



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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## Top Story

### **2009 DOI Budget to include \$7.9 Million for Oceans and Coastal**

**Frontiers Initiative:** President Bush is proposing \$7.9 million to launch a Department of the Interior initiative to help protect ocean and coastal resources through unique partnerships to clean up marine debris, conserve coral reefs, improve ocean science and map vital areas of the U.S. extended continental shelf. This increase is part of the Department's overall contribution of \$956 million to implement the Ocean Action Plan in 2009.



“Marine ecosystems are neither inexhaustible nor indestructible. They are vulnerable natural resources that need our coordinated and concerted care,” Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne said in unveiling the initiative on February 4, 2008. “By working with state, regional and international organizations, we can better manage and protect ocean areas, coral reefs, barrier islands, bays, deltas and wetlands. We can reduce the spread of aquatic diseases. And by doing that, we can help protect communities, economies and wildlife that depend on these resources.”



Interior has extensive ocean and coastal responsibilities, managing more than 35,000 miles of coastline, 1.8 billion acres of seabed on the Outer Continental Shelf and sharing oversight with other federal agencies of millions of square miles of Exclusive Economic Zones, including those surrounding U.S. Territories in the Pacific and Caribbean. In addition, the Department manages 177 island and coastal refuges and 74 marine or island parks, covering 34 million acres of land and 92 million acres of coral reef ecosystems. For the complete story visit: <http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/oceanfr.html>

You can also download the budget details at:

<http://www.doi.gov/budget/2009/09Hilites/DH065.pdf>

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### **Brown Pelican to be Removed from the Endangered Species List:**

Secretary Kempthorne celebrated the [brown pelican's](#) remarkable recovery from the brink of extinction by formally proposing to remove the remaining protected populations of the bird along Gulf and Pacific coasts, and in the Caribbean, and Central and South America from protection under the Endangered Species Act. “Thanks to decades of coordinated efforts on the part of state and federal agencies, conservation organizations and

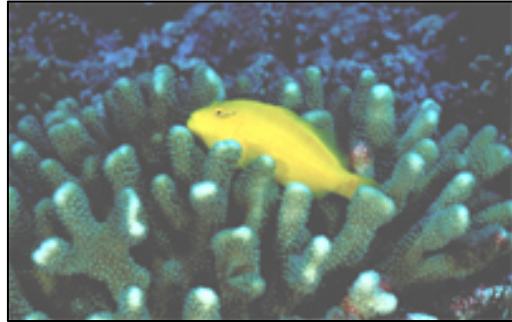


private landowners, the pelican has rebounded to historic levels” said Kempthorne. For the complete story go to:

<http://www.fws.gov/home/feature/2008/pdf/BrownPelicanFINALDOIFWSV2.pdf?newsId=C67EC573-DB8D-000A-DC4BE8736767495D>

### **DOI Museum Introduces New Exhibit on Coral Reefs:**

To coincide with the [International Year of the Reef](#), the DOI Museum is featuring a new exhibit *Coral Reefs: Imperiled Habitats of the Sea* set to run from Jan. 18 to Aug. 8, 2008. The Department of the Interior, along with the Department of Commerce, co-chairs the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force that was established by Presidential Executive Order 13089 “to preserve and protect the biodiversity, health, heritage, and social and economic value of U.S. coral reef ecosystems and the marine environment” in the waters of the United States and internationally. For more details and visiting hours visit the museum’s website at: [www.doi.gov/interiormuseum](http://www.doi.gov/interiormuseum).



### **Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Recommended for Inclusion as World Heritage Site:**

On January 22, Secretary Kempthorne announced his recommendation to include [Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument](#) as a World Heritage Site. This 1,200-mile-long string of islands and adjacent waters represents the most remarkable example of island and atoll formation in the world, provides critical habitat to a wide array of threatened and endangered species, and includes many unique Polynesian cultural sites. Designated as a monument in 2006, it is jointly managed by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State of Hawaii. Emerging in 1972 from 17<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Heritage List encourages the identification, protection and preservations of both cultural and natural locations judged to be of significant value to future generations of the world. The concept of World Heritage means that the sites belong to all peoples of the world, irrespective of nationality.

To see the U.S. places presently listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites visit:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/worldheritage/list.htm>

Link for the press release:

[http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/New\\_Tentative\\_List.htm](http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/New_Tentative_List.htm).

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## **MMS Working with West Coast States and Local Communities on Offshore Alternative Energy:**

The Minerals Management Service continues its outreach along the West Coast to inform and gain insight into local perspectives regarding the agency's Alternative Energy Program. MMS recently joined government agencies, industry, fishing interests, and the public in a one day public forum on wave energy in Fort Bragg, California. The agency participated in a panel to discuss the status of the MMS Alternative Energy program. Other panel members included a representative from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the California Coastal Commission, and the California State Lands Commission. The day-long event included panels on Ocean Resource and Marine Issues, Wave Energy Technologies, and Community Involvement. Representative Thompson (D-CA) worked with the City of Fort Bragg and the County of Mendocino to arrange for and host the one day public forum.



The MMS also participated in an offshore alternative energy panel with representatives from FERC and the States of Washington, Oregon, and California at the Western Regional Coastal Managers Meeting held in San Francisco, California. The meeting was attended by representatives from NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) and the coastal management programs in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii. To learn more about MMS's alternative energy program, go to <http://www.mms.gov/omm/public/AEAU-Facts.pdf>

## **MMS Announces Preliminary Nominations for Limited Alternative Energy Leases on the Outer Continental Shelf:**

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has received 43 nominations for offshore alternative energy resource assessment and technology testing activities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The nominations were received in response to an announcement by MMS in the *Federal Register* on November 6, 2007.

Most of the nominations received on the Atlantic Coast are for meteorological and oceanographic data collection facilities that would support wind generation projects off Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia. Nominations for areas off Florida focused on ocean current information collection and technology. On the Pacific Coast, the main interest is in wave energy, and nominations were received off California, Oregon and Washington. Regarding Alaska, the single nomination received is for Cook Inlet and relates to tidal power.

“We look forward to enabling the interested companies to gather information that will lay the groundwork for generating power for regional and national use in a safe, clean, and environmentally responsible manner,” said Luthi. See the press release at:

<http://www.mms.gov/ooc/press/2008/press0122.htm>

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## **Upcoming Meetings around the Nation**

**U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting:** February 26-29, Baird Auditorium, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History - Washington, DC. Marking ten years of collaborative research, management, and conservation of coral reef ecosystems the USCRTF will assess their collective efforts and accomplishments, highlight remaining needs and challenges, and begin to develop a foundation for a renewed commitment to action.

<http://www.coralreef.gov/>

**Strategic Action Plan Workshop on Ocean and Coastal Mapping:** February 26-28, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping is hosting a workshop to support the development of a National Ocean and Coastal Mapping Strategic Action Plan which will address Ocean and Coastal Mapping issues and recommendations. The workshop will bring together key individuals from federal agencies, non-federal partners and stakeholders to frame a Strategic Action Plan designed to expand, improve and/or develop (a) coordination and partnerships; (b) data collection, availability, dissemination, interoperability, and standardization; and (c) products and tools required of ocean and coastal geospatial data users.

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/iwg/>

**Ocean Education Workshop:** March 25-26, Quincy Marriot Hotel - Boston, Massachusetts. National Park Service staff is conducting a two-day workshop focused on interpreting critical natural resource issues related to ocean education. Invited speakers will share effective interpretive programming, partnership strategies, and examples of integrating research into interpretive programs for the public. Featured programs include: Channel Islands Live (<http://chil.vcoe.org/>); junior ranger programs on cruise ships within Glacier Bay; strategies for establishing and communicating about Marine Protected Areas; and cultural history case studies. This training is provided by the Natural Resource Program Center and participants will be able to apply through DOI Learn. Contact: Lynne Murdock, NRPC Interpretive Liaison, 202-513-7195

**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. Papers must be submitted online via the meeting web site no later than February 1. Registration early deadline is March 7, fees increase afterwards.

**11<sup>th</sup> 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. Previous ICRS have been held in Okinawa (2004), Bali (2000), Panama (1996), Guam (1992), Australia (1988), Tahiti (1985), the Philippines (1980), Miami (1977), Australia (1974), and the 1st ICRS in India (1969). Cosponsors of this year's event include: DOI, FWS, MMS, NPS, USGS, OIA, and NOAA.

For more information on the ICRS conference go to:

<http://www.nova.edu/ncri/11icrs/index.html>

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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](mailto: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.

Click on logos to link to participating DOI bureau websites:

