



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

July-December Issue

2009

SPOTLIGHT ON COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP CAPABILITIES AND RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

This issue highlights Coastal America's unique role and capabilities to leverage funds, accelerate projects, and bring together partners to address shared ocean and coastal issues. Three recent efforts in our cover story exemplify Coastal America's unique value:

- Peconic Fishway Project
- Hail Cove Living Shoreline
- Vancouver Aquarium Learning Center Designation

Read on for other significant recent accomplishments throughout this issue.



Aerial view of the fishway project location on Peconic River mainstem at the Grangebel Park South Spillway.

Corporate Partnership Rescues \$1 Million Fishway Project on the Peconic River in Riverhead, New York

For almost a decade, the Peconic Estuary Program has been working to install a rock ramp/rock riffle at the Grangebel Park South Spillway on the main stem of the Peconic River, suitable for passing Alewife and American eel.

With this fishway, Alewives and eels will regain access to 24 acres and 1.5 miles of prime, critical habitat and spawning grounds in the Peconic River, once the largest Alewife run on Long Island. The construction of this permanent rock ramp structure should also provide an impetus for additional fish passage restoration projects upriver.

After nearly 10 years of project planning, permitting, and contracting delays, the project was poised to begin. With five separate grants in hand amounting to

well over \$1,000,000 to design and install the fishway, suddenly the project was in jeopardy. No funding existed to complete an unexpected construction management requirement. The cost for this engineering service was estimated at \$45,000 and was crucial to allow the project to commence. The Corporate Partnership, working with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Implementation Team (MARIT)-North, stepped in to rescue the project.

In a generous and timely act, the New York Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (NY CWRP) provided the \$45,000 to fund the engineering work and obtain the mandatory certification. This contribution literally saved the project. In the absence of the CWRP's nonfederal matching funds, the project

would not have been able to proceed -- and the federal (and state) grant money would have expired, without the project ever being able to move forward.

(see page 2 – Corporate Partnership)

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Mid Atlantic Regional Team Facilitates Accelerated Project Completion for Hail Cove Living Shoreline through Substantial Corporate Contribution



Coastal America Corporate Partners plant grasses at Hail Cove.

On September 10 a dedication ceremony and project celebration was held for the MARIT-South/Maryland CWRP Hail Cove project, on Maryland's Eastern Shore at the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. The project, which

also received a 2009 Partnership Award (see page 15), was originally designed to be completed in 3 ambitious phases, but the project leaders were able to complete all the components of this innovative project within a compressed timeframe due to the efforts of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Implementation Team, the Corporate Partnership, and Learning Center Network partner, the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

The overall project involved 17 separate partners in the construction of breakwaters, oyster habitat, and planting of submerged aquatic vegetation to protect Hail Cove -- an important waterfowl site -- from being lost to open water through erosion of the

protective isthmus sandbar. Critical to the project was a major financial and in-kind services contribution from Vulcan Materials. Through the corporate partnership Vulcan provided the materials to complete the protective breakwater structures at both ends. Volunteer planting labor was provided through the Aquarium. The net effect of the large collaboration effort was completion of all project phases within one year rather than several. While a long term monitoring plan for Hail Cove is still under development, observations following the first round of high wind and tides at the site show the living shoreline planting looks excellent, the oysters are placed on the arc of stone, and the headland breakwaters are secure.

Learning Center Network Expands to Canada

Coastal America welcomed our newest Learning Center, the first Canadian, and second international network member on October 14, 2009. The designation of the Vancouver Aquarium as the first Learning Center in Canada is a significant milestone for Coastal America. The Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre, located in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, becomes the Partnership's 23rd Learning Center to join the network. This new partnership will be invaluable to efforts to protect and restore our shared Salish Sea waters -- including Puget Sound and Georgia Strait.

Coastal America federal partners and the network's learning centers have already begun working with the Vancouver Aquarium to identify several of the federal and learning center partners' extensive and substantive joint commitments. These include, e.g., commitments to cross-border efforts in Puget Sound/Georgia Strait, a Pacific Coast education effort to improve public understanding of marine protected



John Nightingale, President & CEO, Vancouver Aquarium, and Laura Furgione, Assistant Administrator for Program Planning and Integration, NOAA, sign the Vancouver Aquarium agreement.

areas, and a collaborative initiative on the Arctic. This new partnership with the Vancouver Aquarium and the commitments made by existing Coastal America partners will especially help to enhance the communication between the CELCs in the Pacific Northwest and the rest of the country to promote ocean education and understanding among the public. For a full listing of all the commitments made to the Vancouver Aquarium from the federal and learning center partners please visit www.VanAqua.org/CELC.

(from page 1 – Corporate Partnerships)

The NY CWRP commitments include \$5K from the NY CWRP Chapter along with \$20K each in earmarked contributions from Spectra Energy and National Grid. In addition to these generous contributions, the following partners were instrumental in carrying out the engineering, design and construction of the fish passage: The Town of Riverhead, New York, The Peconic River Fish Restoration Commission (a community group with well over 90 members), USFWS, NOAA, EPA, The Peconic Estuary Program, The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Suffolk County.

Thanks to the NY CWRP, the timeline for ground-breaking on the actual fish passage elements of the project is now back on schedule. After 10 years in the works, the Grangebel Park South Spillway project construction is finally underway, a spring 2010 press event is planned.

COASTAL AMERICA 2009 ANNUAL MEETING ADDRESSES PARTNERSHIP CAPABILITIES

The 2009 Coastal America Annual Meeting, held October 13-16 in Blaine, Washington focused on the interrelationship between Coastal America's capabilities and the actions called for in the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force Interim (IOPTF) report. A crosswalk document was developed in response to the invitation for comment by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). The crosswalk conveyed to CEQ the alignment of the Coastal America tools and capabilities with recommended IOPTF Report actions. Copies of the final crosswalk may be obtained from the Coastal America National Coordination Office.

In addition to plenary and breakout sessions, the meeting featured the designation of the Vancouver Aquarium as the second international and 23rd overall Learning Center (see page 1). Also, a visit to the Lummi Indian Nation included a tour of the NOAA-funded Smugglers Slough project, an American Reinvestment and Recovery Act restoration site.



Restoration site tour of the Smugglers Slough project, Lummi Nation.

During the meeting's opening session, as well as the visit to the Lummi Nation, meeting attendees heard addresses from the Vice-Chair of the Lummi Indian Business Council, Gordon Adams, as well as Billy Frank, Jr., Chair,



Annual Meeting attendees gathered at the Vancouver Aquarium.

Northwest Fisheries Commission, among others, regarding regional challenges and opportunities. The discussions helped connect team members with natural resources staff of the Lummi, Stillaguamish, Nisqually, and Skokomish Tribes.

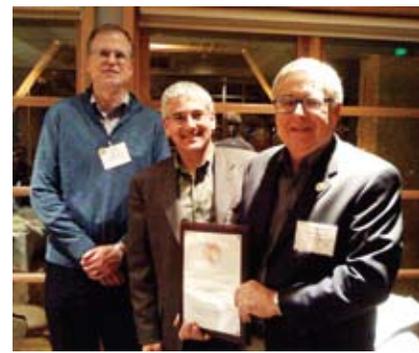
In addition, David Dicks, of the Puget Sound Partnership, provided a keynote address regarding Puget Sound challenges and successes. At the conclusion of the meeting, Coastal America Leadership Awards were presented to several Regional Team members, including Tai-ming Chang of EPA Philadelphia for leading the development of the IOPTF



Tai-ming Chang receiving the 2009 National Leadership Award from Coastal America Director Virginia K. Tippie.

crosswalk, and Rick Parkin of EPA Seattle, for reenergizing the Northwest Regional Implementation Team.

In addition, John Braden, Director of the Seattle Aquarium received an award for his leadership in expanding the Learning Center network to Canada and



John Braden (right) receives a Leadership Award as Eric Solomon, Vancouver Aquarium (center,) and Rick Parkin, EPA (left), look on.

establishing collaborative partnership efforts with Vancouver Aquarium. John MacKenzie CWRP Senior Advisor received an award for his continued CWRP program leadership.

“The oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes provide jobs, food, energy resources, ecological services, recreation, and tourism opportunities, and play critical roles in our Nation’s transportation, economy, and trade, as well as the global mobility of our Armed security. We have a stewardship responsibility to maintain healthy, resilient, and sustainable oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes resources for the benefit of this and future generations.”

*President Barack Obama
June 12, 2009*

Memorandum for The Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies on National Policy for The Oceans, Our Coasts, and The Great Lakes.

Coastal America Partnership Capabilities Support New Ocean Policy

On June 12, 2009, President Obama issued an Executive Order to develop a National Ocean Policy on our Oceans, Coasts and Great Lakes. An Interagency Task Force was established to develop the policy, an implementation strategy and a recommended framework for coastal and marine spatial planning. On September 17, 2009, the Task Force released an interim report for review and comment. The Coastal America Annual Meeting in Blaine, Washington October 13-16, 2009 focused on developing a “Crosswalk” between the priorities and needs identified in the Interim Report and the Partnership’s capabilities.

With over 18 years of experience promoting collaborative partnerships, Coastal America provides continuity in interagency cooperation and achieving multi-partner missions. Coastal America’s Partnership tools such as the regional team structures, the Learning Center Network and the Corporate Partnership are unique and valuable

mechanisms for addressing many of the priorities identified by the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force. For example, the Learning Center Network with its broad public reach can support the priority objective “to inform decision and improve public understanding” and our regional interagency teams working with the corporate partnership can support the priority objective of “regional ecosystem protection and restoration” by facilitating effective implementation of “shovel-in-the-ground” projects.

These are exciting times for our oceans and coasts and the Coastal America Partnership will continue to identify ways to support the implementation of our new National Ocean Policy. The Partnership looks forward to working with the National Ocean Council to create innovative solutions to more effectively address the challenges facing our coastal and marine environment.

Virginia K. Tippie, Director

Regional Implementation Team Updates

Northeast (NERIT)

The NERIT coordinated the identification of important ecological restoration projects throughout New England that align with the Northeast Regional Ocean Council, Ecosystem Health Subcommittee goals. The Team especially sought projects incorporating two or three of Coastal America’s tools (e.g., CWRP, Innovative Readiness training, and Learning Centers). Some of the identified projects were eligible for federal stimulus funds (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, ARRA); others will go through the traditional federal agency funding processes. Our

Corporate Partners have provided continued cost share funding in each coastal state for environmental education projects, dam removals, anadromous fisheries restoration, and salt marsh education/restoration projects. Several new projects are being evaluated to provide training opportunities for the military while also accomplishing important habitat work.

On Monday October 19 Coastal America presented the Sesuit Creek – Bridge Street Salt Marsh Restoration team with a 2008 Partnership award in Dennis, MA. (see page 12) This project improved saline tidal flow to a

degraded 65 acre salt marsh and will increase fisheries yields by sustaining its nursery function, as well as increase diadromous fish passage. Soon after this project award ceremony, the NERIT was informed that the Connecticut Salt Marsh Restoration Team was selected to receive a 2009 Coastal America Partnership award for its decades of effort in salt marsh restoration.

Our New England state chapters of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership are weathering the economic storm as well. There is continued support to the large projects such as Herring River and Penobscot River restoration



projects. Additionally, an exciting opportunity for restoration on Cape Cod is presenting itself through the NRCS Cape Cod Water Resource Restoration Project. Regional team members look forward to working with the Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut chapters of the Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership to align corporate funding and in-kind services with significant education and restoration efforts.

One exciting effort this summer was an open house day onboard the EPA research vessel OSV BOLD. Coastal America agencies and the Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration provided a day long opportunity for the public to experience first hand coastal sciences. The OSV BOLD was moored in New London Harbor, CT where the public could also view the USCG Bark Eagle.



EPA's OSV BOLD open house with NERIT in New London, CT.

Mid-Atlantic

The second half of 2009 has been a very active period for the MARIT. Six team members attended the annual CA Meeting in Blaine, Washington, and led discussions concerning CA and the Interim Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force Report, CWRP relationships with the new ocean governance structure, and refinements to the Partnership Awards program. Team Co-Chairs have also been active participants in phone conferences with the new Mid-Atlantic Council on the Ocean created this past June by the Mid-Atlantic Governors Agreement on Ocean Conservation. These discussions are guiding the development of stakeholder meetings

that will advance the objectives of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO). Finally, nine CA Award nominations were submitted from the Mid-Atlantic for the 2010 cycle. Two Partnership Awards and one Spirit Award were approved (see Partnership Awards article).

Mid-Atlantic North (MARIT-North)

In July the Team initiated a series of meetings with a core group of partners with the objective of identifying new CA projects. In particular, the Team expects to work more closely with NGO partners such as The Nature Conservancy as well as the CWRP Chapters to develop and execute innovative projects. These meetings will continue into 2010.

As noted in the CWRP updates, on September 22, the NJ CWRP Chapter co-hosted a Recognition Ceremony with NJDEP Acting Commissioner Mark Mauriello to highlight the contributions of ten funded projects to the enhancement and protection of New Jersey's environment. The MARIT Co-Chairs attended the ceremony and expressed their appreciation for the support of the state and the NJ corporations who are promoting ecosystem restoration and awareness at the corporate level. Chapter members are actively marketing the success of the program and the Project Review sub-committee is evaluating new projects to fund.

As noted above in the cover story, the NY CWRP Chapter provided critical donations totaling \$45,000 for engineering management and inspection work for the Peconic River Fishway project at Grangebel Park in Riverhead, NY.

Mid-Atlantic South (MARIT-South)

On September 10, a dedication ceremony and project celebration was held for the

MARIT-South/Maryland CWRP Hail Cove project, on Maryland's Eastern Shore at the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. The program featured representatives from the USFWS, CWRP, Maryland state agencies, Ducks Unlimited, the National Aquarium and other project partners. Following the ceremony, groups of schoolchildren and volunteers facilitated by the National Aquarium, as well as MARIT-South team members planted grasses and oysters at the project site, and enjoyed a lunch provided by CWRP.

A Partnership Award was presented to the Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Task Force at a ceremony on October 4, 2009. This coalition has been working for the past five years to revitalize the fledgling oyster population of Delaware Bay.

Governors Form New South Atlantic Ocean Alliance

The Governors of North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Georgia announced an agreement on October 19, 2009 to work together to better manage and protect ocean and coastal resources, ensure regional economic sustainability and respond to disasters such as hurricanes. The mission of the South Atlantic Alliance is to significantly increase regional collaboration among South Atlantic states, with federal agency partners and other stakeholders, to sustain and enhance the environmental (coastal/marine), natural resource, economic, public safety, social, and national defense missions of the respective states and the South Atlantic region.

The Governors' South Atlantic Alliance is a state-led partnership leveraging resources from the public and private sectors, business and industry communities, local governments, federal agencies, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations to address regional priorities. The South Atlantic Alliance will leverage

resources from each state to protect and maintain healthy coastal ecosystems, keep waterfronts working, enhance clean ocean and coastal waters and help make communities more resilient after they've been struck by natural disasters. See the Alliance's website at <http://www.southatlanticalliance.org/index.htm>.

Southeast (SERIT)

The Southeast Regional Implementation Team (SERIT) met on September 16 at the Georgia Aquarium, one of the region's Learning Centers. The meeting served to re-establish the SERIT with new membership and to solicit potential projects. Representatives from EPA, NOAA, USDA-NRCS, DOD-Navy, DOI-USFWS, The Nature Conservancy, Southeast Governors Alliance, Georgia CWRP, the Georgia



SERIT Team members gather at the Georgia Aquarium in September.

Aquarium, and others, met and recommitted to collaborative SERIT activities. The subsequent meeting on December 2 ranked and prioritized potential SERIT activities and projects for further action in 2010.

Gulf of Mexico (GMRIT)

The GMRIT continues to support the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA). The *Governors' Action Plan I for Healthy and Resilient Coasts*, which was released at the State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit in 2006, challenged the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to make tangible progress on five priority issues themes (PITs): water quality, wetland and coastal restoration, environmental education, characterization of Gulf

habitats, and nutrient reductions. The subsequent development of the *Governors' Action Plan II* (a five-year plan) was initiated in the spring of 2009 and was approved at the GOMA-All Hands Meeting in August 2009. There are six PITs in the new *Action Plan II* and they are: water quality, habitat conservation and restoration, nutrients and nutrient impacts, environmental education, ecosystem integration and assessment, and coastal community resiliency. During the first *Action Plan*, the GOMA Environmental Education Network (EEN) established a steering committee and several working groups to implement the *Governor's Action Plan I* concerning education initiatives.

Support continues in coordinating and installing the GOMA EEN efforts with the CELC Network activities, and to install Ocean Today Kiosks (OTK) throughout the Gulf. OTKs have been developed and installed in three of the six Gulf CELCs, and two more are slated for installation in 2010. During the latter half of 2009, GMRIT collaborated with the Veracruz Aquarium to develop a prototype, GOMA-PIT Kiosk. This GOMA-PIT Kiosk will be completed and dedicated during the first quarter of 2010. Based on this prototype, a proposal was developed during the summer of 2009 and submitted to the EPA-Gulf of Mexico Program for the development of five, GOMA PIT Kiosks, one for each U.S. state, similar to the one under development in Veracruz, Mexico.

Northwest (NWRIT)

The Northwest Regional Implementation Team served as the sponsor for the 2009 Annual Meeting. In preparation for the event the NWRIT Chair, Rick Parkin of EPA, revamped regional team membership and initiated discussions to develop a regional CWRP and other initiatives. The NWRIT was



Rick Parkin receives the Regional Leadership Award from Virginia Tippie (left), and Michelle Prizhada, EPA Region 10 Acting Regional Administrator.

also responsible for coordinating commitments to the Vancouver Aquarium, and arranging the site visit to the Lummi Nation.

The NWRIT is actively building a vibrant partnership with the Vancouver Aquarium in British Columbia, Canada as well as working on a CWRP chapter.

Alaska (AKRIT)

The Alaska Regional Implementation Team met October 26, 2009, to discuss proposed projects for AKRIT endorsement and the agenda for the annual Alaska Regional Principals meeting to be held February 11, 2010, in conjunction with the Alaska Forum on the Environment. A marine debris workshop will be held after the meeting. The AKRIT is also working on implementation of the Oceans Today Kiosk project with the Alaska SeaLife Center (the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center for Alaska). The Team is designing a process and an advisory group for preparing and presenting regional inputs from Alaska for the nationwide Kiosk network. It was also announced that the Alaska ShoreZone Mapping and Imagery Project will receive a 2009 Coastal America National Spirit Award at an upcoming public ceremony.

Corporate Partnership Updates

National Overview

The National CWRP Management Subcommittee met on August 6 to hear status reports from state chapters, discuss a new communications and outreach approach and identify ways to help CA fulfill the goals set forth by the Administration's Ocean Policy Task Force.

National and State Chapters of the CWRP met on September 3 to help discuss the CWRP program's work with the new Administration. The CWRP is looking to improve communication by establishing regular bi-monthly conference calls for State Chapters. Each State CWRP Corporate Lead provided an update of the Chapter's activities including projects, events and recruitment.

At the Coastal America Annual Meeting, on October 16, John Mackenzie, CWRP Senior Advisor, received a Leadership Award from Virginia Tippie, Coastal America Director. The award recognized John's continued CWRP program leadership.



John Mackenzie receives a 2009 Leadership Award from Virginia K. Tippie.

In addition, the CWRP held a State/National conference call on November 5. Each State CWRP Corporate Lead gave an update of the Chapter's activities including projects, events and recruitment. The group also discussed their newly updated 'duties

& responsibilities' document that will help explain the organization and guide future members.

Finally, on December 3, the CWRP Management Subcommittee met via conference call to discuss the status of recruitment, metrics, state chapters, and planning for an annual meeting.

New Jersey

On September 22 The New Jersey Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (NJCWRP) and The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) held a ceremony to recognize the recipients of ten 2009 grants provided by the NJCWRP. The projects, which vary in scope from habitat restoration, dam removal and more, are all helping to restore and enhance aquatic habitats in New Jersey. The project teams were acknowledged during an inaugural recognition event at the DEP headquarters in Trenton, NJ.

"Through this unique partnership with the New Jersey Corporate Wetlands Restoration group, the DEP is participating in projects focused on endangered species protection, critical habitat restoration, and water quality improvements," said DEP Acting Commissioner, Mark Mauriello. "These projects are truly a testament to our commitment to improving and enhancing New Jersey's environment."

The conservation management of New Jersey's lands plays an important role in the DEP and CWRP's overall environmental protection strategies. The way the land is managed directly impacts the quality of drinking water, wildlife habitat, potential for flooding, recreational open space and tourism, and many other important quality of life issues. These projects all reflect a commitment of the people of NJ to protect, preserve and enhance both the



Left to right: Jim Shissias, PSEG; Julie Schreck, Mayor of Bradley Beach; Russ Furnari, PSEG and Chairman NJCWRP; and Mark Mauriello, Acting Commissioner NJDEP.

land and the coastal environment.

"The success of the CWRP is its ability to leverage the talents and resources of all its members," said Russ Furnari, NJCWRP chairman. "These projects are proof that corporations, communities and government bodies can work together and improve the environment to the benefit of all."

Speakers at the event emphasized the success of the CWRP's grant process is due to cooperative efforts involving the DEP, New Jersey corporations, leading environmental organizations, academic institutions, and federal agencies such as the EPA, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, and the Army Corp of Engineers.

The NJ CWRP was established in 2004 and shares the overarching Coastal America Partnership goal to restore, preserve, enhance, and protect aquatic habitats.

New York

At the New York CWRP Chapter's spring 2009 meeting several projects were submitted for consideration. The Chapter approved a much needed monetary contribution on the Fort Covington Salmon River dam removal project. Partnering with the St Regis Mohawk Tribe in northern, upstate NY, the Chapter donated plants and funding for bank restoration and

stabilization. The dam-removal portion of the Salmon River Restoration Project was completed in summer 2009 and by the fall the River was on its way to natural restoration with waters flowing more freely toward its confluence with the St. Lawrence River. Town volunteers pitched in to clean up remaining debris. In November, a 2009 Coastal America Partnership Award was announced for the Salmon River Restoration Fort Covington Dam Removal Team, including the Chapter and major players, for outstanding efforts to restore and protect the coastal environment.

See also, the Peconic River Fish Way New York success story on page 1.

Maryland

The MD CWRP was a key partner in the Hail Cove restoration project at the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. The program at the September 10 dedication featured representatives from the USFWS, CWRP, Maryland state agencies, Ducks Unlimited, the National Aquarium and other project partners, including Vulcan Materials, a major contributor. Following the ceremony, groups of schoolchildren and volunteers facilitated by the National Aquarium, as well as MARIT-South team members planted grasses and oysters at the project site, and enjoyed a lunch provided by MD CWRP member Constellation Energy.

Maine

In 2009 the Maine CWRP provided \$15,000 towards the Blackman Stream Fishway project in Bradley, ME. The donation leveraged the same amount in matching funds through a Gulf of Maine Council/National Marine Fisheries Partnership Grant. The Atlantic Salmon Federation Maine Council is using this donation to construct a fishway that is being chipped into the existing bedrock adjacent to a historic dam on Blackman Stream in the Penobscot River watershed.



Denil rock fishway on the Blackman Stream.

A short denil fishway will be located above the upper pool to accommodate the full range of springtime flows. The fishway will restore a run of 300,000 alewives and will also benefit American eels and sea lampreys. The fishway will open four miles of stream and a 1220 acre pond for fish spawning. The total cost of the project is \$275,000 and funding has come from combination of public and private sources.

CWRP Supports Ocean Today Kiosk at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Alabama

Budget cuts, staff reductions and hiring freezes throughout the Nation are more and more common today due to the state of our economy, and the Learning Centers are feeling the same burdens. With the entire nation falling on difficult times, the Learning Center network is working hard to maintain attendance at their institutions and is continuing to lead the way in providing the public with invaluable information about our marine environment (and more!). The way in which the Learning Centers and other organizations are accomplishing such great work during these times is through collaboration. One example is how the CWRP recently supported the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL). Due to continuing reductions in state funding, the DISL lost funding for the Ocean Today Kiosk exhibit installation, which was already underway. Realizing that the installation could not materialize without additional support, the CWRP contributed the software that was necessary for the kiosk to be operational. Thanks to the CWRP's commitment to the Learning Center network, the residents of Alabama will have access to the nation's most current information about ocean science, technology, news, life and discoveries.

Learning Center Updates

The Coastal America Learning Center network educates and involves the public in protecting our nation's coastal and ocean ecosystems. Most of the 23 Learning Centers are aquariums, but marine science centers and laboratories are also part of this dynamic network.

Ocean Policy Task Force Listening Session Held at Learning Centers

Following the release of its interim report in September, the Interagency

Ocean Policy Task Force held a series of open listening sessions across the country to enable the public to provide feedback regarding the report and the new ocean governance structure that is being developed. The Gulf of Mexico Learning Center network responded to the Task Force need for public outreach. An open listening session was held at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas Learning Center in New Orleans, LA. During this session, several other Gulf of Mexico Learning Centers

engaged citizens in this public hearing via video conference and webcast. Residents across the Gulf of Mexico visited Learning Centers, listened to the open session being held at the Aquarium of the Americas and provided feedback to the Task Force. The Texas State Aquarium, J.L. Scott Marine Education Center and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab were the Learning Centers in the Gulf that made this video conference and webcast available.

NOAA Announces \$9 Million in Ocean Education Grants, including 8 Coastal America Learning Centers

On October 5, NOAA announced 11 grants totaling more than \$9 million to create new education projects in aquariums across the nation. Eight of the nine award winners are part of our Learning Center network. The awards will fund new projects educating aquarium visitors about the ocean, and encouraging better stewardship of the marine environment.

“We want to get people excited about the ocean and one of the best ways to do that is to work with our partners at the Association of Zoos and Aquariums to promote the development of new and exciting programs,” said Louisa Koch, Director, NOAA Education. “The aquariums receiving these grants will reach millions of visitors who, we hope, will become better stewards of our ocean environment.”

The aquariums that received grants are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The grants were made to the following organizations: Aquarium of the Pacific, Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation, National Aquarium of Baltimore, New England Aquarium, North Carolina Aquarium Society, Sea Research Foundation (in association with Mystic Aquarium), Shedd Aquarium Society, Tennessee Aquarium and the Florida Aquarium.

The projects were selected based on the importance, relevance and applicability of stated goals; technical and scientific merit; overall qualification of the proposing applicants; feasibility of the project to meet time and cost goals; and whether the project would provide a focused and effective education and outreach strategy related to NOAA’s mission to protect the nation’s natural resources.



Photo Credit: Robert Hansen, NOAA.

Left to right: Kris Vehrs, Executive Director of AZA; Jim Maddy, President and CEO, AZA; and Louisa Koch, Director, NOAA Education.

The Second Wave of Ocean Today Kiosks: IGFA, Florida Aquarium, and Hatfield Marine Science Center

In recognition of National Ocean Month in June 2009, three Coastal America Learning Centers unveiled their newest exhibit: the Ocean Today Kiosk. The three Learning Centers include: the International Game Fish Association located in Ft. Lauderdale, FL; the Florida Aquarium in Tampa, FL; and the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, OR.



Ocean Today Kiosks installed in 2009. From top to bottom: IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum, Florida Aquarium, and Hatfield Marine Science Center

Gulf of Mexico Learning Centers Partner to Address Climate Change in the Gulf; Awarded NOAA Funding

As part of NOAA’s grant program to launch new education programs throughout AZA accredited aquariums, NOAA funded a Climate Change project in the Gulf of Mexico. The Florida Aquarium will serve as the lead for the program and partners will include the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, J.L. Scott Marine Education Center, Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, Texas State Aquarium and the Veracruz Aquarium. The five-year project will begin in January 2010.

Learning Center Education Directors’ Annual Meeting

The Annual Learning Center Education Directors’ Meeting was held during the National Marine Educators Association Annual Conference in Monterey, CA on July 1, 2009. The meeting’s focus was upcoming Coastal America activities, opportunities for Learning Centers and future network plans. Although Education Directors convene by teleconference every month, this meeting provides a needed opportunity to strengthen relationships by meeting in person once a year.

Learning Center Directors’ Annual Meeting

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Learning Center Directors was held on September 15, 2009 in conjunction with the annual Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) meeting at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, OR. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss new Learning Center initiatives and to identify ways to strengthen the Learning Center network. The agenda topics included: expanding the Learning Center network, an update on NOAA ocean literacy efforts, the Ocean Interpretive Stations Initiative,

the Learning Center Network Action Plan, regional collaboration and new initiatives for the network.

Aquarium of the Pacific

Since 2002, the Aquarium of the Pacific and Boeing have partnered to offer the Boeing Teacher Institute (BTI) for teachers every August. The week long program offers thirty teachers the opportunity to experience marine science education in the field so they can incorporate more marine science lessons and activities in their classrooms. The teachers spend two days on site at the Aquarium of the Pacific participating in lectures, workshops, grade specific tours, and grade specific lesson development teams. Three more days are spent at Catalina Island's Campus by the Sea. Here teachers are immersed in the island's ecosystems and visit tide pools, kelp forests, and open water habitats. Field activities include trawling, mud grabbing, whale watching, snorkeling, and hiking. Lectures, grade specific team meetings for lesson development, and constant access to educated staff coincide with these field activities.



BTI teachers participate in a mud grab at the Aquarium of the Pacific.

This year's trip was extremely successful. The teachers developed and implemented marine conservation lesson plans, provided positive verbal and written feedback, and are using materials from the program in their classrooms. For example, one teacher coordinated with Aquarium staff to have an educator speak to her class on fisheries biology. She followed up with her activities from the program and her own assessments.

Dauphin Island Sea Lab

On September 4, Dauphin Island Sea Lab's Mobile Manatees Sighting Network successfully tagged a manatee in Alabama waters, the first for the state. This first Alabama capture, a female manatee weighing over 1,000 pounds, has been dubbed "Bama." Specially designed tags will allow each manatee to be tracked continuously by satellite and radio telemetry.

The two-day capture effort actually resulted in the successful tagging of two Alabama manatees, the female Bama and one male. The crew also captured a large female, named Ellie, who is known to be from Crystal River, Florida. The capture and tagging effort was a collaborative effort among DISL, SeaWorld Orlando, Wildlife Trust Florida, US Fish and Wildlife Service Alabama Field Office, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Sea to Shore Alliance.

The West Indian manatee is federally protected and the northern Gulf of Mexico is thought to be fringe habitat for these manatees. Data from this research will be used to help manage and conserve manatees in Alabama and other fringe areas.

Florida Aquarium

In October 2009 the Florida Aquarium welcomed Jim Toomey, friend of Coastal America and a superlative steward of the marine environment as well as internationally known cartoonist of Sherman's Lagoon. Toomey provided



Cartoonist Jim Toomey at the Florida Aquarium.

a book-signing, community lecture, and meet-and-greet with middle school students. The event was extremely well-received and enjoyed by all participants.

Georgia Aquarium

Twice this year the Georgia Aquarium served as the meeting host site for the reinvigorated Coastal America Southeast Regional Implementation Team (SERIT). Bruce Carlson, Science Officer of the Aquarium, provided an overview at the SERIT kickoff meeting on September 16 of the conservation and research goals of the Aquarium. He described joint research efforts within the region including the Mexican Whale Shark project and the Dolphin Sentinels project in Florida's Indian River Lagoon. On December 2, the Aquarium again played host to a SERIT meeting, with Dr. Carlson leading a discussion about adding facilities to the SERIT Learning Center network, including potential designation of the Chattanooga Aquarium as a Learning Center and Georgia Aquarium Expansion.

Hatfield Marine Science Center

The Ocean Conservation and Education Alliance Northwest (OCEAN), a partnership of Oregon Sea Grant and several other coastal groups will receive a 2009 Coastal America Partnership Award for bringing together a network of innovative educators to engage and inspire ocean science literacy. This partnership came about three years ago as a result of discussions among the Sea Grant Education program at Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center, the Lincoln County School District, and the Oregon Coast Aquarium. The initial goal was to forge a partnership to help make local students among the most "ocean literate" in the country. Since then, the partnership has grown to include more than a dozen local, state, federal and university agencies and organizations, and the network is expanding to encompass the entire Pacific Northwest.

The network's goals are to unite organizations with strong marine science education programs to focus on ocean science literacy both in K-12 schools and among the public at large. The partnership aims to nurture children's inherent scientific curiosity by employing the multi-disciplinary allure of the ocean to help teach science, technology, math, and engineering concepts, and to create professional development opportunities to support teachers and marine science professionals in furthering that goal.

International Game Fish Association (IGFA) Museum & Hall of Fame

In November, the highly acclaimed marine artworks of Dr. Guy Harvey were unveiled at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum. Dr. Harvey has long been a vocal proponent of catch-and-release and generously donates artwork, time and funds for numerous institutions and conservation groups. He became an IGFA Representative in 1986 and has been a member of the IGFA Board of Trustees since 1993. He was inducted into the 11th class of the IGFA's Fishing Hall of Fame on October 27.



Mercury Marine sponsors a series of free fishing clinics at the IGFA.

In addition, the IGFA has teamed up with Mercury Marine to bring a series of free fishing clinics to families in the area. Held at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum, these clinics provide an outlet for families to enjoy a sport they can participate in together for years to come. The clinics also help the IGFA reach its mission of making people better anglers while teaching them to be bet-

ter stewards of their environment. Each clinic includes educational stations such as knot tying, cast netting, and fishing instruction and allows kids and parents to put their newly acquired skills to use by catching fish in the front ponds of the IGFA Headquarters. Mercury Marine brings in a series of pro fisherman to give educational seminars about fishing and boating during the event and a local radio station broadcasts as well as helps out with the prize giveaways. The last clinic, held on Saturday, September 1, was the largest turnout to date and attracted over 1,200 community members from around South Florida. The IGFA was also presented with a check from Jamie Bunn, President of Bluewater Movements Inc, for \$2,100 to help support the efforts of the IGFA Junior Angler Program.

National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium (NMRM&A)

The NMRM&A held the fourth Student Ocean Conference, which offered high school students and their teachers an up-close look at the Mississippi River. This year, 33 students and teachers from Iowa and Illinois participated in the intensive two-day workshop.

The NMRM&A was the first inland museum to be declared a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. Mark Wagner, the museum's director of education, said the river forms an unbroken coast to the Gulf of Mexico.

The main goal of the conference was to instill in the students the importance of the Mississippi River and its connection to the ocean. "What they do in their communities will eventually get to the Mississippi River and eventually into the ocean," Wagner said. The conference brought together students, their teachers, national river biology experts, state natural resources staff, along with staff from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Environmental

Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers and the National Resources Conservation Service.

(Reprinted with permission from the Telegraph Herald)



Photo Credit: Jessica Reilly, Telegraph Herald

Students pull in a net along the banks of the Mississippi River in Dubuque during the NMRM&A's Student Ocean Conference.

North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher (NCAFF)

NOAA's Office of Education recently awarded the North Carolina Aquarium Society \$580,000 for the Aquarium at Fort Fisher's proposal "Using marine mammals to communicate solutions to ocean issues." The NCAFF intends to increase public understanding and appreciation of the interconnectedness of people and the environment, with a focus on climate change impacts, through statewide outreach and an on-site exhibit upgrade. New programs will engage youth through immersive technology in a portable, inflatable GeoDome theater. NCAFF will work in collaboration with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, the Elumenati LLC, University of North Carolina Wilmington and Duke University Marine Laboratory to develop marine mammal and climate change programs for GeoDome presentations. Ultimately, teenagers aged 14-17 will become engaged in climate and ocean literacy through a better understanding of marine mammals.

As part of planned upgrades to an existing whale exhibit NCAFF will incorporate materials developed for GeoDome use. These modifications will

also allow NCAFF to integrate Science on a Sphere and Ocean Today images from their sister aquariums at Pine Knoll Shores and Roanoke Island. Through compelling ambassadors – marine mammals – innovative technology and engaging programs, audiences gain a better understanding of climate change impacts. Audiences will receive tools and motivation to create positive change through personal action.

Oregon Coast Aquarium

Following the release of the West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health, Lincoln County, Oregon has followed the example of the State to make ocean literacy a priority. The new School Liaison/ Partnership Coordinator position at the Oregon Coast Aquarium will work closely with Oregon Sea Grant and the Lincoln County School district to make marine science a regular part of the K-12 student experience.

The School Liaison/Partnership Coordinator, Rachael Goetzelman, will work directly with teachers to assess what is currently being taught regarding marine science and explore ways to make these studies a more integral part of the curriculum by providing support and resources. It is the intention that this collaborative approach will allow teachers to take ownership of the school district's mission to create the best prepared oceanic science students in the country.

While starting at a local level, the partners are hopeful that Lincoln County will act as a model for future expansion of the initiative. The collaboration is eager to see student achievement improve from using ocean science as a regular part of curriculum.

South Carolina Aquarium

The South Carolina Aquarium, with the help of over 80 local partner restaurants,

has promoted local and sustainable seafood since 2001. The program is specifically targeted toward chefs so that they can improve the sustainability of seafood served in their restaurants. Chefs are provided with a variety of training materials for their restaurants and staff. They are also encouraged to submit menus for assessment and advice on how to become more sustainable.

Recently, Megan Westmeyer, the South Carolina Aquarium's Sustainable Seafood Coordinator, was asked by NOAA to serve on a panel at a Sustainable Seafood Seminar to educate chefs from the Washington D.C. area. The panel included experts on fisheries and sustainable practices. Ms. Westmeyer shared the Aquarium's experiences in implementing practices and connecting with customers.

Recent Coastal America Partnership Award Ceremonies

Since 1996, the Coastal America Awards Program has recognized outstanding collaborative projects and excellence in leadership for protecting, preserving and restoring the nation's coastal resources and ecosystems.

Sesuit Creek – Bridge Street Salt Marsh Restoration Team

On Monday October 19 Coastal America presented the Sesuit Creek – Bridge Street Salt Marsh Restoration team with a 2008 Partnership award in Dennis, on Cape Cod Massachusetts. Dr. Steve Murawski, Chief Scientist for NOAA Fisheries Service and Walter Douglas, Regional Assistant Chief for USDA/NRCS represented the Executive Office of the President and served as Coastal America awarding officials. Over 20 federal, state and local partners were recognized for their collaborative efforts to complete the largest pro-active salt marsh restoration project thus far in Massachusetts. Replacement of an



State & Federal officials gather in Dennis to view the Sesuit Creek-Bridge St. restoration. Left to right: Steve Murawski and Steve Block, NOAA Fisheries; Mary Griffin, MA Dept of Fish and Game; Virginia Tippie, CA; Walt Douglas and Don Liptak, USDA/NRCS.

aged water control structure has restored natural tidal flow to sixty-five acres of Cape Cod salt marsh, improving fish passage and recreational opportunities, as well as substantially enhancing habitat throughout the system.

Delaware Oyster Project Team

On October 4, 2009 the Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Task Force received a Coastal America Partnership Award for

their team's efforts to plant two million bushels of clam and oyster shells onto historic reefs in Delaware Bay, providing crucial habitat for juvenile oysters to attach and grow. The oyster population had been declining in Delaware Bay but the Task Force's efforts have offset the declining natural population of juvenile oysters. The year 2007 was the first time since 1999 that the oyster-shell resource has been in equilibrium or increased. For Delaware Bay, as in many coastal estuaries, oysters are a key species ensuring water quality, food and jobs. The estimated impact of the FY07 program alone is \$90 million — equating to more than \$40 for every federal dollar invested.

At the ceremony, a range of partners spoke about the project and its importance to Delaware Bay, including: Robert Tudor, Deputy Executive Director of the Delaware River Basin Commission; Eric Powell, Director Rutgers University Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory;

Jen Adkins, Executive Director, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary; Colin O'Mara, Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and Amy Cradic, Assistant Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

The ceremony concluded with the Awarding Official Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) of the Army Terrance "Rock" Salt presenting each of the team's organizations with an Award plaque and a letter from President Obama. LTC Thomas J. Tickner, Philadelphia District Engineer & Commander, United States Army Corps of Engineers received the overall team plaque. Congressman, Mike Castle, provided closing remarks stating that we need to do even more for Delaware Bay.



The Award Winning Delaware Oyster Restoration team pictured with DAS Terrance Salt and Congressman Mike Castle.

Immediately following the award ceremony a group of federal representatives including Army DAS Rock Salt met with representatives from DE and NJ state agencies and others to discuss habitat restoration.

Long term efforts can be difficult to maintain, and overcoming that challenge is worthy of praise. As President Obama's letter to the award winning team states "your team is to be commended for the outstanding multi-year effort." The Coastal America Partnership Awards continue to be a motivating force to keep teams working toward the restoration of our coastal resources.

Florida Artificial Tire Reef Cleanup Team Awards Presented -- Stateside and in Kuwait

On August 10 at a Kuwait Naval Base, Lieutenant General William Webster, Commanding General, Third Army, U.S. Army Central, Coalition Forces Land Component Command, presented a special Coastal America Partnership Award. General Webster gave Capt. Russell Destremps, 86th Engineer Dive Team commander an engraved plaque and a letter of congratulations from President Obama for his work on the Florida Tire Project. In 2007 CAPT Destremps was LT Destremps and served as the leader of the Army Dive Company's team who helped in the cleanup of a failed Florida tire reef. CAPT Destremps was unable to attend the full Award Ceremony as he was leading his men in Iraq and Kuwait, so Coastal America brought the ceremony to him.

Two days later, in Hollywood, Florida, the rest of the team had their ceremony on the picturesque grounds of the Anne Kolb Nature Center in Hollywood, Florida. The venue was just a few miles away from the coast and on that very day soldiers and sailors were working with scientists, stevedores and water-to-energy experts to continue the cleanup.

At the Kuwait ceremony, when LTG Webster read the letter from President Obama to CAPT Destremps and Army



Photo Credit: Sgt. B.J. Gilbert, US Army

Left to right: LCDR Dennis Fabr USCG, DAS David McGinnis & COL Bernie Hyland OSD/RA and NDC Brown of the US Navy Reserves pose aboard the Army Landing Craft Brandy Station at the project site.

divers who he commanded, the pride felt by all at the ceremony was palpable. President Obama wrote in his letter to the Award Winning Team, "I am particularly proud of the many sailors and soldiers who have found a way to enhance training skills important to our Nation's readiness for war while also making a significant contribution to the health of our nation's living ocean resources. Just as you protect our Nation while serving overseas, at home you have found another way to protect our Nation's wellbeing."

The failed reef site resulted from a 1970s era effort to place between one and two million tires in the ocean off Broward County in an effort to create fish habitat. Over the years, many of the tires were mobilized by tropical storms and hurricanes, the movement of which caused damage to nearby existing coral reefs. Although the environmental threat is serious, the complexity and magnitude



Photo Credit: Dawn Miller-Walker

Florida tire project awardees pose with DAS McGinnis and Congressman Klein.

of removing these tires had prevented any individual government agency from doing so. Bringing Coastal America's strengths to bear on the problem, the Partnership, led by Will Nuckols, brought a group of federal, state and county government agencies together. This group worked jointly to complete a pilot study with the objective of defining the technical and economic feasibility of coordinating agency capabilities.

Funding for the military mission was provided in part by the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program.

At the formal ceremony in Florida David L. McGinnis Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Reserve Affairs served as the Awarding Official and read the letter of congratulations from President Barack Obama. In the letter the President congratulated recipients and said "Every day that you work on this project, you demonstrate that government working together collaboratively can make a positive impact on the environment."

Award plaques and letters of congratulations were then presented to members of the project team including representatives of the Navy, Army and Coast Guard, Office of Governor Charlie Crist, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, NOAA, NOVA Southeastern University and several parts of Broward County government.

The ceremony was wrapped up by Maureen Jaeger, Special Assistant to the Governor of Florida and U.S. Congressman Ron Klein. Congressman Klein, who has visited the project said, "This is the kind of model of cooperation that should work in all of our government, private, and public initiatives."

North Deer Island Protection Team

On December 2, 2009, the North Deer Island Protection Partnership Award

Ceremony was held to recognize the innovative restoration and protection work of the Team. The ceremony took place at The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston TX. Twelve partner agencies were recognized for their efforts to restore critical shoreline and recover acres of important shorebird and fish habitat. Eileen Sobeck, Department of Interior's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks served as the awarding official.



Eileen Sobeck, DAS FWS, poses with members of the North Deer Island Team.

The North Deer Island shoreline restoration project conserves three priority-bird species—the endangered Brown Pelican and threatened Reddish Egret and White-faced Ibis—and 16 other bird species on the Audubon Society's bird island sanctuary. This project also restored eight acres of intertidal marsh which provides critical nursery habitat for commercially and recreationally important fishery species.

The most productive bird nesting island on the Texas Coast, North Deer Island



Photo Credit: Woody Woodrow

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar recently announced the recovery of the Brown Pelican, an amazing success story made possible by innovative projects such as North Deer Island.

has experienced up to 10 feet of erosion per year. By protecting approximately 1.7 miles of shoreline from erosion, the project assures long-term protection of the birds' breeding habitat. The island has been vital to the recovery of the Brown Pelican.

The project, led by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, is part of the region's shared habitat conservation goals established by the Galveston Bay Estuary Program partnership, whose mission is to preserve the bay's economic and ecologic health. Partners barged in 24,100 tons from a rock quarry in Missouri—using the Mississippi River and the Intracoastal Waterway as a route—to create 7,100 feet of stone breakwater and armored shoreline. The planning, engineering, and construction costs for the eight-year endeavor were over \$3.2 million dollars.

2009 Partnership and Spirit Award Winners Announced

The Coastal America coordinating office received numerous nominations for award recognition this year. The Awards Review Committee, comprised of representatives from three agencies, carefully reviewed the nominations and provided recommendations. Awards were based on the criteria that the project team involve at least one federal agency partner as well as one non-federal entity, clearly demonstrate

the "value added" of the partnership effort, reflect an innovative or unique way of accomplishing stated goals and objectives with positive environmental results, and provide a contribution to accomplishment of Coastal America's objectives to protect, preserve and restore the Nation's coastal resources and/or increase public awareness and education. Congratulations to the Award winners:

2009 Partnership Awards

Fishing for Energy Partnership, USA

Lead Agency: NOAA

The Fishing for Energy partnership provides 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.

Connecticut Tidal Wetland Restoration Team, CT

Lead Agencies: FWS/NOAA/USACE

This multi-agency and multi-stakeholder team has partnered for nearly 30 years to restore over 1,148 acres of degraded tidal wetlands at 71 sites.

Salmon River Restoration: Fort Covington Dam Removal Team, NY

Lead Agency: NOAA

This team removed the Fort Covington Dam reestablishing access to more than 35 miles of the Salmon River and tributaries.

Lynnhaven River Oyster Recovery Team, VA

Lead Agency: USACE

This oyster restoration project created one of the largest sanctuaries for native oysters worldwide and used the latest scientific research to improve the effectiveness of the stocking effort.

Hail Cove Living Shoreline Partnership, MD

Lead Agency: USFWS

This joint project of Federal and State government agencies, conservation organizations, and corporations has reduced erosion on Maryland's Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge while preserv-

ing prime habitat for the waterfowl and shellfish that are vital to the Chesapeake Bay's culture and economy.

The Ocean Conservation and Education Alliance Northwest (OCEAN), OR

Lead Agency:NOAA/OR Sea Grant

OCEAN is a growing network of education organizations throughout the Pacific Northwest with the shared goal to encourage local students to become the most "ocean literate" students in the country.

Purisima Point Least Tern Management Team, Vandenberg AFB, CA

Lead Agency: USAF

The Least Tern management team accomplished ecosystem-based management of this endangered species while also promoting the health of an entire coastal ecosystem.

2009 Spirit Awards

Elders Point Restoration, Jamaica Bay, Salt Marsh Islands, NY

The Elders Point team constructed 40 acres of tidal salt marsh by placing dredge material on the marsh plain and further enhanced the effort by stabilizing the shoreline with native vegetation.

Alaska ShoreZone Mapping and Imagery Project Team, AK

Since 2001 the ShoreZone team of over 30 partners has collected over 45,000 km of shoreline imagery in south central, southeast, and western Alaska.

Lower St. Johns River Tributary Assessment Team (TAT), FL

The TAT investigates sources of fecal coliforms in the 75 impaired tributaries discharging into the Lower St Johns River to identify opportunities for source elimination.

Red Salmon Restoration Team, WA

This team coordinated 200+ volunteers to remove invasive species and replant native trees and shrubs to improve spawning habitat for chum salmon, rearing habitat for threatened Chinook and steelhead, and to protect water quality and prevent the spread of invasive species.

OYSTER - Offer Your Shell to Enhance Restoration Program, FL

Since 2005 the OYSTER program has engaged the local community in habitat restoration, conservation and resource renewability by partnering with local restaurants and seafood providers who donate bare oyster shell to be recycled and reused to create oyster reef habitat.

Announcements

NCO Staffing Changes

This issue of The Coastal America Update marks the end of Katharine Dowell's year-long detail as Coastal America's Deputy Director. During her tenure, she was responsible for national outreach and regional coordination. Katharine is returning to EPA's Office of Water. The entire Partnership would like to sincerely thank her for her lasting contributions and dedicated service during this transitional year!

Scott Johnston, a Supervisory Fish and Wildlife Biologist from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Hadley, MA will be joining the NCO in 2010 as the new CWRP Coordinator. His duties in Hadley include overseeing the management and conservation of migratory birds through partnership development with States, nongovernmental organizations, and federal agencies, including multiple countries for conservation of high priority migratory birds. Scott will be working part time for Coastal America and will be based in Massachusetts. Welcome Scott!

Restore America's Estuaries Call for 2010 Conference

Coastal America's CWRP Partner Restore America's Estuaries is pleased to announce the *Call for Dedicated Sessions, Presentations, and Posters* for the 5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration--Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice, and Policy.

The Conference will be held November 13-17, 2010, at the Galveston Island Convention Center, Galveston, Texas. The deadline for all proposals is March 2, 2010. For more information and to submit a proposal, visit: <http://program.estuaries.org>.

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Coastal America is a partnership among federal, state and local governments and private alliances to address environmental problems along our nation's coasts. The federal partners are: Executive Office of the President, Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Labor, State, Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and The National Science Foundation.



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