



# COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

WINTER 2004

## National Student Summit on Ocean Issues

## Commitments to Action



*Student Delegation presents Commitments to Action at White House Ceremony and Reception.*

Over 100 top high-school students, teachers, and marine educators from around the Nation participated in Coastal America's First National Student Summit on Ocean Issues, January 14-16, in Washington, D.C. While other students were on winter break, these students were presenting regional coastal and ocean concerns to nationally recognized scientists and policy leaders. Repeatedly, the students emphasized the sustainability of fisheries, marine resources, and coral reef ecosystems as major issues facing our Nation. The students deliberated regional concerns against the tough scrutiny of experts at NOAA's Science Center. Working arduously into the night, students developed a national perspective complete with recommendations that they presented to Commissioners of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (USCOP). The Summit concluded with students pledging personal Commitments to Action to Coastal America Principals at a White House Ceremony. James Connaughton, Chairman of the Council on Environ-

mental Quality (CEQ) and Coastal America, likened the students' experience to fast-paced Washington decision-making. The Coastal America Partnership designed the Summit to educate high-school students, to encourage interest in ocean sciences, and to provide a student voice in deliberations by USCOP. Ben Grumbles, EPA's Acting Assistant Administrator for Water said, "The solutions that these top young leaders brought forward and their commitment to the future of our oceans are tremendously encouraging."

*(continued on page 2)*

### **Please Join Us!**

#### **2004 Coastal America Annual Meeting "Strategic Action for Better Results"**

Sheraton Yankee Trader Beach Hotel  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
May 24-28, 2004

For further information, please contact  
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or [Stephanie.Gambino@usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Gambino@usda.gov).

The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP)  
National Advisory Council will hold its quarterly meeting  
in conjunction with the Annual Meeting.

What happens when 75 outstanding students come to Washington, DC to attend an ocean summit? They gain insights, network, energize, and don't rest until there are Commitments to Action. Between PowerPoint presentations and discussions with ocean experts, students developed 29 commitments to raise awareness through education, activism, and hands-on projects. Student representative Jessica Jones commented: "We don't need more studies, we need somebody to do something." The students committed to establishing a network for high schools through the Regional Ocean Conservation Club (ROCC). Since returning home, student presentations have been made to Governors, mayors, school boards, environmental commissioners, Lions Club meetings, and public television and local talk show hosts. Their goal is to bolster understanding about ocean concerns and develop funding and support. For more details about the Summit, visit [www.coastalamerica.gov](http://www.coastalamerica.gov).

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## National Student Summit: Students Meet the Challenge at NOAA's Science Center



Students from the South Carolina Aquarium present regional concerns on coastal development.



Samuel W. Bodman, Deputy Secretary, Department of Commerce, converses informally with students over lunch at the NOAA Science Center.



Speaking on behalf of the Summit Delegation, Anthony Loui of the Waikiki Aquarium Delegation said, "Students are here today because they are concerned about a problem affecting each of their communities that we believe you should know about. We would like every person in this Nation to understand individually how their actions affect our oceans."



Students emphasized the sustainability of fisheries, marine resources, and coral reef ecosystems as major issues facing our Nation.



Students huddled around computers to save Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary.

## National Student Summit on Ocean Issues

(continued from page 1)

Top officials from the Department of Commerce, the U.S. Ocean Commission, and NOAA scientists encouraged and challenged students during regional presentations at NOAA's Science Center. They stayed singularly focused on students, listening, and guiding them into the national arena of ocean governance. "Your presentations show a clear understanding of the issues," said Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. They were driven by an immediate urgency to sustain life in our oceans and influence the well-being of mankind.

The students well understood that 70 percent of our Earth is covered by oceans and its marine life is in critical peril. "Along with the important hard sciences," Keeney advised, "think about other sciences such as sociology, economics, and geography — they are key links to making a difference." Student presentations included invasive species, non-point source pollution, overfishing, coral reefs, habitats and preservation, coastal development and awareness, standards, regulations, institutional structure, research funding, and enforcement.

Coastal America Partners who advised, challenged, and listened to students throughout the 3-day Summit included: 14 Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) directors, 6 Coastal America Principals, 3 USCOP Commissioners, a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, over 60 scientists and volunteers, the House and Oceans Caucus, the Coral Reef Task Force, University of Maryland, National Aquarium in Baltimore, Duke Energy, the Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership, and, most importantly, Summit organizer Gene Cope of NOAA. The Summit was the culmination of two years of Regional Ocean Summits.

## Students Dialogue with U.S. Commissioners



*Congressman Wayne Gilchrest (center) joins U.S. Ocean Commissioners, (l-r): Dr. Paul L. Kelly and Christopher Koch, James Connaughton, Chairman of Council on Environmental Quality, and Commissioner Dr. Paul Sandifer, at the National Geographic Society for a panel discussion with students.*



*Students listen intently as summit participants make presentations to Ocean Commissioners.*

*"To succeed in sustaining our oceans we're going to need a full court press from all ocean stakeholders; a concerted and united call from the public and the ocean community for action."*

*— Admiral James D. Watkins, U.S. Navy (Retired)  
Chairman, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy*

With the pending release of USCOP's Preliminary Report on ocean policy, a panel consisting of U.S. Congressman Wayne Gilchrest and three USCOP Commissioners listened to the perspective of our next generation of ocean leaders. Students and the panel were united in their knowledge and insights. In the last 30 years, about 30 million individuals, 17 million homes and countless businesses have been added to our coastal zones; offshore oil and gas operations have expanded; marine transportation has increased; and coastal recreation and tourism have become two of the top drivers of our economy. Students' recommendations included ideas for ocean governance such as integration of ocean agencies and research under one Department, adopting ecosystem planning, and creating ocean education curriculums in high schools. Commissioner Dr. Paul Sandi-

fer remarked, "we hear your call for a new model for ocean governance. Your presentations are insightful, and we are listening to you." Students emphasized the need to publicize critical information such as coastal impacts having a trillion dollar impact on the economy. "Each of you know things about our coasts and oceans that many people do not," said Congressman Gilchrest, "but it is not enough just to know – get involved in policy; talk to your elected leaders; become land-use planners; run for office." After the presentations, students engaged in informal conversations with the Commissioners and senior policy leaders at a National Geographic Society dinner. Greg Marshal also presented his innovative film, *Crittercam*, created by attaching a video to the back of sea animals and witnessing the world from the animal's point of view.

### The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (USCOP)

USCOP will release its Preliminary Report on April 20 for comment by Governors and stakeholders. After considering comments, the Commission will prepare a final report and recommendations on a coordinated and comprehensive national ocean policy to the President. USCOP was established by the Oceans Act of 2000. Based on draft policy options and presentations by Commissioners, the report is anticipated to include recommendations such as the creation of an Executive Office of Ocean Policy and National and Regional Ocean Councils, increased Federal ocean research, and ecosystem-based resource management plans. The Oceans Act requires the President to respond to the Commission's report within 90 days of its finalization. It is anticipated that the Administration's response will be coordinated through the Council on Environmental Quality.

## Principals Receive Student Proclamation

*“Knowledge alone is not enough. It is understanding that fueled your personal commitments to action. That understanding will translate to understanding in others, and each action added together will make a difference.”*

— James L. Connaughton, Chairman,  
Council on Environmental Quality

Six Coastal America Principals participated at the Summit’s closing ceremony in the White House’s Presidential Hall. Students presented their personal *Commitments to Action* and called for a new way of governing our oceans. The Coastal America Principals represented six of nine Federal agencies responsible for major ocean activities spending roughly \$650 million annually on basic and applied ocean research. There was agreement that the system needs better coordination, ecosystem-management approaches, and other new concepts. Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary of Interior for Policy, Management, and Budget, expressed enthusiasm at the students’ presentations. She suggested that their recommendations consider the unique, fundamental, and varying missions of individual agencies while seeking solutions for better ocean governance. Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental Affairs, John Turner, encouraged the students to incorporate a broader, international perspective into their regional and national solutions because they intersect with our global oceans. The Principals offered profuse praise for the students’ outstanding presentations and their knowledge of issues, and were particularly impressed with how they translated that knowledge into an understanding of what action is needed to sustain our oceans. A reception followed in the White House Indian Treaty Room with its appropriate motif of shells over marble panels, seahorses and dolphins in cast iron railing, stars for navigation in the ceiling and a compass in the center of the floor.

## Dr. Sylvia Earle Makes Closing Remarks



*Dr. Sylvia Earle discusses ocean concerns with the Texas student delegation at a White House ceremony.*



*Coastal America Principals share a light moment with students, (l-r): John F. Turner, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental Affairs; Don Schregardus, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy; Timothy Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere; Benjamin H. Grumbles, Acting Assistant Administrator for Water, EPA; P. Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary of Interior for Policy, Management and Budget, and James L. Connaughton, Chairman White House Council on Environmental Quality.*

Dr. Sylvia A. Earle, renowned marine biologist and Explorer-in-Residence for the National Geographic, provided closing remarks at the White House Ceremony. Soft spoken and serious, she stated, “I am alarmed about what I see and don’t see when diving. Fish are disappearing at an alarming rate. Coral reefs are dead or dying. There are dead zones everywhere caused by human behavior. We need to learn more on how to sustain our sea life, not just for ourselves, but for those who follow us.” After listening to the students make their presentations, she sighed, “you give me cause for hope. It has been a pleasure to be here with you today.”

*National Student Summit on Ocean Issues*

Hosted by:  
**The Coastal America Federal Partnership**  
 Executive Office of the President  
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
 National Science Foundation  
 National Geographic Society

In conjunction with:  
**The Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers**  
 Alaska SeaLife Center  
 Aquarium of the Pacific  
 Dauphin Island Sea Lab  
 The Florida Aquarium  
 Hatfield Marine Science Center  
 IGFA—Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum  
 Monterey Bay Aquarium  
 National Aquarium in Baltimore  
 The New England Aquarium  
 New York Aquarium  
 The Seattle Aquarium  
 The South Carolina Aquarium  
 Texas State Aquarium  
 Waikiki Aquarium

With special thanks to our co-sponsors: **CORE**  
 Coastal America Foundation  
 Consortium for Oceanographic Research & Education  
 Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership  
 National Ocean Industries Association **NOIA**

## MARIT'S Embry Dam Removal Project



Photo by Will Nuckols

*Brigadier General Meredith W.B. Temple, Commander of the North Atlantic Division, USACE; John Paul Woodley, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works; and Senator John Warner officiate at Embry Dam Removal Ceremony.*

The Embry Dam in Fredericksburg, Virginia was removed from the Rappahannock River on February 23, 2004. Coastal America Principal, John Paul Woodley, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, joined Virginia Senator John Warner; W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr., Virginia's Secretary of Natural Resources; Fredericksburg Mayor Bill Beck; and John Tippet, Executive Director of Friends of the Rappahannock for the explosion and ceremony. The Dam has been on Coastal America's "dam hit list" for several years. John Wright, the Coastal America Mid-Atlantic Regional Implementation Team Chair and Environmental Team Leader ACOE Mid-Atlantic Division, has been supporting Norfolk District's leadership to bring together the partners that made this project a reality.

Removal will facilitate the restoration of healthy fish stocks. The Embry Dam was approximately 22 feet high and 1,070 feet long. Built in 1908, the



Photo by Will Nuckols

*Embry Dam Explosion.*

reinforced concrete dam was the only man-made impediment to fish passage on the mainstem Rappahannock River.

Project sponsors included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District, USFWS, Chesapeake Bay and Virginia Field Offices, the City of Fredericksburg, VA, various departments of the State of Virginia including Game and Inland Fisheries, Conservation and Recreation, Environmental Quality, Forestry, Historic Preservation, and Stafford County, and public interest groups including the Friends of the Rappahannock, American Rivers, and The Nature Conservancy.

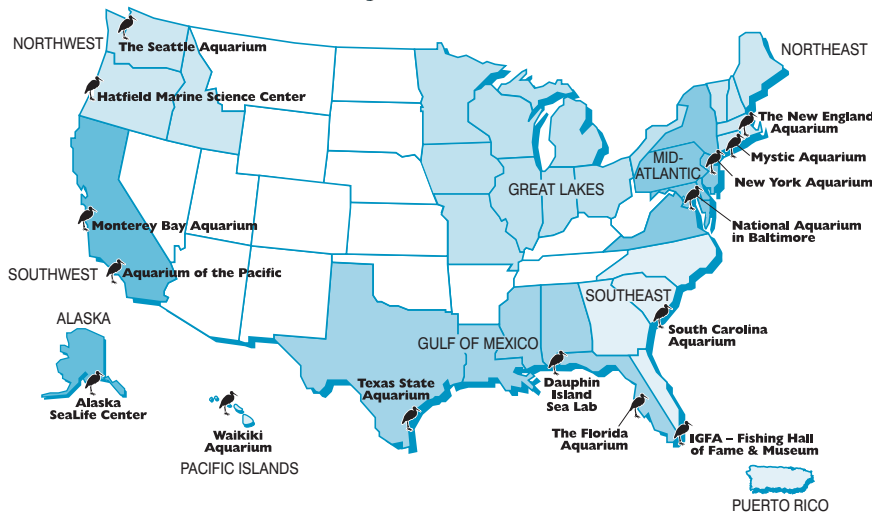
## Other MARIT News

MARIT Co-Chair John Wright attended a working session about establishing a CWRP State Chapter in Delaware. Discussions centered on recruiting a Chairperson for the the Delaware CWRP. The Co-Chairs attended meetings with the NJ Chapter to discuss adoption of the Batsto River Fish Ladder Project. Construction of the Batsto project will be initiated in the Fall of 2004 thanks to the generosity of the NJ CWRP. MARIT is scheduling a spring team meeting on April 23 at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, MD. The meeting will focus on development of a projects list to support the evolving CWRP programs in NY, NJ and DE.

## Principals' Meeting

The Coastal America Principals met on March 16, 2004 at the White House Conference Center. The meeting was chaired by Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, Department of Interior. The Principals unanimously approved the designation of the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium as the 16<sup>th</sup> Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. A designation ceremony is proposed for June 25, 2004, in Dubuque, Iowa, in conjunction with the Grand Excursion celebration on the Mississippi River. The Principals discussed the draft goals and measures proposed for Coastal America and agreed to approve the goals and measures on an interim basis. The Principals debated the appropriateness of various mechanisms for institutionalizing Coastal America given the timing of USCOP and pending recommendations. Lynne Hale from The Nature Conservancy presented a briefing on the International Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (ICWRP) and discussed the Partnership's launch at the White Water to Blue Water Conference in Miami, Florida.

## Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers



## CELC Updates

### National Aquarium in Baltimore

The Baltimore CELC hosted a welcoming dinner during the student summit with David Pittinger, Executive Director of the Aquarium. CELC coordinator Vicki Fabyi arranged for a special presentation of their Aquarium-on-Wheels exhibit staffed by students. The Aquarium has announced a program involving students to grow wetland plants at their schools and to participate in habitat restoration projects. Students construct a saltwater pond at their school equipped to grow 4,000 units of *Spartina alterniflora*, also known as smooth cordgrass. Funding for this project was provided by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Shared Earth Foundation. Partners include the National Park Service, Steingeg Baltimore, Inc., Parks and People Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Maryland Conservation Corps. For more information, contact: aashley@aqua.org.

### South Carolina Aquarium

Working with USFWS, the Army Corps and a few other agencies, the South Carolina CELC will host a freshwater mussel symposium in early June. The objective is to bring attention to these critically endangered species in South Carolina. On another note, the CELC student delegation appeared on SC educational TV live to answer questions about their Summit experience and discuss ocean

concerns. The CELC is working with the students in developing community projects for local high-schools to adopt as their own.

### International Game Fish Association

Summit students participating from the IGFA have founded the volunteer group known as the Regional Ocean Conservation Club (ROCC). Their goal is to start ROCCs in coastal and inland regions throughout the country. Each high-school team will be headed by an environmentally concerned teacher and will consist of a base of student volunteers working on conservation projects, such as beach cleanups. For further information, contact Dawn Miller of IGFA at dmiller@igfa.org.

### Dauphin Island Sea Lab

The CELC student delegation is busy organizing a club comprised of five high schools who are fund raising to purchase sea oats. The students will plant the sea oats in public-held beach areas to stabilize dunes. Students and CELC Director, Dr. John Dindo, were invited guests on an early morning talk show where they answered questions about the Summit. They also briefed Congressman Jo Bonner and his staff on February 20th. Gov. Bob Riley of Alabama sent a letter of commendation to each student from the CELC delegation for representing the state of Alabama at the Student Ocean Summit.

## 2004 CALENDAR

### April 5-9

26th Annual Hurricane Conference, Lake Buena Vista, FL

### April 18-20

Environmental Council of States Spring Meeting, Washington, DC

### April 20

Release date, U.S. Ocean Commission Preliminary Report

### April 22

Earth Day

### April 27-28

Navy Earth Day, Washington, DC

### May 2-6

Fourth World Fisheries Congress, Vancouver, BC

### May 3-6

Great Lakes Commission Semi-Annual Meeting and Sustainability Conference, Cleveland, OH

### May 23-26

The Coastal Society International Conference, Newport, RI

### May 24-28

Coastal America Annual Meeting, Fort Lauderdale, FL

### June 9-10

Capitol Hill Oceans Week, Washington, DC

### June 14

Principals' Meeting, Washington, DC

### June 27-30

Coastal Zone Canada, St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador

### June 28-Jul 2

10th International Coral Reef Symposium, Okinawa, Japan

### July 11-13

Blue Vision Conference, Washington, DC

### July 18-22

National Marine Educators Association Annual Conference, St. Petersburg, FL



## The International Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership

The International Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (ICWRP) was formally launched at a ceremony at the White Water to Blue Water international conference in Miami, Florida, on March 22, 2004.

The ICWRP partnership includes The Gillette Company, the United Nations Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and Coastal America. ICWRP will engage the private sector and develop cohesive partnerships that join technical, financial, and administrative resources to help reverse the disappearance of wetlands. The ICWRP model utilizes a two-pronged approach to address both small- and large-scale projects. Small-scale projects are accomplished through



*Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, signs the Proclamation formalizing the ICWRP agreement.*

cooperation with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, while

large-scale projects are facilitated by the United Nations Foundation through the World Heritage Program.

ICWRP's inaugural project is being conducted in Sian Ka'an, Mexico, a Ramsar and World Heritage site located just to the south of Cancun. The purpose of the Sian Ka'an project is to ensure the lasting conservation of the Sian Ka'an site and its wetlands and coastal habitats, while providing sustainable development opportunities for local populations. This includes the development of a common vision of conservation success for the coastal and marine environments of Sian Ka'an, including the Meso-American Reef System.

Further information about ICWRP is available on the Partnership website: <http://www.icwrp.org>.

## Announcements

### **Nationwide Lecture Series on Human Noise Impact to Marine Mammals**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is sponsoring a free national lecture series on marine mammals and human noise at Aquariums and other locations through November 2004. The series will present scientific information about human sources and uses of sound in marine environments, the physics of sound and hearing, and biological and behavioral factors that relate to noise impacts. Participating organizations include NOAA Fisheries, the Marine Mammal Commission, Mote Marine Laboratory, New England Aquarium, Long Marine Laboratory (University of California, Santa Cruz), Dolphin Quest Hawaii, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (University of Hawaii), Patuxent Research Refuge, National Aquarium (Washington, D.C.), Seattle Aquarium, National Aquarium (Baltimore), Shedd Aquarium, Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. For more infor-

mation, contact: [Robert.C.Hansen@NOAA.gov](mailto:Robert.C.Hansen@NOAA.gov) or visit [www.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov).

### **Marine Protected Area Workshops**

NOAA's National MPA Center Training and Technical Assistance Institute is offering workshops on "Understanding Marine Protected Areas." Designed for the general public, the one-day workshop provides training and information on the basic principles and general issues surrounding MPAs. Two Coastal America CELCs, the Aquarium of the Pacific and the Seattle Aquarium, have hosted the workshop with positive participant feedback. For more information or to request training, contact [Heidi.Recksiek@noaa.gov](mailto:Heidi.Recksiek@noaa.gov).

### **"After The Storm" Video**

EPA Acting Assistant Administrator for Water, Benjamin Grumbles, announced the airing of an upcoming half-hour television special about watersheds produced by the Environmental Protection Agency and The Weather Channel. "After the Storm" shows the connection between weather and watersheds and

the importance of watershed protection. The show highlights three case studies in Santa Monica Bay, the Mississippi River Basin/Gulf of Mexico, and New York City where polluted runoff threatens watersheds highly valued for recreation, commercial fisheries and navigation, and drinking water. "After the Storm" will air on Sunday, May 9th at 8:30 and 11:30 pm EST and Saturday, June 26th at 8:30 and 11:30 pm EST. After six months, EPA intends to make the video available to other television stations and educational organizations interested in broadcasting the show. Visit EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/weatherchannel](http://www.epa.gov/weatherchannel).

### **What's An Estuary?**

Working with the National Association of Estuary Programs, EcoVision, Inc. has produced a 7 minute video entitled, "What's An Estuary? Now you Know." They have made the video available to Coastal America for its 14 CELCs. The video is part of a nation-wide goal to make "estuary" an everyday household word, like river or ocean by 2005.



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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: Departments of Agriculture, Air Force, Army, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Navy, State, Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency and The Executive Office of the President.



## COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

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