



**DOI Ocean Update**  
***From Continental Divide to Continental Shelf***  
August 2007  
[DOI Ocean Link](#)

Dear Members of DOI's Ocean and Coastal Community:

Secretary Kempthorne has announced that Kameran Onley will assume responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science. Kameran has been Assistant Deputy Secretary of the Interior since January 2006, serving as the principal advisor to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary on environmental policy issue and currently serves as the Interior's principal member of the Interagency Committee on Ocean Science and Resource Management Integration. In her new position, Kameran will continue to serve, with Chris Kearney, as the lead for Interior's Senior Ocean Policy Team.

**NEWS WAVE**

**World Ocean Day at the Georgia Aquarium:** The Georgia Aquarium packed a full house during its first World Ocean Day celebration on June 8. Along with FWS, several



conservation organizations such as the Georgia Conservancy, the National Wildlife Federation, the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources participated in the event. One of the themes of the event was invasive species and FWS utilized the *Habitattitude* exhibit to help educate the public about the dangers of discharging unwanted plants and animals in the environment. The exhibit educated the attendees about the dangers of invasive species in the environment. To learn more, visit: <http://www.habitattitude.net>

**ENHANCING OCEAN LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION**

**Ocean Park Strategic Plan:** The National Park Service, Northeast Region, released its Strategic Plan to implement the Director's ocean park Stewardship Action Plan. The [Northeast Region Ocean Park Strategic Plan](#) will serve to lead the Region's coastal parks toward implementation and achievement of the broad goals of the President's US Ocean Action Plan and the Ocean Park Stewardship Action Plan – enhanced marine resource conservation through science, management and protection, restoration, education, and

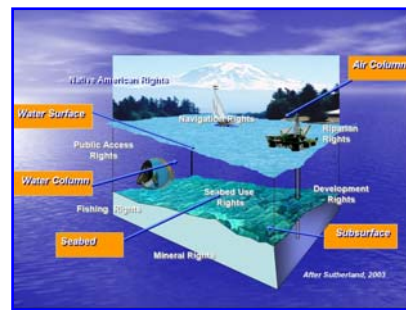
partnership. The Strategic Plan identifies specific goals and action items associated with four major topics:

- Establish a seamless network of ocean parks, sanctuaries, refuges and reserves
- Discover, map, and protect ocean parks
- Engage visitors and the public in ocean park stewardship
- Increase technical capacity for ocean exploration and stewardship

In addition to releasing the plan several action items within it have already been completed, including the establishment of a NER Ocean Park Web Site. To learn more, visit: <http://www.nps.gov/nero/oceans/>

## **ADVANCING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF OCEANS, COASTS, AND GREAT LAKES**

**Multipurpose Marine Cadastre:** MMS has been working with the Federal Geographic Data Committee Marine Boundary Working Group to develop a Multipurpose Marine Cadastre, a digital map showing the Outer Continental Shelf and waters surrounding the United States, but with a difference. This digital map will eventually combine data from all the federal agencies connected to or involved with the OCS and coastal waters surrounding the U.S. Most agencies with marine responsibilities have integrated maps and computer assisted record systems specific to their responsibilities, but there is not a single system for widespread integration of this information. The Multipurpose Marine Cadastre will provide this integration. To learn more, visit: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg/> or to become involved and participate in the MMC and Digital Map Initiative projects contact Steve Kopach, [Stephen.Kopach@mms.gov](mailto:Stephen.Kopach@mms.gov).



## **ADVANCING OCEAN AND COASTAL PARTNERING**

**Gulf of Mexico Alliance:** As you know, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance is a partnership by the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, with the goal of significantly increasing regional collaboration to enhance the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. The Alliance recently met with the Federal team to discuss the status of the workplan and reported that 93% of the work items are either in progress or complete. ICOSRMI principles have been invited to meet with the Gulf State Governors to discuss the next phase of the Alliance at the Southern Governors Association's meeting in Buloxi, Mississippi.

**NOAA Partners With U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service To Help Sharks Keep Their Fins:** FWS and NOAA have joined forces to expand their ability to analyze dried shark

fins and identify the species from which they were removed. This new partnership will support efforts to curtail shark finning, the practice of removing a shark's fins at sea and throwing the carcass overboard, which is prohibited in federal waters of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. The shark fin identification research will be performed by the [NOAA Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research](#) in Charleston, SC, and by the [USFWS National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory](#) in Ashland, OR.

**Partnering to Research Right Whale Abundance and Habitat Use:** MMS has completed an interagency agreement with the National Marine Mammal Laboratory to perform environmental research concerning the distribution, relative abundance, and habitat use of the endangered North Pacific right whales in the Bering Sea, north of the Aleutian Islands. The research, costing about \$5 million, is planned to begin this summer and continue over the following three-and-one-half years. The cooperative research on the right whales is expected to provide information for the environmental impact assessment of the proposed oil and gas development. MMS will also work with the National Marine Fisheries Service and other interested parties in protecting living resources while facilitating energy resource development.

**The Seamless Network of Ocean and Coastal Parks, Sanctuaries, Reserves, and Refuges:** The Ocean Action Plan calls on DOI's National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries and National Estuarine Research Reserves to coordinate and better integrate the existing network of marine managed areas. The actions to coordinate among marine managed areas are referred to as the "seamless network" initiative. A number of regional workshops are being planned at the local and regional level to assist site managers with identifying priorities for partnership projects and collaborations, with assistance from the national multi-agency team. Currently Seamless Network workshops are being planned for the Gulf of Maine, the Long Island Sound/New York/New Jersey Bight area, and southern Florida peninsula. For more, contact [Cliff\\_McCreedy@nps.gov](mailto:Cliff_McCreedy@nps.gov) and/or [Andrew\\_Gude@fws.gov](mailto:Andrew_Gude@fws.gov).

## **ENHANCING THE USE AND CONSERVATION OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCES**

**National Park Service Opens B-29 Site to Escorted Technical Divers for Six-Month Trial Period:** NPS has awarded two companies limited Commercial Use Authorizations (CUAs) for guided technical scuba diving at the B-29 site, where the remains of a downed World War II vintage bomber are located in the Overton Arm of Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Working with one of these companies on an escorted dive is the only way qualified technical divers can dive the B-29 site during this initial six-month trial period. The National Park Service has worked with its Submerged Resource Center since 2003 to do a full condition assessment, site documentation, additional inventory work and analysis (including corrosion studies) on the plane in its current setting. To learn more, visit: <http://www.nps.gov/archive/lame/station/news/03-69.html>

## **OTHER NEWS**

**Ocean and Coastal Mapping Workshop:** The Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IWG-OCM) as established by the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST) is sponsoring a workshop with the goal of creating an inventory of completed and projected ocean and coastal mapping activities and a clearinghouse for data and interpretive information that will reduce duplication of efforts and enable cooperative activities between Federal, State, and local agencies. The workshop will be held in Charleston, South Carolina on September 11-13, 2007, and is being hosted by NOAA Coastal Service Center. The IWG-OCM inventory is a response to the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and OMB Circular A-16. To learn more, visit: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/iwg/> or for further information contact Steve Kopach at [Steve\\_Kopach@mms.gov](mailto:Steve_Kopach@mms.gov).

**Coastal Zone 2007:** The Department of the Interior was well represented at Coastal Zone in Portland Oregon July 23 – 26, 2007. Deputy Assistant Secretary Chris Kearney attended many of the sessions in his role of SIMOR co-chair. Interior agencies Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Minerals Management Service helped to sponsor the event and had exhibits and speakers during this conference attended by coastal and ocean managers from around the United States. Each of the Interior agencies was recognized at the concluding luncheon with plaques accepted by representatives of each agency. Highlights of the conference included plenary speeches by Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, the Administrator of NOAA who mentioned MMS in his remarks, the Honorable Leon Panetta and Honorable William Ruckelshaus and an achievement award to Retired Admiral James Watkins the Chair of the U. S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

**Creation of a DOI Oceans Calendar:** An Oceans Events calendar is being developed which will highlight and assist in promoting ocean related topics and we would like to include any and all events and activities. Please submit any relevant upcoming programs to [Leonard\\_Pace@fws.gov](mailto:Leonard_Pace@fws.gov).

In an ongoing effort to share ocean and coastal program related activities among bureaus, we continue to offer the DOI Ocean Update. We welcome your feedback and ask for suggestions on items to include in future newsletters. Please contact [Leonard\\_Pace@fws.gov](mailto:Leonard_Pace@fws.gov) with any suggestions.

Sincerely yours,

***Kameran Onley***  
Assistant Deputy Secretary

***Chris Kearney***  
Deputy Assistant Secretary