

Coastal America Partnership Event

Presentation of Senator John Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award & Celebration of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership 10th Anniversary

- Date:** June 24, 2010, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Location:** Capitol Hill, Senate Russell Building Room 325, Washington, DC
- Honoree: Senator John Kerry (confirmed)
Honorary Co-Chairs:
Senators: Gregg, Mikulski (confirmed),
Representatives: Pallone, Sarbanes, Delahunt, Inslee, Farr, Capps (confirmed)
- Event:** Ceremony to present Senator John Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award to Senator John Kerry and Celebration of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) 10-year Anniversary.
- Purpose:** To recognize Senator John Kerry for his career of environmental leadership and his important contribution to Coastal America in establishing the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership and the Coastal America Learning Center Network.
- To celebrate the achievements of the CWRP and emphasize support for implementation of the Administration's National Ocean Policy.

Senator John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award:

The John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award was established in 1999 to “recognize a *person who, whether in government, the private sector, or academia, has consistently displayed outstanding leadership of national significance related to restoring and protecting our nation’s coastal resources.*” *Previous award winners include Senator John Chafee (posthumously), Leon Panetta, Chair, Pew Oceans Commission and Admiral James D. Watkins, Chair, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.*

After a quarter century in Washington, D.C., Senator John F. Kerry has emerged as an important environmental legislator, a constant steward of the marine environment, and a valuable supporter of Coastal America. As the current Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee he is working to broker a world-wide climate change agreement and is championing U.S. accession to the Law of the Sea Convention. Senator Kerry was instrumental in the establishment of the Coastal America Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Network in 1996 and the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership in 2000. It is not only appropriate but also very timely that the Coastal America Partnership recognize Senator John Kerry for his outstanding career of environmental leadership.

The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership

The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) is an innovative public-private partnership between 16 federal agencies, numerous state agencies, private businesses, conservation organizations and academia to protect, enhance and restore critical aquatic habitats. The CWRP was first conceived in Massachusetts in 1999 and a national effort was initiated in 2000 with the support of the Coastal America Partnership. The Coastal America Partnership is comprised of all federal agencies with statutory responsibilities for coastal and marine resources or with operational activities that affect the coastal and marine environment. The collaborative process used by Coastal America brokers skills and leverages resources, allowing projects to be implemented more quickly and cost effectively.

Through Coastal America's Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, more than 300 partners have contributed time, materials and money to facilitate over 200 aquatic habitat restoration and protection projects. The CWRP partners also provide a variety of in-kind service activities and support educational programs through Coastal America's Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers. This collaborative process provides direct support for the National Ocean Policy through its unique team structures, involvement of corporate partnerships, and outreach to the public.

Invitees:

Senior Administration Officials, National and State CWRP Members, Corporate CEO/Vice Presidents, Coastal America Learning Center Directors, NGO Executives, Foundation Chairs, members of Congress.

Related Agency-Specific Meetings:

During the day of June 24, corporate leaders will meet with senior administration officials for 1-2 hour agency specific group discussions on public-private partnerships and implementation of the national ocean policy. The purpose of these discussions is to foster positive relationships, encourage new partnership efforts in support of agency missions and increase transparency. The evening ceremony and reception on Capitol Hill will then provide an opportunity to broaden the dialogue.