



DOI'S Oceans and Coastal Newsletter
From Continental Divide to Continental Shelf

Dear Members of DOI's Ocean and Coastal Community:

With the goal of enhancing cooperation between DOI bureaus, *NewsWave* is a forum to share news, information, and upcoming events related to ocean and coastal issues. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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Upcoming Meetings

*****NEW*** DOI Ocean and Coastal Calendar**

Top Story

USGS Antarctica Research Cruise

On April 18, 2008, USGS scientists Kathy Scanlon and Dann Blackwood set sail out of Puntas Arenas, Chile onboard the icebreaker R/V Nathaniel B. Palmer for a 37-day research cruise in the Drake Passage and the Scotia Sea, between Chile and Antarctica. They are doing multi-beam mapping, deep-towed camera work, and dredging for cold-water corals. The main objectives of the cruise are to map cold-water coral habitats and sample living and fossil corals for paleo-oceanographic and biologic studies. For more information, photos, and daily updates, visit the cruise web site: [http://censeam.niwa.co.nz/outreach/nathaniel b. palmer](http://censeam.niwa.co.nz/outreach/nathaniel_b.palmer)



USGS Underwater Microscope Featured in Tech Museum Exhibit

An underwater-microscope exhibit will open May 2 at the Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose, California, featuring a patented system that USGS scientists David Rubin and Hank Chezar developed to collect and analyze electronic images of sediment grains on a riverbed or seabed. Using a high-definition video camera housed in a custom-built case, both provided by the USGS, the museum has produced an interactive exhibit in which visitors lower the camera onto trays of different sand samples, many provided by the USGS, that include quartz sands, coral sands, and volcanic ("black") sands. USGS patented system transfers data to the museum's projector, which projects a large image of the sand grains onto a nearby wall. A docent will oversee the exhibit and explain the underwater microscope's scientific uses. For more information, contact Hank Chezar, hchezar@usgs.gov.

NPS participates in Town Hall Forum on Ocean Acidification

On March 4, the NPS participated in a town hall forum, along with NSF, NASA, NOAA, and the Woods Hole Ocean Carbon, Biogeochemistry Program at the 2008 Ocean Sciences Meeting in Orlando FL to discuss a vision for a national interagency program on Ocean Acidification. Implementing such a program will require monitoring and research, particularly in areas such as national parks and refuges which were set aside for conservation and visitor enjoyment. Ocean Acidification, or the reduction in global oceanic pH caused by rising atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations, is a rapidly emerging issue that has garnered considerable interest from government agencies, the scientific community, and coastal managers. Over the next century, surface ocean pH is expected to decline approximately 0.4 pH units, which corresponding to a 40% increase in acidity. Current research is demonstrating that slight changes in ocean chemistry can negative impact shell formation for a number of marine organisms and ultimately affect some of the most fundamental biological and geochemical processes of the sea.

For more information on Ocean Acidification visit <http://www.ocean-acidification.net/> or read the USGS article at <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=1847>.

NPS Forms Ocean and Coastal Resources Branch (OCRB)

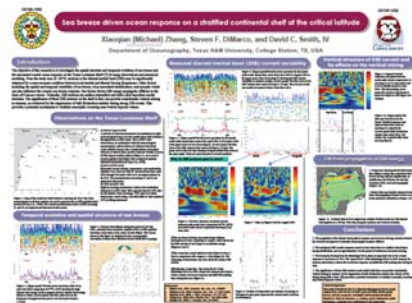
In 2007, the NPS formed an Ocean and Coastal Resources Branch (OCRB) within its Water Resources Division to coordinate, broker, and provide technical and policy assistance to ocean and coastal national park units around the country. Currently staffed by a marine management specialist in Washington DC and an acting branch chief in Lakewood CO, the NPS is in the process of hiring a permanent branch chief and a marine pollution ecologist. Despite its small size,



the new OCRB is working on a large number of projects including coastal condition assessments, estuarine restoration projects, oil spill response, recreational vessel management, and other types of technical assistance. A goal of the OCRB is to improve communication throughout the NPS about ocean and coastal topics via regular conference calls, newsletters, and email updates to other NPS central offices, parks, regions, and inventory program networks. With increased attention and communication about these issues, the NPS's management of these sensitive areas should become increasingly effective. For more information, please contact Julia Brunner, Acting Ocean and Coastal Resources Branch Chief, at 303-969-2012 or [julia f brunner@nps.gov](mailto:julia_f_brunner@nps.gov).

MMS Contributes to Science and Education

Xiaoqian Zhang, a Ph.D. student in Oceanography at Texas A&M University (TAMU) won the "Outstanding Student Presentation" award at the 2008 [Ocean Sciences Meeting](#) in Orlando, Florida, March 2-7. The research was funded by the MMS Environmental Studies Program as part of a study on coastal air-sea coupling at critical latitudes. Zhang's presentation titled "Sea breeze driven ocean response on a stratified continental shelf at the critical latitude" described the spatial structure and temporal evolution of sea breeze and the associated coastal ocean response to sea breeze on the Texas-Louisiana Shelf.



Click on image to view full size poster

His research showed that the ocean response depends significantly on a number of factors including the characteristics of sea breeze, river associated stratification, latitude, and coastal and bathymetric curvature. Other MMS-funded research were also presented at the meeting including research on deepwater currents in the Gulf of Mexico and research on the use of offshore sand for Louisiana coastal and barrier island restoration. The Louisiana research is conducted through the long-standing and highly regarded MMS Coastal Marine Institute partnership with Louisiana State University.

The Ocean Sciences Meeting is co-sponsored by the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, the American Geophysical Union, The Oceanography Society, and the Estuarine Research Federation.

FWS and NPS Employees Participate in White House Easter Egg Roll

On Monday, March 24, President and Mrs. Bush hosted the annual White House Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn of the White House. The Egg Roll has a long history dating back to 1878 when President Rutherford B. Hayes officially opened the White House grounds to local children on Easter Monday. Successive Presidents have continued the tradition of inviting children to the White House Lawn for egg rolling and other activities and entertainment. This year the live entertainment included the pop-rock band the Jonas Brothers, Mickey Mouse, and several other stage performers. There were also activities to highlight this year's educational theme, "Ocean Conservation". Numerous



DOI employees participated in the event serving as ocean ambassadors. The NPS presented the children with Junior Ranger Badges while the FWS handed out the Shorebirds Super Heroes Activity Book and endangered species tattoos. Jason Goldberg of the FWS entertained the children with ocean themed magic.



Upcoming Meetings around the Nation

NPS Ocean and Coastal Resources Branch Workshops: The OCRB of the NPS is collaborating with the USGS in an interagency marine mapping workshop, scheduled for June 3-5, 2008 in Lakewood, CO. The purpose of this workshop will be to discuss data-acquisition and classification schemes that appear to hold the most promise for consistent application during a long-term NPS marine benthic habitat mapping effort covering various types of environments. OCRB is also working with NOAA to hold a NOAA-NPS workshop, with the ultimate goal being the development of an overarching interagency agreement between the two agencies that will facilitate NOAA's support of parks, networks, and regions. The date for this workshop is tentatively scheduled for May 2008.

20th Salt Water Intrusion Meeting: June 23-27, Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club - Naples, Florida, USA <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/SWIM>. USGS is cosponsoring this meeting. The purpose is to provide a forum for scientists, engineers, water resource managers, and planners to share their research, ideas, and recommendations. Meeting topics include: field studies of saltwater intrusion; geochemistry; geophysics;

management of coastal aquifers; submarine groundwater discharge; optimization modeling; effects of sea level rise and climate change.

11th International Coral Reef Symposium: July 7-11 at the Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida USA. The world's major coral reef science meeting, sanctioned by the International Society of Reef Studies, is held every 4 years. The ICRS is devoted to the best reef science available, with the purpose of sharing scientific findings with government agencies, resource management, and non-government organizations throughout the world. The previous ICRS was held in Okinawa in 2004. Cosponsors of this year's event include: DOI, FWS, MMS, NPS, USGS, OIA, and NOAA. For more information go to <http://www.nova.edu/ncri/11icrs/index.html>.

Second Symposium on The Ocean in a High-CO₂ World: October 6-9, 2008 at the Oceanographic Museum in Monaco with the esteemed patronage of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an interdisciplinary forum to assess what is known about ocean acidification and to identify priorities for future research. The symposium will include both invited and contributed presentations (oral and posters). For more information visit: <http://www.highco2world-ii.org/main.cfm?cid=975>

Sincerely,

Kameran Onley
Assistant Deputy Secretary

Chris Kearney
Deputy Assistant Secretary

To submit a story for next month's NewsWave contact bret_wolfe@fws.gov. Suggestions and comments are also welcome. We are also producing a DOI Oceans calendar to be accessed via the DOI oceans [website](#). Please forward details of any upcoming meetings or events concerning ocean, estuarine, or coastal issues.

To learn more about the ocean and coastal activities of the participating agencies visit their websites:



Department of Interior



U.S. Geological Survey



National Park Service



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Minerals Management Service



Office of Insular Affairs



Bureau of Land Management



DOI Ocean and Coastal Calendar – events, meetings, workshops, and other important dates