



National Coastal Management Program News

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Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the Coastal Management Program Newsletter. This newsletter has been developed in response to state requests for assistance in improved communication/lesson-sharing among the state and territory coastal programs. NOAA is planning to distribute this newsletter on a quarterly basis.

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](#). The submission deadline for the next quarter's newsletter is April 1, 2007. Thanks to all of the state programs who contributed to this edition.

Ohio's Lake Erie Coast Showcased in New Atlas Publication

In January 2007, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will release the Ohio Coastal Atlas Second Edition, an 11-by-17 inch full-color document that features more than 125 maps showcasing resources in the coastal region. The Ohio Coastal Atlas is an exciting tool that combines geographic information systems mapping capabilities with explanatory text, graphics, pictures and contact sources to produce an easy-to-understand guide to many resources in the Lake Erie Watershed.

Using data and information sources from within the Office of Coastal Management, other ODNR divisions and coastal partners, Office of Coastal Management staff began working in 2004 by assembling text, maps, graphics and pictures. In 2005, the Coastal Office issued a draft First Edition Ohio Coastal Atlas to a limited number of organizations and individuals. While some changes in the second edition Atlas are subtle, nearly 100 pages and entire new sections were added to the second edition to help provide a more accurate and complete representation of Ohio's coastal resources. The 13 chapters in the second edition Atlas cover topics ranging from the Great Lakes, Lake Erie, coastal management, watersheds and lake science to coastal geology, aquifers, sand resources, sand transport, shore structures, habitat, ecology, shipping, transportation, flood hazard areas and outdoor recreation opportunities.

The Atlas is intended to serve as a reservoir of information that will help decision makers in their daily efforts and also provide valuable insight to individuals interested in Lake Erie and Ohio's coast. Coastal staff are hopeful that by giving local decision makers a tool to help them understand how the environment, human activity and economic factors interact, communities will be able to better ensure sound coastal stewardship.

A limited number of the Ohio Coastal Atlas Second Edition were printed and will be distributed. The entire document can be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.ohiodnr.com/coastal/gis/coastalatlasmaps.htm>. To sign up for a DVD copy of the Second Edition Ohio Coastal Atlas, contact the Office of Coastal Management at 419-656-7980 or 1-888-OHIOCMP. Requests can also be made by e-mail at coastal@dnr.state.oh.us.

New Design Guidelines help Maximize Public Access to San Francisco Bay

The San Francisco Bay is a dominant feature of the nine-county Bay Area and provides an environment for many forms of public enjoyment. Over twenty years ago, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) adopted the first edition of its Public Access Design Guidelines to provide the Bay region with a design resource for shoreline development projects. In 2005, BCDC gave the region an updated version that takes into account changes in shoreline recreation, as well as the lessons that the Commission has learned over its 40-year history. The revised document, *Shoreline Spaces: Public Access Design Guidelines for the San Francisco Bay*, takes a fresh approach to helping permit applicants create public access areas that are appropriate for most land uses. From the bustling urban promenades of San Francisco and Oakland to the quiet marshes of the North Bay, the document provides flexible guidance for site-specific shoreline conditions. The handbook uses vivid photographs and simple design principles to inform developers of the Commission's goals regarding public access. In so doing, the document helps foster public support for Bay resource protection and promote stewardship of the San Francisco Bay. To download a copy, visit BCDC's website at <http://www.bcdc.ca.gov/pdf/planning/PADG.pdf>. For more information, contact Brad McCrea at bradm@bcdc.ca.gov.

Maryland and Virginia Host Living Shorelines Summit

The Maryland and Virginia Coastal Management Programs, in partnership with the Maryland and Virginia Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserves and other organizations from the Chesapeake Bay region, sponsored a Living Shorelines Summit December 6-7, 2006 in Williamsburg, VA. The Summit brought together over 150 state and local decision makers and marine contractors from the Bay region to discuss how “living shorelines” (e.g., vegetative plantings coupled with low rock sills) can be viable alternatives to shoreline hardening by effectively reducing shoreline erosion while restoring habitat. The Summit showed that there is great potential for living shorelines but more work is needed to ensure waterfront property owners are aware of this technique as an option early in the decision process. In addition, regulatory and financial incentives would help further promote living shorelines.

As follow up from the Summit, the Virginia Coastal Management Program will continue to implement a new section 309 strategy for shoreline management which includes continued research, outreach, and data acquisition as well as developing a contractor training and certification program for living shorelines and revising their wetlands guidelines to incorporate new guidance on living shorelines. The wetland guidelines are used by the Virginia Marine Resource Commission, local wetlands boards, and others to guide shoreline and tidal wetland management decisions.



Living shorelines, such as the restored marsh and low rock sill in North Carolina, can be used to address shoreline erosion.

The Maryland Coastal Program has since officially launched a new interactive website, [Maryland Shorelines Online](#). The site is a coastal hazards web portal, centralizing information and data on shoreline and coastal hazards management in Maryland. The site works to enhance coordination and understanding of shoreline management processes, regulations, and practices appropriate for maintaining the rich cultural and natural resources associated with the State’s coastal and shoreline areas. The site also offers data distribution capabilities, internet mapping tools, and technical/financial assistance opportunities.

For additional information, contact Audra Luscher at aluscher@dnr.state.md.us or Shep Moon at shep.moon@deq.virginia.gov.

Minnesota and New York Coastal Nonpoint Programs Fully Approved

On December 5th, 2006 OCRM, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency, fully approved New York's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program. New York is now the 18th coastal state or territory to receive full approval of their Coastal Nonpoint Program.

Minnesota, which gained full approval for its Coastal Nonpoint Program on July 27th, 2006 held an approval ceremony in Duluth in October as a tribute to all the individuals and programs that contributed to Minnesota's Coastal Nonpoint Program.

Congratulations to New York and Minnesota!

Rhode Island Adopts New Marina Regulations

In November 2006, the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council adopted new regulations relating to residential marinas. The comprehensive regulations call for more building and expansion standards, and encourage marina expansion outside of tidal waters using incentives. Marinas will also be directed, as a first order of business, to look within their existing perimeters to ensure they have the most efficient layouts before expanding further into tidal waters.

The regulations require a preliminary determination for any marina or dock expansion. The preliminary determination must include an alternative analysis to ensure that the use of public trust waters are the most efficient and protective of the environment. The analysis must also include details such as the appropriateness of the facility and structure given the potential impact on coastal resources and any environmental site conditions; potential navigational, aesthetic and scenic impacts; the extent of any disruption of public use of these lands; and the extent that the public would benefit or suffer from the activity. The new regulations also distinguish marinas by size and location, to provide achievable standards, rather than a one size fits all approach. Another major change in the new regulations is a minimum density requirement, 30 vessels per acre (except in destination harbors), which will make efficient and environmentally protective use of any expansion mandatory.

There are also new specifications for fire prevention systems and electrical installations. The new regulations provide the opportunity to limit the amount of paperwork required if a marina has a "Clean Marina" certification letter issued by the CRMC. The regulations are located on the CRMC web site at http://www.crmc.ri.gov/regulations/programs/section_300_4.pdf. For more information, please contact Laura Ricketson at lricketson@crmc.ri.gov.

Ocean Resources Management Plan: Charting a 30-Year Vision in Hawai'i

In the past year, the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program has worked with numerous groups and agencies to shape an innovative three-perspective framework to update the Hawai'i CZM Program's Ocean Resource Management Plan (ORMP). This framework is accompanied by concrete management goals and strategic actions to address them in five-year implementation phases over the next 30 years.

PERSPECTIVE 1: CONNECTING LAND AND SEA. Strategic actions recommended by the Plan for this Perspective include reducing soil erosion and pollutant loads, developing beach management plans and protecting priority coastal areas and communities from coastal hazards.

PERSPECTIVE 2: PRESERVING OUR OCEAN HERITAGE. Management goals for this Perspective emphasize the improvement of coastal water quality, strengthening of marine protected area management, enhancing the ability of communities to restore and operate Hawaiian fishponds, and promoting sustainable ocean-based tourism.

PERSPECTIVE 3: PROMOTING COLLABORATION AND STEWARDSHIP. This perspective highlights the need for community participation in cultural and natural resources management, and the exploration of place-based approaches including traditional principles of the traditional Hawaiian ahupua`a land division, a system of self-sufficient units extending from the upland to the sea.



Photo courtesy of Kanoa Whittington, Hawaii Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council.

CZM Hawai'i and its consultant developed a draft ORMP and then took it to the public for further feedback in a series of eight statewide meetings on all the main islands. The public comments emphasized the need for inter-agency collaboration and strong funding support for implementation. Citizens also wanted more information on potential impact of a planned inter-island commercial ferry service, and stressed the need for strong enforcement of existing laws.

The new ORMP was submitted to the Hawaii State Legislature in late December and is available online at <http://www.hawaii.gov/dbedt/czm/>. For more information, please contact Doug Tom at DTom@dbedt.hawaii.gov.

New Directions for Public Access in New Jersey

The New Jersey Coastal Management Program has recently completed an interactive coastal access website that provides a map of public access points, including information on facilities and fees for all of New Jersey's Atlantic Ocean beach access sites:

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/cmp/access/>. Work is planned to expand this effort to include river and bay access sites.

Additionally, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection published a proposal that would repeal the existing Public Access to the Waterfront rule and replace it with a new Public Trust Rights rule. The new proposed rule strengthens the existing public access requirements and sets forth specific requirements for Shore Protection Program and Green Acres funding. In addition, a new special area rule is proposed that would protect tidal waterways and their shores and ensure public access to these lands is provided. Highlights of the proposal can be found on the Department's website at: http://www.nj.gov/dep/cmp/access/pa_rule_highlights.pdf. For more information, please contact Ruth Ehinger at Ruth.Ehinger@dep.state.nj.us.

Indiana CZM Dunes Creek Project Received National Award

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be presented with the Award of Excellence by the National Association of Conservation Engineers (ACE) for the Dunes Creek daylighting project it completed in February 2006. "Daylighting" is an industry term for taking a stream that has been routed through a culvert and restoring it to an open channel, thereby exposing it to natural light. This was done to restore the stream's natural character and reduce storm-water runoff. The restored section is located within the Indiana Dunes State Park. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) directed the creek underground and into approximately 1,300 feet of concrete pipe beneath a parking lot. Approximately 500 feet of that stream section was daylighted and restored through this project.



Restored stream channel at Indiana Dunes State Park.

While one of the project goals was to restore Dunes Creek to a more natural look, the main driving force was to take advantage of the resulting water quality benefits. The stream empties into Lake Michigan, adjacent to the Indiana Dunes State Park bathing beach. High fecal coliform levels were occurring throughout the summer, forcing the beach to close periodically. Multiple state and federal agencies studied the issue for years, and concluded that the source of the coliform bacteria was not man made, but the result of runoff washing material from the adjacent woods into the creek during heavy rainfall. In addition to the beach problems, this created recurring erosion and flooding issues for the park. Restoration of the creek offered an opportunity to rectify these problems and improve both water quality and habitat.

This project is showing early signs of success. The newly planted vegetation has begun to grow and stabilize the bank. In addition, preliminary testing already has shown some reduction in coliform bacteria levels, even though experts predicted that it would take at least a year for the biological systems to begin to function as engineered. Ultimately this restoration project should lead to lower bacteria levels at the Indiana Dunes state park beach, and thus fewer days of beach closures. For additional information, please contact Jenny Orsburn of the Indiana CZM program at jorsburn@dnr.IN.gov.

New OCRM Deputy Director

Ms. Donna S. Wieting will be the new Deputy Director of the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), starting in early February 2007. Donna comes to OCRM from the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Protected Resources where she's been the Deputy Director for the past four years. Since coming to the Office of Protected Resources in 1997, Donna has taken a leadership role in a number of areas, including reducing the bycatch of marine mammals in commercial fisheries, addressing the impacts of ocean acoustics on protected species, and serving as the interagency lead for the Marine Mammal Protection Act reauthorization. Donna also spent seven years at NOAA headquarters working on a range of environmental policy issues, including offshore oil and gas leasing, mitigation measures for ballast water exchange, and fisheries conservation and management.



*Donna S. Wieting
OCRM Deputy Director*

- Spotlight on NOAA Resources -

NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) operates and maintains the National Water Level Program. Tidal datums derived from the data observations collected at this network of long-term and shorter-term tide stations have traditionally been used for navigation and shoreline boundary purposes but CO-OPS has recently created the Coastal Oceanographic Applications and Services of Tides And Lakes (COASTAL) Program to expand the uses of data collected to non-traditional applications. The COASTAL Program focuses on marsh restoration projects, beneficial use of dredged material, coastal planning and engineering projects, the effects of sea level rise and subsidence, frequency and duration of inundation analysis, storm tide monitoring, emergency preparedness, and enhancing new technologies for coastal managers.

The COASTAL Program can help provide critical baseline information for the planning and construction phases of marsh restoration projects to ensure that they are designed and engineered properly, as well as important information for monitoring phases. Tidal datum elevations are determined relative to present and future marsh surfaces by establishing a water level station (typically, for at least one year to capture seasonal effects) with a network of local bench marks. Tidal datums are computed, tied to nearby bench marks, and then referenced to geodetic datums, such as the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88). Kinematic GPS surveys of the marsh topography are made enabling the generation of Digital Elevation Models (DEMs), which can display a visual representation of the different datum elevation relationships and different inundation scenarios.

Long-term sea level change, trends and variations are assessed and analyzed to ensure that any sea level rise is appropriately considered in the extended planning and monitoring phases. Changes in land elevation can be simultaneously observed. Also, long-term viability of functioning marshes is dependent upon proper accretion rates and sediment accumulation in response to local sea level rise. Frequency and duration of inundation analyses of the high waters are performed because marsh vegetation is sensitive to the length and frequency of inundation. This information can be used to determine where to appropriately plant the different vegetative species in constructed marshes to maximize their sustainability. Waves and currents are also measured for design of rip rap in areas subject to severe coastal erosion.



Accurately predicting storm surges can help save lives.

Real time data from National Water Level Monitoring System can be used to assist local emergency managers. In St. Charles Parish, the real-time data from the Water Level Monitoring System in Louisiana is displayed on a local Data Acquisition System in the Parish Emergency Operations Center. Emergency managers monitor the data to assess storm surge flooding and use the information for evacuation route decision-making, opening and closing water control structures, and public warnings.

For more information on how the COASTAL Program could assist your state coastal management program contact: Allison Allen at Allison.Allen@noaa.gov or (301) 713-2980 x166 or visit <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov>.

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