Coastal America 2009 Partnership Awards Program Recipients

The Coastal America Awards Program annually recognizes efforts to protect, preserve, and restore the nation's coastal resources and ecosystems through collaborative action and partnership. In the absence of an ICOSRMI the SIMOR is charged with approval of the 2009 slate of Awards. Three award categories exist:

1. Partnership Awards recognize outstanding Coastal America partnership efforts and/or multi-agency projects. The Partnership Award winners receive a letter of recognition from the President which is presented at a ceremony by a Coastal America Principal.

2. Special Recognition Awards recognize non-federal organizations for their demonstrated leadership in establishing partnerships. The Special Recognition Award winners receive a letter of recognition from the Chairman of Coastal America which is presented at a ceremony by a Coastal America Principal.

3. Spirit Awards recognize outstanding partnership efforts that demonstrate the "spirit" of Coastal America. The Spirit Award winners receive a letter of recognition from the Chairman of Coastal America, which is generally presented at a ceremony by a Coastal America Regional Principal.

Project Summaries Recommended for Partnership Awards

1) Team Name: Fishing for Energy Partnership
Issue Area: Marine Debris, Waste Management
Region: USA/NE **Federal Lead**: NOAA
Summary:
The goal of the *Fishing for Energy* (FfE) partnership is to provide fishermen with a no-cost disposal option for old or derelict fishing gear to reduce its likelihood of entering the marine environment, and to convert it into clean, renewable energy, using state-of-the-art Energy-from-Waste technology. To date, more than 188 metric tons of fishing gear have been collected, recovering 35 tons of metals for recycling and generating 212 MWh of electricity.
Partners include: Covanta Energy Corporation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program, and Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc.

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2) Name: Connecticut Tidal Wetland Restoration Team
Issue Area: Habitat Restoration
Region: NERIT/CT
Summary:
The CT Tidal Wetland Restoration Team is a multi-agency (federal, state, municipal) and multi-stakeholder (CT College, Save The Sound, Ducks Unlimited) that has partnered for nearly 30 years to advance the restoration of degraded tidal wetlands at 71 sites for an acreage exceeding 1,148 acres. Partners provided expertise, critical data collection (e.g., tide studies, vegetation surveys, engineering expertise), funding to accomplish the projects described.
Partners include: The Technical Services Section of the Office of Long Island Sound Programs (OLISP) of CT DEP; US Fish & Wildlife SNE-NY Coastal Ecosystems Program; NOAA Northeast Restoration Center, US Army Corps of Engineers, Connecticut College, USDA-NRCS, US EPA, Save The Sound, TNC, Ducks Unlimited, CT CWRP

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3) Team Name: The Lynnhaven River Oyster Recovery Team
Issue Area: Oyster Restoration, Water Quality
Region: MARIT/VA **Federal Lead**: USACE
Summary:
This project is the restoration of the native oyster population in the Lynnhaven River, VA, a tributary to the southern Chesapeake Bay. The restored oyster reef network was built as a large network of about 60 acres of permanent sanctuary reefs free from destructive oyster fishing practices. The oyster restoration project is one of the largest sanctuaries for native oysters worldwide and used the latest research science to improve the effectiveness of the stocking effort.

Partners include: US Army Corps of Engineers, City of Virginia Beach, Lynnhaven River Now, The College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Commonwealth of Virginia

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4) Team Name: Hail Cove Living Shoreline Partnership
Issue Area: Habitat Restoration, Erosion Control, Water Quality
Region: MARIT/MD **Federal Lead**: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Summary:
This project was originally planned in three phases however this large partnership was able to bring both the financial and technical resources together to implement the project in one phase thereby increasing its efficiency and effectiveness. The original phase of the project placed the critically needed breakwaters at the mouth of the cove to reduce the wave energy and drastically slow erosion. The next phase developed a living shoreline component to reinforce and stabilize the isthmus with native vegetation. The final phase was an oyster or submerged aquatic vegetation restoration between the breakwaters and the living shoreline to provide added water quality improvement in for the Bay. By working with this
Partners include: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex, USFWS, Chesapeake Bay Field Office, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) – Wildlife and Heritage Service, Ducks Unlimited, The Brick Companies, Friends of Eastern Neck, The National Aquarium, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Fish America Foundation, Maryland Eastern Shore Resource Conservation and Development Council, Vulcan Materials, Washington College Center for Environment and Society, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, The Maryland Department of the Environment, The Campbell Foundation.

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5) Team Name: The Ocean Conservation and Education Alliance Northwest
Issue Area: Education, Team Building
Region: AKRIT/AK **Federal Lead**: Oregon Sea Grant (NOAA)
Summary:
The Ocean Conservation and Education Alliance Northwest (OCEAN) is a growing network of education organizations throughout the Pacific Northwest. The goal of this Alliance is to support local students becoming the most "ocean literate" students in the country. Some other shared goals of the partners are to unite organizations with strong marine science education missions to focus on ocean literacy for the public at large, to enhance K-12 science teaching by using the ocean as a basis for teaching science, technology, math, and engineering (STEM) concepts, and to develop, implement, and evaluate professional development for educators and visitor learning experiences.
Partners include: Oregon Sea Grant-Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon Coast Aquarium, Lincoln County School District

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6) Team Name: Purisima Point Least Tern Management Team
Issue Area: Endangered Species Management, Habitat Protection

Region: SWRIT/CA **Federal Lead**: United States Air Force, Vandenberg Air Force Base
Summary:
Vandenberg Air Force Base hosts the Purisima Point Least Tern colony, one of only three colonies between Monterey Bay and Point Conception. An important goal of the VAFB biodiversity program is to promote the growth of the Purisima Point colony while maintaining the health of the surrounding ecosystem. To accomplish this, VAFB has established a Least Tern management team. The Least Tern management team has taken the initiative to accomplish ecosystem-based management of this endangered species while also promoting the health of an entire coastal ecosystem.
Partners include: United States Air Force, Vandenberg Air Force Base, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Ventura Office, Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, PRBO Conservation Science.

7) Name: Salmon River Restoration: Fort Covington Dam Removal
Issue Area: Dam Removal, fish passage
Region: GLRIT/IL **Lead**: US EPA, Region 5, Chicago
Summary:
The Fort Covington Dam has been removed by this project. The dam was the first manmade barrier on the Salmon River and located in the Town of Fort Covington in Franklin County, NY. The spillway crest was nine feet above the top of its concrete apron. It had a total length of 240 feet, with a 90 foot long spillway and impounded approximately 12 acres of water in a linear pond upstream. Removal of the dam reestablished access to more than 35 miles of the Salmon River and tributaries.
Partners include: American Rivers, Cooper Environmental, Fish America Foundation, Great Lakes Protection Fund, Milone and MacBroom, Inc., New York Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (NY CWRP)

Project Summaries Recommended for Spirit Awards

1) Team Name: Elders Point Restoration, Jamaica Bay, Salt Marsh Islands, NY Project Delivery Team
Issue Area: Urban Habitat Construction - Restoration
Award Category: Bid for Partnership but recommended to receive Spirit
Region: MARIT/NY **Federal Lead**: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
Summary:
Elders Point, in the northeastern corner of Jamaica Bay, has been targeted as a high priority site for restoration due to its visible location in the Gateway National Recreation Area. This urban wilderness area has experienced over a century of industrial development that has adversely impacted the water quality and wildlife habitat of Jamaica Bay. The team constructed 40 acres of tidal salt marsh by placing dredge material on the marsh plain. The team further enhanced the effort by stabilizing the shoreline and planning appropriate plant material.
Partners include: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), with the National Park Service (NPS) the National Resources

Conservation Service (NRCS), and the State of New York's Division of Coastal Resources.

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2) Team Name: Alaska ShoreZone Mapping and Imagery Project
Issue Area: Coastal Habitat Mapping
Award Category: Bid for Partnership but recommended to receive Spirit
Region: AKRIT/AK **Federal Lead**: NOAA Fisheries Service, Alaska Region
Summary:
The ShoreZone mapping system has been in use since the early 1980s and has been applied to more than 40,000 kilometers of shoreline in Washington and British Columbia. In 2001, an effort unprecedented in size and scope was launched by the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council and nearly 20 partners to photograph, map and inventory all 55,000 kilometers of Alaska's coast. As of 2009, over 30 partners have participated in the effort. Over 45,000 km of shoreline imagery have been collected in south central, southeast, and western Alaska.
Partners include: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Archipelago Marine Research Ltd., Coastal and Ocean Resources Inc., Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council, Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, Kenai Peninsula Borough, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Park Service, Ocean Fund, Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service

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3) Team Name: Lower St. Johns River Tributary Assessment Team
Issue Area: Water Quality
Award Category: Bid for Special Recognition by recommended for Spirit
Region: SWRIT/FL **Federal Lead**: Florida DEP - Northeastern District
Summary:
The Tributaries Assessment Team (TAT) was created to investigate sources of fecal coliforms in the tributaries discharging into the Lower St Johns River; which has 75 tributaries verified impaired for fecal coliforms by FDEP. As part of their efforts, the TAT conducts water quality sampling of tributaries and physical ground inspections in areas surrounding surface waters. In addition to intensive water quality sampling, the TAT analyzes the water quality data in conjunction with GIS information (wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, potential septic tank locations, and hydrology) to identify opportunities for source elimination. This analysis results in action items coordinated amongst the appropriate local and State agencies with authority to investigate and eliminate bacteria sources.
Partners include: City of Jacksonville, JEA, Florida DEP- Northeastern District, Duval County Department of Health, Florida Department of Transportation,

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4) Team Name: Red Salmon Restoration Team
Issue Area: Habitat Restoration

Award Category: Bid for Special Recognition by recommended for Spirit
Region: NWRIT/WA **Lead**: Nisqually Land Trust
Summary:
Red Salmon and Washburn Creeks, and 30-acres of associated marsh, wetland, and upland are an important salmon-producing watershed of the Nisqually Delta and represent the NLT's largest single restoration project to date. More than 200 volunteers removed acres of blackberry and ivy, and replanted the site with over 2000 native trees and shrubs that will improve spawning habitat for chum salmon, rearing habitat for threatened Chinook and steelhead, protect water quality and prevent spread of invasive species.
Partners include: Nisqually Tribe and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and many more volunteers.

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5) Team Name: OYSTER - Offer Your Shell to Enhance Restoration Program
Issue Area: Habitat Restoration
Award Category: Spirit
Region: SERIT/FL **Lead**: Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Summary:
The Offer Your Shell to Enhance Restoration (OYSTER) Program has been in place since 2005. The goal of the OYSTER program is to engage the local community in habitat restoration, conservation and resource renewability. This is accomplished through partnerships with local restaurants and seafood providers who donate bare oyster shell to be recycled and reused to create oyster reefs and habitat in local estuaries. To date the OYSTER program has partnered with 32 restaurants and seafood providers collecting 190 tons of shell, which was used to create 1255 m2 of reefs throughout Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Bay counties.
Partners include: National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF), Fish America Foundation, Ocean Trust, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) provided grant funding to initiate and maintain funding for the NWF OYSTER Program.

Project Summary Approved for Special Recognition Award

At the May 12th meeting of the SIMOR members approved the selection of The Panasonic Corporation for a 2009 Special Recognition award

1) Name: The Panasonic Corporation
Issue Area: In Kind support of Ocean Today Kiosk's – CELC's
Award Category: Special Recognition
Region: Global
Summary:
On September 27, 2008 Panasonic Corporation made an enormous contribution to the Coastal America Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (Learning Center) network, in

support of the Ocean Today Kiosk Project. Panasonic donated the kiosk hardware to 17 Learning Centers in the network. Each package included two plasma screens, a touch panel module to create an interactive user experience, and all the hardware necessary for kiosk operation.

Partners include: Not applicable for Special Recognition Awards

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