



President Obama, Secretary Salazar Announce Framework for Renewable Energy Development on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf

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In an Earth Day speech at a wind turbine tower manufacturing plant, President Barack Obama announced that the Department of the Interior has finalized a long-awaited framework for renewable energy production on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The framework establishes a program to grant leases, easements, and rights-of-way for orderly, safe, and environmentally responsible renewable energy development activities, such as the construction of off-shore wind farms, on the OCS.

“It is fitting that on Earth Day President Obama is taking this bold step toward opening America’s oceans and new energy frontier, so that we can wisely build a clean energy economy that will create millions of new jobs across the country,” Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said. “This new framework will enhance our energy security and create the foundation for a new offshore energy sector that will employ Americans developing clean and renewable energy.”

In addition to establishing a process for granting leases, easements, and rights-of-way for offshore renewable energy



development, the new program also establishes methods for sharing revenues generated from OCS renewable energy projects with adjacent coastal States.

Additionally the framework will enhance partnerships with Federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments to assist in maximizing the economic and ecological benefits of OCS renewable energy development. The Final Framework has been submitted to the Federal Register, and is available at http://www.federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2009-09462_PI.pdf

The Interior Department and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) cleared the way for the publication of these final rules by [signing an agreement](#)

on April 9, 2009 that clarifies their agencies’ jurisdictional responsibilities for leasing and licensing renewable energy projects on the OCS.

Under the agreement, the MMS has exclusive jurisdiction with regard to the production, transportation, or transmission of energy from non-hydrokinetic renewable energy projects, including wind and solar. FERC will have exclusive jurisdiction to issue licenses for the construction and operation of hydrokinetic projects, including wave and current, but companies will be required to first obtain a lease through MMS.

Link to DOI press release: http://www.doi.gov/news/09_News_Releases/04_2209b.html

NPS Employees Awarded Prestigious George Wright Society Awards

The George Wright Society (GWS) is a nonprofit association of researchers, managers, administrators, educators, and other professionals who work on behalf of the scientific and heritage values of protected areas. Imagine Excellence, the GWS Awards Program, recognizes outstanding accomplishments in fields associated with research in, administration and management of, and communication about parks, other kinds of protected areas, cultural sites, and related

supporting activities. The five main awards are given every two years at the GWS conferences.

Kate Roney Faulkner of Channel Islands National Park received the 2009 **GWS Natural Resource Achievement Award**. Faulkner was cited for her leadership, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, to ecologically restore Santa Cruz Island at Channel Islands National Park.

Channel Islands' chief of interpretation, *Yvonne Menard* received the 2009 **GWS Communication Award**. Yvonne received the award for her leadership in designing a public communications strategy to explain the complex issues surrounding ecological restoration within Channel Islands National Park.

We congratulate Yvonne and Kate for their outstanding work and for being honored with this prestigious award.

USGS Studies Sediment Transport at Cape Hatteras, North Carolina

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Coastal and Marine Geology Program in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, is leading an effort to understand the regional sediment dynamics along the coastline of North and South Carolina. As part of the [Carolinas Coastal Change Processes Project](#), scientists are investigating the processes that control the dynamics of sediment transport at Diamond Shoals. During the week of January 9-15, 2009, the research vessel (R/V) *Connecticut* and its five crew members transported USGS personnel to deploy oceanographic equipment at Diamond Shoals.

Tripods were deployed at three sites along the outer perimeter of the shoal. Mounted on the tripods were instruments to measure surface waves, pressure, current velocity, bottom turbulence, suspended-sediment profiles, and sea-floor sand-ripple bedforms; one tripod also held a visual

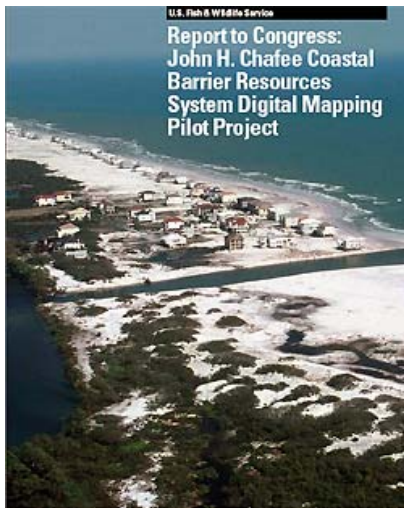
camera system. The measurements will be used to explore the oceanographic and sediment-transport processes responsible for maintaining the offshore sand shoal. The tripods were positioned with guidance from data collected during recent cruises by the USGS Sea Floor Mapping Group in Woods Hole. These data were used to identify locations for tripod deployment and to provide navigational assistance to the vessel during deployment.

Surficial grab samples of sediment were obtained at the deployment locations to determine characteristics of the seabed. The samples will be analyzed by the USGS Sediment Lab in Woods Hole for grain-size distribution, information that is critical to understanding the formation of the shoal and the regional sediment dynamics. For more information please visit <http://soundwaves.usgs.gov/2009/04/fieldwork3.html>



Diamond Shoals off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina

The FWS Seeks to Bring Coastal Barrier Resources System Maps Into Digital Age



On April 7th, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released to the public its *Report to Congress: John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Digital Mapping Pilot Project* and announced the start of a 90-day public comment period. The report, which was directed by the Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-514), highlights the benefits of updating Coastal Barrier Resources System (System) maps with more accurate and precise digital maps to better protect people, coastal areas and natural resources.

The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (Act) established the System in 1982. The Act removes the federal incentive to build on the coastal barriers designated within the System by prohibiting most federal expenditures that promote development, including federal flood insurance. The location and dynamic nature of coastal barriers makes building on them risky because they are susceptible to storm surge and erosion – issues of increasing concern in the wake of global climate change and associated sea-level rise. By removing federal incentives to develop, the Act seeks to minimize

unnecessary expenditure of taxpayer dollars and decrease problematic coastal development that can put human life at risk, decrease the ability of coastal barriers to protect inland areas from flooding by acting as storm surge buffers, and threaten natural resources. The Act does not restrict or regulate any non-federal activity.

The System is comprised of 857 geographic units totaling 3.1 million acres of relatively undeveloped coastal barriers located along the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Great Lakes coasts, as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The report provides a background of the System, presents the challenges associated with the existing maps and the benefits of digital maps, explains digital mapping data needs, outlines the digital mapping protocols and methodology, presents the results of the pilot project including the draft digital maps, and identifies the next steps for comprehensive map modernization. The report includes draft revised maps for 70 units, or approximately 10 percent of the entire System, and a framework for modernizing the remainder of the maps. The 70 pilot project units are located in Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana.

The report concludes that existing System maps are outdated technologically and identified several key issues including:

- The lines on the current maps seldom align precisely with the underlying features they were intended to follow on the ground, resulting in some properties and

projects intended to be eligible for Federal subsidies not being eligible, and vice-versa.

- Modernizing the System maps using digital technology would correct errors that adversely affect private property owners, improve customer service and government efficiency, conserve natural resources, and secure the future integrity of the System by limiting the need for future legislative action to modify boundaries.

Comprehensive modernization of the System maps will cost up to \$17 million.

The draft maps presented in the report will not become effective until they are legislatively enacted by Congress. If enacted, the revised maps will result in a net addition of approximately 23,840 acres to the System (mainly associated aquatic habitat); removal of 363 acres of upland from the System (including about 300 private structures); and addition of 1,625 acres of undeveloped uplands to the System.

The Service will conduct a public review and finalize the pilot project maps as directed by the Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-226). Comments on the report and draft maps can be submitted until July 6, 2009, by mail to the Coastal Barriers Coordinator, Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 860A, Arlington, VA 22203 or electronically to CBRAcomments@fws.gov.

For more information about the pilot project, including a downloadable version of the report and draft maps, visit www.fws.gov

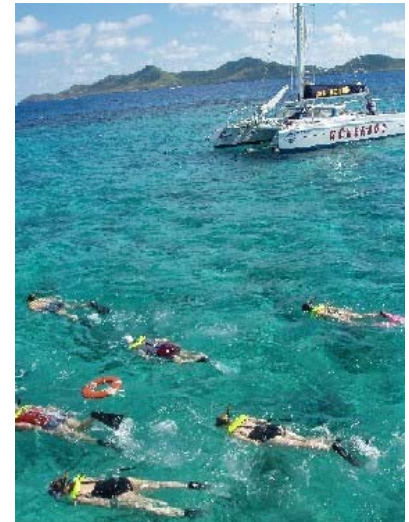
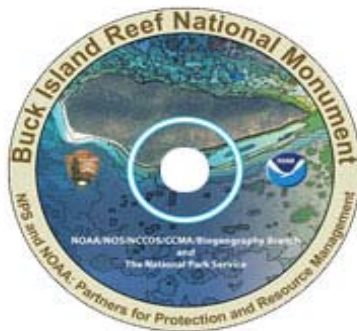


Buck Island Reef National Monument

Buck Island Reef National Monument, located about 1.5 miles of the coast of St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, was established to preserve "one of the finest marine gardens in the Caribbean Sea." More than 50,000 visitors explore Buck Island National Monument each year.

The park is one of the few fully protected marine areas in the National Park System. The 176-acre island and surrounding coral reef ecosystem support a large variety of native flora and fauna, including the hawksbill turtle and brown pelican. The elkhorn coral barrier reef that surrounds two-thirds of the island has extraordinary coral formations, deep grottoes, abundant reef fishes, sea fans and gorgonians.

Research conducted on the barrier reef of Buck Island serves as a great example of interagency collaboration. In conjunction with NOAA's Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment – Biogeography Branch, NPS produced a video highlighting the scientific research conducted by NPS, NOAA and partners to better manage and maintain Buck Islands marine resources.



To learn more about this partnership and view the video, please visit http://ccmaserver.nos.noaa.gov/products/biogeography/buck_island/welcome.html

Visitors follow the underwater snorkel trail and learn about the island's marine resources



Elkhorn coral



The Virgin Islands provide critical nesting, foraging, and developmental habitat for three species of sea turtle, the leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) both endangered species, and the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), a threatened species. Loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) are transitory and only occasionally seen in the islands.

Congressional Ocean Updates

Briefing on Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Coastal Watersheds of the Eastern United States

On **Monday, April 6**, FWS staff Dave Stout (Chief, Habitat and Resource Conservation), Tom Dahl (Region 3, Habitat and Resource Conservation), and Angela Gustavson (CLA), along with staff from NOAA, provided two briefings for staff associated with the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on a report that Service and NOAA recently released entitled "Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Coastal Watersheds of the Eastern United States."

Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) Briefings

On **Monday, April 20**, FWS staff Marty Kodis (Branch of Habitat and Resources Conservation, FHC), Katie Niemi (CBRA Coordinator, FHC), and Colleen Fahey (CLA) briefed House and Senate staff on the recently completed Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) pilot project.

Coral Reef Conservation Act Mark-Up

On **Wednesday, April 22**, the House Natural Resources Committee held a full committee markup of H.R. 860 (Bordallo), that would reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act. On February 25, [Nikolao Pula](#), Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior, testified in support of the legislation.

Marine Turtle, Sea Otter, and Multinational Species Fund Legislative Hearing

On **Tuesday, May 5**, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife plans to hold a legislative hearing on the following bills: H.R. 509 (H. Brown), the Marine Turtle Conservation Act; H.R. 556 (Farr), the Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act; and H.R. 1454 (H. Brown), the Multinational Species Funds Stamp Act. Rowan Gould, the Service's acting Director, will likely be the witness.

Upcoming Meeting and Events of Interest

World Ocean Conference 2009: May 11-15, 2009, Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia. The World Ocean Conference (WOC) 2009 is a forum for the world community to discuss current issues in the marine field particularly those related to climate change. For more information visit the conference website: <http://www.woc2009.org>

International Marine Conservation Congress: May 19-24, 2009, George Mason University, near Washington, D.C. Serving as the 2nd International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC2) and hosted by the Marine Section of the Society for Conservation Biology, the aim of the IMCC is to advance marine conservation by facilitating discussion among scientists, managers and policy makers and developing science-based products that inform policy change and implementation. For more information visit: <http://www2.cedarcrest.edu/imcc/index.html>.

Capital Hill Ocean Week: June 9 - 11, 2009, Washington, D.C. The goal of this year's Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) is to highlight the inextricable link between the ocean and the economy, and to suggest tangible ways sound ocean policies might impact improvements in our economy. CHOW is sponsored by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. For more information visit: <http://nmsfocean.org/capitol-hill-ocean-week-2009>.

4th International Symposium on Chemosynthetic-Based Ecosystems: June 29-July 3, 2009, Okinawa, Japan. MMS is a co-sponsor. <http://www.interridge.org/fr/node/5530>

Coastal Zone '09: July 19-23, 2009, Boston, MA. Our coastal and ocean landscape is changing, whether it's the climate, shoreline, habitat, or even the people setting and implementing policy. The attendees of Coastal Zone 09 will explore the many facets of change and share tools and information to help in managing our changing coastal and ocean resources. For more information visit the conference website: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/abstracts.html>.



To access the DOI Ocean and Coastal calendar, click the attachments tab on the left of the Adobe pdf. If you have events to add to the calendar, send them to terry_holman@ios.doi.gov.

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*** DOI Ocean and Coastal Button Contest ***

Answer the question below to receive a prize. Submit your answer to Sarah_Bobbe@ios.doi.gov and be sure to include the mailing address where you'd like your prize sent.



Which of the Great Lakes is most susceptible to eutrophication and the presence of "dead zones?"

Answer to last month's question: **How many Oceans are there in the world?**
There are five oceans in the world. They are the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, and Southern Oceans. Although the [Southern Ocean](#) had been recognized by mariners for some time, the [International Hydrographic Organization](#) (IHO), the global authority on the names and locations of seas and oceans, officially recognized it in 2000. The Southern Ocean completely surrounds Antarctica and extends north to 60 degrees south latitude.

OCEAN FACTS

- The top ten feet of the ocean hold as much heat as our entire atmosphere
- The average temperature of the oceans is 2°C, about 39°F
- Fish supply the greatest percentage of the world's protein consumed by humans
- Eighty per cent of all pollution in seas and oceans comes from land-based activities
- Less than one half a per cent of marine habitats are protected -- compared with 11.5 per cent of global land area
- 90% of all volcanic activity on Earth occurs in the ocean. The largest known concentration of active volcanoes (approximately 1,133) on the sea floor is located in the South Pacific

**Please submit columns and stories that you would like to see featured?
We encourage all NewsWave readers to submit articles for future additions.**

Send your submissions to terry_holman@ios.doi.gov.



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