



OFFICE OF OCEAN & COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

highlights

The OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (OCRM) provides national leadership, strategic direction, and guidance to State and Territory coastal programs and estuarine research reserves. OCRM also contributes to the global community through its work with coral reefs and marine protected areas.

From administering the Coastal Zone Management Act and assisting States in managing the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, to providing science and information for the management of the Nation's system of marine protected areas and supporting effective management and sound science to protect coral reef ecosystems, during fiscal year 2008, OCRM provided the national policy leadership, science, and expertise needed to maintain our Nation's coastal resources.

COASTAL & ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM PROTECTS OVER 8,000 ACRES

Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) staff continued to work closely with coastal State and local partners to protect high-priority coastal land. In FY 2008, more than 8,000 acres of critical coastal habitat were acquired or put under conservation easement for long-term protection through the CELCP. In total, more than 30 properties were protected with CELCP funding in approximately 15 states through grants to state or local governments. Many of these projects were completed in partnership with non-governmental conservation organizations. Five new CELCP projects, which will help protect coastal watersheds in Maine, Alaska, California, New Hampshire, and New York, were also selected to receive a total of more than \$10 million in funding. CELCP was created in 2002 to protect coastal and estuarine lands considered important for their conservation, recreation, ecologic, historic, or aesthetic values.



PROTECTING COASTS THROUGH COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

OCRM awarded \$67.5 million to State and territory coastal zone management programs to implement their State coastal zone management and coastal non-point source pollution control programs. The National Coastal Zone Management Program is a partnership between OCRM and coastal States and Territories to effectively protect and manage the Nation's coasts. Through the Coastal Zone Management Program, OCRM assists State programs to engage in comprehensive planning and community development and other activities to protect and restore habitats, mitigate hazards, protect water quality, and enhance public access to coastal areas.

NERRS CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System celebrated the 10th anniversary of the NOAA Graduate Research Fellowship program in 2008. Since its inception in 1997, the fellowship program has awarded more than \$5 million in stipends to nearly 250 Masters and Doctoral students to conduct research projects at the 27 estuarine reserves around the country. Fellows have studied a wide range of topics, from invasive species and non-point source pollution to the economic impacts of rising sea levels in coastal communities.

FUNDING NEW TOOLS FOR COASTAL MANAGERS

The Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) is a partnership between OCRM and the University of New Hampshire to develop, demonstrate, and implement tools for coastal managers to use to detect, prevent, and reverse the impacts of coastal pollution and habitat degradation on coastal ecosystems and communities nationwide. In 2008, CICEET funded 13 teams under the Living Coasts Program, which was created to help coastal areas grow in a way that preserves water quality, protects natural areas, and improves community resilience. CICEET also provided funding to evaluate the costs and benefits of alternative shoreline erosion protection alternatives, test an early-warning system for harmful algal blooms on the Texas coast, test the use of geotextile mats to cap and stabilize pollutants in coastal waters, and evaluate the ability of storm-water treatment systems to treat water quality and manage water quantity.

MPA CENTER BEGINS DEVELOPMENT OF OCEAN USES ATLAS

NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas Center, in partnership with Marine Conservation Biology Institute, received funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation for the California Ocean Uses Atlas Project. This public-private partnership fills an increasingly critical information gap in ocean management by documenting the full range of important human uses of State and Federal waters off California. The resulting Atlas maps illustrate the location and intensity of consumptive, non-consumptive, and industrial ocean uses and will help guide ocean planning and management by State, Federal, and regional organizations, including California's Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries, and the West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health. Four Ocean Uses Atlases will be produced for areas along the California coast between January and September of 2009.

NOAA ACTIVITIES PROTECT CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS

The NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP), part of OCRM, received over \$29 million to support activities to conserve, manage, and understand coral reef ecosystems in the United States and around the world. The funding allowed NOAA to implement over 150 projects within the agency, fund four coral reef research institutes, and provide over \$11 million in grants for additional external projects. In 2008, CRCP released a roadmap to set forth the program's direction for fiscal years 2010-2015, focusing on coral reef management needs to address the impacts of fishing, land-based sources of pollution, and climate change. CRCP also led activities for the International Year of the Reef, to raise awareness of the importance of coral reef ecosystems; released a report to Congress on deep-sea coral research by NOAA and partners; and offered training to help reef managers from around the world address coral bleaching and conduct socioeconomic monitoring of coral reef ecosystems.

coastalmanagement.noaa.gov

