



Department of the Interior'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.

This Month's Stories

[President Bush Creates World's Largest MPA in Pacific Ocean](#)

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PRESIDENT BUSH CREATES WORLD'S LARGEST MARINE PROTECTED AREA IN PACIFIC OCEAN

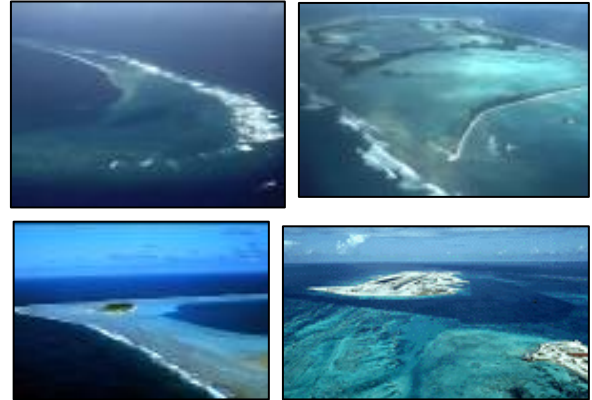
Expanding on the protections already provided by seven National Wildlife Refuges (NWR), President Bush designated three new Marine National Monument (MNM) in the remote areas of the Pacific Ocean. The new monuments are the Marianas Trench MNM in the Northern Mariana Islands, Rose Atoll MNM in American Samoa, and the Pacific Remote Islands MNM a collection of small islands and atolls scattered around the central Pacific. The Monuments will encompass 195,274 square miles (125 million acres). The President designated the monuments under the 1906 Antiquities Act, which allows him to preserve areas without having to go through Congress. All the monument areas lie within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States.

The Mariana Trench MNM includes lands and waters surrounding the three northernmost islands in the chain, the Mariana Trench, the deepest place on earth, and a series of active undersea volcanoes and thermal vents. Among the unique features within the Monument are the Champagne vent, which produces almost pure liquid carbon dioxide, the Maug Crater, one of only a handful of places on Earth where photosynthetic and chemosynthetic communities coexist, and the Sulfur Cauldron, the only pool of liquid sulfur found on earth.

Rose Atoll MNM, a NWR since 1973, is one of the smallest atolls in the world the most striking feature of which is the pink hue of the fringing reef caused by the dominance of coralline algae as opposed to reef-building corals. The atoll is home to millions of seabirds, contains of the best examples of a *Pisonia* atoll forest, and is a refuge for the globally depleted giant clam (*Tridacna magnus*).

LINKS:

- [Fact Sheet: Marine National Monuments](#)
- [Establishment of the Marianas Trench MNM](#)
- [Establishment of the Rose Atoll MNM](#)
- [Establishment of the Pacific Remote Islands MNM](#)



Four of the remote National Wildlife Refuges included in the new Monuments. Clockwise from top left: Kingman Reef; Johnston Island; Palmyra Atoll, Rose Atoll.

At the heart of the Pacific Remote Islands MNM are six NWRs (Howland, Baker, and Jarvis Islands, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, and Palmyra Atoll), considered the crown jewels of the National Wildlife Refuge System. This monument will also include lands and waters around Wake Island, which is currently administered by the Office of Insular Affairs. This sprawling complex represents the most widespread collection of protected coral reef and seabird protected areas on the planet under a single country's jurisdiction.

The Secretary of Interior will have management responsibility of the Monument, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, through NOAA. NOAA will have the primary management responsibility with regard to fishery-related activities.

For more details about these new monuments visit the links below.

DOI PARTNERSHIPS HELP PROTECT SEA OTTERS

In July 2008, divers from the USGS and the MMS joined sea otter trackers and veterinary staff from the Monterey Bay Aquarium for a sea otter research expedition to Bering Island off the east coast of Russia. This year's work was the final stage of a three-year project funded by the Alaska SeaLife Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Marine Mammal Commission, with logistical support by the Russian Pacific Institute of Geography and Komandorsky State Nature Reserve. Comparative studies of sea otters' daily activities in different geographic areas help answer fundamental questions about sea otter ecology and population changes. This collaborative, interdisciplinary effort crossed traditional government agency, private sector, and international boundaries. The MMS played a role in the success of this study, demonstrating that cooperation, coordination, and shared use of resources can pay great dividends toward our understanding and stewardship of the marine environment.



Sea otter. Photo courtesy of David Menke, USFWS.

Read this article and others in the 4th Quarter MMS Ocean Science Journal:

http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/environment/ocean_science/mms_ocean_08_oct_nov_dec.pdf

USGS HELPING MONITOR SEA TURTLES IN DRY TORTUGAS NATIONAL PARK

All five species of sea turtles found in the [Dry Tortugas National Park](#), a cluster of islands approximately 65 mi due west of Key West, FL, are listed as U.S. Endangered Species. The islands actually owe their name to the abundance of turtles that could be found in the area. To assist with broad conservation goals of the NPS and Federal recovery plans for these species, USGS scientists have been investigating sea turtles and their habitats. In 2008, researchers from the USGS Florida Integrated Science Center office in St. Petersburg participated in two research cruises to study patterns of habitat use by endangered sea turtles in and around the National Park. To read more about this project and others read this month's SoundWaves at:

<http://soundwaves.usgs.gov/2008/12/>



Green turtles captured in Dry Tortugas National Park. Photo credit: Kristen Hart/USGS.

MMS APPROVES TEXAS COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PLAN

MMS initiated the Texas Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) Plan, making available more than \$48 million through Federal grants to the State and 18 counties to restore and protect their shoreline environments. The state is now eligible to submit grant proposals for CIAP projects involving conservation, restoration, and protection of natural coastal resources. Texas became the third state to receive approval from MMS for its CIAP plan. Louisiana and Alaska also have approved plans. The announcement provides instructions and guidance on the submittal process for CIAP grant applications. MMS will post Texas' Grant Program Announcement on www.grants.gov. Funding is made available to the State and counties when the grants are awarded. To view the press release go to:

<http://www.mms.gov/ooc/press/2009/press0112.htm>

Under the CIAP, created by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the [Secretary of the Interior](#) is authorized to distribute to producing States and coastal political subdivisions \$250 million for each of the fiscal years 2007 through 2010. This money will be shared among Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas and will be allocated to each producing State and eligible coastal subdivision based upon allocation formulas prescribed by the Act. Each eligible State is allocated its share based on the State's Qualified Outer Continental Shelf Revenue (QOCSR) generated off its coast in proportion to total QOCSR generated off the coasts of all eligible States. Allocation for the first two years of the program was completed in April 2007; the second allocation for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 will be calculated in Spring 2009. The states and counties are eligible to receive the funds from the previous years as long as they have approved CIAP plans.



NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SEEKS RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) and the President's Interagency Committee on Ocean Science and Resource Management Integration (ICOSRMI) are currently seeking proposals meeting the goal of partnerships between at least two of the following three sectors: academia, industry (including NGOs), and government. Research proposals are being solicited for three topics:

- Improving Wind Wave Predictions: Global to Regional Scales
- Sensors for measurement of Biological, Bio-Optical, Optical or Chemical Properties of the Ocean
- Improving Cyclone Intensity Forecasting

For more information, refer to the full Broad Agency Announcement:

<http://www.onr.navy.mil/02/baa/> - BAA # 09-012

Up to \$21.5 M over four years may be available for this solicitation, subject to appropriation and final approval by the Interagency Working Group on Ocean Partnerships (IWG-OP) of the ICOSRMI. NOPP is a collaboration of federal agencies to provide leadership and coordination of national ocean research and education initiatives. The ICOSRMI provides oversight to the nation's ocean activities, including those involving ocean resource management. If you have any questions, please contact the NOPP office at: NOPPO@oceanleadership.org.

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SUBMIT A VIDEO TO THE SMITHSONIAN OCEAN HALL

As part of the floor exhibit at the Smithsonian's Ocean Hall, there are two kiosks with interactive screens that display video and graphic content relating to ocean literacy. The kiosks are informal-learning, touch-screen media centers. Visitors are able to choose videos from four categories: Ocean News, Ocean Life, Ocean Science and Technology and Recent Discoveries.

In addition, there will be satellite kiosks around the country. The Ocean Today Kiosk is a highly visual, educational, and interactive exhibit. Content should be geared toward a general family audience at a 6th grade reading level. All scientific terms should be defined or in context in the script. The content for the Ocean Today Kiosk should not exceed 2:30 minutes in length for videos or image files.

Kiosk story proposals are being accepted twice a year. For 2009, the deadlines are: January 30,



Phoenix, Ocean Hall Ambassador.
(c) Smithsonian Institution

2009 and July 31, 2009. All accepted videos will be displayed on the Ocean Today Kiosk for a minimum of three months. For information on how to contribute a video go to http://www2.nos.noaa.gov/oceannewskiosk/outside_contributor.html. For specific questions, email oceankiosk@noaa.gov.

Website Update Coming Soon...

We'll be updating our Ocean and Coastal Website soon. The website will become a one-stop access point for all information about DOI Ocean and Coastal Activities. Please send ideas and comments to terry_holman@ios.doi.gov. If you haven't seen our website it's at <http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/ocean.html>



Upcoming Meetings and Events of Interest

US Coral Reef Task Force Meeting: Feb. 23-27, Washington DC. At this meeting, the USCRTF will assess their collective efforts and accomplishments, highlight remaining needs and challenges, and continue to develop a foundation for a renewed commitment to action. Each state, territory, commonwealth, and freely associated state member will share their perspective on coral reef conservation in their jurisdiction. For more information visit <http://www.coralreef.gov/meetings.html>.

The Blue Vision Summit: March 7-10, 2009, Washington, D.C. The Summit will bring a wide range of people engaged in ocean conservation and its sustainable use together around three themes:

- 1) To influence President Obama and Congress to take leadership actions on the ocean;
- 2) To address Climate Change impacts on the ocean; and
- 3) To highlight solutions to marine threats that are working from the local to the global level.

The Summit will include a night with top ocean explorers, two days of meetings and discussions, two evening celebrations and a Capitol Hill Day that will provide an opportunity for people to meet with their elected congressional representatives. For more information about the Blue Vision Summit contact Mary M. Hamilton, Executive Director of the SandyHook SeaLife Foundation at 609-953-2677 or SHSLFoundation@aol.com or log on to <http://www.bluefront.org/bluevision/>.

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>

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>.



[DOI Ocean and Coastal Calendar – events, meetings, workshops, and other important dates](#)

To submit a story for next month's NewsWave contact terry_holman@ios.doi.gov. Suggestions and comments are always welcome. We maintain a DOI Oceans and Coastal calendar accessible either here or on our [website](#). Please forward details of any upcoming meetings or events concerning ocean, estuarine, or coastal issues that you would like included.

To learn more about ocean and coastal activities at DOI bureaus, click on the logos below.



The Minerals Management Service (MMS) plays a key role in America's energy supply by managing renewable and mineral resources on the 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), a significant source for the Nation's energy supply.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) manages the 548-unit National Wildlife Refuge System, 177 of which are found in marine, coastal, and Great Lakes environments, including Pelican Island in Florida, America's first National Wildlife Refuge designated by President Teddy Roosevelt in 1903.





The United States Geological Survey (USGS) works closely with academic institutions, state, and other Federal agencies. USGS is spearheading an effort to better understand the processes that affect the health and sustainability of our Nation's coral reefs.



The National Park Service (NPS) manages 74 coastal Parks including the Point Reyes National Seashore in California where over 45% of North American avian species and nearly 18% of California's plant species are found due to the wide variety of habitats and uniqueness of the geology.



1,100 miles of the California coast.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) works with a wide variety of partners to protect the California Coastal National Monument, a unique collection of the public lands consisting of a network of more than 20,000 small islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles that provide a haven for animals and plants along the



The Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) is working with the U.S.-affiliated insular areas to protect coral reefs. Through the Micronesia Challenge, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands committed to protect at least 30 percent of near-shore marine resources and 20 percent of terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.



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