

2010 Year in Review



South Coronation Island. Imaged on the final survey (Kuiu) to wrap up ShoreZone imagery in SE Alaska, 2010. Photo taken by Mary Morris.

2010 Alaska Marine Science Symposium - Three ShoreZone poster presentations took place in Anchorage in January, 2010. There was an abundance of interest, “standing room only”, for the AMSS ShoreZone Training Session. The formal presentation for the *2009 Coastal Spirit Award* topped off an exciting week for ShoreZone enthusiasts!

2009 Coastal America Spirit Award – The Alaska ShoreZone partnership team was awarded the 2009 Coastal America Spirit Award for “an effort unprecedented in size and scope with over 30 partners having participated in the effort. More than 45,000 km of shoreline imagery has been collected in south central, southeast, and western Alaska.” The award was formally presented at the AMSS in January, 2010, in Anchorage. It was also presented to the public at Swan’s Restaurant in Victoria in June, 2010.

Ground Station Website – Over the past seven years there have been over 400 ground stations surveyed to inventory intertidal biota and to relate those inventories to ShoreZone mapping. There are thousands of species observations and detailed photos of the biota. The ground station observations provide important validation of the aerial mapping data. CIRCAC has provided funding to develop a web-accessible database of the observations and photos. Look for updates and links on the *ShoreZone.org* website.

ShoreZone Flash -Cook Inlet, Katmai, Kodiak, Kenai Video Library – To take advantage of the new, high definition videography of Cook Inlet that was collected during 2009, CIRCAC asked for the video to be loaded onto hard-drives to facilitate access for spill response operations. Coastal & Oceans worked with Clover Point Cartographics to develop a customized Flash video player, to link the videography to satellite maps and to convert all the 113 hr video imagery to Flash video files. This stand alone application can be loaded to any laptop and played anywhere. Sue Saupé of CIRCAC now has a “spill response laptop” full of georeferenced, high def video. Sue commented: *“it’s great – I want to see a piece of shoreline over here, I click on the map and the video starts playing instantly. If I want to move up the coast three miles, I just click there and start flying at my click point. And I am a few clicks away from our 13,000 still photos of Cook Inlet!”*



Kirshner Lake, Cook Inlet. Video Imagery June 2009.

Youtube link to A-Channel interview with John Harper regarding the ShoreZone flash application:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRA7yXz6b2k>

SE Alaska Imaging Survey, based in Kake - During the low tide window in May (27-29), the ShoreZone team had a daunting task to complete a “loose ends” survey that included imaging small sections of coastline that had been left from past surveys due to bad weather. This included areas in Icy Strait, Frederick Sound and Kuiu Island. ShoreZone’s team leader Kalen Morrow was quoted *“there’s nothing we can’t accomplish when we know there’s a nice, cold Alaskan Amber waiting upon our return”*. Needless to say, they got the job done. Overall, 657km (408 miles) of coastline was collected which set up the Kuiu team for the final SE Alaska wrap up.

SE Alaska Imaging Survey, based on the Georgia Lee, around Kuiu Island - During the week of June 11th-16th, most of the shoreline of Kuiu island was flown and imaged. The entire survey was based off of the *Georgia Lee*, captained by Jack Dawson of Ketchikan. Overall 1,698 km (1,055 miles) of coastline was surveyed, completing the entire coast of SE Alaska for the ShoreZone program. Over 14,000 high-resolution photographs were taken on the survey with a fancy new Nikon D90 which doubled the file size for the digital still photos, ultimately presenting better resolution photos. Highlights of the survey included *“the scariest helicopter ride in my 30 years of flying”* from both John Harper and pilot Bill Snider. While the same helicopter ride was quoted as *“the most exciting in my 5 years of flying”* from Sean Daley.



The *Georgia Lee*, Bay of Pillars, Kuiu Island. Photo taken by Mary Morris, 2010.

SE Alaska Mapping Program – In 2010, Coastal & Oceans has mapped over 4,500 km in SE Alaska. This data includes large parts of Kupreanof, Wrangell and Etolin Islands and will be web-posted during the coming months. This leaves about 5,500 km of the 30,000 km of shoreline in SE unmapped. [funded by NOAA/NMFS & DNR/TNC].

CMECS (Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard) – Coastal and Oceans Resources has started to study how to combine ShoreZone mapping and the current CMECS mapping format used by the U.S Geological Survey. Phase one included a “cross walk” effort to transfer ShoreZone data into the CMECS classification system, using 121 km of shoreline near the Sitka region for the pilot. The results indicated that transfer of ~85% of the ShoreZone data is possible. Phase Two of the project used the same study area; but undertook to map directly from the imagery into the CMECS system. Comparison of the CMECS and ShoreZone data, independently mapped, will now be possible.

Johnstone Strait Clam Garden AVI Support - An aerial imaging survey was flown in the Johnstone Strait region around Vancouver Island in June to identify clam gardens and fish traps. Aerial photographs of these sites were taken and georeferenced to the GPS trackline of the helicopter. A follow-up ground survey was conducted in July of the areas of primary importance found during the aerial survey. In cooperation with the Lekwiltok Treaty Group, these sites were travelled to by boat and surveyed on foot. This information was then used to create a database of areas of importance for LTG. Dozens of clam gardens were documented.



Clam Garden & boulder ridge at waterline, Johnstone Strait. Photo taken by John Harper, 2010.

New! ShoreZone.org

A new ShoreZone website was launched this year! This site provides click-click-easy access for ShoreZone - Tutorials; Flying the Coastline; Outreach and Meetings; Supporting Documentation and our very own ShoreZone blog.

Coastal and Ocean Resources Inc. moved! It’s true, after 17 plus years in the Marine Technology Center in Sidney, BC, CORI has moved to the big city! Hearts were broken, but nostalgia isn’t what it used to be, and after much negotiation, the office has moved to Vanlaman Ave. in Victoria, BC.