal of persistent marine debris. Partners included several Scout groups, Baltimore Zoo and Aquarium summer interns, and over 200 people from the local community. The Aquarium was awarded grants by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the NOAA Restoration Center to conduct this work. In-kind services were donated by Greenman Peterson, a national civil engineering firm who conducted a complete survey of the site. The Aquarium plans to continually monitor this site.

NAIB also conducted extensive seagrass restoration projects at: Langley AFB, VA; Naval Academy, Ft. Eustis, VA; and Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, VA. This work was part of a joint project with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay that included transplanting over 10,000 planting units, preparation of a scripted slide show, and transmission of digital images for use on the Department of Defense website.



*New York Aquarium
Education Program*

NY Aquarium

The NY Aquarium worked with the MARIT to plan an environmental Career Day for Junior High School, High School and college students in the New York metropolitan area that will take place in spring 2000. Coastal America federal agency partners will give presentations on career opportunities in their agencies, provide informational handouts on agency programs and be available to talk with students. The Aquarium has two other programs for which they are seeking collaboration with federal partners: the Upriver-Downriver Education Program and the Tidal Wetlands class. The Upriver-Downriver Education Program brings urban children and rural children together to participate in field studies, classroom projects, Aquarium sleepovers and multimedia correspondence to teach the importance and interdependence of fragile wetlands and the water resources upon which New York communities and wildlife depend. The Tidal Wetlands class was developed in partnership with the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation to educate violators of state and federal wetlands regulations about the ecology of wetlands as well as the laws designed to protect wetland resources. Other learning centers have expressed interest in developing a similar program at their facilities.

"This project demonstrates that numerous government and private agencies can cooperate successfully to correct past damage to fish and wildlife resources."

*Paul S. Sarbanes,
U.S. Senator (MD)*

*Little Falls Dam
Fishway Ceremony,
October 1999*

"Today, we meet on the Potomac to take a very genuine step forward in the effort to restore and revitalize this river. With the swing of a sledgehammer, we will begin the process of correcting a massive obstacle to a critically important natural resource."

*Constance Morella,
U.S. Congresswoman
(MD)*

*Little Falls Dam
Fishway Ceremony,
October 1999*

SOUTHEAST

During 1999, the Southeast Regional Implementation Team (SERIT) focused on: program outreach by building an awareness among agencies, interest groups, and the general public in the southeast about the Coastal America partnership; the formulation of specific key partnership projects; and the designation and support for a new Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center in the Southeast.

Outreach Initiatives

The SERIT continues to invest significant effort to inform agencies, interest groups, and the general public in the Southeast Region about the operation and the benefits of the Coastal America partnership. Many members of the SERIT have responded to individual inquiries about the partnership from interest groups and citizens. The chair of the SERIT spoke about Coastal America in a plenary session at the State of the Rivers Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in March 1999. The SERIT hosted a Coastal America breakout session at the annual Department of Defense/EPA Region IV Environmental Conference in June 1999. The primary emphasis of this breakout session was to brief representatives from the military services in the region on the DOD Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program and to discuss how IRT can contribute to Coastal America projects. Local outreach efforts were conducted in conjunction with the Rains Mill Dam project event and a coastal ecosystem learning center designation. Coastal America received a 1999 International Association of Audio Visual Communicators 'Silver CINDY' Award for the video "Restoring Fish Habitat - Dam Removal," featuring the demolition of the 260-foot long Quaker Neck Dam in North Carolina. The "CINDY" award is equivalent to an "Oscar" in the multimedia industry.

Rains Mill Dam Removal

In December 1999, the third dam removal project in North Carolina in two years solely for environmental restoration purposes commenced on the Little River, about 40 miles east of Raleigh. The project was the result of the work of several partners under the auspices of the Coastal America partnership. The 71-year-old Rains Mill Dam near Princeton, North Carolina no longer served a useful purpose and presented an impediment to fish passage. Removal of the 250-foot long, 12-foot high dam has provided important environmental benefits. Access has been restored to about 50 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for seven species of anadromous fish and habitat has been increased for the endangered dwarf wedge mussel and Tar River spiny mussel.

Coastal America partners worked for about one year to plan and implement the removal. The primary Federal partners included the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The state of North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Division of Water Resources) led the overall team effort, and several private interests were involved, including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and owners of the dam and adjacent lands (descendants of the original builder/owner).

Combat engineers from the Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina, used C-4 plastic explosives to reduce the concrete dam to rubble as a training exercise. The blasting took about three days to complete. This was the first time that military units have participated in an environmental restoration project of this type. A contractor to the state of North Carolina subsequently removed the rubble and restored the site. The entire project was completed by February 2000.

A dedication ceremony was held on December 1, 1999, to celebrate commencement of the project. Participants included the Secretary of Interior, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment), Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, other federal and state officials, media representatives, and members of the public.



Secretary Babbitt with members of U.S. Marine Corps after initial breach of Rains Mill Dam, North Carolina

II. Evolving regional efforts through partnerships

International Game Fish Association

Coastal America designated the International Game Fish Association's (IGFA) Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum as its 10th Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center, on November 16, 1999. This was the first such designation for the SERIT and the first learning center along the south Atlantic coast. Each of the federal agencies on the SERIT made a commitment to the learning center as part of the designation ceremony. Commitments included provision of educational materials, confiscated fish and wildlife materials for exhibits, establishing a visiting scientist program and a day aboard the EPA's ocean survey vessel, the *Peter W. Anderson*, for education, outreach or research. Since the designation ceremony, SERIT members continued to work with the IGFA facility. For example, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Services Center has provided substantial technical support for the IGFA learning center's web page.



*IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum
Designation ceremony*

Year 2000 Focus

The SERIT will focus on the following priority areas in calendar year 2000:

- Support full implementation of the Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership (CWRP) in the Southeast Region;
- Develop and implement a business plan for learning center support;
- Develop and refine a list of candidate projects, particularly to assist with Military Innovative Readiness Training and CWRP opportunities; and
- Pursue additional outreach opportunities in the Southeast Region.

“Today the Marines are saving a few good species, from eight tiny freshwater mussels to the rare, ancient shortnose sturgeon. Dam owners, fishermen, and public officials are working together to permanently restore what was once thought lost forever. And we have only begun.”

*Bruce Babbitt,
Secretary,
Department of the
Interior*

*Removal of the
Rains Mill Dam,
November 1999*

GULF OF MEXICO

This year was busy for the Gulf of Mexico Regional Implementation Team (GMRIT) and the Gulf of Mexico Program (GMP), as they merged into one team. Recognizing the shared goals of improving habitat, public health, water quality, public education, and outreach, the GMP's annual work plan and performance measures will reflect the incorporation of the GMRIT mission and activities. This effort is expected to be completed by early summer 2000. This positions both the GMP and GMRIT to move aggressively towards implementing annual performance goals such as restoring and enhancing coastal habitats, or catalyzing actions that yield cleaner water. The GMRIT Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers, as members of the GMP's Communications Committee, also contributed to developing the annual work plan and performance measures of that committee. Their participation in that committee should serve to keep education and outreach efforts prominent.

In 1999, following the lead of the Gulf states, the GMP and GMRIT worked to assess the current project needs of the Gulf region's coastal communities. Nearly 300 projects were identified. The GMP and GMRIT partners are now working with the states to identify where to apply the collective technical and/or financial capabilities needed to address their most critical coastal issues.

Partnership-driven Achievements

Two outstanding Texas projects received 1999 Coastal America Partnership Awards. The award-winning Clear Creek Wetland Restoration project was a salt marsh restoration project that beneficially used dredged material, in addition to an innovative seeding technique, developed by USDA/NRCS. Additionally, a corporate partner, Reliant Energy, received a Coastal America Special Recognition Award for their role in the Clear Creek project. The award-winning Shamrock Island Preservation/Restoration Project was a barrier island protection and restoration project that was brought to fruition due to innovative administration by several state, NGO and federal partners.

This past year was also marked by efforts to recover from some of the damage done by Hurricane George. In Louisiana, Breton Island, a barrier island and segment of the Chandeleur Island chain, was restored with dredged material. Cat Island, at the mouth of Mobile Bay in Alabama, was denuded as the hurricane swept over this barrier island. The island is a designated Gulf Ecological Management Site because of its notable history as a nesting site for colonial birds. The fate of the colonial bird-nesting colonies that called the island home was jeopardized until the Dauphin Island Sea Lab championed and worked with several GMP and Coastal America partners to implement a recovery plan.



Dauphin Island dune and wetland restoration site, Alabama

II. Evolving regional efforts through partnerships

“Our beaches are the number two tourist destination in Texas, but we have one of the highest rates of erosion in the United States. Partnerships are the key to an effective response to the very real threats to our beaches, wetlands and marine life.

Shamrock Island is an example of what we can accomplish if we all work together.”

*David Dewhurst,
Texas Land
Commissioner*

*Shamrock Island
Partnership Award
Ceremony,
October 1999*

The Florida Aquarium

The Florida Aquarium proposed restoring an abandoned dredged-material island to naturally functioning habitat representative of Tampa Bay. This will serve as a springboard for an economic development project. The Florida Aquarium, the Tampa Port Authority and several other local interest groups are working to implement this cost share eligible project with the USACE and other Coastal America partners. The Florida Aquarium also hosted the summer meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Communications Committee and organized a panel on the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center network for the Association of Science and Technology Centers conference. Representatives from the GMRIT and the Texas State Aquarium also participated on the learning center panel.



Florida Aquarium

The Texas State Aquarium

The Texas State Aquarium (TSA) held a public event on August 28, 1999 to raise awareness for the Sustainable Seas Expeditions (SSE) into the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS), which took place September 1 – 13, 1999. Over 18,000 people visited the Aquarium during the two-week-long SSE, and 1,500 attended the August 28th event. A full-sized model of DeepWorker 2000 and interpretive graphics were on display. Three submersible pilots, including the Manager of the FGBNMS, were on hand to talk to the public about the upcoming expedition. Local representatives from Coastal America partner agencies set up displays throughout the TSA, including Department of Interior-Padre Island National Seashore; NOAA-FGBNMS; National Marine Fisheries Service; National Weather Service; and USDA-NRCS. U.S. Navy divers demonstrated re-breather equipment during special dive shows. Other conservation groups that participated included Texas Sea Grant, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, and the National Spill Control School. The DeepWorker 2000 model was on display through September 16, 1999. Additionally, a teacher workshop was held on August 24th to distribute teacher guides developed by SSE.

The TSA also conducted other activities in partnership with federal agencies during the year, including an open house for area educators in November that was attended by 200 educators. Tours of the Aquarium and SeaLab Education Building were also offered.

Year 2000 Focus

Over the next several years, the GMP has committed to the goal of restoring or protecting 400 acres of seagrasses and coastal wetlands per year. To help accomplish this goal, the GMP will initiate: (a) 12 Five-Star Restoration projects; (b) 5 Coastal America projects; and (c) 5 Gulf Ecological Management Sites projects in the priority coastal areas, by the end of FY 2000. For more information visit the GMP's web site at www.gmpo.gov.

SOUTHWEST

Since nearly 90% of California's wetlands have been lost due to development, the focus for the Southwest Regional Implementation Team (SWRIT) continues to be the restoration of coastal wetlands. SWRIT members also continued efforts on several large restoration projects in the San Francisco Bay region. Plans are being made to expand the current 1,000 acre Hamilton (Army Airfield) Wetlands Restoration Project with procurement of an additional 1,600 acres of Bel Marin Keys by the California Coastal Conservancy. If approved, the project will greatly increase the restoration area and valuable fish and wildlife habitat. There are also plans to increase the capacity of the project site for beneficial disposal of dredged materials from 10.5 to 33 million cubic yards. Finally, Prospect Island, a 1,200 acre restoration project in the Sacramento Delta, is progressing after a significant delay from flooding during the 1998 - 1999 winter period.

The SWRIT met at Mugu Lagoon in the Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station on October 20, 1999. Discussions were held on how to enhance Mugu Lagoon, an important part of the North American flyway up the west coast, by improving flushing through restoration dredging. In addition, discussions were held on coordinating with the Southern California Wetlands Coastal Recovery Project and utilizing the Military Innovative Readiness Training program.

The SWRIT has endorsed three new restoration projects in southern California. The Ballona Wetlands project will increase tidal flow to 260 acres of wetlands through the construction of a tidegate. The Bolsa Chica (Fieldstone) restoration project is a 42 acre degraded site that is proposed to restore tidal flow with a marked increase in habitat value for fish, invertebrates and waterfowl. The Lower Newport Bay project will establish eelgrass at a number of sites in the Lower Newport Bay in order to develop a valuable, productive habitat providing a support nursery and refuge for a high diversity of plants and animals.

Monterey Bay Aquarium

In 1999, the Monterey Bay Aquarium co-hosted a three day forum with the Pacific Marine Conservation Council on the uncertain status of Pacific Coast rockfish at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. The forum brought together fishermen, scientists and fishery managers to attempt to shape a future that assures healthy populations of West Coast rockfish. The Aquarium also had an award-winning special exhibit, "Fishing For Solutions: What's the Catch?" This exhibit addressed such issues as overfishing, bycatch, coastal habitat destruction and human population growth. Scientific research associated with the Aquarium's "Tag-A-Giant" conservation program, in collaboration with Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station, continued in 1999. This program involves tracking over 200 medium and giant bluefin tuna that were released with archival, acoustic, and pop-up satellite tags off the coast of Hatteras, North Carolina in 1997. Scientists, anglers and charter fishermen worked together to conduct one of the largest bluefin tuna tagging efforts in the Atlantic. The "Tag-A-Giant" project is focused on gathering scientific data that will provide information necessary to solve critical stock structure issues surrounding bluefin tuna. The major objective is to obtain data on the movement and biology of bluefin tunas, to better understand where they go and what they do. "Tag-A-Giant" is designed to be a fun-filled way for anglers to assist researchers in collecting vital data on bluefin tuna while enjoying the excitement of tag and release fishing.



Monterey Bay Aquarium

II. Evolving regional efforts through partnerships

NORTHWEST

At the annual retreat in Bar Harbor, Maine, plans were developed in conjunction with the National Implementation Team to revitalize the Northwest Regional Implementation Team (NWRIT). The team had been inactive since the retirement of the chair from the Air Force. Plans include expanding the membership of the team to include additional federal and state agencies, and developing relationships with local restoration and environmental education groups. It was also recognized that the NWRIT's existing learning center, the Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC), should be included in the revitalization process, and a mechanism for providing continued support to the learning center needed to be established.

The NWRIT worked with Hatfield Marine Science Center to identify federal partners to carry out an estuary/wetland demonstration project that would expand HMSC educational activities on the grounds of the Center. The project would connect the demonstration site with a system of hiking trails being developed in the area. The two-acre site in front of the Center, which is currently made up of dredged fill materials from channel maintenance conducted over the past 50 years, was available to be developed into a mitigated wetland. The project will be done in cooperation with the City of Newport, Oregon, which has a need for a mitigation site as a result of the City's expansion of the sewage treatment plant. The State of Oregon will be involved through the issuance of permits and the USACE could offer assistance through their wetland mitigation planning and implementation processes.

Goldsborough Creek Restoration

Goldsborough Creek is located west of the city of Shelton, about 20 miles from Olympia. The project consists of removing a dam structure and restoring Goldsborough Creek to a more natural gradient which will support more critical habitat features. The project was approved by the USACE as a 206 Restoration Project. The project is currently in design at the Seattle District of the Corps of Engineers. The NWRIT will determine if there is a future role for Coastal America in the project using the USACE 206 process.

Hatfield Marine Science Center

The NOAA VENTS Program has developed the New Millennium Observatory (NEMO) at the Axial Volcano on the Juan De Fuca Plate 200 miles from the Oregon coast. The VENTS Program conducts research on the impacts and consequences of submarine volcanoes and hydrothermal venting on the global ocean. NOAA conducts a research cruise to the site each summer. HMSC in Newport, Oregon was able to place an educator on board the summer 1999 research cruise and maintain an educator at the HMSC in order to bring the day-to-day work and discoveries to HMSC visitors.

The NOAA tank displaying bottom fish is now up and operating. This was a gift from National Marine Fisheries Service to help educate the public about bottom fisheries issues. HMSC completed a collaborative program with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to share an intern between their Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area and HMSC. The intern provided interpretive services with the BLM staff at Yaquina Head and HMSC. The split duties offered the intern a wide variety of activities and excellent support to both facilities.

“Our partnership with Coastal America provides us a unique opportunity to work with the federal agencies to implement educational/outreach program activities and community-based conservation projects. I am especially excited about the opportunity to develop a wetland restoration site here at the Center. This partnership demonstration project will provide a unique opportunity to “showcase” restoration techniques and educate the public on the value and importance of coastal wetlands.”

*Lavern Weber,
Director,
Hatfield Marine
Science Center*

*Northwest and
Alaska Regional
Coastal Ecosystem
Learning Center
Workshop,
October 1999*

ALASKA

In 1999, the Alaska Regional Team (AKRIT) continued to extend the partnership by working on the restoration of anadromous and riparian areas, such as Duck Creek, winner of a 1999 Coastal America Partnership Award, and Chester Creek. The intent of the Chester Creek restoration project is to improve the quality of fish and wildlife resources by replacing the existing culvert and fish ladder system located at the outlet from Westchester Lagoon to Knik Arm with a new structure. In addition to contributing to the restoration of native salmon runs, the project would restore part of the creek to an open channel, return tidal fluctuation to existing wetlands, enhance waterbird habitat, increase recreational opportunities at the creek's mouth, and provide opportunities for education and outreach. The team also explored further partnership opportunities with the State of Alaska and began testing new technologies such as the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Early Warning System (SAVEWS). The SAVEWS was developed by the U.S. Army Engineering Research and Development Center and has been used in other Coastal America collaborations to map several types of vegetation in coastal areas of New England and Oregon. This technology was also used to map eel grass beds in Southwest Alaska. However, the SAVEWS had not been tested on key vegetation types or conditions unique to Alaska waters.



Restored wetland in Duck Creek Watershed, Alaska

Alaska SeaLife Center

Coastal America partners played a vital role in supporting the Alaska SeaLife Center's mission of research, rehabilitation and public education through a number of efforts. For example, Coast Guard vessels and other agencies helped transport stranded marine mammals brought into the Center's wildlife rehabilitation department. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) donated Argos satellite time to help track a female elephant seal that was rehabilitated and released from the Center in summer 1999. Coast Guard helicopters helped transport researchers and technicians to the Chisel Island Steller sea lion rookery, 32 miles south of Seward, where remote cameras and microwave transmitters allowed both researchers and visitors to the Center to observe Steller sea lions by live video feed. National Park Service rangers began working with SeaLife Center educators to develop a curriculum and training program for classroom teachers. NMFS personnel and the SeaLife Center, in partnership with the Girl Scouts, began work on a Girl Scout patch program focusing on wildlife rehabilitation. The program culminated in a workshop through which the girls could develop an appreciation for complexities of the aquatic ecosystem in Alaska, together with balancing the pressures for resource development and conserving that ecosystem, and the responsibility needed to protect, restore and rehabilitate that ecosystem and its inhabitants if necessary.

Year 2000 Focus

Building on the success of the Girl Scout patch program workshop, the AKRIT and Alaska SeaLife Center will next develop an appropriate "Nocturne" (overnight education program) which the Alaska SeaLife Center will be able to use with additional groups. Similar workshops for younger Girl Scouts will also be developed using existing badge programs. The overall objective is to develop a badge program that would specifically address opportunities to combine research, rehabilitation and education. Ultimately, this program will be used by the Alaska SeaLife Center to fill a need in their existing programs on rehabilitation education. The national learning center network will also benefit from this partnership, as it is hoped that this program can be developed and adopted by other CELCs and Girl Scout Councils.

PACIFIC ISLANDS

Previously, the SWRIT was responsible for covering the Pacific Islands region. This arrangement, however, was difficult not only because of the distance between the SWRIT and the Pacific Islands ecosystems they were charged to protect and restore, but also because of the unique ecosystems and needs of the Pacific Islands. Recognizing that many of the Coastal America federal agency partners have offices in Hawaii, it was decided that a separate Pacific Islands Regional Implementation Team (PIRIT) was warranted. A preliminary meeting of PIRIT team members took place in August 1999 in conjunction with a site evaluation for the nomination of the Waikiki Aquarium in Honolulu, Hawaii as a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. The PIRIT surveyed the facility to ensure conformance to Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center criteria. The Federal evaluation team consisted of the Navy, NOAA, Air Force, and Army Corps of Engineers. The PIRIT also had an organizational meeting in October at the Waikiki Aquarium to elect regional co-chairs and to initiate the development of a regional strategy for interagency consultation and actions. The team identified several project opportunities and recommended the Waikiki Aquarium be designated a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center.

GREAT LAKES

Multi-partner activities in the Great Lakes in 1999 were numerous and far reaching. Several restoration projects and numerous studies on the remediation of contaminated sediments are currently in progress in many Great Lakes locations. For example, throughout the Great Lakes a partnership between the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC), USFWS, USGS Biological Resources Division, USACE and the Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada, have been established to control the parasitic sea lamprey plaguing the region. As a result, the GLFC provide the local cost-share for sea lamprey barriers constructed under the USACE 1135 program. Currently, there are over 240 locations that are regularly treated with lampricides. The GLFC has made a commitment to reduce the use of lampricides and to make barriers a desirable alternative for the control of lamprey eels. The construction of barriers is scheduled to begin in 2001 and is expected to continue for many years. In Ohio, the USACE and the Ashtabula River Partnership, a group of over 40 agencies and organizations, are cooperatively working to remediate the contaminated sediments in the Ashtabula River. The estimated \$42 million project will provide appropriate channel depths for commercial navigation, ecosystem restoration and water quality improvements. The final design and plan specifications are expected to be completed in 2001. Because of the cooperative efforts and partnerships with many agencies, organizations and states, there are over 40 environmental studies or projects currently underway in the Great Lakes Region.



Lamprey eel traps

“This award acknowledges the real progress that can be made through “watershed partnerships,” in which the public, industry, state, federal, local and tribal governments work together to improve the recovery of one of Alaska’s most precious resources – water.”

*Fran Ulmer,
Lt. Governor, Alaska*

*Duck Creek
Advisory Group
Partnership
Award Ceremony,
September 1999*

III. NEXT STEPS IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Coastal America has brought together a variety of federal partners in more than 500 projects in 26 states, two territories and the District of Columbia. In addition, Coastal America is collaborating with over 350 non-federal organizations. Working in partnership, Coastal America has been able to restore thousands of acres of wetlands, reestablish hundreds of miles of streams for anadromous fish, reduce sources of pollution, and protect endangered species of fish, birds, and mammals.

While these accomplishments are remarkable and noteworthy, the Coastal America partners realize that this is only the beginning of what can be accomplished with renewed energy, proper guidance, and direction as we step into the new millennium.

NEW INITIATIVES AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Coastal America is working on three new exciting initiatives that will help the Partnership move forward into the new millennium and make a significant difference in how business is conducted in the future. These initiatives will provide greater opportunity for private sector support and military involvement in protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems and improving the effectiveness of the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center network.

National Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership

The Gillette Company and the National Association of Manufacturers are working with the federal office of Coastal America to create the National Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP). The Partnership expands a program initiated in Massachusetts in 1999 by the Gillette Company, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The National CWRP is a voluntary public-private partnership in which corporations join forces with federal and state agencies to restore wetlands and other aquatic habitats. The partnership also includes local communities, non-profit organizations, and academia. The CWRP's objective is to stop and reverse the degradation of America's fresh and saltwater wetlands and other aquatic habitats.

In the CWRP, corporations contribute to a participating private foundation or state trust fund. These funds will be used to support site-specific wetland or other aquatic habitat restoration projects. These funds will generally be matched by federal dollars. The match will vary by project, but in general, every CWRP dollar invested will result in up to four dollars of habitat improvement. Projects approved by Coastal America will receive funds from CWRP, and federal agencies will assist in their proper execution. Corporate financial commitment to join CWRP is flexible. The program is designed to serve the interests of large and small companies.

The CWRP organization is structured to mirror Coastal America's national, regional and local team structure. Corporate partners may choose to participate in the national corporate advisory council, regional advisory councils and/or state advisory boards. Non-profit partners will be involved at all levels of the CWRP. Non-profit partners include environmental organizations, community groups and academia.

Military Involvement

Coastal America has included military involvement in the partnership from its inception. The Department of Army, for instance, was one of the original four founding partners in Coastal America. The Navy and Air Force joined in 1992. Although military involvement is not new, the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program provides new energy and increased commitment to use the military in performing many of the projects. These opportunities are realized through an innovative attempt to identify and link military training needs with coastal ecosystem restoration needs. Through the IRT program, each of the military services, both active and reserve units, can fulfill numerous hours of required training while performing much needed environmental project work within their local communities. The Regional Implementation Teams have a tremendous opportunity to tap into this extensive resource and expertise as they implement their regional strategies. Several projects have already been accomplished to date using the military. Nonetheless, this is one of the greatest under-utilized resources. With this in mind, Coastal America is identifying and assembling a list of potential environmental projects in which the military could be used to

“The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership reflects Gillette's long-standing commitment to the environment. Gillette has worked with federal and state agencies on innovative, facility-based public-private partnership programs. With the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, we are taking our environmental commitment beyond our facilities into the community to restore our vital wetlands.”

*Dr. A. Wallace Hayes,
Vice President for
Environmental Affairs,
The Gillette Company*

*Massachusetts
Corporate Wetlands
Restoration
Partnership Event,
May 1999*

assist with carrying out military missions and responsibilities (e.g. military training opportunities). In order to support this new military initiative, Coastal America has recently added a Military Liaison to its staff. DOD has activated an Air Force reserve officer to organize this initiative, facilitate the pairing of appropriate projects with military units, identify needs, and examine potential funding sources.

Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers

Increasing the general public's awareness of, and involvement in, protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems remains the major purpose of the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center network. In addition, the learning center evaluation conducted in 1999 identified numerous ways the partnership between federal agencies and learning centers could be improved. As charged by the Coastal America Principals, implementing these recommendations will be a priority in the new millennium. The recommendations fall into a variety of categories:

Designation Criteria. For example, Regional Implementation Teams should document their commitment and capacity to adequately support their existing learning centers in addition to any prospective new learning centers in their region.

RIT Support. For example, the RITs should periodically include a learning center session in their team meetings to identify joint project opportunities and learning center needs for federal agency assistance.

Coastal America Office Support. For example, the Coastal America Office should focus on organizing regional learning center workshops, tracking agency commitments, publicizing model programs, and “marketing” the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center network.

Learning Center Networking. For example, the learning centers should share successful programs, work together to address common priorities, and develop and deliver a national coastal protection message.

Effectively implementing these recommendations in the next few years will involve Coastal America partners at all levels.

Summary

In conclusion, there is tremendous opportunity for greater cooperation and collaboration to accomplish some of the most important work in this nation, i.e., protecting, restoring, and enhancing coastal ecosystems. The Coastal America Partnership has a proven track record for getting the most out of federal programs and it will continue this great legacy of environmental stewardship and restoration on behalf of the American public.

COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS



Preserving and Restoring Our Coastal Heritage ... For Future Generations

*The ultimate aim
of each learning
center is to
facilitate public
awareness of
critical coastal
issues and to
encourage
involvement in
activities that
benefit coastal
ecosystems.*

COASTAL AMERICA

COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS

ALASKA SEALIFE CENTER
P.O. Box 1329
Seward, AK 99664
(907) 224-3080
www.alaskasealife.org

IGFA FISHING HALL OF
FAME AND MUSEUM
300 Gulf Stream Way
Dania Beach, FL 33004
(954) 924-4335
www.igfa.org

HATFIELD MARINE
SCIENCE CENTER
2030 South Marine Science Drive
Newport, OR 97365-5296
(541) 867-0257
www.hmsc.orst.edu

NATIONAL AQUARIUM IN
BALTIMORE
Pier 3; 501 East Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-3194
(410) 576-3850
www.aqua.org

MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM
886 Cannery Row
Monterey, CA 93940-1085
(831) 648-4800
www.montereybayaquarium.org

NY AQUARIUM
Boardwalk at West 8th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11224
(718) 265-3400
www.wcs.org

TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM
2710 North Shoreline Boulevard
Corpus Christi Beach
Corpus Christi, TX 78402
(361) 881-1200
www.texasstateaquarium.org

MYSTIC AQUARIUM
55 Coogan Boulevard
Mystic, CT 06355-1997
(860) 572-5955
www.mysticaquarium.org

THE FLORIDA AQUARIUM
701 Channelside Drive
Tampa, FL 33602
(813) 273-4000
www.flaquarium.net

THE NEW ENGLAND
AQUARIUM
Central Wharf
Boston, MA 02110-3399
(617) 973-5200
www.neaq.org

*Coastal America
puts the
federal
agencies on the
same team ...*

FEDERAL PARTNERS

Executive Office of the President

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

Department of Agriculture

Farm Services Administration (FSA)

Forest Service (USFS)

National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Department of the Air Force

Department of the Army

Army Reserves

Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Department of Defense

Department of Energy

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Minerals Management Service (MMS)

National Park Service (NPS)

Geological Survey (USGS)

Department of the Navy

Navy (USN)

Marine Corps (USMC)

Department of Transportation

Coast Guard (USCG)

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)

Maritime Administration (MARAD)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

General Services Administration

Marine Mammal Commission

National Science Foundation

COASTAL AMERICA NON-FEDERAL PROJECT PARTNERS

Accomack County, VA
Al Rodrigues and Associates
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
Alameda County Flood Control District
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Alaska Discovery Foundation
Alaska Plant Material Center
Alaska Science and Technology Foundation
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
All-Russia Research and Institute for Hydrology and Engineering Geology
American Littoral Society
Americorps
AMTRAK
Anchorage Waterways Council
Anita C. Light Estuary Center
Anne Arundel Community College
Aquarium for Wildlife Conservation, NY
Aquidneck Island Land Trust
Aransas Warehouse Services, TX
Arete Construction
Armand Bayou Foundation, TX
Associated Scientists of Woods Hole
Association of Fishery Guides, FL
Astoria High School
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Aquidneck Island Land Trust
Audubon Society

Baldwin County, AL
Bates College
Bay Keeper
BCDC
Bellingham Conservation Commission
B J Services, TX
Boy Scouts of America
Brevard County Mosquito Control District, FL
Brookline Conservation Commission
Brown County Harbor Commission

CalFed
California Coastal Conservancy
California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Transportation
California Environmental Protection Agency
California Plant Society
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
California State Parks
California Wildlife Conservation Board
Cal Poly SLO University
Camden County Parks Department
Canadian Lamprey Control
Canaveral Ports Authority
Captain Ted Appell Tour Boats, TX.
Cardinina Power Light Company
Carolina Power and Light
Casco Bay Corporation
Center for Marine Conservation
Centex, Inc. TX
Champion International
Channel Construction Corporation

Chesapeake Bay Commission
Chesapeake Bay Trust
City and Borough of Juneau
City and County of Honolulu
City of Hampton Wetlands Board, VA
City of Hayward
City of LA
City of Miami
City of Monterey–City Parks
City of Norfolk
City of Norfolk Wetlands Board
City of Quincy
City of Savannah, GA
City of Seattle, WA
City of Shelton
City of Soldotna, AK
City of Tampa
City of Toledo, OH
City of Warrenton
Clatsop County
Coastal Bend Bays Foundation
Coastal Conservation Association
Coastal Research Laboratory
Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society and Volunteers
Cockroach Bay User's Group
College of William and Mary
Commissioner, Port of Astoria
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
Connecticut Department of Transportation
Conoco, Inc., Corpus Christi District, TX
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association
Cooperating Chemical Industries
Cornell Cooperative Extension
CREST
Culebra Human and Social Services Center

Dauphin Island Sea Laboratory
Dave Howell, Contractor
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation
Department of Environmental Protection
Department of Fish & Game
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Transportation and Facilities
Derrick Construction, Inc. TX
Dillard University
Don Howell Contractor
Duck Creek Homeowners
Ducks Unlimited
Duke Energy Corporation

E & B, Rockport Area Stores, TX
Earth Tech
East Bay Regional Park District
East Harris County Manufacturing Association, TX
East Walpole Civic Association
Environmental Solutions Corporation

Fish America Foundation
Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Florida Advisory Council on Environmental Education
Florida Aquarium, FL
Florida - Bay County School System
Florida - Dade County Department of Natural Resources
Florida Department of Education
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

*... working with
state agencies,
local organizations,
private industry
and public interest
groups.*

Florida Department of Forestry
 Florida Department of Natural Resources
 Florida Game and Freshwater Fisheries
 Florida-Gulf County
 Florida Inland Navigation District
 Florida Marine Institute
 Florida Marine Patrol
 Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI) of the Bureau
 of Marine Research of Florida
 Florida Marine Resources Council
 Florida Parks Department
 Florida Sea Grant
 Florida St. Johns Water Management District
 Fort Steven State Park
 Friends of Saint Andrew State Park
 Friends of Saint Joe Bay
 Friendswood Development Company

Galveston Bay Estuary Program
 Galveston Bay Foundation, TX
 Gastineau Guiding
 General Electric
 Geo-Marine
 Georgia Department of Natural Resources
 Georgia Department of Transportation
 Georgia Environmental Policy Institute
 Georgia Land Trust Service Center
 Georgia Ports Authority
 Girl Scouts of the United States of America - Susitna
 Council
 Goldbet Incorporated
 Golden Gate Chapter of Audubon Society
 Gordon College, MA
 Grand Bay Development
 Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary
 Great Lakes Fishery Commission
 Great Lakes Power
 Great Meadows Farm
 Guam Clearinghouse, Bureau of Planning
 Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources
 Guam Environmental Protection Agency
 Gulf Coast Association of Soil and Water Conservation
 Districts (SWCD), TX
 Gulf County, AL

Halibuton Inc., TX
 Hampden Water District
 Hanelei River Hui
 Hanna Construction
 Hanover County
 Harford Community College
 Harford Technical High School
 Harlingen County, TX
 Hatfield Marine Science Center
 Hayward Area Recreation and Park District
 Hayward Shoreline Planning Agency
 Heart of Maine Resource Conservation and Development
 Area
 Hewitt Foundation
 Hidalgo SWCD, TX.
 Hillsborough Community College
 Hillsborough County Environmental Lands Acquisition
 and Protection Program (HCELAPP)
 Hillsborough County Environmental Protection
 Commission
 Hillsborough County, FL
 Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Department
 Hillsborough County Road and Street Department
 Hillsborough County Storm water Design Section of the
 Hillsborough County Engineering Hollywood Marine,
 Inc., TX
 Houston Concrete Products, TX
 Houston Port Authority, TX

Houston Power and Light Company, TX
 Hudson County Parks Department
 Huna Totem Corporation

Indian River County, FL.
 Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, FL
 Interagency Ecological Program
 International Game Fish Association Fishing Hall of
 Fame and Museum
 International Union of the Conservation of Nature
 Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
 Izaak Walton League

Jacksonville Ports Authority
 Jay Bludworth Company, TX
 Jefferson Parish, LA.
 Jekyll Island Authority
 Jewell Public School
 John Jones, Contractor
 Jones River Watershed Association
 Juneau Public School
 Juneau Trot Unlimited
 Juneau Youth Services

Kenai Peninsula Groundwater Task Force
 King County, WA
 King Fisher Marine Services, Inc.

Lake Erie Office
 Lake Puckaway Rehabilitation District
 Laurel Marcus and Associates
 Lewis Environmental Services, Inc.
 Long Island Sound Program
 Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
 Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Maine Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission
 Maine Council Atlantic Salmon Federation
 Maine Department of Environmental Protection
 Maine Department of Inland Fisheries
 Maine Department of Marine Resources
 Marianas Audubon Society
 Marine Environmental Research and Training Station
 Marineland
 Marine Mammal Commission
 Marine Resources Council of East Florida
 Maryland Department of Environmental Regulatory
 Administration
 Maryland Department of Natural Resources
 Maryland Port Administration
 Massachusetts Bays Program
 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
 Massachusetts Department of Transportation
 Massachusetts of Marine Fisheries
 Massachusetts DFWELE
 Massachusetts EOTC
 Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
 Massachusetts of Coastal Zone Management
 Massachusetts Office of Wetlands Restoration and
 Banking
 Maumee Resource Conservation and Development
 Maumee Soil and Water Conservation District
 McAmis Industries
 Mendenhall Rotary Club
 Mendenhall Valley Partnership
 Metro Transportation Commission, CA.
 Metropolitan District Commission
 Miami-Dade Public Works Department
 Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Authority
 Michigan Department of Natural Resources
 Mid-Atlantic Salmon Commission
 Mississippi Bureau of Marine Resources
 Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

Mobile County, AL
 Mohegan Tribe, CT
 Monroe County, NY
 Monterey Bay Aquarium, CA
 Monterey Parks Department, CA
 Montgomery County Government, MD
 Morgan State University
 Muckleshoot Tribe, WA
 Municipality of Anchorage
 Mystic Marine Life Aquarium, CT.

Nanakuli High and Int. School
 Nani 'O Wai'anae
 Narragansett Bay Program
 Narragansett Indian Tribe
 National Aquarium in Baltimore, MD
 National Audubon Society
 National Capitol Planning Commission
 National Fish and Wildlife Administration
 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
 Native American Project
 New England Aquarium
 New England Interstate Water Pollution and Control
 Commission
 New Hampshire Coastal Zone Management
 New Hampshire Department of Environmental Science
 New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, Urban
 Forestry Center
 New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
 New Hampshire Jackson Estuarine Laboratory
 New Hampshire OSP Coastal Program
 New Hanover Conservancy
 New Hanover County
 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
 New York Aquarium for Wildlife Conservation, NY
 Ninigret Tribe, RI
 North Carolina Adopt-A-Trail Program
 North Carolina Coastal Foundation
 North Carolina Department of Transportation
 North Carolina Department of Environment
 North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and
 Natural Resources
 North Carolina Department of Environmental Protection
 North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural
 Resources
 North Carolina Division of Forest Resources
 North Carolina Division of Water Resources
 North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission
 North Carolina Natural Heritage Program
 North Carolina Public Utility
 North Carolina Sea Grant Program
 North Carolina State University Extension
 North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
 Northeast MA Mosquito Control and Wetlands
 Management District
 North Slope Borough, Barrow, AK
 Northwest Florida Water Management District
 Northwest Power Planning Council

Ocean Club Development Corporation
 Odyssey Contemporary Maritime Museum Foundation
 Ohio Cooperation Extension Services
 Ohio Department of Natural Resources
 Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
 Ohio State University
 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Oregon Department of Forestry
 Oregon Division of State Lands
 Oregon State Department of Fish and Game
 Oregon State Department of Parks
 Oregon Wetlands Joint Venture
 Oro Loma Sanitary District
 Outer Banks Community Foundation

Pacific Educational Resources Director
 Palm Beach County Department of Environmental
 Resources Management
 Palm Beach County, FL
 Peninsula Design and Engineering Inc.
 Penobscot County Soil and Water Conservation
 Penobscot Fly Fishers
 Penobscot Indian Nation
 Penobscot Salmon Club
 Port of Corpus Christi Authority, TX
 Port of Fernandina, FL
 Port of Houston
 Port of Seattle, WA
 Port of Umpqua, OR
 Potomac River Fisheries Commission
 Project Seahorse
 Public Service Electric and Gas
 Puerto Rico Conservation Foundation
 Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources
 Puerto Rico Trust
 Puget Sound Water Quality Authority, WA
 PVT Land Company

Quinnipiac River Watershed Partnership

Raymond Dugat Company, TX.
 Reliant Energy Company
 Rhode Island Aviation Heritage Foundation
 Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council
 Rhode Island Department of Transportation
 Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
 Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife
 River Ratz, Bass Master's Club
 RKK Engineers
 Rod and Gun Club
 Ropp Crop Management Services
 Rutherford High School

SAD 22/Reeds Brook Middle School
 Saint Andrew Bay Resource Management Association, FL
 Saint Andrew State Recreation Area, FL
 Saint Johns River Water Management District, FL
 Saint Lucie County, FL
 San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development
 Commission, CA
 San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
 San Francisco Water Quality Control Board
 Sandollar Pavilion Marina, TX.
 Sangus River Watershed Council
 Santa Barbara Natural History Museum
 Sea Oats Garden Club
 Sea World
 Seaside High School
 Sharon Conservation Commission, MA
 Sheinberg Associates
 Shell Oil Spill Litigation Settlement Trustee Committee
 Shiner, Moseley and Associates Inc.
 Simpson Timber Company
 Sonoma Land Trust, CA
 South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources
 Department
 South Florida Water Management
 South Florida Water Management District
 Southdown Corporation, TX
 Southeast AK Guidance Association
 Southeast Conference
 Southeastern NC Waterman's Association
 Southwest Florida Water Management District
 Southwest Florida Water Management District
 Squaxin Indian Tribe
 State of California
 State of Florida
 State of Maine

State of New Hampshire
State of North Carolina
State of Wisconsin
Stilliguamish Tribe, WA
Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force
Superbear Grocery
Suquamish Tribe
Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM)

Tangier Island
Tangier Island Waterman
Tangier Stewardship Initiative
Tampa Bay National Estuary Program
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Tampa Baywatch
Terrene Institute
Texas A&M University
Texas Audubon Society
Texas Bureau of Economic Geology
Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife
Texas Department of Public Transportation and
Highways
Texas General Land Office
Texas Soil and Water Conservation District
Texas State Aquarium
Texas Waterway Operators Association
Textron Marine, Inc. TX.
The Florida Aquarium
The Gillette Company
The Nature Conservancy
The Student Conservation Association of America
Tidewater Chapters of the American Fisheries Society
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority
Town of Glen Cove, NY
Town of Brookhaven
Town of Hampden
Town of Hampton, ME
Town of Ispwich
Town of North Hampton, NH
Town of Pensaukee
Town of Pittsford, NY
Town of Plymouth
Town of Rye
Town of Saugus
Town of Stetson
Trinity Bay SWCD, TX.
Trout and Salmon Conservation Foundation
Trout Unlimited
Trustees of Reservations

University of Alaska Southeast
University of Colorado, Institute of Arctic and Alpine
Research

University of Florida
University of Guam, Marine Laboratory
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts
University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina
University of Puerto Rico
University of Rhode Island
University of Tennessee
University of Virginia
University of Western Ontario
University of Wisconsin

Veazie Salmon Club
Village of Key Biscayne
Virginia Committee for Innovative Technology
Virginia Council on the Environment
Virginia Division of Game and Inland Fisheries
Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Virginia Shoreline Erosion Advisory Services
Volusia County

Waianae High School
Warrenton High School
Water Quality Board
Washington Department of Ecology
Washington Department of Fisheries
Washington State Department of Wildlife
W.C. Reese Contracting Co.
Weyerhaeuser Corporation
Whataburger, Rockport Store, TX
Wilderness Society
Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Yak-Tat Kwaan Tribal Council
Yale University
Yard Doctor Landscapes
Youth and Adult Volunteer Groups