



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

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PARTNERSHIP AWARD CEREMONIES

Three Partnership Award events were held this quarter:

1. Partners for the Conservation of Los Osos Coastal Dunes
2. Kenai River Resource Protection and Education Team
3. The Breton Island Restoration Team

Partners for the Conservation of Los Osos Coastal Dunes

The Partners for the Conservation of Los Osos Coastal Dunes received the 2000 Partnership Award at a ceremony in Morro Bay, California on August 11, 2000. The Partners are working to preserve and restore coastal dune ecosystems, riparian corridors, and wetland habitats of the remaining undeveloped lands surrounding Los Osos, near Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, California. Through the cooperative efforts of multiple agencies and citizen groups, this partnership has already preserved approximately 35 acres and is advancing the protection and management of an additional 1,200 acres. The Los Osos partners seek to increase public awareness of, and political support for, the need to conserve open space and wildlife habitat within this region.



Los Osos Partnership Award Ceremony

Ambassador James Pipkin, Director of Policy, Department of the Interior, presented the awards to the team members. Ann Bull, Deputy Field Supervisor, Fish & Wildlife Service, and Nancy Woo, Chief, Southern California Office of the Environmental Protection Agency Region 9, participated in the ceremony.

Kenai River Resource Protection and Education Team

The Kenai River Resource Protection and Education Team was presented the 1999 Partnership Award at a ceremony in Kenai, Alaska on September 14, 2000. The award ceremony was held as part of the Grand Opening Ceremony of the Kenai River Center. The Center provides a focal point for a number of local agencies.



Kenai Partnership Award Ceremony

Located 75 miles south of Anchorage, the Kenai River is Alaska's premier chinook salmon and trout stream. Rapid development and increased recreational pressures have resulted in loss of aquatic and wetland habitat. In 1993, federal, state, municipal and non-government partners initiated planning of the Kenai riverbank restoration and demonstration project in Soldotna Creek Park. The initial project was completed in 1995. Between 1995 and 1999, 150 agreements with private landowners rounded out the partnership effort, and over 9,000 feet of riverbank were restored, including 5,000 feet of elevated light-penetrating walkway and 21 stairways to protect the riverbank and provide angler access to the river. This unique partnership has been greatly enhanced by a strong education and outreach program and the expansion of the Team's role to include additional Kenai Peninsula watersheds. This partnership is an excellent example of how resources can be combined to address problems affecting public and private lands in a major watershed.

Ambassador James Pipkin, assisted by David Allen, AK Regional Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, presented the awards. Marty K. Rutherford, Deputy Commissioner of AK Department of Natural Resources and Frank Rue, Commissioner of AK Department of Fish and Game, participated in the ceremony.

COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS

Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) Outreach

Bill Hanshumaker, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Glenn Page, National Aquarium in Baltimore, and Betsy Salter, Education/Outreach Coordinator for Coastal America, participated on a panel discussing marine education in the new millennium at The Coastal Society's 17th annual conference in Portland, OR on July 12th. Following the TSA conference, Betsy and the Coastal America exhibit headed to Long Beach, CA to participate in the National Marine Educators Association conference July 16th-19th. Betsy met with representatives from the Hatfield Marine Science Center, the National Aquarium in Baltimore, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, the Texas State Aquarium and the NY Aquarium to discuss CELC-related issues including Student Ocean Conferences and the proposal for Environmental Teachers Sabbatical program funding.

Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Regional CELC Workshop

The New England Aquarium hosted the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional CELC Workshop in September. Success stories shared by the CELCs included such programs as a Career Day and an Ocean Awareness Day, both of which involved representatives from Coastal America's federal partners presenting information to the public. New ideas included making CA partner restoration sites available to school groups for field trips and enhancing marine animal stranding networks.

Student Ocean Conferences

Coming soon to a Learning Center near you! Coastal America, National Geographic Society, NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program, and the CELCs will be hosting Student Ocean Conferences at CELCs around the country over the next several years. The first Student Conference will be held in Seattle on November 7th, and the second will be in Boston on December 1st. The Conferences are one-day events that allow students to interact with a diverse body of ocean-related professionals and to explore local coastal and marine management issues. While each Conference will be unique, planned highlights include sessions with ocean explorer Dr. Sylvia Earle, agency-led field trips, student discussions and debates on local coastal and marine issues, and tours of the host aquaria.

CELC UPDATES

New England Aquarium

The New England Aquarium hosted both the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional CELC Workshop and the NERIT meeting in September. The Aquarium is also working on plans for their Student Ocean Conference on December 1st.

Mystic Aquarium

Jim Stone, Vice President of Programs for Mystic Aquarium, attended the regional CELC workshop in Boston and shared expertise on marine animal tagging and success stories of Mystic's Ocean Exploration Day.

New York Aquarium

As part of the Tidal Wetlands Program the Aquarium Education Department provided coastal ecology classes for 250 children at The Bronx YMCA summer camp. In preparation for the opening of "Alien Stinger," a \$2 million exhibit about cnidarians, the Education Department and their high school docents are conducting front-end evaluations to determine visitor knowledge and attitude. Bob Cummings, an instructor at the Aquarium, attended the regional CELC workshop in Boston, and shared input about the Aquarium's successful collaboration with agency partners on a Career Day.

National Aquarium in Baltimore

The Conservation Department is planning their Partnership Award ceremony for the Fort McHenry Wetland Restoration Team and recently hosted Coastal America's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting on October 18th. Angie Lawrence, Conservation Project Manager, represented NAIB at the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic CELC Regional Workshop in Boston and attended the EPA's National Environmental Technology Conference prior to the CELC meeting. The Aquarium Conservation Team (ACT!) members organized a field day at their Fort McHenry field station site and the Marine Animal Rescue Program (MARP) participated in Maryland Public Television's Second Annual Backyard Bash. The Conservation Department is also developing a field day curriculum to use with their 'adopted' local school.

IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame

Paula Yourst is the new Education Manager at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame. The IGFA is in their second year as a registered site for the Jason project and would like to become a designated viewing site for JASON broadcasts. To do so requires satellite dishes to receive 3 different broadcasts. IGFA is working with their federal agency partners to determine if it's possible to access any satellite dishes for a few weeks out of the year for the Jason project broadcasts.

Hatfield Marine Science Center

September 1st marked the close of Hatfield's New Millennium Observatory (NEMO) presentations in the Marine Science Center. The NEMO project, in collaboration with the NOAA VENTS program, is studying the Axial Volcano off the coast of Oregon. NOAA ships and underwater robots collect data on volcanic eruptions, deep sea vents and associated communities, and the massive colonies of bacteria that have been discovered in the superheated waters. The Center provides visitors with an overview of the research activities at the volcano throughout the summer.

The Seattle Aquarium

The Seattle Aquarium is hard at work preparing for the first Student Ocean Conference on November 7th. The Conference will feature an evening program and sleep-over at the Aquarium facilities, tours with Coastal America's federal partner agencies, and a presentation session with Dr. Sylvia Earle.

Waikiki Aquarium

The Waikiki Aquarium wrapped up its summer season of eco-learning programs at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. Working with the USFWS and University of Hawaii-Hilo, the Aquarium offered three week-long programs. The college-credit course on shark behavior marked the beginning of a collaborative effort with USFWS to tag sharks and track their numbers, movements, and the impact of ecotourism activities on their behavior. Funding is being sought to continue and expand the project next summer. The Aquarium hosted the July PIRIT team meeting, and is working with the team to bring together colleagues from the University of Hawaii and Sierra Club to discuss a project to remove an invasive algal species from Waikiki reefs. The Aquarium is working with the U.S. Navy to facilitate a tour of a Navy vessel during the 2001 Pacific High School Science Symposium. This vessel's onboard recycling program will reinforce the symposium's theme of sustainability.

REGIONAL UPDATES

Northeast

The Northeast Regional Implementation Team meeting was held at the New England Aquarium and focused on regional collaboration for dam removal projects, that have been spearheaded by the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Service of the USDA. It is evident that the Maine team is the most experienced with dam removal in the northeast. This expertise is now being shared with Coastal America team members to assist other states and federal agencies in their dam removal efforts.

The NERIT has been actively supporting the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership via teleconferences and presentations to corporate executives to educate them about the types and locations of aquatic habitat restoration projects that are available in the New England region. Corporations are especially receptive to those projects that have educational opportunities and strong community involvement. The NERIT has also submitted its priority military Innovative Readiness Training projects to the national IRT coordinator for support in the FY-2001 time frame.

NERIT agencies agreed to support the upcoming "Explore Our Coasts" and/or "Career Day" events at the Mystic and New England Aquaria, by providing staffed displays and speakers from their respective areas of marine sciences.

Numerous projects for habitat restoration are moving forward; examples of the region's collaborative successes are the salt marsh restorations ongoing at Sagamore, MA

and upcoming in the Neponset and Quincy, MA areas, and dam removals at the North Branch Stream in Maine.

Southeast

The SERIT met in Atlanta, Georgia on September 12th. Primary topics for the meeting included Innovative Readiness Training, Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership (CWRP), and the proposed designation of the South Carolina Aquarium as a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. SERIT members also provided and distributed information on 18 potential Coastal America projects in the Southeast. Colonel George Schlossnagle and Patmarie Nedelka from the Coastal America Office, and a representative from Duke Energy, a national CWRP partner for the Southeast, participated in the meeting.

The Partnership Award Ceremony for the Rains Mill Dam Removal team, and a Special Recognition Award to the Marine Fighter Wing Support Squadron 271 for their special role in this project, was held on October 18th in conjunction with the annual State/Military Environmental Issues Working Group meeting at the Natural Science Museum in Raleigh, North Carolina.

In late summer, 12,000 tons of concrete debris from a demolished runway apron at the Charleston Air Force Base was used in a Coastal America project to create an offshore artificial reef habitat. The South Carolina Army National Guard completed this project in conjunction with the Air Force as a training exercise. The Navy, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and others participated in this project. The project received excellent local press coverage.

Gulf of Mexico

The GMRIT planned and implemented a successful evening seminar and morning informational session as part of a two day event to recognize the Breton Island Restoration Team. The evening event featured an address by Dr. Kerry St. Pe, Director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, regarding "Southeast Louisiana's Exotic & Non-indigenous Species." The following morning Dr. Bill Good, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and Mr. Edmond Russo Jr., U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, led an informational session about Coast 2050, a plan to address Louisiana's coastal issues. Virginia Tippie, Director of Coastal America, provided an overview of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, and Mike Lyons, Business Advisory Council of the Gulf of Mexico Program and GMRIT, provided remarks from a business perspective.

The GMRIT is continuing the preparation of a nomination packet for the Dauphin Island Sea Lab as a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center.

Southwest

Partners for the Conservation of Los Osos Coastal Dunes (Morro Bay) received the Coastal America Partnership Award on August 11th. At the last SWRIT team meeting, the team endorsed the 2000/2001 Work Plan for the Southern California Wetland Recovery

Project. The plan included support for 31 wetland recovery projects from the Tijuana Estuary to Santa Barbara Wetlands. On October 20th the team will participate in the Wetlands Recovery Project Symposium, where they will participate in collaborative discussions and a regional panel.

Northwest

The Northwest team is developing a process for submission and review of team projects. They have developed a Potential Project Fact Sheet (PPFS) which can be submitted by any project group for evaluation and nomination by the regional team. The team is compiling a Potential Project Book that will have a brief summary of each project endorsed by the team. They hope to complete the book by the end of October, and will make it available to interested parties.

La Grande Construction Dam on the Nisqually River was removed by Army Special Forces on July 10th. The Army used explosives to breach the dam, with Seattle District Corps of Engineers managing the demolition process. Military assistance was provided under the Support for Others Program. In addition, a Marine Reserve engineering unit put up fencing at the Gold Hill Power Plant on the Rogue River near Medford, Oregon. The fence was needed as a safety measure until the Gold Hill Dam and Power Plant can be removed. This effort was completed using less than 100 man-hours. This project demonstrated how partnerships may be used to complete a larger dam removal project, for which assistance from the Northwest Implementation Team will be solicited. The local government is drafting other project proposals to submit to Coastal America.

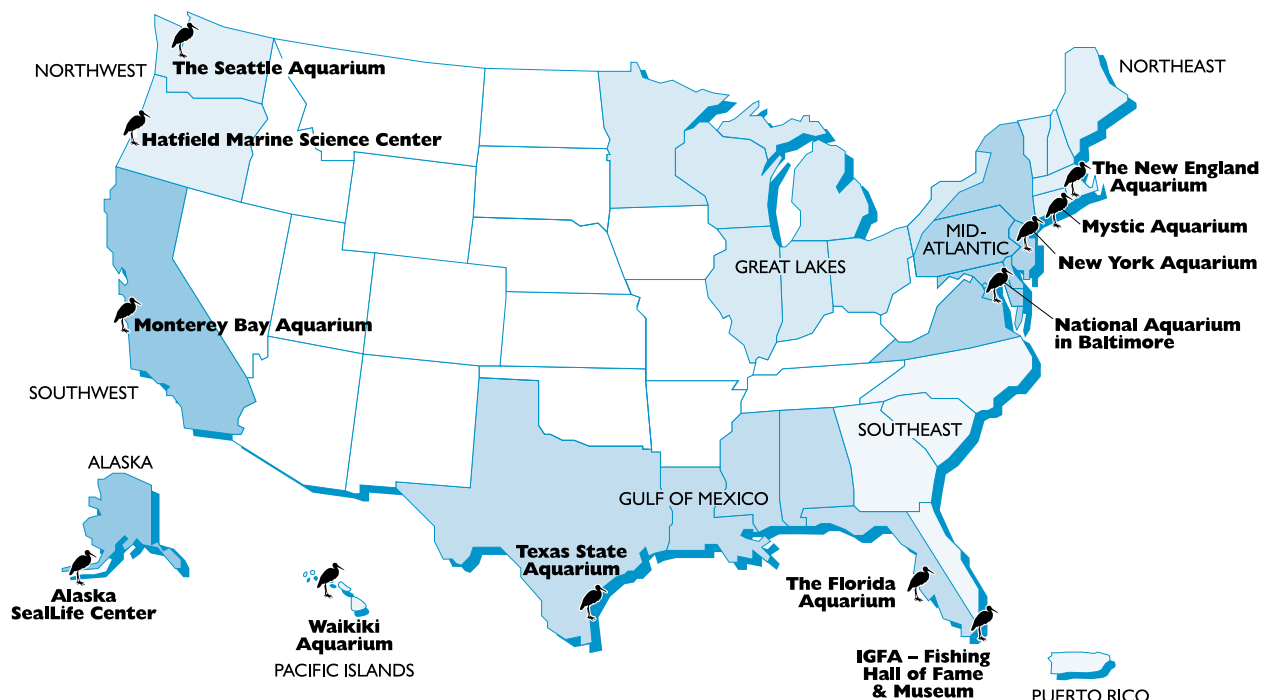
Alaska

The AKRIT meeting was held on September 14th in Kenai, Alaska, just prior to the Partnership Award Ceremony for the Kenai Education and Outreach Team. Ambassador James Pipkin and Virginia K. Tippie provided the regional team with an update on the CWRP. The Partnership Award Ceremony was held in conjunction with the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Kenai River Center. Ambassador Pipkin, assisted by Dave Allen, Regional Director of the USFWS, presented the awards.

There was a short AKRIT planning meeting on Wednesday September 27th to discuss potential projects and to plan the AK/NW Regional CELC workshop. The workshop was hosted by the Alaska SeaLife Center and the AKRIT on October 9-11 in Seward, Alaska.

Pacific Islands

The Pacific Island team met in July at the Waikiki Aquarium, and is working on its procedures for evaluating and selecting Coastal America projects in the Pacific Islands Region. The PIRIT is discussing a project to remove an invasive algal species from Waikiki reefs with the Aquarium, the University of Hawaii, and the Sierra Club. Through the RIT's military subcommittee, the Waikiki Aquarium is working with the Environmental Services Branch of the U.S. Navy to arrange a tour of a Navy vessel during the 2001 Pacific High School Science Symposium. In addition, military support has been requested to assist 1) the USFWS with shipment and transport of a floating hydraulic shovel around Oahu for wetland habitat improvement, and 2) the Waikiki Aquarium with relocation of an aquarium tank by crane or helicopter.



The Breton Island Restoration Team

The Breton Island Restoration Team received Coastal America’s 2000 Partnership Award at a ceremony in New Orleans, LA on September 19, 2000. The Team was comprised of members from multiple Federal and state agencies committed to restoring Breton Island, a key component of the Chandeleur Barrier Island Chain, following damage from Hurricane Georges. Through the efforts of this highly motivated and innovative team, 26 acres of Breton Island were restored and an additional 620 acres of critical fish habitat were protected from further degradation. This remarkable partnership took sediment and sand from the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and placed it onto Breton Island to repair beach dune erosion caused by the hurricane. Breton Island is the second oldest refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Dr. Joseph Westphal, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and Chair of Coastal America, was the awarding official. Mr. Sam Hamilton, Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, assisted Dr. Westphal. Jack Caldwell, Secretary of Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, also provided remarks at the ceremony, and Colonel Thomas F. Julich, District Engineer, New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, accepted the team partnership award on behalf of the Corps.



Agency heads for the Breton Island team: (left to right) Dr. Westphal, Colonel Julich, Secretary Caldwell, Mr. Hamilton.

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CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) continued to expand this quarter. The Maine CWRP hosted a breakfast kick-off in Brunswick, Maine on July 25, 2000. The keynote address was given by Governor Angus S. King, Jr. Additional remarks were provided by representatives of Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, including William Penney, Jr., Senior Vice President and General Manager, and Patrick Hester, Senior Vice President and General Counsel. Over 35 companies attended the breakfast meeting, and Linda Murphy, Director of the Office of Ecosystem Protection, EPA-Region 1 contributed the first \$25,000 to the Maine CWRP. The Maine CWRP is focusing on recruitment in the state, and most recently made a presentation to the Association of Maine Pulp and Paper Manufacturers.

The National Advisory Council for the CWRP expanded this summer when two NGOs, Restore America’s Estuaries and Ducks Unlimited, agreed to serve on the Council. The first National Advisory Council meeting will be held on November 1st. The Council members continue to make presentations around the country, including a luncheon talk at the Southeast Watershed Forum in Birmingham, AL, and a presentation to the Gulf of Mexico Business Coalition in New Orleans. Presentations have also been made to the SERIT, MARIT, and PIRIT, the Upper Mississippi American Heritage River team in Minneapolis, MN, and the Mid-Atlantic Federal Agencies meeting in New York City. Discussions have taken place in Rhode Island with Environmental Science Services, and they have agreed to be a co-lead in the development of the CWRP in Rhode Island.



Governor Angus S. King, Jr.; Maine CWRP Kickoff Event

NEW FACES AT THE NATIONAL OFFICE:

Julianna Wyman: Julianna's M.S. in Management of Protected Areas is from James Cook University in Australia, where her studies emphasized marine protected areas and education via interpretation. Her role at Coastal America includes designing publications, exhibits, a CA video, and a variety of other education/outreach tasks.

William Nuckols: Will comes to the Coastal America office directly from the field where his ongoing efforts include the design of a 550 acre salt marsh as part of the Poplar Island Environmental Restoration, a Coastal America MARIT project. His role at Coastal America includes project coordination and support for the STAC workgroup.

Jeremy Kranowitz: Jeremy has an M.P.A. in Public Policy from New York University with an emphasis on Environmental Management, and is pursuing a second Masters in Environmental Science at Johns Hopkins. His role at Coastal America is to assist in the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 9-11** NW & AK Regional CELC Workshop, & RIT Meeting; Alaska SeaLife Center
- Oct. 18** Rains Mill Dam Partnership Award Ceremony; Raleigh, NC
- Oct. 18** STAC Meeting; Baltimore, MD
- Oct. 19-20** SWRIT Meeting; San Diego, CA
- Oct. 24** MARIT Meeting; Coney Island, NY
- Oct. 31** CWRP Event; Hartford, CT
- Nov. 1** CWRP National Advisory Council Meeting; Washington, DC
NIT Meeting; Washington, DC
- Nov. 7** Student Ocean Conference; The Seattle Aquarium
- Nov. 8** Principals Meeting; Washington, DC
- Nov. 9** Fort McHenry Partnership Award; Baltimore, MD
- Nov. 29-30** MA Wetlands Restoration Partnership Award Ceremony; Plymouth, MA
- Dec. 1** Student Ocean Conference; New England Aquarium

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, Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency and The Executive Office of the President.



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