



## COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP

# Statement of Collaborative Mission

July 2011

The Coastal America Partnership is an action-oriented, results-driven collaboration dedicated to restoring and preserving coastal ecosystems and addressing critical environmental issues. The Partnership brings together people and resources from federal agencies, state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to collaboratively address our nation's coastal environmental challenges. With a goal of better management of coastal resources, the Partnership coordinates the statutory responsibilities and combines the resources and expertise of federal agencies, Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers, and public and private corporations and organizational partners. As a result, the Coastal America Partnership maximizes the environmental and economic benefits and minimizes the costs of addressing complex watershed, coastal, and marine problems.

The components of the Coastal America Partnership strive to engage each other at the federal, state and local levels to work in smart and creative ways to address ocean and coastal challenges and provide a national and regional process for supporting regional ocean collaborations and alliances. The scope of individual partner participation is subject to the availability of appropriated resources. The Coastal America Partnership includes:

***Coastal America Federal Partners*** – The Coastal America Partners are federal agencies that share a common goal of protecting, preserving and restoring our nation's coastal heritage and resources. The Federal Partners have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding and Commitments Agreement to support the activities of the Coastal America Partnership through coordination of their statutory authorities and capabilities. The Federal Partners are able, through their representatives at a national and regional level, to provide staff, resources and expertise to support Partnership efforts, establish policy direction for the Partnership, recognize project accomplishments through presentations of awards, identify and coordinate national and regional collaborative projects to meet the goals of the Partnership, and designate and support Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers.

***Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers*** – The Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELC) are a network of aquarium and research facility based learning centers dedicated to educating and involving the public in protecting our nation's coastal and ocean ecosystems. The CELC Network consists of 23 learning centers located throughout the United States, with one each in Canada and Mexico, and serves tens of millions of people annually. Each CELC Learning Center is established through a Memorandum of Understanding with a Coastal America Federal Partner. The CELC Network is able to serve as a conduit for information to communities on coastal and ocean issues, design and provide training programs on coastal and ocean issues, provide venues for Partnership events, conduct outreach to coastal communities to identify local needs, coordinate citizen volunteers to support Partnership projects, and support and promote national STEM programs through conduct of student summits and programs in local schools.

***Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership*** – The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) is a public-private collaboration dedicated to working with Coastal America to support Partnership identified shovel-in-the ground projects and educational initiatives. The CWRP encompasses over 225 corporate and 100 non-profit partners, including environmental organizations, foundations, and state and local governments. The CWRP, guided by a National Management Team, is organized in state chapters located throughout the United States to support federal partner and regional coastal governance teams. The CWRP is able to coordinate private corporate and NGO resources on a regional level, and leverage Partnership efforts by generating matching funds and providing expertise and in-kind resources for Partnership projects on the federal and state level.

***Coastal America Foundation*** – The Coastal America Foundation is a public charity dedicated to supporting the activities of the Coastal America Partnership. The federally recognized 501(c)(3) tax exempt Foundation is able to accept and distribute contributions by public and private entities to offset the costs of Partnership projects and initiatives, and support projects funded by the state and national CWRP chapters.

**The Coastal America Partnership components affirm their commitment to work collaboratively toward our common goals and objectives in support of the restoration and protection of our coastal and marine environment.**