

## **RECENT LEGISLATIVE & POLICY DEVELOPMENTS FOR NOAA'S CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PROGRAMS: ARRA, CELCP, & CZMA**

*Abstract:*

NOAA is currently engaged in three legislative efforts related to the agency's conservation and restoration programs, each in various stages of development. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 provides up to \$170 million of funding for habitat restoration projects. A Federal Register Notice and corresponding Federal Funding Opportunity notice were published on March 6, 2009. By the April 6, 2009 deadline, NOAA had received approximately 800 proposals for habitat restoration projects across the country. A new authorization for the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) was signed into law on March 30, 2009 as part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act (P.L. 111-11). While the new CELCP authorization is very similar to the way the program has been structured in the past, there are also a few differences. Meanwhile, NOAA has also been developing proposed legislation, the Coastal and Ocean Management Integration Act (COMIA), which would re-authorize the Coastal Zone Management Act. Likely to be a top legislative priority for the 112th Congress, COMIA includes several measures that will support an integrated approach to the management of the nation's coastal resources.

This presentation will give an overview of each law's provisions, discuss program policies and actions related to proposed or enacted legislation, and provide updates on ongoing efforts. This panel will be of interest to participants in NOAA's programs, as well as those with a general interest in the Nation's conservation and restoration efforts.

*Moderator:*

Emily Woglom, TNC (*invited*)

*Speakers:*

Chris Doley, NOAA - NMFS - OHC

Ralph Cantral, NOAA - NOS - OCRM

Elaine Vaudreuil, NOAA - NOS - OCRM