

National Coastal Management Program News

- October 2007 -

MASSACHUSETTS'S LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT (LID) WORKING GROUP	1
RHODE ISLAND PROMOTES URBAN WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION THROUGH ITS METRO BAY SAMP	2
PLANNING FOR BOATING ACCESS AND RESOURCE PROTECTION IN FLORIDA	3
U.S. DISTRICT COURT REMANDS DOC SECRETARY'S OVERRIDE OF CONNECTICUT FEDERAL CONSISTENCY OBJECTION.....	4
NOAA SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR WALTER B. JONES AWARDS	4
GUAM RECIEVES FULL APPROVAL OF ITS COASTAL NONPOINT PROGRAM.....	5
SPECIAL SECTION: MARINE DEBRIS.....	5
CALIFORNIA'S 23RD COASTAL CLEANUP DAY.....	5
MAPPING AND REMOVAL OF POST-HURRICANE MARINE DEBRIS IN MISSISSIPPI	6
NOAA'S MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM.....	7

Massachusetts's Low Impact Development Working Group

The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (MA CZM) coordinates an innovative public-private partnership, "The Low Impact Development (LID) Working Group." The Working Group, now with more than 100 members, continues to grow and includes representatives from: local, state, and federal agencies; conservation organizations and watershed associations; private law, planning, and engineering firms; developers and landscape architects; regional planning agencies; the University of Massachusetts; the University of New Hampshire; the Massachusetts Home Builders Association; and the Massachusetts Association of Realtors.

The LID collaborative has enabled members to pool resources to address LID issues more effectively. The group has also been very successful in connecting those with funding and expertise to those with implementation strategies.



Municipal officials, developers and engineers toured one of many new raingardens installed in Cohasset, MA during an LID training workshop held by the North South Rivers Watershed Association.

As one of its first tasks, the Working Group developed a "LID Wish List," consisting of projects, tools, and resources that would be useful in furthering LID efforts thorough the state. They also identified what was already being done to address these needs and what remained to be done. This simple effort had big dividends. Within months, LID Working Group members were applying for (and receiving) grants to complete projects to address the gaps they had identified.

The MA CZM and the LID Working Group co-sponsored over 14 LID Workshops to educate a wider audience about the LID projects and associated outreach materials and technical guidance documents that were produced during this effort. The workshops, which relied heavily on local officials, pro-bono technical experts, and developers to deliver the message to their peers, reached over 1,000 elected officials and development industry representatives. To further promote communication and collaboration among the LID Working Group members, MA CZM sends regular email reports to the group to keep them updated on LID activities happening across the state and holds regular monthly meetings.

The collaboration and communication facilitated by the LID Working Group has led to many other successes as well. Dozens of communities have adopted LID ordinances. Numerous LID projects, many which received national awards, have been completed throughout the coastal zone. Massachusetts has also developed an extensive outreach packet, including: a Massachusetts LID DVD; a CD with case studies, brochures, and model bylaws; as well as fact sheets on nine LID practices, guidance manuals, and a LID project map for self-guided tours. Massachusetts also held its first LID Conference and Vendor Exhibit for the building and realty industry that was co-sponsored by the Home Builders Association of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Association of Realtors. The conference was a great success, surpassing the 330 attendance limit. Future initiatives include: a state-wide portal LID website; LID summits with the largest urban developers; and a second annual LID Conference targeting “Big Box” retail stores and office parks.

For more information on low impact development in Massachusetts visit www.mass.gov/czm/smartgrowth/lid/index.htm or contact Andrea Cooper at Andrea.Cooper@state.ma.us.

Rhode Island Promotes Urban Waterfront Revitalization through its Metro Bay SAMP

The Metro Bay area, comprised of the cities of Cranston, East Providence, Providence and Pawtucket at the northern end of Narragansett Bay, is a former industrial hub for the region. However, over the years, the waterfront area along this region has become outdated and underutilized. With the help of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC), the cities are now acting to make the region a more appealing place to live and work by improving the economic, social, and environmental resources of the working waterfront; attracting major developers with more predictable and efficient permitting; and providing recreation and access to the water.

To achieve these goals, the CRMC is coordinating with the cities, government agencies and community organizations to prepare a special area management plan (SAMP) for the Metro Bay area. The Metro Bay SAMP will provide a functional framework for future environmentally and economically sensitive redevelopment within the SAMP boundary, encompassing most of the waterfront in the four cities.

One key effort of the Metro Bay SAMP has included establishing an Urban Coastal Greenway (UCG) policy, a new regulatory approach for coastal vegetative buffers in the urbanized environment of northern Narragansett Bay. The UCG provides a mechanism to redevelop the urban waterfront of the Metro Bay region in a way that integrates economic development with expanded public access along and to the shoreline, as well as the management, protection and restoration of valuable coastal habitats.

For example, the policy establishes buffer width, vegetation, and public access standards, and requires

low impact development techniques to manage stormwater. However, the UCG also provides for increased flexibility compared to Rhode Island's standard buffer regulations. It established four different urban greenway zones (residential zone, area of particular concern zone, inner harbor and river zone, and development zone). Each zone has its own buffer standards. In addition, the UCG allows development to reduce the greenway width in return for site or coastal resource enhancements such as improved public access or habitat conservation.

The Urban Coastal Greenway policy is a vital part of the ongoing update of the Metro Bay SAMP, and will serve as the impetus for billions of dollars of redevelopment in the four cities. The policy will allow for a more predictable, flexible process for developers wanting to redevelop these former industrial areas while enhancing public access and protecting coastal resources.

For additional information on the Metro Bay SAMP and the Urban Coastal Greenway policy visit www.crmc.state.ri.us/samp/metrobay.html or contact Laura Ricketson-Dwyer at lricketson@crmc.ri.gov.

Planning for Boating Access and Resource Protection in Florida

Florida leads the nation in recreational boat registrations and nearly one quarter of the nation's recreational boating activity takes place in Florida. Boating is an integral factor in the society and economy of Florida. However, due to a rapidly growing population and increased demands for waterfront development, the state is facing critical issues with access to the waterways and user conflicts on the waterways.

Florida's growth management policies are considered some of the most comprehensive in the country. While protocols are well established for community planning on the land, linking surface water use and waterfront access elements into local growth management plans is a novel practice. The Florida Coastal Management Program, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Sea Grant Program are teaming up to provide state and county planners with an array of informational tools to assist in long range planning for adequate access to and protection of local waterways.



Congestion and user conflicts are becoming more common on Florida waterways.

The foundation for this process is a recreational boating characterization by county or regional waterway system. A map based questionnaire serves as a structured process for boaters to provide information about themselves, their boating preferences, and their travel patterns on the water. Results of the questionnaire are then analyzed to incorporate information about waterway infrastructure, natural resources, existing waterway and urban growth estimates. The analyses are used to produce maps and models allowing local governments to incorporate both boating activities and in-water resource protection into their growth management plans.

Recreational boating characterizations have been collaboratively implemented in eight coastal counties during the past six years. For additional information or copies of technical reports please contact Bill.Sargent@myFWC.com.

U.S. District Court Remands DOC Secretary's Override of Connecticut Federal Consistency Objection

On August 15, 2007 Judge Stefan R. Underhill of the U.S. District Court in Bridgeport, CT overturned the Secretary of Commerce's (Secretary) 2004 decision to override Connecticut's objection to the proposed Island East natural gas pipeline. The case was remanded to the Secretary for further consideration.

Islander East LLC has proposed building a 45-mile long underwater natural gas pipeline from Branford, Connecticut to Yaphank, Long Island. Twenty-two miles of the pipeline would be located on the Connecticut side of Long Island Sound. In 2002, Connecticut's Coastal Management Program objected to the pipeline pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). The State found that the project would degrade water quality and adversely impact wetlands and shellfish beds. On appeal to the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary overrode the State's objection finding, among other things, that the project was consistent with the objectives of the CZMA, and that the national interest in the project outweighs any adverse coastal effects. Connecticut subsequently appealed the Secretary's decision to the U.S. District Court. In its recent decision, the District Court found that: (1) conclusions found in the Secretary's decision were not supported by evidence in the record of the CZMA appeal particularly in regards to the alleged temporal impacts on shellfisheries; (2) the Secretary did not adequately consider whether reasonable alternatives existed that would have allowed the proposed pipeline to be located adjacent to an existing pipeline; and (3) certain inadequacies in meeting the notice and comment requirements for CZMA appeals occurred.

This case is one of only a few legal challenges to a Secretarial consistency appeal determination under the CZMA. According to news reports, Islander East is planning to appeal Judge Underhill's decision to the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, which is already considering Islander's challenge to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's second denial of a 401 Water Quality Certificate for the Islander East pipeline. Connecticut had initially denied Islander East's 401 certificate in 2004 also based on shellfish and habitat impacts, but this denial was overturned by the Second Circuit and remanded to the agency. For additional information, contact Sue Jacobson at Susan.Jacobson@po.state.ct.us.

NOAA Seeking Nominations for Walter B. Jones Awards

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is seeking nominations for the 2008 Walter B. Jones Memorial Awards for Coastal and Ocean Resource Management. Innovation, resourcefulness, and a commitment to balancing the human use of America's coastal and ocean resources with the needs of the resources themselves are the hallmarks of the awards.

As part of the 1990 reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act, then-chair of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, the late Honorable Walter B. Jones, Sr., provided NOAA authority to



2005 Jones Award Winners

honor individuals and organizations whose work reflects the innovation and balance needed to maintain a healthy coast for present and future generations. The award categories are:

- Coastal Steward of the Year
- Excellence in Local Government
- Excellence in Coastal and Marine Graduate Study
- The Susan Snow-Cotter Award for Excellence in Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
- Volunteer of the Year
- Non-governmental Organization (NGO) of the Year
- Excellence in Promoting Diversity in Coastal or Ocean Resource Management
- Excellence in Business Leadership

The program is open to individuals, organizations, state and local government agencies and their employees. Entries must adhere to the strict submission and judging criteria and must be received by November 15, 2007. Winners will be notified in early February 2008 and honored at a ceremony in Washington, DC, later in the month.

For nomination information visit: oceanservice.noaa.gov/programs/ocrm/jones-noaa-awards.html or e-mail Patmarie Nedelka at jonesnoaa.awards@noaa.gov.

Guam Receives Full Approval of its Coastal Nonpoint Program

On September 26th, NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency, fully approved Guam's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program. Guam is the 19th coastal state or territory to receive full approval for their Coastal Nonpoint Program. Congratulations Guam!

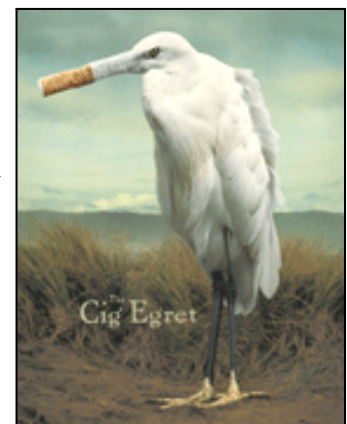
Special Section: Marine Debris

Marine Debris is a threat to the marine environment. In 2006, volunteers from 68 countries picked up 7 million pounds of trash during the September coastal clean-up focusing international attention on the problem of marine debris. Marine Debris, especially plastics, harms wildlife through ingestion, entrapment and entanglement and can contain potentially harmful chemicals. The following section explores activities undertaken by some state coastal management programs to address marine debris as well as NOAA resources available.

California's 23rd Coastal Cleanup

For the 23rd year, the California Coastal Commission sponsored and coordinated California's Coastal Cleanup Day. The Coastal Commission worked with county coordinators in 48 of the state's 58 counties. The Coastal Commission is working to expand the coastal cleanup to include all inland counties. Over the years, coastal cleanup results have shown that 60-80 percent of the trash found on the beach comes from inland sources, highlighting the importance of removing and reducing trash in inland waterways.

The Coastal Commission works with private and nonprofit sponsors to increase the visibility and size of the event. This year Whole Foods Market was a presenting sponsor, providing both financial support and volunteers.



The Cig Egret campaign reminds people that trash is not a native species.

Whole Foods Market ran several events to help promote Coastal Cleanup Day. On June 19th, five percent of all profits statewide, about \$170,000, were donated to the cleanup. In July, every Whole Foods Market asked its customers to vote on the local site they most wanted cleaned up. Whole Foods Market volunteers cleaned up each winning site on coastal cleanup day. Other organizations also provided advertising and financial support such as GAIAM who held a free sunrise yoga class at Ocean Beach in San Francisco where later, an estimated 1,000 volunteers gathered to collect trash.

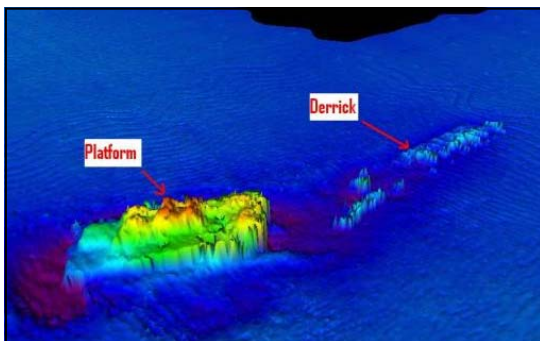
This year, with 70 percent of areas reporting, 45,443 volunteers collected 429,890 pounds of trash and 69,881 pounds of recyclables. The Commission gave \$50 gift certificates for the most unusual items found, which included a litter of puppies (they were made available for adoption), an empty safe that had been blown-open, and a bottle full of beetles. Also, the City of Concord held a competition to see who could pick up the most cigarette butts, with the winner picking up over 3,500 butts. Cigarette butts comprise over 40 percent of the trash collected and last year over 400,000 butts were picked up. The Coastal Commission has developed a campaign and poster featuring an egret with a cigarette butt for a beak, to draw attention to the effects of cigarette butt debris.

Besides California's Coastal Cleanup Day, The Coastal Commission also has several other efforts underway to promote clean beaches throughout the state. Some of their other efforts include: an Adopt-A-Beach program in every coastal county, with an effort to expand the program to inland waterways; and a partnership with the California Ocean Protection Council to reduce the amount of plastic entering the ocean by looking at better ways to recycle products and other materials.

For more information visit www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/ccd.html or contact Ashley Elliot at aelliott@coastal.ca.gov.

Mapping and Removal of Post-Hurricane Marine Debris in Mississippi

The Mississippi coast includes 80 miles of coastline and hundreds of acres of coastal marshes and nearshore water bottoms that, following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, were littered with debris. The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has led the state's efforts to rehabilitate coastlines, marine habitats, and coastal waters.



Side scan sonar images of debris.

Impaired by tons of debris, these areas were unable to function as essential habitat for important commercial and recreational fisheries such as shrimp, crab, and finfish. In addition, marine debris off the Gulf coast and in coastal waterways posed a serious hazard to vessel traffic and commercial fishing gear. Early on, Mississippi recognized the importance of incorporating rehabilitation of their critical marine resources into the recovery efforts on land and began forming key partnerships to identify and address marine debris.

Accurate mapping of marine debris was an important first step toward recovery of the coastal zone. Beginning in September 2006, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) began conducting underwater surveys off the coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama to locate and map marine debris. This information is used to direct ongoing debris removal efforts. The NOAA Gulf of

Mexico Marine Debris Project recently launched its official project website containing hydrographic survey data and maps of surveyed areas.

As accurate information became available locating hazardous marine debris, the state was able to begin removal projects. The Mississippi DMR partnered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Coast Guard, and other agencies in 2006 to effectively use \$230 million to remove marine debris. The partnership has completed several projects, already removing over 230,000 cubic yards of marine debris in the three coastal counties, from mean-high tide to four miles into the Mississippi Sound.

The government-led projects have been supplemented by the efforts of thousands of local volunteers and fishermen. The annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup has had a big impact on marine debris removal from coastal areas. Cleanups in 2006 and 2007 each attracted over 3,200 volunteers that picked up a total of over 58 tons of trash along 147 miles of coastal waterways and barrier islands.

Commercial crab and shrimp fishermen have also worked with the Mississippi DMR to remove debris from marine habitats. Earlier this year, the Mississippi DMR and the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory contracted with 45 Mississippi resident commercial crab trap fishermen to remove a total of 9,862 derelict crab traps from Mississippi's marine waters.

Since the post-Katrina Marine debris removal efforts began, Mississippi has reported one of the best shrimping seasons it has had in years. Continuous efforts through multiple partnerships, even two years after Katrina, remain an important part of the state's long-term vision for restoring one of the Mississippi's most precious natural treasures—the Gulf Coast.

For more information on the NOAA Gulf of Mexico Marine Debris Project visit gulfofmexico.marinedebris.noaa.gov/ or contact Nir Barnea at Nir.Barnea@noaa.gov. For more information on the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup visit www.mscoastalcleanup.org or Lauren Thompson at Lauren.Thompson@dmr.ms.gov.

NOAA Program Spotlight: The NOAA Marine Debris Program

In the United States, as well as other parts of the world, marine debris continues to present a hazard to marine ecosystems, safe navigation, and wildlife. To help address this issue, in 2005, the NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) was created within the Office of Response and Restoration in NOAA's National Ocean Service. The program was formalized on December 22, 2006, when President George W. Bush signed the *Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act* into law. This Act established a centralized marine debris capability within NOAA in order to organize, strengthen, and increase the visibility of marine debris efforts within the agency, its partners, and the public.

The mission of the NOAA Marine Debris Program is to



NOAA Marine Debris Program staff in front of their outreach display at the 2007 Coastal Zone Management Conference in Portland, OR.

support a national and international effort focused on preventing, identifying, and reducing the occurrence of marine debris and to protect and conserve our nation's natural resources, oceans, and coastal waterways from the impacts of marine debris. The MDP does this by promoting research, monitoring, outreach, and reduction efforts.



Staff with the NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center's Coral Reef Ecosystem Division remove derelict fishing nets from Hawaii shores during Main Hawaiian Islands Aerial Survey and Debris Removal Project.

Across the U.S., the MDP works cooperatively with various NOAA offices as well as other marine debris partners to help protect our coastal and ocean environment from the impacts of marine debris. Through these partnerships, the MDP supports projects carried out by state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental agencies, universities, and industry partners. Examples of MDP-supported projects include: a comprehensive assessment of derelict fishing gear and marine debris on the main Hawaiian Islands; mapping and estimating the number and impact of derelict crab pots in the Chesapeake Bay; developing best practices for disposal of tires recovered from critical marine habitat; and research into the impacts of derelict fishing gear on marine species in the Northwest Straits.

The MDP also conducts outreach and education activities across the U.S. to raise awareness of marine debris, and highlight various projects and the program. Recently, the MDP participated in the 2007 Coastal Zone Management Conference in Portland, OR. The program led two conference sessions on marine debris, as well as shared information at their display in the Exhibitor's Hall.

For information on funding opportunities, outreach materials, ongoing projects, to sign up for the weekly MDP reports newsletter, or for more information on marine debris and the NOAA Marine Debris Program, please visit: www.marinedebris.noaa.gov or Carey Morishige at Carey.Morishige@noaa.gov.

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The quarterly *Coastal Management Program Newsletter* was developed in response to state requests for assistance in improved communication/lesson-sharing among the state and territory coastal management programs. Please let us know about interesting things going on in your coastal zone you would like to share with others. If you have any projects that you would like to highlight, please send a brief description to [Allison Castellan](mailto:Allison.Castellan). The submission deadline for the next newsletter is January 4, 2008.